



INSPIRING OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS

NEWSLETTER

19th September 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 2nd October: Year 5 & 6 Open Evening

Thursday 16th October: Sixth Form Open Evening



RNERS Tim

Timings of the day.

Tutor	08:40 - 09:10 (30 mins)
Lesson 1	09:10 - 10:10 (60 mins)
Lesson 2	10:10 - 11:10 (60 mins)
Break	11:10 - 11:35 (25 mins)
Lesson 3	11:35 - 12:35 (60 mins)
Lesson 4	12:35 - 13:35 (60 mins)
Lunch	13:35 - 14:10 (35mins)
Lesson 5	14:10 - 15:10 (60 mins)

REPORTING YOUR ABSENCE REMINDER

When a student doesn't arrive at College, and we haven't received any notification from the parent/carer, this is a safeguarding concern. In order to support the College, and to allow us to quickly identify any potential safeguarding concern, we ask that you contact us before **9am** on the day of absence. If your child is likely to be absent for more than one day, please inform us of their expected return date.

How can I report absence?

Email: absence@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Call: 01752 812511

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Torpoint Community College. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students and to families whose first child has just joined the College. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to making this transition as smooth and positive as possible.

Successful Improvements. You will be aware that the start of term was slightly delayed due to essential backlog maintenance work. I'd like to thank you for your patience and understanding. The work carried out over the summer was highly successful, even though the College resembled a building site just a week before opening! The improvements made will benefit our students and staff for years to come. Please see the photographs in this newsletter showing the extent of the building work.

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to our teaching team this year:

- Mr Wood (JWO) Curriculum Leader of Learning for PE
- Mrs Millidge (RMI) Teacher of English
- Miss Riehle (IRI) Teacher of Art and Design Technology
- Mr Maywood (BMA) Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)

What a fantastic start to the term, with merit success and a brilliant first week where staff have awarded an incredible 9,553 merits. That's 9,553 moments where students were recognised for demonstrating their best, whether through effort, kindness, diligence, or attentiveness.



Trevol Road Torpoint Cornwall PL11 2NH Tel: (01752) 812511



www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

email: enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Introducing the Culture Pyramid: Building Character and Aspiration at Torpoint Community College

At Torpoint Community College, we believe that education is about more than just academic success, it's about shaping character, nurturing aspiration, and helping every student become the best version of themselves.

Over the past year, we've seen the power of consistent routines, clear expectations, and a strong rewards system in shaping positive behaviour. Now, we're proud to take the next step in our journey to build a truly aspirational school culture: the launch of our Culture Pyramid.

This new framework is being introduced to all students from Monday 22nd September, and I'd like to share it with you, our parent community, so you can understand the vision behind it and support your child's growth at home.

So, what is the Culture Pyramid? The Culture Pyramid is a visual and conceptual model that outlines the journey we want every student to take, not just in how they behave, but in who they become. It's built on four key levels:

- Avoiding Consequences At the base, students behave to avoid getting into trouble. This is often where young people start, especially when they're new or unsure.
- Seeking Rewards As they grow, students begin to recognise that good behaviour brings positive recognition, merits, and praise.
- Seeking Success At this level, students are motivated by their own goals. They work hard because they want to succeed and believe they can.
- **Embodying Integrity** At the top of the pyramid, students behave well and show character because it's part of who they are. They lead themselves from within.

This isn't just a behaviour model, it's a character framework. It's about helping students move from external motivation to internal values. We want every child to climb as high up the pyramid as possible, and we know that can only happen through partnership, between school, student, and home.

Why This Matters?

Our aim is to inspire optimistic learners who believe in themselves and are equipped to thrive both in and beyond the classroom. The Culture Pyramid helps us do that by aligning our values (respect, prepare and focus), vision, and daily practice.

We're not using merits just to reward compliance. We're using them to celebrate growth, recognising not just what students do, but why they do it. This approach helps us shape a culture where character and aspiration are at the heart of everything.

How You Can Support

Please talk to your child about the Culture Pyramid. Ask them which level they feel they're on, and what steps they can take to move up. Celebrate their efforts, not just their achievements. And remind them that integrity, doing the right thing because it's who they are, is the ultimate goal.

Together, we can build a culture where every student feels valued, motivated, and ready to succeed.

Dr Jeremy Plumb Headteacher

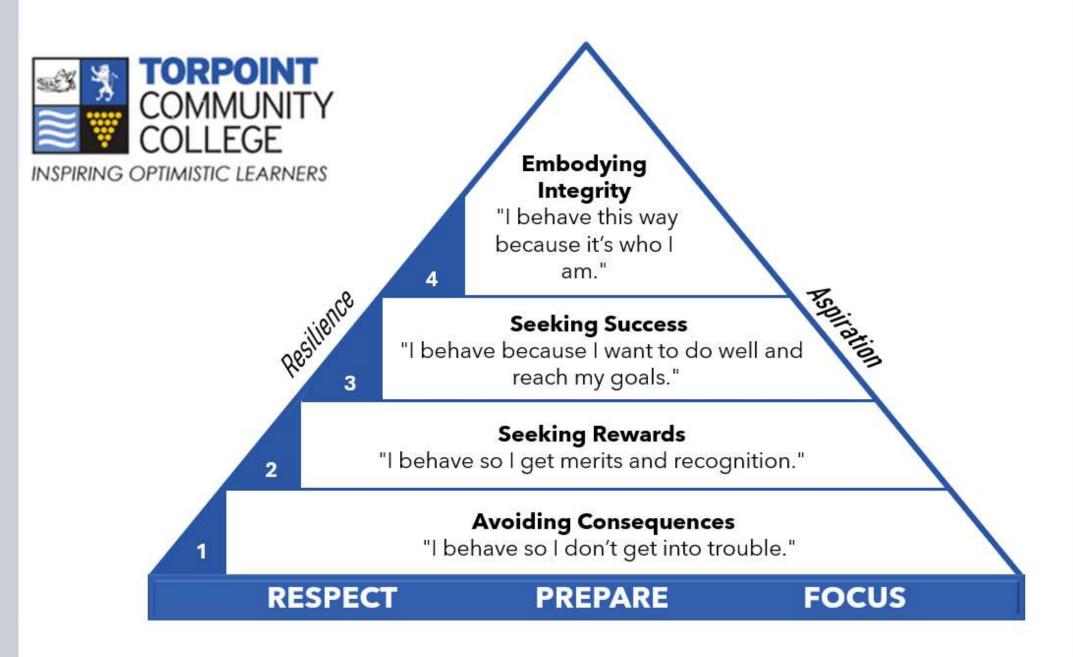


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Introducing the Culture Pyramid





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Hamilton Theatre Trip – An Unforgettable Experience for Year 8–13

Students from Years 8 to 13 were given a unique opportunity to attend an exclusive educational performance of *Hamilton* at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. This special event was designed to enable young people, who might not otherwise be able to experience such a landmark production, to enjoy one of the most celebrated musicals of recent years.

Running at just under three hours, *Hamilton* tells the remarkable story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who rose to become George Washington's right-hand man and a key architect of the nation's political system. With its groundbreaking score that blends hip-hop, jazz, rap, blues, R&B, and traditional Broadway, the musical presents "the story of America then, as told by America now."

Following the performance, students took part in a 20-minute technical demonstration and Q&A with the cast and crew. This behind-the-scenes insight revealed the inner workings of the production and highlighted a wide range of career opportunities in theatre, from performance to technical design and stage management.

The trip was an inspiring experience that gave our students not only the chance to see a world-renowned show, but also to engage directly with the professionals who bring it to life on stage. It was a memorable day that will no doubt spark creativity and ambition for the future.





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Year 10 Physics Engineering Challenge

A big thank you to Year 10 for helping make the end of last year such a success! To finish off the term, our Physics groups took on a special engineering challenge: using everyday materials to design and build a *launcher* to throw a ball, and a receiver to catch it.

The project gave students the chance to explore fascinating concepts in physics and engineering while putting their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test. Pupils were highly engaged and produced some fantastic designs.





Congratulations to our winners:

10LBA: Ollie Walters, Callum Feeley, Harry Todd and Lewis Nobes

10MDA: Kayla Flannagan and Emily Stafford

10ESH: Charlie Pidgen, Finley Doyle and Daisy Hamlyn



Our overall winner was 10ESH with a whopping 6.25m launch and catch.

Well done to all who took part!



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PE Extra Curricular Clubs

Please find details of our PE Extra curricular clubs in the table below.

	Lunch time	After College
Monday	CNAT Intervention Room 5 CHP	Girls Football Year 7-9 Front Field BRO Netball Year 9-11 Sports Hall CHP Boys Football 9/10 Back field AFA PE detentions JWO
Tuesday	CNAT Intervention Room 5 CHP Badminton 7-8 Sports hall BRO	Trampolining Gym HMI Basketball 7/8 Sports Hall JWO Girls Football 10/11 Front Field BRO
Wednesday	CNAT Sports Studies catch up JWO/AFA	Trampolining / Gymnastics Gym HMI Boys football 11 JWO
Thursday	Badminton 9/10 Sports hall HMI	Basketball 9-11 Sports hall AFA Netball 7/8 Courts CHP Boys football 7/8 Front field JWO X Country / fitness HMI
Friday	Badminton 10/11 Sports hall HMI	



Student Achievement

A big congratulations to our year 10 student Lily who is now playing at Argyle!

This is a huge achievement and a testament to Lily's hard work.

All of the PE team are really proud of you! Well done Lily!



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Antibullying



What Is Bullying? Know the Types

Bullying isn't just playground teasing—it can take many forms, and not all are obvious. It's usually deliberate, repeated, and involves a power imbalance.

Main Types of Bullying:

- Physical: Hitting, pushing, or damaging belongings
- Verbal: Name-calling, threats, or offensive jokes
- Social: Spreading rumours, exclusion, or manipulation of friendships
- Cyberbullying: Online harassment, nasty comments, or sharing private images without consent

Children may not always call what they're experiencing "bullying"— especially if it happens through subtle put-downs or online group chats.

What You Can Do:

- Ask: "Has anyone made you feel uncomfortable at school lately?"
- Help them understand what bullying is—and isn't.
- Reassure them that reporting bullying is brave, not tattling.

Let's start the year by building awareness, empathy, and trust.

Find more at: Anti-Bullying Alliance – Types of Bullying https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/what-bullying



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E-Safety



Digital Footprints: What Your Child Leaves Behind

Every time your child goes online—whether posting a comment, liking a video, or creating a profile—they leave behind a digital footprint. This footprint can be permanent, even if a post is deleted later. Employers, universities, and even future friends may one day come across what's shared now.

% What You Can Do:

- Encourage the "Grandparent Rule" if they wouldn't want a grandparent or teacher to see it, don't post it.
- Check privacy settings together on apps like Instagram, Snapchat, or TikTok.
- Remind them that usernames and online bios also contribute to their digital image.

Being aware of their digital presence helps students think before they post and make choices they can be proud of later.

Learn more at:

UK Safer Internet Centre – Digital Footprint Advice https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/create-a-positive-digital-footprint-online



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INSPIRING OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS

YEAR 5 AND 6 OPEN ...

EVENING 6pm

Thursday 2nd October

Visit us to find out more about what we offer at TCC!

- On show:
- Meet the teachers
- See the classrooms and laboratories
- Library
- Sports and recreational facilities

There is no need to book. For further details please contact us using the details below:

- enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
- 01752 812511

We are thrilled to welcome our new students for the upcoming year.





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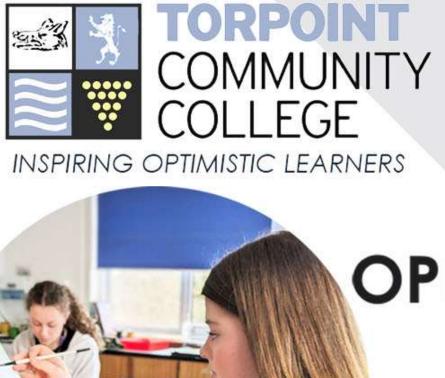
COMMUNITY COLLEGE "INSPIRING

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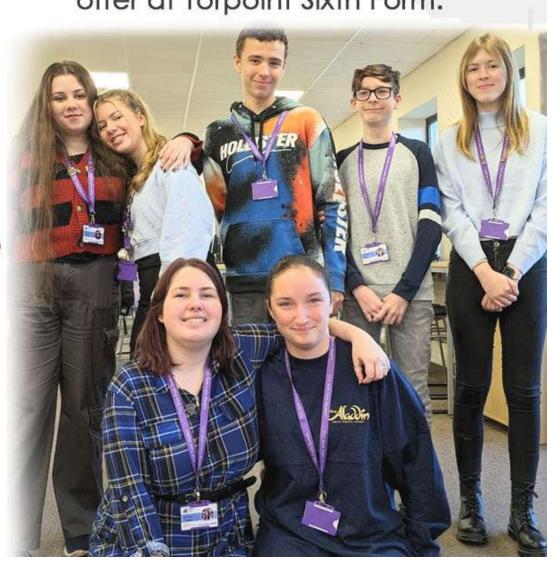
OPEN EVENING at TCC Thursday 16th 2025 6-8pmOctober

> An opportunity to come and find out about the courses on offer at Torpoint Sixth Form.

There will be refreshments available and a presentation by Miss Bell Head of Sixth Form. Post 16 Subject Leaders will be available to share course materials and to discuss the options and courses on offer. Careers advice from a range of organisations will be there to help

There will also be opportunities to speak to current post-16 students and ask them about their courses.

Sixth Form Common Room





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Students, Parents/Carers, members of the community,

You are invited to join us for our coffee and cake day.

You'll have an opportunity to meet some of our staff and students and enjoy some coffee and cake whilst raising money for this amazing charity.

Thursday 2nd October

Torpoint Community College

Main Hall

Cake sale at break and lunch for students

Community coffee morning:

Lesson 3 -11:40 am in the hall.

Lesson 5 - 2:10pm in the hall.

Student council to help serve teas and coffees.



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A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

A film tribute to Viv Hendra.

Showing on Thursday 9th October at 7pm in the Sixth Form common room at Torpoint Community College.

As seats are limited, please make a reservation by emailing entwistle@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

For all who knew him, Viv Hendra was a remarkable teacher, colleague and friend.

Many past students will recall his infectious enthusiasm for the shows, productions and concerts that he organised and directed over nearly 25 years at TCC.

As a tribute to Viv, Jason Carter, an ex-student of the college and Martin Entwistle have made a short film celebrating his life and work.

With short extracts from some of Viv's musicals and interviews from students past and present, we are pleased to be giving the film its premiere on October 9th at Torpoint Community College.





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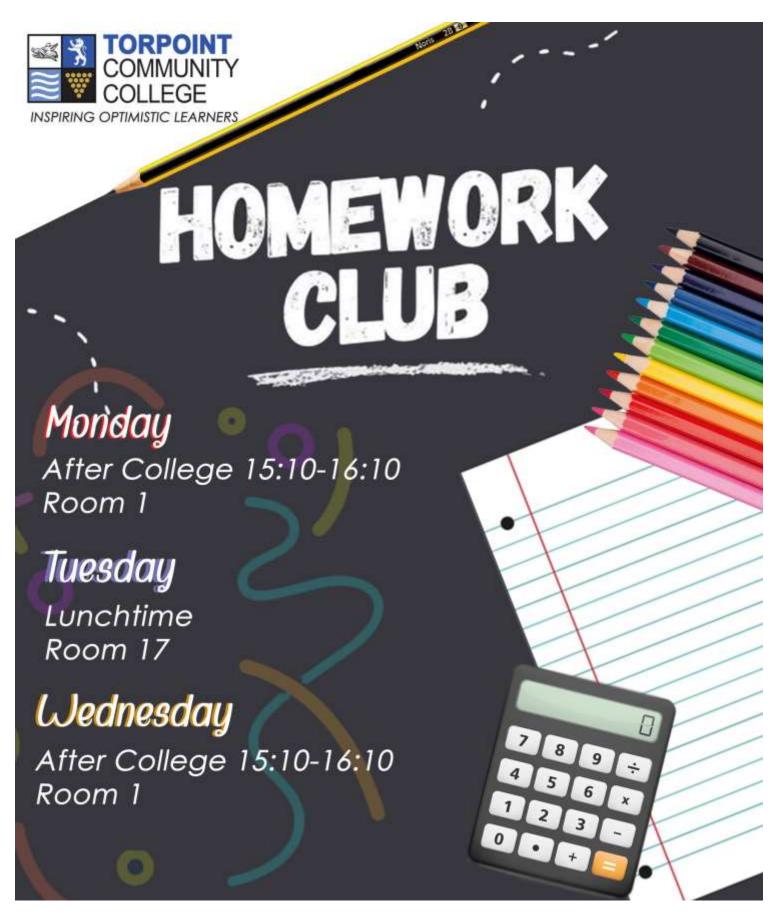
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Homework Support Available for all Students at TCC!

We're excited to share that homework support sessions are available for all TCC students! Whether your child needs a little extra help, a quiet place to work, or guidance from a teacher, we've got it covered. These supportive sessions are a great opportunity to stay on top of assignments and build confidence.

- [1] When:
- •Monday & Wednesday After school in room 1 from 3:10-4:10
- •Tuesday Lunchtime in room 17
- Good news for bus riders! Students who usually take the bus home can use their existing bus passes on a later bus after attending an after-school session.

These sessions are led by our dedicated teachers, ready to support students with any subject. Encourage your child to take advantage of this fantastic resource!





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TCC is now a local donation point for the Torpoint foodbank along with Sainsbury's and the Co-op.

The donation point in the College's main reception.

Please help us support local families by dropping items in when you are passing or need to clear out your cupboards. They are always happy for any donations, but they are always looking for:

Tinned vegetables, fruit and meat
Long life milk and baby milk
Products with a long shelf life or use by date
Deodorants and shampoos etc for men and women
Nappies
Cat and dog food.



HELPING LOCAL
DEODLE IN CRISIS



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Effective communication between parents and school staff is vital to ensure your child receives the best possible support and education. This guide outlines the appropriate channels for different types of enquiries and sets clear expectations to help foster respectful and productive interactions.

Who to Contact for Different Types of Inquiries:



General Day-to-Day Inquiries

For routine questions or concerns about your child's school life, please contact your child's **Tutor** in the first instance. They are best placed to address most day-to-day matters and provide the necessary support.



Higher-Level Concerns

If your concern is more significant or goes beyond everyday issues, you should contact your child's **Head of Year**. They can address broader issues relating to your child's academic progress, behaviour, or well-being.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Concerns

For specific concerns related to your child's additional learning needs or their SEND provision, please contact the **SENDCo** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). Please note: The SENDCo should only be contacted for higher-level concerns regarding your child's support needs. For more general issues, we kindly ask that you contact your child's Tutor first. This ensures concerns are handled efficiently and by the right staff member.



Curriculum-Related Concerns or Major Issues

For concerns about the school curriculum, significant school-wide matters, or if you wish to make a formal complaint, please contact a member of the **College Leadership Team (CLT)**. They are equipped to address higher-level issues and ensure that school policies are followed appropriately.



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Response Times:



Our staff work hard to support all students and families, often managing a high volume of inquiries. Therefore, please allow up to **2 working days** for a response to any email or phone inquiry. If you consider your inquiry to be urgent, please communicate via email or through the College receptionist the nature of your contact so that the relevant person can determine if an immediate response is required. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Respectful Communication:



We are committed to fostering a respectful and positive environment for students, staff, and families. We ask that all communication with school staff remains polite and constructive.



If a parent speaks rudely or behaves aggressively toward a member of staff, the staff member has the right to end the interaction immediately. In such cases, the conversation/ meeting will be rescheduled for a later date. We value respectful communication, and our staff should not be subjected to shouting or abuse under any circumstances.

If you would like to meet a member of staff, please email them or contact reception to book an appointment. Due to an array of commitments, staff might not be able to meet without an appointment.

worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Students and parents are asked to use our worries email address for any safeguarding concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

We value your partnership in your child's education.

https://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/contact-us/

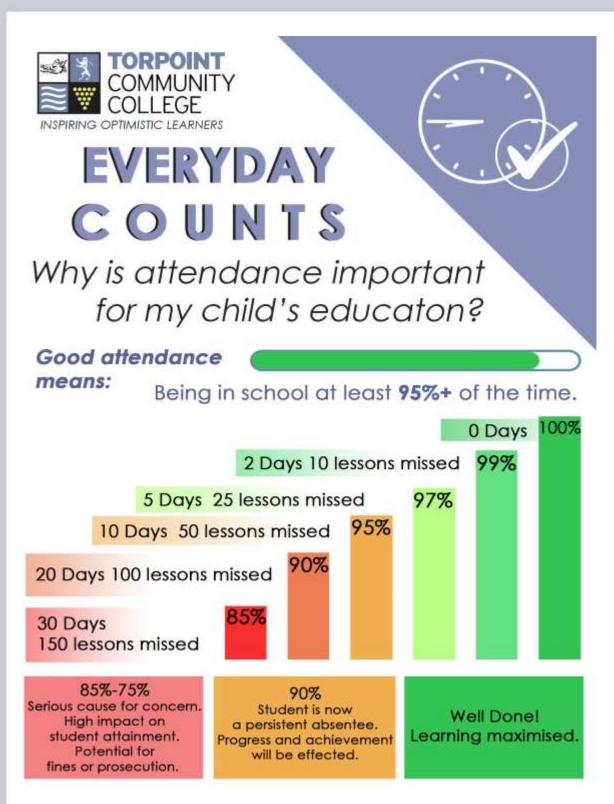




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Attendance- Information about Penalty Notices

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.



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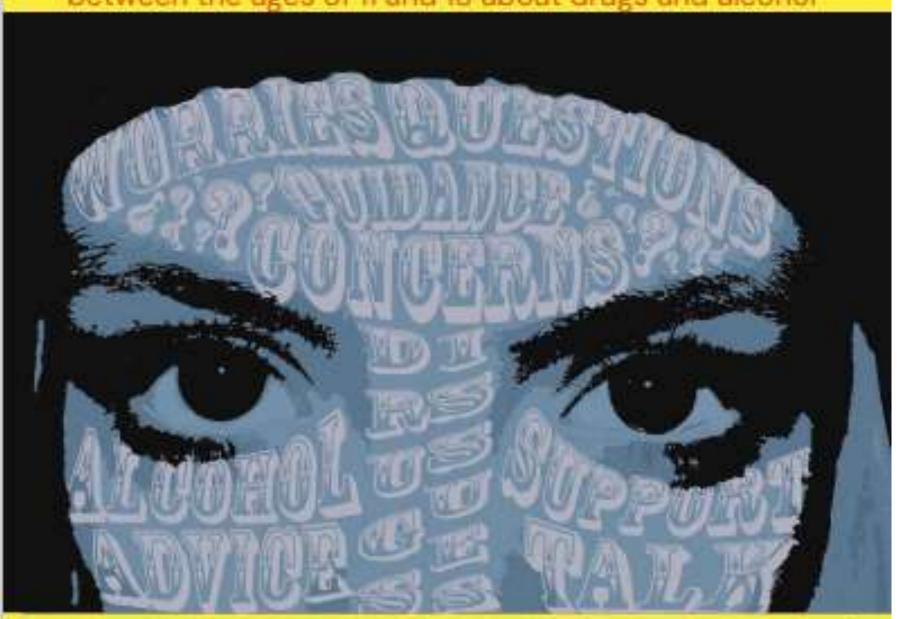
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UP (Wise Up) is the Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service in Comwall
We offer support, information and advice to young people

between the ages of 11 and 18 about drugs and alcohol



Whether it's a chat on the phone or long term support you're after, YZUP can offer you professional support every weekday from 9am till 5pm

01872 300816

Call our confidential helpline to speak to a worker.

Registered address: Part Lower Ground Floor, Gate House, 1-3 St. John's Square, London, England, ECIM 4DH Registered charity no. England 1001957, Scotland SCO40009, Company registration no. 2580377



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email: enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk



COMMUNITY Safeguarding COLLEGE OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS

If you have any worries or concerns you can speak to any member of the Safeguarding Team or you can email us on the confidential email

worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Or speak to a member of staff that you trust and feel comfortable with.

Our priority is that all within our community feel safe and happy.





Designated Safeguarding Leads