



INSPIRING OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS

NEWSLETTER

14th November 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

15th December- Year 9 Careers **Speed Networking**

18th December - Christmas Party **Pieces**



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,

We are delighted to welcome everyone to the second part of the Autumn Term. Last week began with a productive staff training day, where we focused on celebrating our unique College culture and the improvements we have seen in student attendance, behaviour for learning and the huge number of merits that have been awarded. Staff also explored strategies to remove barriers to learning and received valuable training from the Department for Education on supporting reading in secondary schools.

This week began with Remembrance assemblies led by Mr Truan, our Head of History. The assemblies focused on the First World War and included watching interviews with veterans, helping students reflect on the significance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. We were proud to represent the College at the Remembrance Parade and services at St James Church and Sparrow Park in Torpoint. Our student leaders, Ashley and Hannah, accompanied the Headteacher to represent the College at both events, and it was an honour to join our local schools in paying tribute and reflecting on those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Cultural and educational opportunities over the last two weeks have included students from Year's 10, 11, and Post-16 enjoying a trip to Plymouth Theatre Royal to see The Woman in Black, and students visiting the Eden Project to take part in an engaging workshop, broadening their geographical learning beyond the classroom.



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As always there has been an array of sporting events, including our U13 football team achieving an outstanding 14–1 victory in the ESFA National Cup against UTC Plymouth, progressing to the next round. Congratulations to all players for their fantastic performance and teamwork. We also attended the first-ever Plymouth and West Devon Schools Volleyball fixture. Despite facing experienced opponents from Ivybridge, our students showed incredible resilience and skill, with TCC girls finishing 1st and 2nd and our boys' team securing 2nd place. A huge well done to all involved!

Turning to community spirit, a special thank you to Nicky Blair for raising an impressive £156.20 towards our Ten Tors Challenge fund at the "Christmas, Not Christmas Fayre" at Torpoint Town Council Chambers. Thank you for your wonderful support in helping make these opportunities possible for our students.

Our Year 11 students have now started their mock exams, and Year 13 will begin very soon. We commend our students for their hard work and creativity and for all ensuring a calm environment during these periods.

As we move through this term, let us remember that every challenge is an opportunity to grow. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through community events, our students continue to show resilience, ambition, and kindness. Together, we are building a culture where every individual can thrive and achieve their best. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Hlumb

Dr Jeremy Plumb Headteacher





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Going to Extremes @The Eden Project



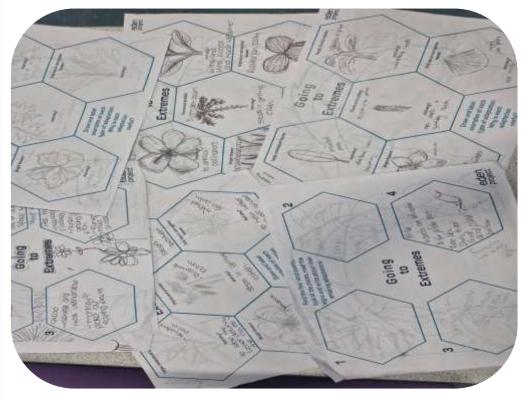


Thirty-five Year 9 students recently took part in the "Going to Extremes" workshop at the Eden Project in Cornwall. The workshop challenged students to think like geographers and scientists, exploring the difficulties that plants face surviving in the tropical rainforest and discovering the incredible adaptations that help them thrive.

After the interactive session in the classroom, students ventured into the Rainforest Biome, where they saw these adaptations up close, from the carnivorous pitcher plant to the resilient mangrove trees. The hands-on experience brought classroom learning to life, helping students to see first-hand how plants have evolved to cope with extreme environments.

Staff at the Eden Project commented on how impeccably behaved our students were throughout the visit, noting their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Our Year 9 students did TCC proud, showing great behaviour and a genuine interest in everything they learned. It was a day filled with discovery, teamwork, and inspiration, and every student came away with a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the natural world. All in all, it was a fantastic day out!

Mrs Gardener and Miss Lindup







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Siri Selected for Devon Cricket U15 Girls Sri Lanka Tour!

We're thrilled to share that **Year 10 student**, **Siri Tucker-Hart**, has earned a place in the **Devon Cricket Under 15 Girls squad**, and will be travelling to **Sri Lanka in February 2026** for an international tour!

Siri and her teammates will spend two weeks playing against Sri Lankan representative sides in **Colombo and Galle**, experiencing cricket in a completely new environment. The trip, which runs from **8th–20th February 2026**, promises to be an amazing adventure both on and off the pitch, helping the players grow their confidence, teamwork, and love for the game.

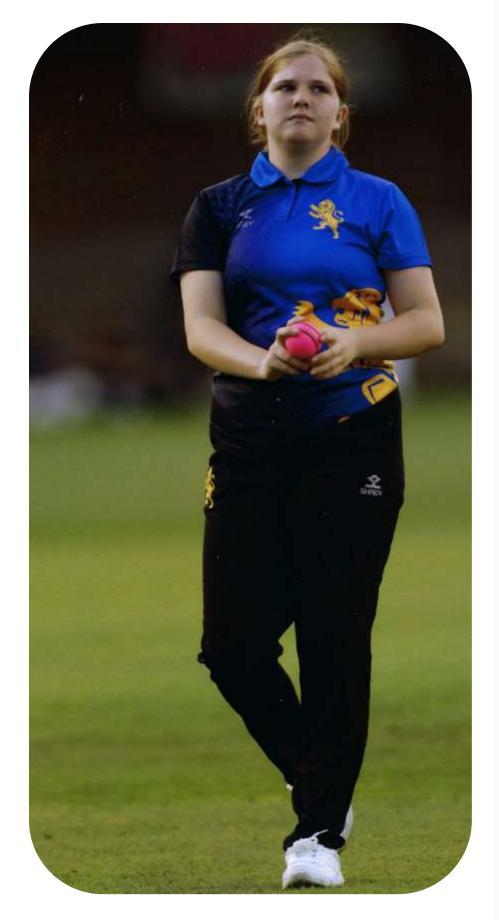
Siri said, "I'm really proud to have been selected for the tour, it means a lot to see all my hard work paying off. I can't wait to experience a new culture, especially going on safari and trying all the different food in Sri Lanka!".

Devon Cricket describes the tour as "a unique opportunity for young cricketers to develop, both as players and individuals," and it will no doubt be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Siri is now **fundraising** to help cover the cost of the trip. She's set up a **GoFundMe page** and is also looking for **local businesses to sponsor her** through advertising in the official tour brochure, which will be distributed to cricket clubs and families across Devon (contact **gareth@iridescentideas.com** for more information).

If you'd like to support Siri, you can donate or find out more here: https://gofund.me/85ce52e96 or get a team together for a fantastic Disney Quiz Cabaret fundraiser – book your tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/disney-quiz-cabaret-tickets-1913500775329

Congratulations, Siri — we're all incredibly proud of you and can't wait to hear all about your Sri Lankan cricket adventure!





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Reading News at TCC!

Bookbuzz 2025 – Celebrating Reading at Torpoint Community College

This term, all our Year 7 and Year 8 students have taken part in Bookbuzz, a fantastic reading programme from BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity.

As part of the scheme, each student was able to choose a free book from this year's exciting Bookbuzz selection - with titles ranging from gripping adventures to heartwarming stories and laugh-out-loud comedies.

The aim of Bookbuzz is to inspire a love of reading for pleasure and help young people discover new authors and genres. Students were thrilled to receive their books, and it's been wonderful to see so many already being read!

We hope this initiative continues to spark curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong enjoyment of reading among our students.









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Reading News at TCC!

Sparx Reading Success!

We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible reading achievements of our students this term! Across Year's 7–10, students have read an amazing 584 books and completed an impressive 999 hours of reading on Sparx.

This fantastic commitment to reading shows real enthusiasm, perseverance and curiosity across all year groups. Whether diving into a new story, exploring non-fiction, or revisiting a favourite classic, our students are showing that reading truly opens the door to success.

A huge well done to everyone who has contributed to this achievement – let's see if we can reach 1,000 hours and 600 books next term! Keep up the brilliant work!





? Need a Hand? Join a Sparx Support Session!

To help everyone stay on track and make the most of Sparx, here are some weekly support sessions for any students to access who need a little extra help with their reading goals or homework:

- Monday lunchtimes room 6 with Mrs Hodgkinson
- Monday after-school room 1 homework club
- Wednesday after-school room 1 homework club
- Thursday lunchtime room 5 with Mr Pease

The library can also be accessed by different year groups on different days of the week and students can use the computers in there to access Sparx.



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Year 11 Separate Science Biology – Kidney Dissection

Year 11 Separate Science Biology students recently took part in a fascinating practical lesson exploring the structure and function of the kidney. As part of their studies, they carried out a kidney dissection, identifying key structures such as the cortex and medulla.

Did you know?

Most people have two kidneys, located under the ribs and above the waist, one on each side of the body. Each kidney is bean-shaped and roughly 10–12 cm long – about the size of a clenched fist.

Kidneys filter around **180 litres of blood every day**, help control red blood cell production, and release hormones that regulate blood pressure.

They produce urine by removing waste products from the body. Kidneys also help keep bones strong and healthy by producing an active form of vitamin D.

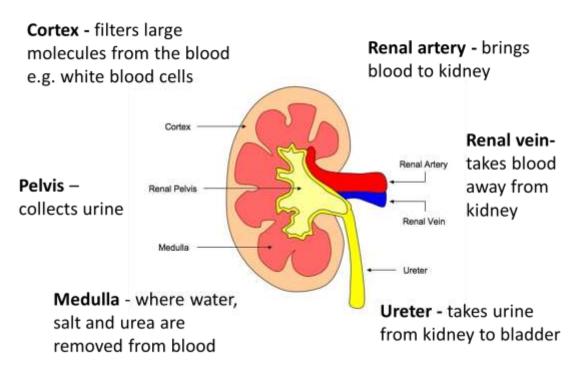
Well done to all our Year 11 students for their excellent work and enthusiasm during this practical!







Anatomy of the kidney





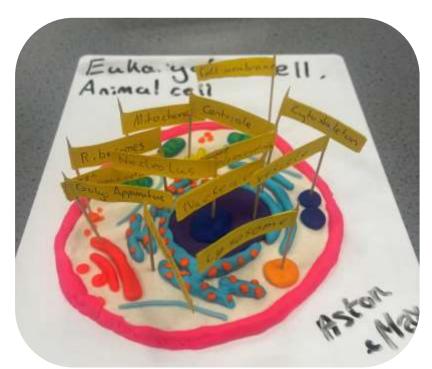
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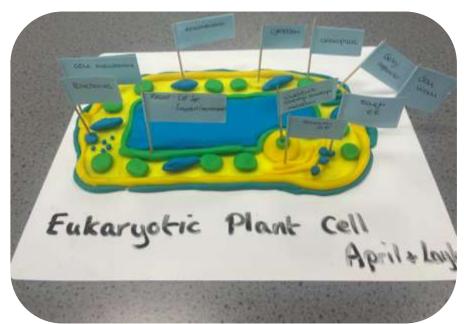


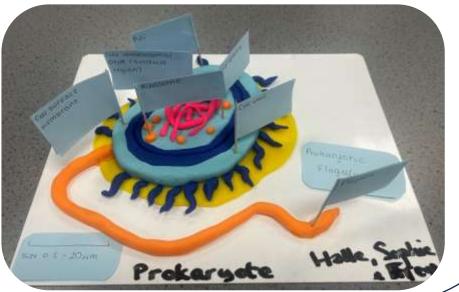
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Year 12 Biology

Our Year 12 A level Biology students have been studying cell structure and function. As part of their work on this topic, they created impressive models of prokaryotic (bacterial) cells, as well as eukaryotic plant and animal cells. Well done to all for their creativity and effort! Mrs Bray







Calling all Year 11 and Year 13 Art and DT Students 24/25

If you completed your GCSE Art, GCSE DT or A level Art course last academic year, **your work is now ready to collect!**Please contact the college reception to arrange a collection time.

Please note: The deadline for collecting work is the Friday 19th December. After this time work will be recycled.

Many thanks,

The Art and DT team



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Ten Tors training - Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th October

Students began their Ten Tors training in earnest last weekend, starting with a Saturday afternoon session at the College focused on navigation skills.

On Sunday, they put their learning into practice by completing a circular micro-navigation route. Both students and adult volunteers faced challenging conditions, with wet and windy weather making the task even tougher. Despite this, everyone rose to the occasion, and the students have hopefully gained some solid foundational navigation skills to carry forward on future walks.

Well done to all involved!







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Antibullying





Spotting Bullying in Group Chats or Games

Bullying doesn't just happen at school - it often follows children home through group chats and online games. These spaces can feel unregulated, making it easier for exclusion, name-calling, or peer pressure to thrive.

Look out for signs such as:



- Mood changes after being on a device
- Sudden avoidance of certain apps or games
- Secretive or anxious behaviour when checking messages
- Asking to leave a group or delete an account without saying why

In online games, bullying may show up as:

- Teammates targeting your child unfairly
- Offensive messages during or after gameplay
- Being excluded from team play or repeatedly "kicked" from games

What You Can Do:

- Ask open-ended questions like, "How's the group chat going?" or "Who do you usually game with?"
- Help your child block/report bullies, and encourage respectful digital behaviour.
- Remind them they can always come to you or a trusted adult if something feels wrong.

More tips: Internet Matters – Managing Group Chats
https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/



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E-Safety





E-safety at TCC

Spotting and Preventing Online Grooming

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a young person to exploit or manipulate them. It can happen through games, social media, or messaging apps—and it's not always obvious at first.



Young people may believe they are speaking to someone their own age, or feel flattered by attention, gifts, or compliments. That's why it's so important to keep lines of communication open.



- What You Can Do:
- Talk regularly about who your child speaks to online and how those people treat them.
- Encourage them to never share personal information, images, or locations online.
- Reassure your child that they can always come to you if something doesn't feel right.

If you're ever concerned, report it to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection):

Report to CEOP- https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/
More information: Thinkuknow – Parents' Guide
https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/professionals/guidance/thinkuknow-parents-and-carers/



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Christmas Lunch

We will be serving Christmas lunch on **Tuesday 16th** and **Wednesday 17th December.**

Menu Choices

- · Roast turkey with all the trimmings or vegetarian version.
- · Accompanied with a festive biscuit or festive brownie

This is a set price at £2.50



Calling all Year 11 and Year 13 Art and DT Students 24/25

If you completed your GCSE Art, GCSE DT or A level Art course last academic year, **your work is now ready to collect!**Please contact the college reception to arrange a collection time.

Please note: Work not collected by the Christmas break will be recycled.

Many thanks,

The Art and DT team



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County Cup – Year 11 vs Looe (1st Round)

Our Year 11 students faced Looe in the opening round of the County Cup in tough conditions, with driving wind and rain making football difficult. Despite this, the team started strongly and went into half-time 1–0 up thanks to a well-worked goal from Harry T.

The second half saw the weather worsen, and the game became increasingly scrappy as both sides battled to gain control. After sustained pressure and a series of corners, Looe finally found an equaliser from their third consecutive corner, levelling the game at 1–1 with just five minutes left on the clock.

With no further goals, the match went to penalties, where Looe edged the contest 3–1 in the shootout. Despite the disappointment of the result, this was a much-improved performance from Year 11 following their 6–3 defeat to Hele's in the National Cup, showing real progress and resilience in challenging conditions.

U13 Football – A Dominant Display from TCC!

Our Under-13 football team continued their impressive run in the ESFA National Cup with a resounding 14–1 victory over UTC on Wednesday 6th November. It was a superb all-round performance, showcasing teamwork, determination, and some outstanding individual skill.

The result sees TCC progress into the next round of the competition, where they will once again enjoy home advantage, this time facing either lybridge or Hele's. With spirits high and momentum building, the team will be looking to carry this fine form forward as the tournament continues.

Congratulations to all the players on a fantastic performance and result, what a way to represent TCC!





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Sports Star News

Year 10 student Amy has successfully trialled for the Team Bath U17 Athlete Development Centre.

This is a fantastic achievement and one that we're super proud of her for! She has worked hard over the last couple of years, competing at school, locally and at both county and regional level. Not only that, but Amy has been committed to helping out at Year 7 and 8 Netball club where she has shared her shooting skills to the younger years!

Well done Amy!







Bike Ability Level 3

Recently, we have had some students complete their Level 3 Bike Ability qualification with Richard from Cornwall Active. Students have really enjoyed this, and the feedback has been positive. Due to the success of this, we are planning on running further sessions after Christmas. It is for those who completed their Level 2 Qualification in Primary School and now want to push themselves to the next level!

Please see Miss Rowe for more details if you are interested or email rowe.b@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk





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Linguists of the Month

Mollie in Year 9

Freddie in Year 9

Maisy in Year 9

Teigan in Year 9

Sage in Year 9

Dylan in Year 9

James in Year 7

Molly in Year 8

Owain Hendy in Year 8

Amazing effort from all of you - keep it up!







Sixth form Psychology Zoo Trip

Last week, our Year 12 Psychology students had the exciting opportunity to see psychology in action during a visit to Paignton Zoo. They attended a fascinating lecture by Dr. Farmer, who explained how psychological principles are applied in a zoological setting.

Students learned how researchers assess the emotional resilience of giraffes and how zookeepers use various data collection methods to monitor animal behaviour. They even had the chance to carry out their own behavioural observations using an ethogram, focusing on an animal of their choice.

It was a fantastic day that brought classroom learning to life and gave students a real-world insight into the practical applications of psychology. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



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We now have a newsletter email!

Newsletter@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

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Has your child achieved something special outside of school? We'd love to hear all about it! Drop us a message at Newsletter@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

If you can, please include a photo and a short note about your child's success, whether it's in sport, the arts, or any other hobby or passion. We can't wait to share



Torpoint Artists Collective CIC are developing an Arts Strategy for Torpoint, to help the arts to thrive in the town for everyone - including young people, adults and families. Arts includes everything from music and performing, to cinema and reading, to painting, sculpture and textile.

Please tell us what you'd love to see in Torpoint by completing this survey - we'd love to hear from you!:

https://form.jotform.com/torpointartistscollective/torpoint-artsculture-survey





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<u>SEND Café</u> Wednesday 19th November

2.00pm - 3.00pm Torpoint Nursery and Infant School

Join us for our first Special Educational Needs café of the year!

We will be joined by Toby Wilson from the Cognition and Learning Team

The Cognition and Learning Service supports settings in ensuring the effective inclusion, achievement and progression of children and young people with cognition and learning needs.

The service works with learners with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) and Moderate (or general)

Learning Difficulties.

Mrs Lock

SENDCO at Torpoint Nursery & Infants

Mr Tamblyn

SENDCO at Carbeile Junior School

Mrs Turner

SENDCO at Torpoint Community College

This will be a very informal get together with tea, coffee and biscuits! It is a chance to share ideas, concerns, or simply just to catch up.

Parents of any children from all schools are invited to attend. Arrive when you can, stay as long or as little as you like between 2pm and 3pm





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TORPOINT COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

YEAR 5 & 6 PARENT & CARER

COLLEGE TOURS

By request

Is your child starting secondary school soon?

Discover our school firsthand! Join a guided tour to explore our engaging classrooms, meet our welcoming staff, and learn how we help Year 7 students settle in, grow, and succeed. Experience the friendly atmosphere, connect with our students, and see why we're proud of the supportive community we've built.

Tours available on Thursday mornings at 9.15am, to book or for further enquiries, please contact us using the details below



· enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk





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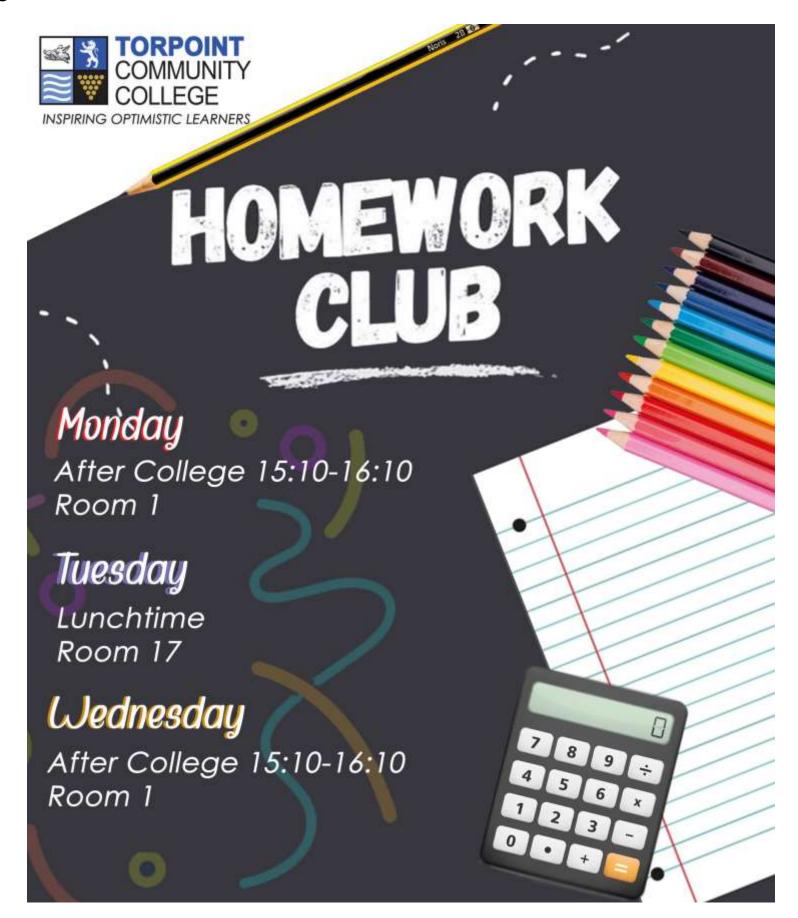


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Homework Support Available for all Students at TCC!

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.

- |ı| 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 is 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/

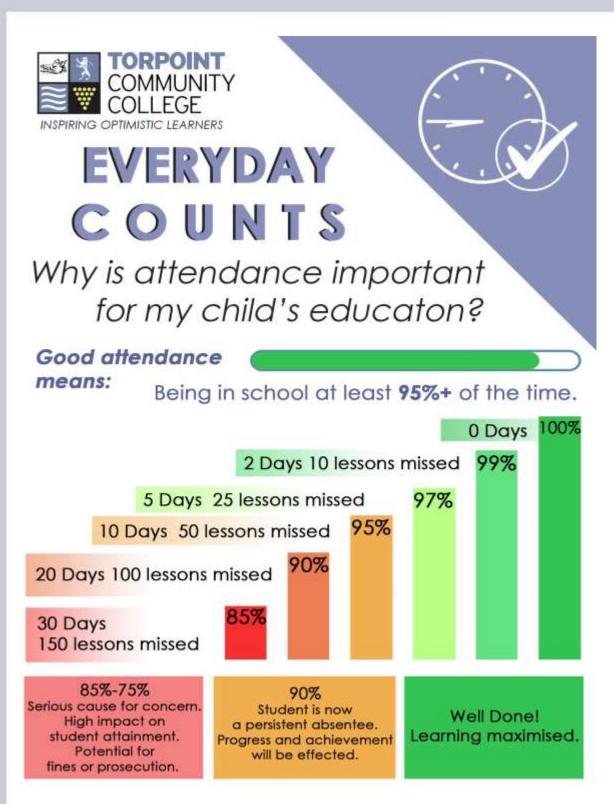




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Attendance- Information about Penalty Notices

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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Trevol Road Torpoint Cornwall PL112NH Tel: (01752) 812511



OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS"

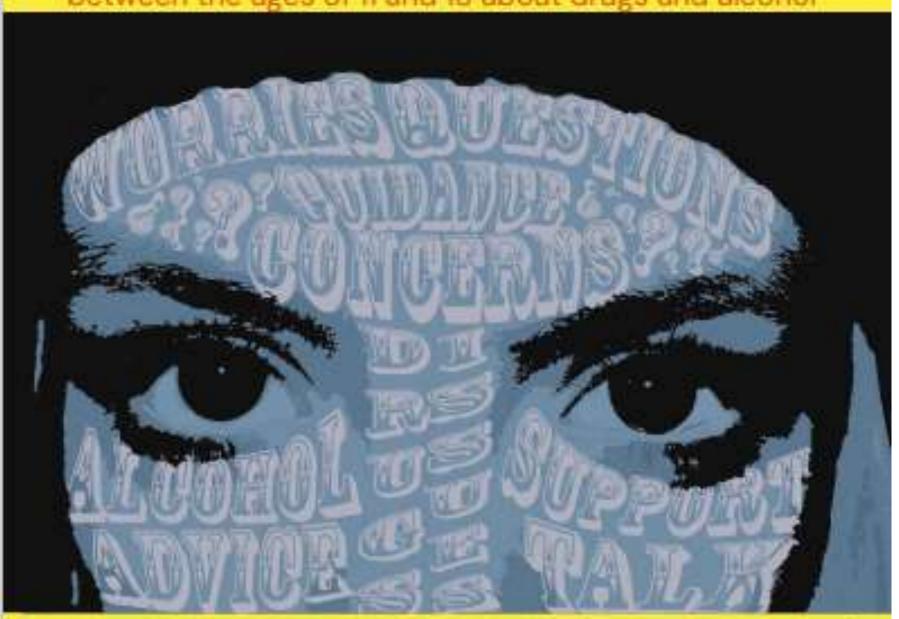
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UP (Wise Up) is the Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service in Comwall
We offer support, information and advice to young people

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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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