



Issue 73 20th December 2018

## Academic Year 2018/19 Term Dates:

Christmas Holidays- 21st December to  
6th January

18th-22nd February - Half Term

## Upcoming Events

Year 9 Option Evening - 15th January

Year 9 Parents Evening - 30th January

## Headteacher's Message

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and effort this term, with a special mention to our Year 7 students who have completed their first full academic term here at the College.

To celebrate the festive period we welcomed senior citizens from the local community last week for our annual College Christmas dinner followed by singing, music and Christmas carols performed by students from all year groups. There was also an opportunity for all to enjoy a Christmas sing-a-long.



The College also welcomed families to enjoy the Christmas concert, where numerous students showcased their array of singing and musical talents; this was very well attended and finished with another Christmas sing-a-long.

Today we have finished the term with students and staff wearing their favourite Christmas jumpers and raising funds for "Save the Children".

I am very pleased to report that after 6 weeks from leaving home to travel to College, Mrs Lane has now left hospital to continue her recovery at home after a serious road traffic accident. Mrs Lane has asked me to pass on her thanks to all students, staff and families for their cards and best wishes. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a very Merry Christmas!

At the end of this term we say thank you and goodbye to two members of teaching staff. Mrs Merren is leaving after over 5 years of service at the College having taught Business Studies and ICT. Mrs Donald, who taught Design and Food Technology, leaves us after over 8 years at the College. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all that they contributed to the College and wishing them well for the future.

May I take this opportunity to thank all students and their families for their commitment and support this term and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With my very best wishes

Dr Jeremy Plumb



# HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

November 2018



## Anthony McSherry

Year 9

Anthony was awarded the Head Teacher's Award for September due to his excellent participation in a number of extra-curricular activities both in and out of school.

Anthony has been a reliable and valuable member of St Johns Ambulance now for the last three years. Every Friday he meets locally to learn new techniques and expand his first aid knowledge. As his knowledge has grown he has sat various assessments which have increased in difficulty and he is aiming to achieve the Grand Prior. Anthony has currently achieved his Silver Award and is soon to take his Gold. An amazing achievement. Alongside the qualifications, as part of St Johns Ambulance, Anthony has also volunteered at various different local events, ensuring there is medical assistance available for any minor incidents that occur.



Nearly two years ago, Anthony started to learn to play the electric guitar and now he has private lessons every week. His school music teacher has stated that "Anthony is becoming a skilled guitarist and you can hear him bang out some crunching riffs and soaring solos every Monday lunchtime when he rehearses for the Rock School Band". Anthony is currently a member of the Rock School Band and is a member of the Torpoint Stage Band. He is a highly committed member of both bands and attends rehearsals regularly twice a week. He has taken part in notable performances at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro and in the Plymouth Pavilions in front of an audience of 3000! At these performances, some of the best young talent and musicians from the local area performed. 'The Stage Band' provided the exciting finale, playing tracks by Amy Winehouse and the Rolling Stones.

This year Anthony has also started training for Ten Tors and hopes to be successful in securing a place on the 35 mile team. He has been out walking on the moors at weekends. He contributes to the planning of the routes and has already learnt how to take a bearing and work out distance and times. He is always prepared and already a valued member of his team.

Anthony's behaviour record has been exemplary and his attendance record also excellent over his years at Torpoint. His tutor has praised his attitude and efforts in class and in tutor time stating "Anthony is an exceptional student who always has glowing reports from his subject teachers. He is always willing to help and get involved in literacy and numeracy activities. Last year he was the literacy co-ordinator for the tutor group, which gave him the responsibility of organising the weekly reading books which he did so very efficiently. A very deserving winner of this award".

Well done Anthony!!



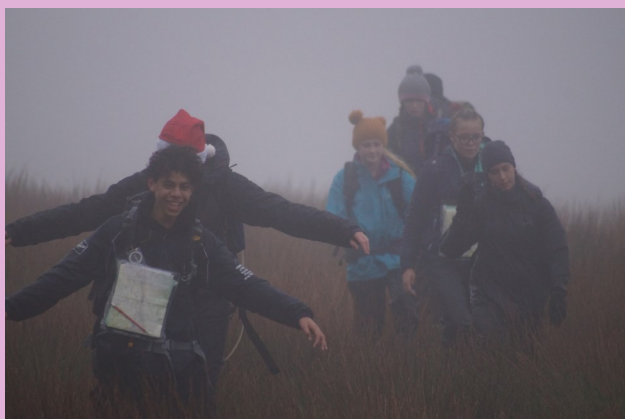


## Ten Tors training – Update December

The weather on Dartmoor was once again wet and miserable as students and volunteers set off from Postbridge for the Christmas walk on Sunday 2nd December.

They were unable to cross the rivers which meant a short walk over waterlogged and boggy moors before returning to Postbridge. However, they successfully completed the parts of the walk that they will need to do on the main event.

Well done to everyone.



On Saturday 8th December it was yet another wet and windy day for Ten Tors Training. However this time it was not on Dartmoor!

This training session was run at the Family Centre (Hub) in Torpoint. The students were able to complete some first aid training, under the guidance of the St Johns Ambulance, and have a kit check in the comfort of the Family Centre.



There was no escaping the weather as the students returned to the outdoors as they learnt to cook and put up tents, all in the pouring rain.

Well done to all those who took part and a reminder that the next walk is in the first week back after the Christmas holidays.



## Community Christmas Lunch

It was a pleasure to host members of our local community again last week at our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch. There was a great turn out which included those from local care homes.

Our guests were very well looked after by students from Years 7 to 11, some of whom had grandparents and even great grandparents at the lunch, and who joined them for lunch after they had served the meals. Once everyone had finished their traditional festive lunch, there was some excellent entertainment by students involved in the College's Christmas concert. This offered our guests the opportunity to sing along to some well-known Christmas carols.



A very big thank you to all the students who hosted and supported the event and who represented the College incredibly well – they were amazing and should be very proud of their efforts. Also, a big thank you to the Catering Team and all other staff who supported this event.



## Sixth Form Success In UK Maths Competition

Seven of our top mathematicians in Years 12 and 13 took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

The Maths Challenge is a one and a half hour paper that contains a variety of questions that involve puzzles, problems, logic as well as maths, which make them challenging and enjoyable to those taking part. It is a national competition with the best mathematicians from all over the UK taking part. The paper is designed to challenge the most able students and get them to think about the maths skills that they need to use.

There were some fantastic results at Torpoint Community College with Harrison Turpett of Year 13 achieving a Silver certificate, Best in Year 13 and Best in School. In Year 12 Brad Chapman achieved a Bronze Certificate and Best in Year 12, and Tyler Allen also achieved a Bronze Certificate.

Congratulations to all the students that volunteered to take part and to those that won awards.

## Calling all former students!

We are proud of our students and their achievements and know that many former students have gone on to have amazing careers. We are working with an organisation called Future First to develop our alumni network. Please could you ask any former students that you know to sign up to our alumni database. It would be fantastic if former students could talk to present students to help them in their career making decisions and to let us know all the wonderful things our students have gone on to achieve. The sign up link is:

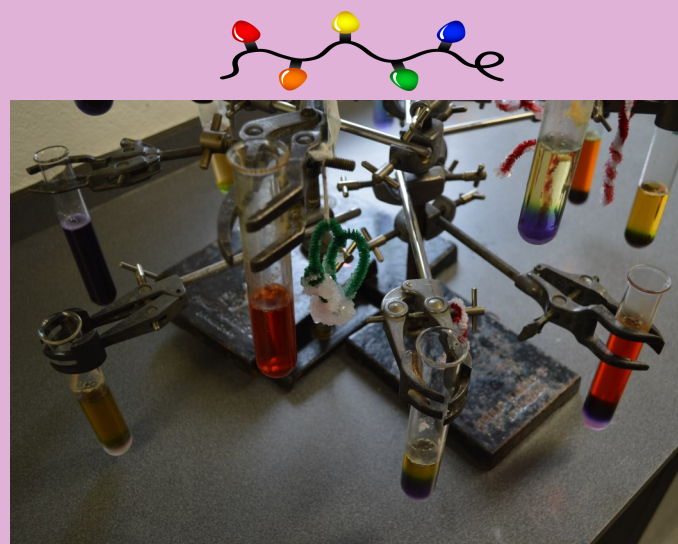
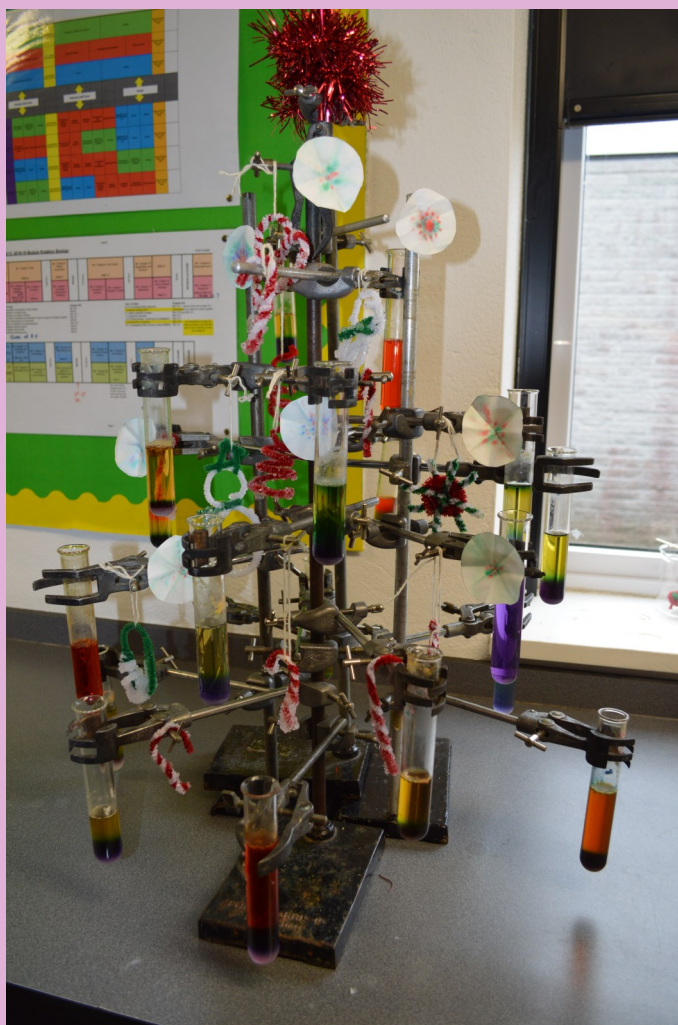
<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/torpoint>

Please help pass this message on so that we can grow our alumni. Many thanks!

## Science News

This week Miss Carr's Year 8 Science group have enjoyed carrying out a variety of practical work in order to construct a festive Chemis-tree.

Can you spot the borax crystal decorations, rainbow fizz neutralisations and chromatography baubles?





## Reminder about mobile phone usage at Torpoint Community College

Whilst many schools locally, nationally and in other countries have decided to put a total ban on mobile phones in their schools, at Torpoint Community College, following some time spent looking at research and talking to staff and students, we feel that educating young people to use their phones responsibly and appropriately is the best approach. We have therefore recently given student assemblies to talk through the importance of using mobile phones appropriately, the potential negative impact on mental health and well being as well as the potential decrease in test scores and GCSE results.

We have a long standing and clear policy on mobile phone usage so students have been reminded that they can use their phones at breaktimes and lunchtimes in the canteen, canteen queue, outside or in the hall (lunchtime only). They are **not to use them in corridors** whilst walking to or waiting for their lessons. There will be some occasions when a teacher may give permission to use mobile phones for an activity in their lesson; however, this is likely to be by exception and the rule is that no phone should be seen or heard in classrooms.

We will use our current policy when a mobile phone is used inappropriately which is to confiscate it until the end of the day.

If a student uses their mobile phone inappropriately on a number of occasions we will look at inviting parents in to talk through the issue. We strongly believe in ensuring each and every student is in an optimal learning atmosphere at all times with no possible distractions.

At Torpoint Community College we are keen to continue educating our young people on how to use their mobile phone

responsibly and appropriately. This is so they can be used as a tool to communicate in a positive manner as well as make additional progress by using it as a learning tool. With all students, staff and parents continuing to work together as a strong partnership we can achieve success for all.

We would like to thank you for your support with this reminder about mobile phone usage.

More information can be found on the College website.

## Homework Update

A big part of the College's focus is to ensure we enable students to become successful independent learners; completing homework to a good standard plays a key part in this.

We have recently reviewed how homework is set for Key Stage 3 students and how we support those Year 7, 8 and 9 students towards completing their homework. To this end, in those year groups, English, Science and Maths are the only subjects we will be requiring students to do homework for weekly and/or fortnightly. In addition to this English will always be set on a Tuesday, Science on a Wednesday and Maths on a Thursday.

We sincerely hope this will help each and every child get organised into some routine with their homework tasks in the knowledge that each subject will be set the same day each week, and due in either a week later or two weeks later. Many teachers offer homework support and we have a Homework Club open every day at lunchtime. Therefore we do not expect any student to be left unable to complete their homework.

We would like to thank you in advance for supporting your child in completing those weekly or fortnightly tasks for English, Science and Maths.

Ms Blandin-Neaves  
Acting Deputy Headteacher





## Student Council News

This term the Student Council have been discussing ways to raise money for improvement to our outdoor areas. We ran a stand at our recent Emotional Health and Well-being Fair to find out students' opinions on developing an outdoor space that could support their health and well-being. We have a few ideas we hope to move forward with, and we will have additional funding for this project from Headstart Kernow who have agreed to match any money we can raise.

The Student Leadership Team (the Head Boy, Chris Robinson-Jones and Head Girl, Amy Pearton and their deputies Spencer Shepherd and Ellie Colton) attended the Remembrance Day Service held in Torpoint last month with Dr Plumb and laid a wreath at the memorial.

The Student Council representatives also met up with the TCC Senior Leadership team for our termly meeting to discuss a variety of issues. These included homework for KS3 students and the use of mobile phones within the College site. Student Council also met with representatives from Young People Cornwall to discuss TCC students getting involved in the Youth Parliament process. We hope that we will be able to put forward a student from TCC to stand as the member of Youth Parliament for South East Cornwall in the near future.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions (especially regarding fund-raising) please contact a Student Council representative.

Written by Maizie-Jane Drabble (Year 8 Student Council member)

## Christmas Jumper Day 2018



## Netball teams make it to Christmas unbeaten!

Year 9 Netball results:

Torpoint 8 Liskeard A 0

Torpoint 5 Tavistock B 4

Congratulations to the Year 9 netball team who faced icy conditions at the SE Cornwall central venue fixtures last week. The girls showed excellent team spirit and determination against Liskeard A with Rosie (C ) and Emily (WA) attacking effectively together, getting the ball quickly in to the D. Abi (GA) and Maddie (GS) moved and communicated well and took every opportunity to shoot, which they did very well in such cold conditions.

Saffie (GK), Emma (GD) and Freya (WD) defended strongly, intercepting most attacks by Liskeard resulting in Liskeard being unable to score. Nominated player: Rosie R.J.

Tavistock proved to be a tougher team and we went in to the second half at 3-3. The girls were positive in the half time break and knew they could win if they dug in, took their time and stopped the silly mistakes. Chloe (GK) Emma and Ruby (WD) defended well with only one more goal conceded. Rosie and Emily ensured they passed strongly and wisely

through the centre third and in the D for Abi and Maddie to score 2 more to take a deserved win.

Nominated player: Maddie J

Well done for a fantastic performance girls showing real strength of character and excellent team spirit.

Our next fixture is Thursday 10th January for Year 7 and 8 teams. The Year 7 team sheet was published on Monday.

Let's keep training hard and see if we can repeat the same success next term and get some of our teams to the Bude finals in 2019.

Miss Milford

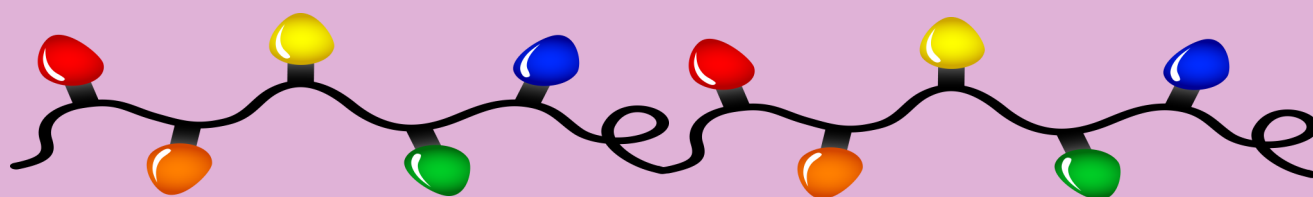
## Request for help - Careers Exhibition

We are in the process of organising a Careers Exhibition to take place in the College hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

If you work for an employer who would be able to take part, are self-employed or work for a local business and think you could help we would be really grateful if you contact Mrs Bray at the College.

We want to make this year's exhibition as useful for our students as possible and we really value your support.

Thank you in advance.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
Year from everyone at  
Torpoint Community College**