

What are the rules about GCSE Maths/English?

It is a government requirement that ALL students need to work towards achieving GCSE Grade 4 in BOTH Maths and English—if they have not already achieved them prior to joining college.

Do we have to pay anything for books?

Students are asked to pay a £35 College deposit at the start of term. This is refundable if all texts and materials are returned at the end of the course.

What if my son/daughter loses his/her ID/registration swipe card?

They need to purchase a new one as a matter of urgency. This will cost £5 to replace and can be purchased from Mylor 103 (this sum can be taken from the £35 college deposit on the first occasion a card is lost). It is essential that all students have their swipe / ID cards with them at all times. If they also have a bus pass this will be on the reverse of their ID / swipe card. To replace a bus pass—the loss must be reported to the police at reportmyloss.com for a reference number. A charge of £15 will be made for any replacement.

Where can my son/daughter get food during the day?

There are a number of food outlets available across the College throughout the day. We operate a cashless catering system. Students need to top up their ID cards at machines situated across the campus or pay by debit card.

Is smoking/vaping permitted in the College?

Smoking/vaping is not permitted around the College campus. This rule is strictly enforced to protect the health of the vast majority of members of the College who do not smoke. There are three dedicated smoking/vaping areas provided.

Are lockers available?

Lockers are available to students who require them. Keys may be obtained from the Curriculum Secretary on the basis of a key deposit of £5 per annum. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that books, personal belongings etc. are reasonably secure. The College can accept no liability for losses.

Students are asked not to bring valuable items or large sums of money into the College; if this is absolutely necessary, ask the Finance Office (A101) to lock any such items in the College safe. (NB: this facility is available only in exceptional circumstances).

At the end of each academic year, students must clear their locker, return the key and reclaim the deposit. All lockers will be emptied by a member of staff at the end of each summer term.

Is there a code of conduct for students?

Yes – students have a signed copy of this.



Truro and Penwith College

Parents and Carers : Frequently Asked Questions 2019/20

Although students are briefed on the following matters at the start of term and have been sent information via email, many parents and carers find it useful to have direct access to some of the key information themselves. The following advice has been prepared in response to their most frequently asked questions. We hope you find it useful, but if there are issues not covered, please do not hesitate to contact the college. There will also be information evenings for Parents of First Years in September. Please check the website and newsletter we send out in August.

What is a PTL?

PTL stands for Programme Team Leader. This is the person who is in charge of curriculum and pastoral needs for your son/daughter

What is a DTL?

DTL is a deputy to the PTL.

What is a Personal Tutor?

A personal tutor is a bit like a form tutor at school. They are the main point of contact for you and your son/daughter. Your son/daughter will have a tutorial session each week with their personal tutor where a tutorial programme will be followed. The tutor will focus on academic and personal issues, including two formal reviews of progress in November and February/March.

What are the timings of the College Day?

Monday to Friday

Lecture 1 - 9.15 am - 10.45 am

Lecture 2 - 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Lecture 3 - 12.35 pm - 1.10 pm

(Lunch is generally taken during Lecture 3 or 4)

Lecture 4 - 1.10 pm - 2.05 pm

Lecture 5 - 2.05 pm - 2.40 pm

Lecture 6 - 2.45 pm - 4.15 pm

What are study periods?

Study periods are sessions during the day which are non-timetabled. We expect your son/daughter to use these sessions wisely for private study in one of our libraries or study centres.

What is Study Plus?

Study Plus is a programme of activities which are extra-curricular but mostly run during the College day. Students are actively encouraged to participate in Study Plus. There are a huge range of activities available under our Health & Wellbeing Programme.

How can my son/daughter get extra help with their work?

Your son/daughter can get extra help with their work by speaking to their subject lecturers about any difficulties, by using the College's Moodle (virtual learning) site and also by dropping in or making an appointment at one of our Study Centres across the College where staff are available to help with English and maths GCSEs.

How much time should my son/daughter be spending on private study?

This will vary at different points in their course, but on average we expect that students should need to work for at least an additional 15 hours per week on top of their attendance in lectures. Sometimes this will be devoted to a written homework assignment or coursework. Other out of class work might include research, wider reading, revision and consolidation etc.

Do you have Progress (Parent/Carer) Evenings?

Yes, we do. The dates are on our Parent/Carer Page on the website. An appointment system operates. We expect students to make appointments on your behalf.

How do we know when to apply for University?

We will start the process with students around Easter time in Year One (some will start even earlier). You will be invited to a Higher Education Information evening in April/May to learn more. Applications are sent off from early September of the second year of study. Generally, once students have researched their options and made their choices, the earlier they apply for university the better.

What do we do if we have a question or problem with the bus service to College?

Please contact the Transport Desk at the College (contact number 01872 267003)

How can my son/daughter receive extra personal support?

Sometimes the Personal Tutor or PTL may be the first port of call when a student needs help on a personal matter. However, Welfare & Personal Advisers are always available in the Student Services department found in Mylor.

Where can I find out about ongoing information?

On our college website: www.truro-penwith.ac.uk, look at our Parent/Carers Information Page.

What happens if my son/daughter has a problem at College?

Either they or you should contact the personal tutor or PTL in the first instance.

Do I receive reports on my son/daughter?

Reports on progress are sent home in December and at the end of March. These are followed by Progress Evenings which provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to talk to subject lecturers.