TEIGNMOUTH
Community School

Thrive • Care • Succeed

Principal: Mr James O'Connell
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Welcome

On behalf of all who belong to our community, welcome to Teignmouth Community School (TCS) Exeter Road. We are a part of the Osprey Learning Trust, composed of four primary schools and one secondary. We are a mixed, 11-18, comprehensive school. Set in a wonderful location, this is a place where young people thrive, learn to care for themselves and others, and succeed in a whole host of ways.

I hope this prospectus will give you a flavour of what makes TCS special – the values and people that make our school. It is just one of a number of ways that you can find out about us. Please view our extensive website and do get in touch if you'd like to find out more. We are always delighted to arrange tours of the school for prospective parents; just give us a call on 01626 774091 (option 6) to make an appointment.

Vision

We will provide all pupils and staff with the opportunities to develop and **thrive** as fulfilled members of society.

We will **care** and support all to be safe and happy in enriching and exciting environments.

We will ensure that all pupils have every chance to achieve the best possible qualifications, skills and knowledge they can in order to **succeed** in their futures.

Principal, Mr James O'Connell

Introduction

TCS is a unique learning community committed to encouraging pupils to reach far and aim high. We are passionate about learning in the classroom and outside of school, and about providing a secure, nurturing environment in which every child will **thrive.** From day one, we want our pupils to enjoy school, to be excited by their learning and to be committed to **success** - to achieving their very best. We aim to build their confidence about their futures and we are dedicated to providing a safe, happy and supportive environment in which they will progress, both as individuals and in collaboration with others.

At TCS, "learning" goes well beyond the diverse range of academic and vocational subjects and qualifications we offer, and the "curriculum" means more than lessons. These words describe the full breadth of experience available in our school: academic, social, sporting, recreational, and the importance of developing character as well as acquiring skills and knowledge. Long-term success is partly about establishing good life-long learning habits and characteristics early on, developing a strong sense of personal responsibility, deeper understanding of the world around us, and **caring** about others. This is what we aim to develop.

Young people need variety, breadth and depth of experience in order to grow: they need to test and stretch their understanding and broaden their minds. In this way, we aim to equip our pupils with the skills they need to take their place as global citizens in a complex and changing world. Our role is to challenge and inspire children in equal measure; and to identify, celebrate and encourage their unique talents and achievements.

As you tour the site, or browse our website, I hope you get a sense of what makes TCS a special place. The calm and sense of purpose around the school site is frequently observed by visitors, and this reinforces the fact that the safety, wellbeing and happiness of our pupils are paramount at all times.

The Curriculum

In Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3) all pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum. They are placed in mixed ability tutor groups and will be taught in these groups for non-core subjects. Setting, according to pupils' abilities, takes place in Maths and English from Year 7 onwards. We operate a two-week timetable with each week split into twenty-five, hour long lessons or periods, five in each day. Pupils study the following subjects:

Art and Design
Computing
Drama
English
Ethics, Philosophy & Religion (EPR)
Geography
History
Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish and French
Music
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic)
Physical Education – including Dance
Science
Technology

Pupils also study Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education in tutor periods, assemblies and bespoke lessons, plus collapsed enrichment time. These sessions provide essential real-world learning enabling pupils to consider values, health, relationships and wellbeing, and prepare them to enter the adult world.

We take reading very seriously at TCS and are fortunate to have a fantastic library facility. All year groups engage in reading and vocabulary development in tutor time. In the first few years at TCS, pupils will take part in the Accelerated Reader Scheme and have separate lessons dedicated for reading each week.

In years 10 and 11, pupils enter Key Stage 4 and are able to specialise in four subjects as well as continuing their core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, PE and EPR. One of our strengths is the wide variety of options we offer at this stage, with pupils able to select courses such as Dance, Hair and Beauty and Engineering, as well as traditional, academic subjects such as History and modern languages.

We also have a very successful Sixth Form, TCS6, and around a half of Year 11 students each year will chose to stay with us for the last phase of their education (Key Stage 5). We again offer a broad range of subjects in a college environment which is both separate from and a key part of our school. (Do view the TCS6 pages and prospectus on our website for more information).

Extra-Curricular Activities

It is important that pupils have opportunities to develop the widest possible range of talents and interests. To extend the formal curriculum, we offer varied activities during lunchtimes, evenings and weekends. Experience suggests that the pupils who flourish most are those who take full advantage of these programmes.

Sporting activities at lunchtimes and immediately after the last lesson of the day include athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, trampolining, table tennis, five-a-side football, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball and rugby. Pupils also have access to the school fitness suite in the sports centre, 'Alive'. Our 'All Weather Pitch' boasts one of the best 3G playing surfaces in the local area.

Pupils interested in music have the opportunity to take lessons in a variety of instruments, as well as the chance to join the School Choir, The Wind Band, String Groups, Music Club and lunch-time music practices. There are also dance and drama clubs and performances, technology and arts clubs, a chess club and an eco group, and other opportunities emerging all the time.

We run and encourage all to take up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and we have teams in the Ten Tors event annually. Trips and residential experiences are invaluable in developing independence and broadening horizons. Residential trips include field trips and foreign exchanges. Day trips are also arranged each year to such places as galleries and exhibitions, theme parks, the Houses of Parliament, sporting fixtures and theatres.

Every year group has a student voice forum which feeds into the School Council. We encourage and foster leadership opportunities in each year group and as pupils reach their senior years, they are encouraged to become involved in motivating younger students and co-ordinating school activities. Many will become prefects and take up other whole-school responsibilities.

Transition from Primary to Secondary

We are very aware that TCS will be a much larger school than almost any primary school. We are blessed with a lot of space and some excellent facilities and our site contributes to the calm and productive working environment where learning can be personalised. We recognise that young people must feel comfortable and secure in order to thrive and to achieve their potential.

In the transfer from Year 6 to 7, we liaise closely with primary colleagues to find out as much as we can about our new cohort. Following advice, we organise our new Year 7 carefully into groups where they will have the opportunity to be with pupils they already know as well as to forge new friendships. We run enhanced transition days for some and a taster week at TCS for all pupils who are due to join us at the end of the summer term each year.

We also run a summer school for a week during the summer holidays which all of our new Year 7 are invited to attend, the ‘Big Step’. This is another great opportunity for pupils to get to know each other, our school and our site, and to experience a fun, active week during the holiday.

Our induction processes ensure that each pupils’ move to secondary education is as smooth as possible. We have a specialist, dedicated Year 7 team who support this important transition and we have a very strong pastoral team. We set high expectations of all pupils and we have clear policies about issues such as behaviour and bullying. At TCS, every child matters. We recognise that everyone associated with our school, and especially the pupils, flourish in an environment where their efforts are acknowledged. We look to reward effort and attitude at a local level, within the classroom, but also in assemblies, special events and with parents and carers regularly.

Special Educational Needs

For those pupils who are recognised as having a special educational need, there is a team of support staff to provide help. Usually this help is given within normal lessons, but sometimes withdrawal into small groups or individual tuition is provided in CAL (our Centre for Achievement and Learning). Some pupils in Year 7 will follow an appropriate and targeted nurture curriculum. If you would like any information on our SEN programmes, please contact our SENCO, Mrs Justine Housecroft: justine.housecroft@teignmouthschool.co.uk .

Reporting to Parents and Carers

A full written report is provided at the end of Year 7, and each year thereafter at appropriate points. Two further interim progress reports are issued annually and pupils' progress and development are also discussed with parents and carers at a subject specific Parents' Evening each year.

In addition to this, Year 7 pupils' parents/carers are invited to an individual appointment to meet their child's tutor in the Autumn term. This is designed to be a "settling in" appointment to provide an opportunity to discuss how the first half term at secondary school has gone so far.

Communications

We use various methods to communicate important information home to parents and wherever possible we use electronic communications. The most common method are regular update letters which will normally be sent home by email but may occasionally be sent by post or given to your child to bring home. We also use a text messaging system and we post regular updates on our website and Facebook page, which we encourage parents/carers to join.

Furthermore, we use 'Class Charts' which is an electronic platform we use to set and record home learning and this can be viewed by parents, pupils and teachers. Parents and carers will be issued an account for this shortly after a pupil joins us. As well as viewing the home learning work set, this platform enables parents and carers to see any Merits or Behaviour Points awarded to their child during the school day.

It is essential for good communication that we always have the most up-to-date telephone numbers and email addresses.