



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We've been asked a number of questions about the Torfaen Learning Zone. This list will be continuously updated and added to, so please keep checking back for further updates.

Q) Once Torfaen Training Zone opens, will Pontypool Campus close?

A) Pontypool Campus will close in June 2020 to make way for our state of the art new Campus in the centre of Cwmbran. All courses currently at Pontypool are moving to the brand new Campus in Cwmbran.

How do I apply?

Q: I am in Year 11 now, how do I apply for a course at Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: You can apply through the website or, if you attend a Torfaen school, you can speak to the Coleg Gwent member of staff during transition events and activities. <link to simplified Roadmap graphic>

Q: How do I find out more about Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: Please come along to an Open Event at Pontypool Campus and speak to our staff who will be moving across to the new centre. We are also attending all of the Careers and Information events running in Torfaen Schools so you can meet us there, or email us at to [book an appointment](#) to come to Pontypool campus and speak to one of our staff.

You can find out more about all of the courses available at TLZ by attending one of our Open Events.

Open Events:

- [Wednesday 5 February 2020 17:00 - 19:30](#)
- Saturday 21 March 2020 10:00 - 13:00
- Wednesday 29 April 2020 17:00 - 19:30
- Tuesday 23 June 2020 17:00 - 19:30

More information can be found in our [School Leavers' Guide](#).



Subjects on offer

Q: What A levels can I study at Torfaen Learning Zone?

There's lots of choice - you can choose from these [26 A level subjects](#) ranging from the Sciences to Maths, English, Spanish, Law, ICT and Photography.

Q: What vocational subjects/BTECs are available at Torfaen Learning Zone?

There's something for everyone with 16 vocational courses to choose from ranging from Business Studies to Health and Social Care.

Q: I am in year 12 in a Torfaen school, how will I move across to Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: We're delighted that you'll be joining us at Torfaen Learning Zone. There is no need to apply to apply as there will be a seamless transition from your school to college. Coleg Gwent staff are also visiting your school regularly to support you through the process of changing sites.

Q: I study a combination of A-levels and BTECs at school in Year 12, will I be able to continue these into year 13 at Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: All current Year 12 learners in Torfaen will continue their combination of A levels and BTECs in Year 13 at Torfaen Learning Zone but moving forwards This mix will not be available. Learners will need to choose from the standard curriculum matrix.

Q: I am in year 12 in a Torfaen school, how will I move across to Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: You are already listed with us to continue your studies at Torfaen Learning Zone, you won't need to apply and Coleg Gwent staff are visiting your school regularly to support you through the process of changing sites.

Q: What happens after I apply?

A: For everyone other than current Torfaen Year 12 Learners, once you apply we will invite you to come along to Pontypool Campus to find out more about the course and subject(s) you have applied for.

We will talk to you about your career goals, what the course entails and how many hours and days you will need to attend to achieve your chosen qualification.

At the end of the meeting, we will offer you a course (this is usually conditional on achieving the required entry qualifications).

We will then send you an enrolment date and time for August 2020.

Q. What happens if I've not achieved the grades for the course?

A: If you don't achieve the grades required for your chosen course, please come to your enrolment as planned and notify a member of staff. Our Learner Support team will be able to help and offer you an alternative course to support your career aims.

Q: Who is the head teacher of the new Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: The Principal of Coleg Gwent is Guy Lacey who is responsible for the entire College. The College Management structure is different to those of Schools. We will also have a dedicated management team based at your Campus to look after our learners studying there. These staff are



Head of Academic Studies:
Patrick Seale



Head of Vocational Studies:
Maria Johnson



Head of Learner Services:
Siân Hughes



Travel and Transport

Q: For bus passes, I pay £40 per term as I'm over 19, will this continue?

A: For over 19s, the cost is £40 per term unless you're entitled to a Welsh Assembly grant as well as FCF.

If you are 16-18, you need to apply to your local council (apart from learners in Monmouthshire who will need to apply directly to us in Coleg Gwent).

Q: How will buses be arranged from Monmouth as we don't get a subsidy; will it still be a Coleg Gwent bus pass?

A: The travel pass will work in the same way as it does now.

Q: What is the best way for me to travel to Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: With its great central location in Cwmbran next to Morrisons, and excellent links to public transport you can travel there by bus and train, with discounted travel available.

My Travel Pass 16-21:

A discounted travel scheme for 16-21 year olds which is funded by Welsh Government, your Coleg Gwent bus pass will only be valid once you receive your My Travel Pass.

Apply at www.mytravelpass.gov.wales or call 03002002233

16-25 Railcard:

Anyone aged between 16 and 25 years, as well as students in full time study, can apply for a 16-25 Railcard. Get a 1/3 off fares!

Apply at www.16-25railcard.co.uk or for more information, call 01495 333777 ask to speak to the Student Recruitment team.



Financial Support

Q: How do I find out what financial support is available to me?

A: Depending on your age and financial situation, you could be eligible for more help than you think. Funding that you might be eligible for includes:

- Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG)
- Financial Contingency Fund (FCF)
- David Davies Memorial Trust
- Discretionary Assistance Fund in Wales (DAF)
- Prince's Trust Development Award

You'll find full details at www.coleggwent.ac.uk/finance or for more information call 01495 333777 and ask to speak to your chosen Campus.

General

Q: Will the college be ready on time and how do I know if it will be successful?

A: The contractors are reporting ahead of schedule which means that we may have access to the new Campus earlier than the expected completion date of June 2020.

The Torfaen Learning Zone will become the third Coleg Gwent campus to offer A levels. As such, it will be managed in the same way as all A level delivery at Coleg Gwent, sharing the expertise and quality standards we have worked hard to achieve. Our pass rate was a superb 98.5 per cent in August 2019, above the Wales and UK comparator for the fourth year running, with 100% pass rate in 26 subjects.

Q: Who will be my tutor & lecturer at the Torfaen Learning Zone?

A: The College is going through a recruitment cycle which will initially post new lecturing roles internally to Coleg Gwent staff and to the three partner schools. It is anticipated that this initial recruitment phase will be completed by January 2020.

Q: I am worried about relocating, does it have to happen?

A: We do understand that these changes may cause worry and anxiety so we want to work with you to help you understand your options and make the move confidently to a new centre to continue your future studies.

If you any further questions, please [email](#) us.