

Dear Council Member,

We have recently seen recent press reports and appreciate you will shortly be needing to decide on the future of the Torbay School and the potential to move to Parkfield.

We are writing to strongly support such a move and urge you to vote in favour of it, as without it, we feel it will be impossible for the school to move forward and provide a suitable and appropriate education for a difficult and complex group of learners – these vulnerable children have been poorly served since Torbay came into existence as a Unitary Authority in 1998 – and this move provides a real opportunity for a more positive future for the school.

The school has constantly struggled and lurched from barely satisfactory to unsatisfactory since it opened in September 2003, the present land-locked site, with a totally inappropriately designed building, has been central to the difficulties the school has faced and without this move, those difficulties are set to continue for years to come.

As an educational community, we should all ensure that the Torbay School must become a successful place to be educated, not only for its own population, but also enable it to become a centre of excellent practice with the capacity and expertise to support all secondary schools in Torbay. This simply cannot happen without such a move.

The move to Parkfield will signal a fresh start, the facilities enable small classrooms with breakout spaces, access to sports and potential vocational facilities, it enables youth services to play a better role and promote access to those services for those young people in great need. Most importantly, it will allow space, something desperately needed, if the school are to work successfully with some of the most challenging children in the area.

We would urge you in your councillor role to champion the decision on behalf of some of the most complex and vulnerable children in Torbay.



Michael Lock
Headteacher - Combe Pafford School



Mark Smith
Joint Acting Head – Paignton Academy



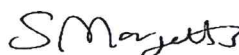
Bob Owers
Headteacher – Churston Ferrers Grammar School



Alex Newton
Headteacher – The Spires College



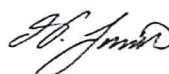
Peter Brown
Headteacher – Cuthbert Mayne



Steve Margetts
Headteacher – Torquay Academy



Peter Lawrence
Headteacher - Torquay Boys' Grammar School



Nick Smith
Headteacher – Torquay Girls' Grammar School



June Palmer
Headteacher – Mayfield School



Mark Eager
Headteacher – Brixham College