



24th July 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

As this academic year draws to a close, I have taken the opportunity to reflect upon all we have done together as a school community. We have just sung the school song together in our final assembly and I look forward to our 'House Shout' this afternoon.

During our final assembly we celebrated many achievements from our wonderful students, but I wanted to share with you here a few of the additional highlights since from my last letter to you in June.

YEAR 10 – GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students had a visit from PC Carl Seaward to support their unit on crime and punishment. He spoke about a variety of issues including how the police deal with hate crime, the different categories of prison and how they try to rehabilitate prisoners, and why some prisoners end up reoffending. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, not only relating to the course, but also about careers in policing.

SOUTH WEST JUNIOR CHEF OF THE YEAR 2023

Many congratulations go to Jessica Klapsia in Year 8 on her success in the Devon Junior Chef of the year competition. The judges were very excited about the exceptional standard cooking on the day and were particularly impressed with Jessica's skills and flavour of her dish.

Jessica has now been invited to prepare her dish again at the South West Chef of the Year final on Saturday 7th October at Exeter College. Each of the county winners have been offered the opportunity to work with one of the judges to tweak their dish for seasonal adjustments and other suggestions alongside visiting and experiencing a working kitchen. Mark Dodson from The Mason Arms will be mentoring Jessica. Mark is the chef-proprietor of The Mason Arms at Knowstone near South Moulton, where he has held a Michelin star for 17 years, awarded just six months after he opened the restaurant. The winner will be crowned South West Junior Chef of the Year 2023 and be invited to an awards presentation dinner later in the year.



YEAR 8 CHALLENGE DAY

To complement Year 8 studying World War One in their History lessons, their challenge day on 18th July centered around this conflict. Students chose 3 out of 5 workshops to complete Periods 1-3: The Battle of Gallipoli and Baking ANZAC cookies with Mrs Gould, Miss Coles and Miss Hamlyn, Living History with Ms North, Conflict through Drama with Miss Abbott, War through Art with Miss Malone and Miss Griffiths, and a good old conspiracy with 'Who shot the Red Baron?' with Mr Hulbert.



Students really engaged with all the activities, producing some incredible artwork and delicious cookies (sorry if they didn't make it home!).

During the afternoon, they then investigated life during World War One by looking at Private Peaceful, which looks at the harsh realities of English rural life and warfare. Year 8 truly outdid themselves during the day, approaching the sensitive content with respect and maturity.

PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS CONDUCT OBSERVATIONS AT THE ZOO, ZOO, ZOO!

Year 12 Psychology students recently visited Paignton Zoo to experience lectures on behaviour, observational methods and evolution.

They conducted their own animal observations including coding behaviour and deciding on sampling techniques. Students analysed their results before presenting the findings to their peers in the form of a scientific report. We've had insights into the lives of red pandas, zebra and baboons so far! We were also given the opportunity to handle some fascinating artefacts that showed interesting adaptations and guess what they were and why animals developed them. An elephants' tooth is surprisingly heavy!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

It's expedition season! Since the May half term, our Year 12 Gold Team have completed their 2-day Practice Expedition on Dartmoor – the first day was incredibly warm and they were topping up their water bottles with seriously impressive volumes at each check point. Their efforts were rewarded at the end of first day with a particularly idyllic wild camp surrounded by hawthorn blossom, foxgloves and dragonflies. The cool drizzle on Day 2 was unanimously welcomed! The team is now fine tuning their plans for their 4-day Qualifying Expedition which will take place on Exmoor.

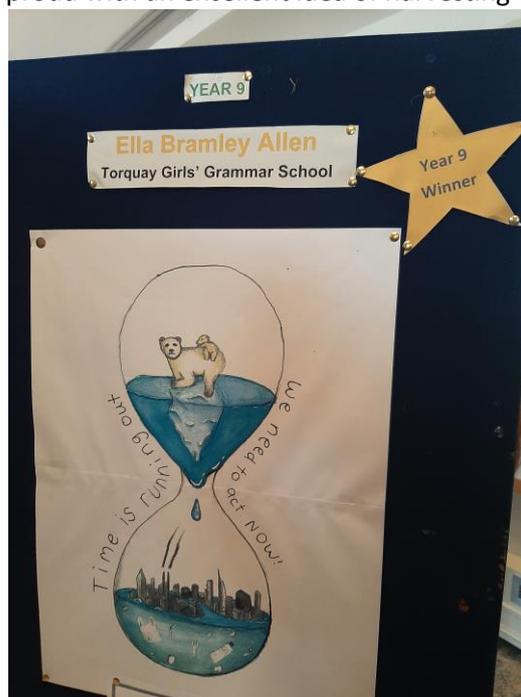
We have just over 50 students, mostly in Year 10, on the Silver Award programme, half of whom have also recently completed their Practice Expedition. Last month, our Outdoor Education facilities moved to the school's Pavilion which has proven to be a superb base for our students to train and camp during their Practice Expedition. The Silvers have been following similar routes to the Gold team in the Lustleigh to Widdecombe area on Dartmoor, and their 3-day Qualifying Expeditions are due to take place in July and September.



Finally, over hundred Year 9 students have started their training programme by concentrating on developing their navigation skills. Their 2-day Qualifying Expeditions will be next term.

SOUTH WEST ACADEMIC TRUST (SWAT)

On Tuesday 27th June the SWAT Ambassador team took part in the annual South West Academic Trust (SWAT) Challenge Cup at Colyton Grammar School. There were 8 teams competing with the task of devising a way in which schools can reduce their impact on the environment, with a budget of £300. It was a tough challenge, but our team did us proud with an excellent idea of harvesting and repurposing rainwater. Once again everyone on the team represented TGGGS fantastically, showing professionalism, leadership, presentation and excellent communication skills. Well done team!



ROTARY CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL POSTER COMPETITION

Huge Congratulations go to Ella Bramley Allen (9B) for winning first prize in the recent Tormohun (Torquay) Rotary Club Environmental Poster Competition based around the blight of litter.

There were over 300 entries across Year 7, 8 and 9 categories from schools across the Bay so it is a huge accolade for Ella to win this competition for her year group. Not only did Ella win £100 for herself but, in addition, Ella has earned £100 for the school too. Fantastic work, Ella!

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Eighty-two Year 10 GCSE Historians have just returned from the annual WWI Battlefields trip to the Ypres Salient (Belgium) and the Somme (France).

The students had four days packed full of the major sights including Tyne Cot the largest British and Commonwealth cemetery in the world and the German cemetery at Langemark, the only German cemetery in the Ypres area. Students were able to trace family members at memorials like Thiepval and experience what life was like at the front line at the Passchendaele Museum. By visiting the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont Hammel students were able to walk through the original front line and saw where the soldiers went over the top on that fateful day of 1st July 1916 that sparked the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, the worst day of carnage in British History to that point. The most poignant part of the trip as always is the extremely moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, where a small group of students participated in the wreath laying tradition. The students were exemplary in this task with a member of the public mentioning how moving the comment on the wreath written by the students was.



Obviously, the trip can be quite emotional, so the students had some time away with an afternoon trip to the theme park Bellarwarde, buying LOTS of chocolate at Leonides (the famous WWI chocolate shop), bowling and enjoying a game of rounders in the evenings with the coach drivers! The students had a fantastic trip and were a credit to the school.

GRAMMAR FOR A DAY

On July the 3rd and 4th we welcomed over 90 Year 3, 4 and 5 students from local primary schools to a taster day for students in receipt of Free School Meals. These students were invited to experience what it is like to attend a grammar school. Our students and staff were certainly not used to seeing such young students around the school, but everybody came together and welcomed them into our community. They experienced an Art, humanity, PE and a German lesson. We really enjoyed having them and building those all-important links with our local primary schools.

On July 6th we welcomed our new Year 6 students for their transition day ready for September. They had a day packed full of lessons, getting to know their tutor and exploring their new school. They had the opportunity to meet their buddies who had written them a welcome letter before they came for the day. It was so exciting to see our new students and we are looking forward to welcoming our class of 2023 in September.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 and 13 students the best of luck in their GCSE and A Levels, with results coming out on Thursday 17th August 2023 for A Levels and Thursday 24th August 2023 for GCSE's. I am sure they are all going to do us all proud and I hope to see many of our Year 11 students back in our Sixth Form in September, whilst our A level students go onto pastures new and exciting adventures.

I would like to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming all our Year 7 and 12 students on **Tuesday 5th September 2023** and the rest of the school on **Wednesday 6th September 2023**.

A few other useful dates for your diary can be found at the bottom of this email.

Yours sincerely

Ms Sarah Forster BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH
Headteacher and Accounting Officer
Torquay Girls' Grammar School

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

YEAR 7

- Thursday 2nd November – Parents' Evening (Tutors only)
- Thursday 25th April – Parents' Evening

YEAR 8

- Thursday 16th November – Parents' Information Evening
- Thursday 21st March – Parents' Evening

YEAR 9

- Tuesday 23rd January – Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 30th January – Options Evening

YEAR 10

- Tuesday 26th September – Parents' Information Evening
- Wednesday 17th April – Parents' Evening

YEAR 11

- Wednesday 27th September – Parents' Information Evening
- Thursday 4th January – Parents' Evening

YEAR 12

- Thursday 21st September – Parents Information Evening
- Tuesday 21st November – Parents' Evening

YEAR 13

- Wednesday 1st November – Parents' Evening

WHOLE SCHOOL – AUTUMN TERM:

- Tuesday 5th September – Year 7 and 12 returns
- Wednesday 6th September – Whole school returns
- Friday 15th September - School Photographs
- Thursday 28th September – Sixth Form Photo
- Friday 20th October – Non-Pupil Day
- Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th October – School Musical
- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October – half term
- Tuesday 12th December – Carol Service

NB. All information evenings will be *“in person”* whilst Parent Evenings will be *“online”*

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB COMPETITION WINNERS

and to finish.....well done to Cecily Fox (9C) and Clara Wright (9C) winners of our Creative Writing Club competition.

SUMMER POEMS

I have felt the sunshine.
I have felt the rain.
I have felt the sandy shore
and no step felt the same.

I have seen the pinkest blossoms.
I have seen the brightest nights.
I have seen the swirling birds
flying round the wind-caught kites

I have heard the lapping waves.
I have heard the warm wind blowing.
I have heard the splashing water
along the end of the river flowing.

And I have known the summer smile.
For now she's here and she'll stay a while.

By Cecily Fox 9C

Summer song

The sun sets as the breeze blows across my face.
The sea shore drifts to my feet.
Watching the sky as the clouds change pace.
Waiting for the horizons to meet.

My memories sing in my mind as a wave of
faith surrounds me.

So, although in leaving the sea behind it will
always be part of me.

By Clara Wright 9C

