



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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ACADEMY TRUST

9th September 2013

Dear Parents

It was a pleasure to welcome your daughters back after the holidays; they appeared rested, refreshed and rejuvenated. I imagine some of you are glad to hand them back!

Examination Performance

I am pleased to report that our girls have continued the school's tradition of outstanding exam results. They brushed aside national grade deflation to achieve 72% A*/A grades at GCSE and 78% A*/A or B grades at A level. Their success maintains our position as one of the top performing schools nationally. The efforts of all the girls and their teachers are to be applauded, particularly as it has resulted in all our Y13 girls getting into their first or second choice University.

Sports Hall

This time last year, I wrote to tell you we had the planning permission and money for a new Sports Hall. I now write to tell you that it is built, ready for use and truly magnificent. It is a fantastic addition to our school site and once again, I thank all those who contributed in any way to its realisation. The opening ceremony will be on the 26th October, the details of which will be sent to you shortly.

The completion of the new Sports Hall enables a number of other positive site developments. The Old Gym is now vacant and we have won a bid to convert it into a 150-seat lecture theatre. This will provide a professional venue for visiting speakers, lectures, lessons and assemblies. Burton hall, also freed up, has been converted into a study centre and bespoke Exam Hall. Finally, the Old Hall, no longer required for badminton or table tennis, can be refurbished to provide a quality venue for Assemblies, presentations and performances. The purchase of 130 bean bags, using funds raised by the students, means that it can be doubled up as a much needed extra social area for the girls.

Flotsam and Jetsam

- Please continue your efforts to maintain our uncomplicated uniform rules and be assured we will be doing the same. A particular emphasis this year will be the perennial issue of skirt length.
- At the start and end of the day some 2500 staff and students use the Grammar school entrances. Please do not park in the school grounds or in the bus circle (the council have been actively fining offenders) as this causes dangerous congestion.
- The Government has changed the law regarding absence during term time; 'As from 1st September 2013 Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.' A letter outlining these changes can be found on the website.
- For your information a copy of the school calendar can be found overleaf and can also be accessed on the school website. Your daughter will be given a paper copy.
- For any siblings or friends the last **Open Day/Evening** is on Tuesday 10th September. The **11+** dates are the 21st and 28th September. All the details can be found on the website.

Despite the Government's constant change of policy, particularly on GCSE's and A levels, we will continue to provide your daughter with an excellent education. We begin plans this year for our Centenary in 2015. I remain extremely positive about the future of our school, which has more pupils and applicants than ever, and look forward to celebrating one hundred years of Torquay Girls' Grammar School.

I wish you and your daughter a happy and successful year.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Nicholas Smith
Headteacher

