



# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: Ms S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of this busy and rewarding term, I want to take a moment to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. Your encouragement and partnership have been invaluable in helping our students thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

This term has been filled with remarkable achievements—from academic successes and creative competitions to sporting triumphs and inspiring trips. Our students have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and a willingness to embrace every opportunity.

These accomplishments reflect not only their hard work but also the strong sense of community that defines our school. As we celebrate these milestones, let's look forward to an exciting new year filled with fresh challenges and opportunities.

### Remembrance in the Library

More than 40 beautiful poppies, handcrafted by TGGS staff and students, were added to a Library display of books about WWI. There were felted, crocheted, knitted and embroidered poppies in all four of the officially recognised colours. All the poppies have now been carefully stored away to be reused next year - perhaps one day we will have amassed enough to rival the Tower of London's annual display!



### Public Speaking Competition

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November an evening destined for eloquence, argument, and articulate flair began with Amy Gibbons, Scarlett Kilty, Olivia Kuriakose, Mia Maddock, Raniya Salisbury, and Hattie Eve launching into their speeches with exemplary confidence. Their poise, resilience, and finely honed rhetorical prowess shone through as they took on schools navigating the online format with enviable composure and cohesion.

It was abundantly clear that each speaker was not only well-prepared but exceptionally well-coached. For this, enormous credit must go to Isabella Passerelli in Year 13, whose unwavering dedication, sharp guidance, and expert coaching have shaped the teams into eloquent, insightful, and impressively polished competitors; you can tell she has been lovingly attending Public Speaking Club for 4 years. Her steady support proved invaluable throughout the preparations and the evening itself.

By the end of the event, both of our teams had secured places in the next heat—a fantastic achievement that reflects their commitment, teamwork, and intellectual agility. We now look forward to round two, which will be held in person.

### Year 8 Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (RP&E)

This half term, students in Year 8 RP&E lessons have been considering how people make moral decisions. As part of this unit, we have welcomed Charlie from Linx Christian Trust into our lessons to explain Christian views about morality. Students have gone on, in this unit, to look at other religious and non-religious perspectives, linking to ethics studied at A level.



Outstanding in all areas:  
Leadership and management  
The quality of education  
Behaviour and attitudes  
Personal development  
Sixth-form provision

### **Christmas Cake Decorating Competition - Years 7–9 Students**

Students in Years 7 to 9 were invited to take part in our Christmas Cake Competition.

Judging was focussed mainly on:

- Creativity and decoration.
- Overall Christmas theme.
- The cake's texture and characteristics - judges had to taste them too!

Overall winner was Isabelle Steevenson with her Santa down the chimney cake. Ayra Khan, Mollie Swain and Natalie Court won best tasting cake, which was shaped as a present. Beatrice Lovelock and Lucy Fitt won best creativity for their Santa hat cake.

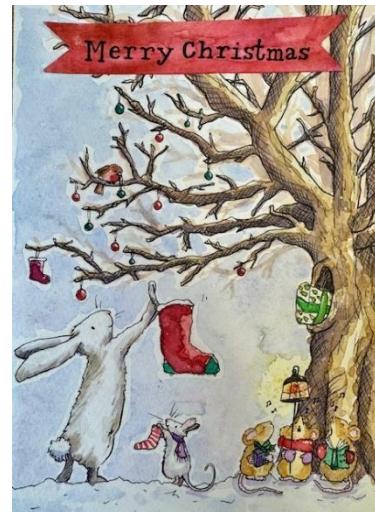


### **Christmas Card Competition**

The 5 newly appointed Art Ambassadors, Riyanna Goh, Erin Jolley, Teagan Stewart, Romily Smedley and Hannah Schneider, wasted no time in setting up and running a Christmas Card Competition – open to Yr 7 to 11. Many thanks to Riyanna Goh in 10B especially, who designed the poster to advertise the competition. Although not as many entries were received as hoped for, the quality of those that did enter were excellent and it was a difficult job for the Art Ambassadors in deciding upon winners and runners up in each year and an overall winner.

After deliberation and debate, the following pupils were recognised for their designs:

- Yr 7 Winner – Anwen Jones 7C
- Yr 7 Runner Up – Hattie Woolvin 7C
- Yr 9 Winner – Robyn Davies 9J
- **Yr 10 Winner and overall winner – Anna Maddocks 10W**
- Yr 10 Runner Up – Hannah Schneider 10W



All of the above will receive suitably festive goodies for their hard work and creativity and all who entered will be rewarded with House points towards their individual and overall House.

### **Year 12 Holocaust Educational Trust**

Year 12 History students had the privilege of representing TGGS for the Lessons from Auschwitz project organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. They signed up in October, and all had a keen interest in history, but this programme has deeply impacted their understanding of the Holocaust and taught them

all so much about not only the scale of the loss but also the humanity and communities that the Nazis tried to strip away.

Visiting Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau in Poland was in no way easy, but it was so important for our students to bear witness to the atrocities committed and what was lost by standing where it had happened. It's one thing to learn about these events in a history lesson, and we all knew the facts and statistics, but seeing it firsthand drove home the reality of the Holocaust, and its continued implications today.

It's an experience that will never leave the students, and they have been able to reflect on what they have learned and share it with other students, ensuring that this part of history is not forgotten.

### **English – Creative Writing**

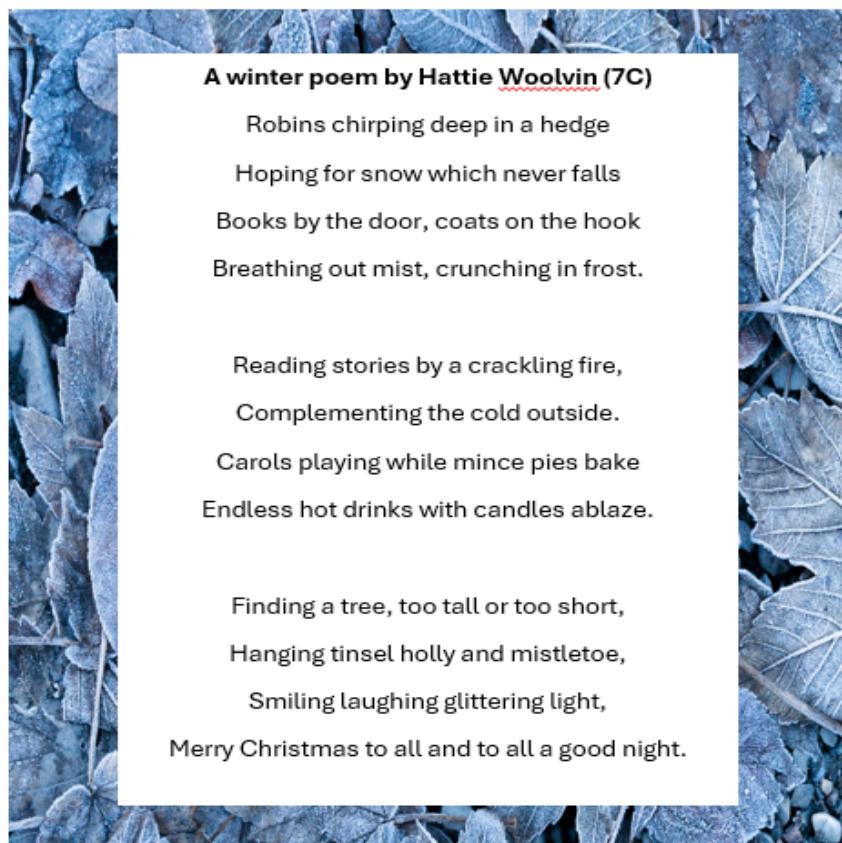
Year 7 English were set the task of demonstrating their understanding of the play Frankenstein by creating their own version of Frankenstein's monster. This could include any idea, theme or element from the text and could be modernised if they wanted to.

All entries were handed in before half term (over 100) and our new Year 10 English Ambassadors had the tricky job of selecting our winners.

The winners are Siena Wilkinson (7J) and Poppy Cayzer Bell (7J). Runners up are: Georgina Weaver (7J), Maria Fleszar (7R), Amber Pratten (7W) and Aurelia Millward Curnow (7W).

We've also had tremendous success with our creative writing competitions - we really enjoyed reading every single entry. Our winning poem from Key Stage 3 is by Hattie Woolvin (7C). Upper school we had some amazing Winter tales, and we have chosen two winners: Mia Maddock (11J) and Poppy Bennett (10J).

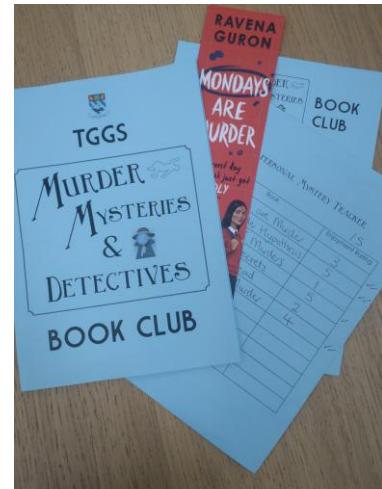
We can't wait to share their stories in the next edition of the school magazine!



### **Murder Mystery Book Club**

More than thirty sleuths have met in the library each Wednesday to discuss their favourite genre of books. We've set our own personal reading challenges, played games, solved mysteries and swapped book recommendations. Despite chatting endlessly about what we've been reading, we all managed to stick to the golden rule of Murder Mystery Club - never give a spoiler about Whodunnit!

After Christmas, Murder Mystery Club will be replaced with Fantasy Quest Book Club, for fans of mythical creatures, imagined worlds and supernatural beings - with a little Romantasy thrown in.



### **Year 13 – Media Students Discover Real-World Career Magic at Harry Potter World**

At the end of November our Year 13 Media students stepped behind the curtain of one of the world's most successful film franchises during an inspiring trip to the Warner Bros. *Harry Potter* Studio Tour in London. Far more than a fun day out, the visit offered an exciting, hands-on look into the professional skills, technologies, and creative processes that drive the media industry today.

Students had the rare opportunity to explore authentic film sets, including the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, and the Forbidden Forest, while learning how each department—from production design to cinematography—collaborates to bring a fictional world to life. A highlight was discovering the intricate work behind props and costumes, where students learned how design choices shape character identity and storytelling.

The special effects and post-production workshops gave our students an up-close view of green-screen technology, animatronics, CGI development, and sound design. Many were surprised by how many roles exist behind the camera—and how essential each one is. The trip encouraged students to think about careers in editing, set design, scriptwriting, makeup artistry, sound engineering, digital VFX and many more.



Perhaps the most valuable takeaway, however, was seeing media theory come alive. Concepts they study in class—like representation, audience engagement, production workflow, and industries—were suddenly real, tactile, and inspiring. Many of our current students will be continuing their love of media at their chosen Universities in September.

### **U14 Netballers Crowned Devon Champions**

Congratulations to our outstanding U14 netballers, who have been crowned Devon Champions after a day of exceptional performances and unwavering determination.

This committed group of students gave up their well-being day on Monday to travel to Exeter University for the Devon round of the competition. Their dedication paid off from the very start: the team won every match in their pool, securing a well-deserved place in the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, the girls delivered a confident and controlled performance, earning their spot in the final without hesitation. The final match, however, was a nail-biter from start to finish. After a fiercely contested game, the teams were level at 8–8, sending the match into two extra two-minute halves.

Showing incredible composure under pressure, TGGS scored in both halves of extra time to clinch a 10–8 victory and the title of Devon Champions.

This determined and talented group of athletes will now progress to the Southwest Round, which will take place in Bournemouth at the end of January.

A massive well done to the whole team—they truly played their socks off. We can't wait to see what happens next!

### **English and Media Studies**

Our new student-led school magazine, *Off the Record*, described by its creators as a celebration of 'academia, culture and fun' is hot off the press.

Our students have shown remarkable creativity and commitment in producing a wide range of articles for our first issue. Highlights include: an interview with our secret Geographer (Ms Forster); a farewell piece for Mr Baker; an introduction to our new Head Girl and Head of House team; a light-hearted debate on the hot topic of chairs in assembly and even a conversation sparked by *British Vogue* about whether having a boyfriend is embarrassing. Readers can also enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at life behind the canteen counter and read about women in Formula One racing.



Special thanks go to our Editors-in-Chief, Sophia Sutton and Isabella Payne, whose leadership, organisation and creative vision - alongside their busy sixth-form schedules - should be commended.

This inaugural issue includes contributions from Years 7, 9, 10, 11 as well as Sixth Formers and is a fascinating read. Download a copy using the QR code here.

### **Classroom to 5K**

On Saturday, 30 students and members of staff met at Torbay VeloPark Park Run for the culmination of the classroom to 5K club that has taken place this term. It was a chilly but beautiful sunny morning, perfect for a morning run! The club has been following the Couch to 5K plan each week, going from running just a few minutes at a time to running a whole 5k. It has been great to see students from lots of different year groups taking on the challenge and we were very proud to see each and every one of them finish the run successfully. We're finishing the term with a Christmas fancy dress run this week, so look out for the pictures!



### **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) and Ten Tors**

October saw the last of the 2025 DofE expeditions. 30 Year 9's tackled a two-day Bronze adventure in the beautiful South Hams, while 43 intrepid Year 11's headed to stunning Exmoor for their three-day Qualifying expedition. Our Year 11 teams later brought their stories to life in a wonderful lunchtime poster showcase—complete with two beautifully crafted scrapbooks, an original poem titled “*Three Days on the Trail*”, a mood-shifting playlist, and a collection of striking photographs capturing the unforgettable moments of their expedition.

Earlier this term, we were pleased to enrol another impressive number of students to the DofE Award scheme. An incredible 123 Year 9's have launched into their Bronze Award, 44 Year 10's are steaming ahead with Silver, and 20 Year 11 and 12's have ambitiously embarked on the prestigious Gold Award. They're now busily completing their volunteering, physical and skills challenges before embarking on their expeditions next year. We wish them the very best on their journey!

Meanwhile, Ten Tors training kicked off in November, with 31 enthusiastic students gearing up for the 35-, 45- or 55-mile challenge next May. After an initial round of in-school preparation, training has now stepped up onto Dartmoor itself, where two full day walks have already been completed. So far, the weather has been on our side and long may it continue!



### **Charity Week**

This year's Charity Week raised a staggering **£3,531.54** and was an incredible display of generosity, creativity, and community spirit. Students came together to raise money for our chosen charities through a variety of fun and engaging activities. Lunchtimes were buzzing with energy as students ran an array of stalls. Their enthusiasm and hard work ensured that every stall was a hit, drawing crowds and raising vital funds for those in need.

Adding to the excitement, our teacher karaoke event proved to be a highlight of the week! Staff members bravely took to the stage, delivering unforgettable performances that had everyone laughing, cheering, and singing along. It was a fantastic way to bring the school together.

A huge well done to all the students who dedicated their time and effort to make Charity Week such a success. Your commitment and creativity have made a real difference. Here are the results of our fundraising:

- Beal raised £614.07 for Marine Conservation Society.
- Cross raised £623.16 for Cancer Research.
- Jackson raised £747.65 for Just a Drop.
- Omanyo raised £197.69 for Punk Against Poverty.
- Robertson raised £719.61 for Children's Cancer and Leukemia Group.
- Wilkinson raised £629.36 for British Heart Foundation.

Together, we've shown the power of teamwork and kindness. Every penny raised will go towards supporting our chosen charities and making a positive impact in the wider community.

### **PTA – Autumn Term**

This term has been a busy one for the PTA. We held our first ever whole year group party for Year 7 students and their parents in October which was a real success. Around 140 students and 100 parents came to enjoy the entertainment put on by some of our Year 12 students. It was a lot of fun ...and noise... with all the students singing, dancing, winning prizes and tucking into pizza and ice cream sundaes, courtesy of Chef Bea. And the



parents and staff didn't miss out either, as Chef Bea cooked up some very tasty Caribbean curries for them.

The start of Christmas at TGGS was heralded by our Christmas Craft Fayre, which was back this year bigger and better, with a variety of stall holders selling unique hand-crafted gifts and edible goodies. Students were able to visit during the afternoon, and we were joined by parents and the public after school. As well as providing festive fun, the event raised almost £2,000 for the PTA.

We are already planning events for 2026 so watch this space. As well as the established favourites such as the Quiz and the Family Bingo we have other plans up our sleeves – watch this space!

If you are interested in joining us, please email Sharon Wallwork [swallwork@tggsacademy.org](mailto:swallwork@tggsacademy.org). You can join either as a full Committee member or dip in and out by being a Lite member. Give it a go!!

On behalf of all staff, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey—together, we make TGGS outstanding in every way.

Yours sincerely



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

**Dates for the Diary:**

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – First day of Spring Term.**
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 13 Mocks start.
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 11 – Be a Sixth Former for a day.
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 – School Tour starting at 09:30am.
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 – Year 9 Parents' Evening (BCJ).
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 11 – MFL Speaking Mock Exams.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 9 Parents' Evening (RW).
- Friday 30 January 2026 – Challenge Day.
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Year 10 & 11 visit to Oxford University.
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Non-Pupil Day.**
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Year 9 – Options Evening.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Year 13 – Parents' Information Evening
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – HALF TERM.**