



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

20th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It's amazing how quickly this half term has gone! We have had lots of exciting events going on here in the 8 weeks we have been back at TGGs including our awards evening and a variety of educational field trips. Our students have accomplished so much — their successes and achievements are as always, an inspiration and it is a great pleasure to share these with you.

New Head Girl

Following a rigorous selection process including a letter of application, group task and panel interview, three incredibly talented Year 12 students were selected to go through to Head Girl Hustings. Livi Cleveley, Sothea Kasparis and Isabella Shah delivered inspirational speeches to the entire TGGs community on the morning of Friday 17th October. Both staff and students were invited to vote for their favourite candidate for the positions of Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. Following a democratic vote (and a necessary re-count for such close margins!) we are delighted to announce that Isabella Shah is our new Head Girl for the 2025-26 academic year, Livi Cleveley is our Deputy Head Girl and Sothea Kasparis will play an integral role in the Sixth Form Leadership Team.



Huge congratulations to all three candidates who all spoke so powerfully and eloquently about their passion for TGGs.

Awards Evening – September 2025

In September, we held our annual Awards Evening with many students being recognised for their academic achievement, outstanding effort and passion for the subject. Alongside the subject awards, there were leadership and kindness awards where students were nominated by their Head of Year.

The evening culminated in The Julia Neal Good Citizen award for Isabella Passarelli and The Mikelle Hardy Ingham Award for Creative Writing being awarded to Emily Garrett. During the evening, there was a keynote speech from Grace Clifford, Ocean Advocacy Manager for The Ocean Conservation Trust who spoke about her journey from TGGs to her current position with The Ocean Conservation Trust as well as her passion for Science and Art.



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

Year 9 - National Marine Aquarium

On Wednesday 8th October, 156 Year 9 pupils made the annual 'pilgrimage' to Plymouth's Marine Aquarium.



Pupils were tasked with engaging in 5 drawing workshops, led by aquarium staff – including looking at tonal shading, pattern, shape, repeating patterns and the depiction of pictorial space through the use of fore, middle and background in relationship to scale. After lunch, pupils then had some 'free' time to independently explore the aquarium to gather further sketches or take photographs to be of use back in school for their ongoing projects.



Lots of interesting work was produced, and it was a pleasure to see so many of our students engrossed in the exhibits on display and to learn more about the underwater world, of which, we are collectively the guardians.

Harvest Festival 2025

Last month, we launched the annual TGGGS Harvest Festival and invited students to contribute non-perishable food items. The collection this year is very impressive with donations completely filling a tabletop and the floor space underneath. The food donations have gone to the Torquay and Paignton Community Food Larders which are part of the Torbay Food Alliance. Thank you to all who have contributed to this worthwhile cause.



Year 8 Fund Raising

Kitty Dawson and Nieve Fuller in 8B raised £155 for The Buddy Bag Foundation, who provide essential items that restore a sense of comfort and love to children who are fleeing domestic abuse. They set up a teddy adoption stall in town where for a small fee you were able to adopt a teddy.

Even their local MP came along and adopted a little pug called Margaret! The local Town Crier and his wife also supported this great cause by adopting a cuddly toy each.



Well done on a fabulous fundraising event!

Southwest Junior Chef of the Year

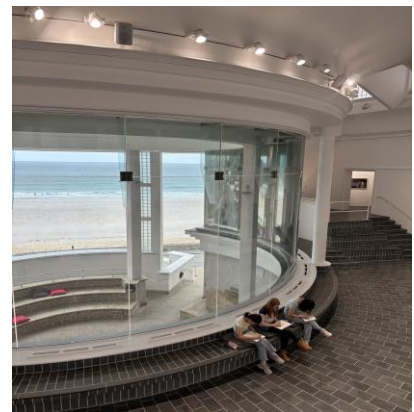
We are overjoyed to announce that Year 11 student Jessica Klapsia was awarded the Southwest Junior Chef of the Year beating 5 other finalists to the title. Jessica was mentored by local chef Scott Paton and her award-winning dish was confit cod fillet with dashi beurre blanc which I'm sure you agree sounds delicious.



Year 10 Art Trip to St Ives

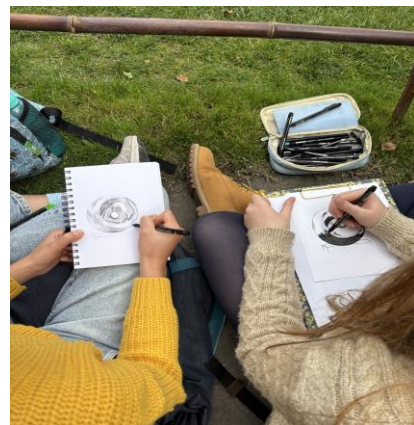
Last Friday, our Year 10 Art students set off bright and early for a visit to the West Coast of Cornwall, where they explored the Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden.

At the Tate, students enjoyed a guided tour that brought them face to face with the work of some of St Ives' most influential artists. They were captivated by the stories behind the artworks and the unique creative journeys of the artists who made St Ives their home.



During lunchtime, students had the chance to explore the seaside town, discovering its architectural charm and sampling its local delights. Just as the early artists were drawn to St Ives for its beauty and the famous "light," students took the opportunity to capture the scenery through photography, immersing themselves in the same landscape that inspired generations of artists.

The afternoon was spent at the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, where students viewed Hepworth's monumental sculptures up close. Many took the chance to sketch from life, producing some fantastic observational drawings.



It was a truly inspiring day, offering students a deeper connection to both the artistic heritage and natural beauty of Cornwall.

Dawlish Field Trip – Geography

Last week Year 11 Geographers completed their physical fieldwork at Dawlish Warren. As usual the weather was stunning. Students were able to collect data on longshore drift and coastal defences.

In lessons, geography students have been busy solving global issues. Our Year 8 geographers have been looking into overcrowding in cities, Year 9's have been exploring the disadvantages of fast fashion and coming up with solutions to improve conditions for workers and Year 10's have been planning responses to tropical storms.



Borneo Trip 2025

In the summer 16 students took on the challenge of a 3-week expedition on the beautiful island of Borneo.

The itinerary was vast and varied and included community volunteering, conservation work, a mammoth 4-day trek through the jungle alongside hanging out with orangutans and cycling, rafting and ziplining through the beautiful landscape! The highlight for many was staying with local families in a small remote village and immersing themselves into local life, including spending time at a local school and having a karaoke party in traditional Malaysian dress. The students were a credit to themselves and the school and hopefully the trip will live long in their memories. Year 10, 11 and 12s look out for information on the next exciting expedition coming after half term!



Year 7 - Female 11 Devon County ASA Open Water Champion

Siena Wilkinson of 7J, swam in the Devon and Cornwall Open Water Championships at Strete Gate beach in the under 15 Female 750m event.

This was really tough going, swimming in the sea is extremely hard! Siena encountered waves, currents, wind, cold water, wildlife and 48 fellow competitors swimming in close proximity and rather admirably defeated some of these competitors.

Despite this being the first time Siena has competed outside of a swimming pool, she dug deep, summoning her tenacity and courage to overcome her fear of open water.

She produced an amazing performance and executed her race plan perfectly (despite swallowing some salty water) finishing 12th to win her age group and be crowned the Female 11 Devon County ASA Open Water Champion.



Running Club

This term over 80 students have signed up to complete the 'Classroom to 5k' challenge.

Every Tuesday we have been meeting on the astro and building up our running with the aim of coming together to run a full 5k Park Run at Christmas.

The students are now in week 5 and it has been great to see the progress that they are making and how much they are enjoying a run with their friends at lunchtime!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Year 12 students hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale on Friday 26th September. Inspired by 'Bake Off' they baked cupcakes, cookies, brownies & millionaire shortbread to sell to students and staff at breaktime. They raised an impressive £343.57 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Sporting Achievements – Autumn Term Sporting Success

It's been an exciting and action-packed start to the year in the PE department, with our students achieving fantastic success across a wide range of sports!

Hockey

We've proudly hosted the Central Venue League (CVL) fixtures for Years 7–9 here at TGGs, showcasing great participation. Our U16 Hockey team are celebrating an incredible achievement — finishing 1st in Devon and qualifying for the regional rounds at Millfield next month.

Netball

Both our U14 and U16 netball teams competed in the National Schools Seeding Tournament. The U14s dominated the day, winning all six of their matches to finish in 1st place, while the U16s secured an impressive 3rd place overall — a brilliant performance from both squads.

Football

All three of our football teams remain in contention in the National Schools' Cup. Our U12s and U18s have progressed to Round 2, and our U15s are through to Round 3. We're incredibly proud of their performances so far and are looking forward to cheering them on in the next rounds.



Rugby

Our Year 7 girls' rugby team took part in a fantastic Tag Rugby Festival at Torquay RFC. The event focused on introducing more young girls to the sport, while developing their confidence, teamwork, and enjoyment of rugby in a fun and supportive environment.

Mary Poppins Production

During our last week of half term our stage came alive with charm and cheer as students delivered a dazzling production of Mary Poppins that was, in every sense, "*spit spot*."

Led by a talented cast of students across all year groups, the show featured standout performances, crisp choreography, and pitch-perfect vocals. Hannah Walker, Year 13 and Alice Taylor, Year 12 played Mary Poppins and embodied the iconic character with poise and precision, while the ensemble brought energy and heart to every scene—from "*Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*" to "*Step in Time*."



Parents, staff, and local primary school children have filled our Old Hall with applause not just the talent on display but the teamwork and dedication from staff and students that have made the production possible.

It was a truly “*supercalifragilistic*” evening—one that proved that with a spoonful of imagination and a whole lot of hard work, anything is possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Sophia Sutton our outgoing Head Girl and Bonnie Skinner, Duty Head Girl. As your time in these roles comes to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the incredible dedication, leadership, and spirit you’ve brought to our school community.

They have both led with grace, integrity, and a genuine commitment to making a difference. Whether it was through speeches, support of fellow students, or the countless behind-the-scenes efforts, their impact has been deeply felt and will be long remembered.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming all back to school on Monday 3rd November 2025.

Yours faithfully

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

Dates for the Diary:

- **Monday 3rd November – First day of Term.**
- Monday 3rd November – Friday 14th November – Year 11 Mocks.
- Tuesday 4th November – Monday 10th November – GCSE Resit November Series.
- Wednesday 5th November – Year 13 Healthcare MMI.
- Tuesday 11th November - Oxbridge/Medicine talk at 6pm & 6th Form Open Evening 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
- Thursday 20th November – Year 13 Parents’ Evening 4pm – 7pm.
- Monday 24th November – Non pupil Day – Wellbeing Day.
- Thursday 27th November – Year 8 Parents Evening 6pm- 7pm.
- Friday 28th November – PTA Christmas Fayre 12pm - 3.30pm.
- Tuesday 2nd December – School Tour 9.30am- 11.00am.
- Wednesday 3rd December – Christmas Science Lecture ‘Critical Minerals’ 6pm – 7.30pm.
- Thursday 4th December – Friday 5th December – Year 11 Art Mock Exam.
- Thursday 4th December – Year 7 Parents’ Information Evening 6pm-7pm.
- Thursday 4th December – Flu Vaccinations.
- Monday 8th – Friday 12th December – Charity Week.
- Wednesday 10th December – Year 11 - Geology Fieldwork Trip, Dartmoor.
- Thursday 11th December – Saturday 13th December – Year 12 & Year 13. Geneva Physics Trip.
- Thursday 11th December – Year 11 Parents’ Evening 4pm – 7pm.
- Tuesday 16th December – Year 10 Plymouth University Maths Trip.
- Tuesday 16th December – Year 7 & 8 Christmas Dinner.
- Wednesday 17th December – Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas Dinner.
- Thursday 18th December – Non-Uniform day & 6th Form Christmas Dinner.
- **Friday 19th December – Last Day of Term.**



THE SIXTH FORM @TGGs
OPEN EVENING
11TH NOVEMBER

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR
OFSTED OUTSTANDING SIXTH FORM

1:1 SUPPORT
20+ A LEVEL COURSES
MIXED ENTRY

2ND NATIONALLY FOR A LEVEL PROGRESS
(STATE GIRLS' SCHOOLS)

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