



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

17th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of another fantastic academic year at TGGS, the school is, as always, bustling with end-of-term activities and the excitement and anticipation of the summer holidays. It has been a busy and successful year, with much to celebrate. Our students have continued to demonstrate outstanding commitment, resilience and enthusiasm, achieving success both inside and outside the classroom. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and grateful for the continued support of our families and wider school community.

AWARDS EVENING JULY 2026

This week, we held our annual Awards Evening, celebrating the achievements of students across the school and recognising their academic excellence, outstanding effort and enthusiasm for their subjects. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, commitment and perseverance shown by so many students throughout the year.

Alongside the subject awards, a number of Leadership and Kindness Awards were presented to students nominated by their Heads of Year in recognition of the positive contributions they have made to school life and to those around them. These awards highlighted the many ways in which our students support, inspire and lead others within the TGGS community.

The evening concluded with the presentation of two special honours. The Julia Neal Good Citizen Award was awarded to Amelie Merrett in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the school community, while the Mikelle Hardy Ingham Award for Creative Writing was presented to Isabella Payne for her wonderful talent and achievement in creative writing.

Guests were also treated to an inspirational keynote speech from former TGGS student Georgia Scott, who graduated from Princeton University, USA, this year. Georgia spoke about her journey from TGGS to one of the world's leading universities, sharing her experiences of combining academic studies with competing as an athlete representing Great Britain. Her story of determination, resilience and ambition provided an inspiring conclusion to the evening and encouraged students to pursue their own goals with confidence and dedication.

Congratulations to all award winners and nominees on their achievements. We are incredibly proud of everything our students have accomplished this year and look forward to celebrating many more successes in the future.

YEAR 12 HISTORY – TUDOR TALK FROM PROF JAMES CLARK

The lunchtime talk focused on the Dissolution of the Monasteries and began with an overview of the “spectacle of dissolution” and the scale of change across England and Wales, building on the knowledge students had already developed in lessons. Professor Clark deepened their understanding by exploring local connections and examining how the dissolution affected Exeter and Devon, before considering its aftermath and the closing years of Henry VIII’s reign. His discussion of the impact of the dissolution on social mobility and royal finances encouraged students to engage critically with differing historical interpretations. By challenging established views and exploring the role of monasteries and the motivations behind their dissolution, students were prompted to think more deeply about this transformative period in English history.



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



CARNEGIE CELEBRATION EVENT 2026

In June, our TGGs Writing Shadowers' Group travelled to St Peter's School in Exeter for this year's Devon Schools' Carnegie Celebration. Each of the ten participating schools selected one of the Carnegie shortlisted titles to present, and TGGs chose *Not Going to Plan* by Tia Fisher because of its powerful exploration of pressure, protest, and coercion. Despite having only limited rehearsal time during lunchtimes in the library, the group worked collaboratively to devise scripts, choreograph staging, and create impressive props.

On the day, our students demonstrated remarkable confidence, performing with enthusiasm and delivering their lines clearly in front of a large audience. Their hard work and creativity were rewarded with an excellent reception from the audience, and their presentation secured third place in the audience vote.



Students were also fortunate to meet author and poet Luke Palmer, who was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal last year. He delivered an engaging and entertaining talk about his writing career, sharing insights into the inspirations behind his novels and the creative process that brings his stories to life. Students particularly enjoyed hearing about his experiences as an author and the journey to publication. Luke also provided thoughtful feedback on the schools' performances, offering valuable encouragement and advice, before generously taking the time to sign books and speak with students.

CARNEGIE MEDAL SHADOWING

This term, TGGs students have once again been involved in shadowing the Carnegie Medal.

The Carnegies are the UK's longest running children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people. A national reading for pleasure initiative, the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme engages thousands of children and young people in reading the books on the shortlist and then voting for their favourites to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards, which are announced alongside the Medal winners at the annual winners' ceremony.

We've been delighted to have 23 students, ranging from Years 7-12, taking part this year, gathering in the library on a weekly basis to discuss their reading. All students cast a vote and were then invited to watch the livestream of the Awards Ceremony, whilst enjoying a drink and some nibbles. As well as introducing students to a diverse range of contemporary texts and authors, the Shadowing scheme also offers wonderful opportunities for social interaction and relaxed conversations about books.



ICELAND TRIP

Some of our Key Stage 4 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Iceland recently, exploring the country's spectacular volcanic and glacial landscapes. Their adventure began with a relaxing dip in geothermal springs before they embarked on a glacier hike, experienced the power of Iceland's volcanic environment, and ventured through an underground lava tunnel. Along the way, students have witnessed first-hand the unique geological features they have studied in class, bringing their

learning to life in an unforgettable setting. The trip has provided a fantastic opportunity to develop both their geographical understanding and their sense of adventure, with many more exciting experiences enjoyed throughout the week by both the students and staff.

SPONSORED WALK

On Friday 3rd July, we held our annual sponsored walk to raise money for Imprezza School in Kenya and to support opportunities for students at TGGs. The fancy dress theme was neon and our students and staff did not disappoint. The event brought together students and staff for an enjoyable day of fundraising, teamwork, and community spirit. Despite the physical challenge of the walk, participants approached the event with enthusiasm and determination, helping to raise valuable funds for both causes. The sponsored walk continues to be an important part of the school calendar, giving students the opportunity to make a positive difference while enjoying time outdoors with their friends. We received a number of emails praising our student's behaviour during the walk which is always lovely to hear. We are grateful to everyone who took part and to all those who generously sponsored our walkers and supported the event. So far we have raised - £8,985. Well done!

WORLD CHAMPION AT DANCE

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding success of Florence Kerswell (8W), who recently travelled to Dublin after qualifying with her team from Totnes School of Dance to compete on the international stage. Florence qualified in ten dances, including a tap duet, and she and her partner earned their place by finishing second while representing England at the qualifying event last October.

Competing against dancers from around the world, Florence and her partner performed their tap duet on a huge stage as part of a highly competitive section featuring 32 entries. Their hard work and dedication were rewarded with an incredible gold medal-winning performance, achieving an outstanding score of 92.6%. Shortly afterwards, Florence went on to perform in a tap group that also achieved gold medal success. The group included Jessica Haslett (7J), making the achievement even more special for the TGGs community.



The team also enjoyed further success in the ballet categories, securing impressive 5th, 8th, 9th and 12th place finishes in large international sections.

We are incredibly proud of Florence's remarkable accomplishments and congratulate her on becoming a double World Champion. We also extend our congratulations to Jessica and all the dancers on their fantastic performances and success on the world stage.

PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE

Before half term, Henrietta Baker and Maisie Winfield took part in the Regional Finals of the English-Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition. They travelled to Canford School in Dorset to compete against students from a range of other schools, all hoping to secure a place in the prestigious final round held at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

The girls performed an extract from *Twelfth Night*, showcasing their acting talent, confidence and understanding of Shakespeare's language and characters. As part of the competition, they also took part in the oracy element, where they were asked to discuss their personal responses to Shakespeare's work and reflect on their feelings and reactions to the text. This aspect of the

competition challenged students to think critically, communicate clearly and engage thoughtfully with the play.

It was a wonderful evening and a fantastic opportunity for the girls to develop their performance and speaking skills while meeting other talented young performers. Henrietta and Maisie represented TGGs brilliantly and were delighted to come away with third place. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and the enthusiasm, commitment and confidence they demonstrated throughout the competition.



CRICKET

It has been another outstanding year for TGGs Cricket, with many matches going right down to the final ball. Throughout the summer season, our students have demonstrated exceptional skill, resilience and teamwork, achieving impressive success across all age groups and representing the school with pride.

Our U15 Softball Team were crowned Devon Champions, producing a series of excellent performances throughout the competition.

The U15 Hardball Team also achieved the title of Devon Champions and went on to compete at regional level, where they narrowly missed out on the Southwest title on net run rate after an outstanding campaign.

The U13 Softball Team enjoyed a strong season, finishing 3rd in Devon, while our U13 Indoor Cricket Team achieved remarkable success by becoming Regional Champions, highlighting the strength and depth of cricket across the school.

These achievements highlight the dedication and hard work of all our players, as well as the support and commitment of staff, coaches and families. We congratulate everyone involved on a fantastic season and look forward to building on this success next year.

ATHLETICS

Our athletes recently travelled to Exeter Arena to compete in the South Devon Athletics Championships, taking part in 13 different track and field events against schools from across the region.

The standard of performance was exceptional throughout the competition, with TGGs students demonstrating determination, talent and outstanding teamwork. A particular highlight was the success of our Inter Girls' Team (Years 9 and 10), who successfully defended their title to become South Devon Champions for the second consecutive year. Our Year 7 Team also performed superbly, producing a number of excellent individual and team performances to finish as Overall Runners-up.

Results:

- Inter Girls' Team (Years 9 & 10) – South Devon Champions
- Year 7 Team – Overall 2nd Place

We are very proud of the dedication and hard work of our athletes, both in training and competition. Their achievements are a testament to the strength of athletics at TGGs. Huge congratulations to all the students who have taken part in athletics competitions this year and represented the school so brilliantly. We look forward to seeing what they can achieve next season.

YEAR 9 RESIDENTIAL

At the start of the half term, Year 9 students travelled to North Devon for an exciting three-day residential experience, packed with opportunities to challenge themselves, develop new skills and strengthen friendships. Throughout the trip, students took part in a wide range of activities, including high ropes, surfing, bodyboarding, camp craft, a coastal walk and an assault course.

The residential encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and work together as a team. Whether conquering the high ropes, learning to ride the waves or tackling physical challenges on the assault course, students demonstrated resilience, determination and a positive attitude throughout. The coastal walk also provided an opportunity to appreciate the stunning North Devon coastline.

The trip was a fantastic success, with students embracing every challenge and creating many lasting memories along the way. It was wonderful to see them supporting one another, developing their independence and enjoying such a rewarding experience outside the classroom.

YEAR 11 PROM

Just two days after completing their final exam, our Year 11 students swapped revision guides for prom dresses, corsages and jewellery as they came together with students from TBGS to celebrate at the annual Year 11 Prom. This year's Prom Committee worked incredibly hard to create a glamorous Las Vegas-themed evening, transforming the venue with ostrich feathers, balloon arches and glittering fairy lights.

From the moment the doors opened, students headed straight to the dance floor before enjoying a delicious BBQ banquet, posing for formal photographs and capturing memories with friends in the photobooth. Staying true to the Las Vegas theme, roulette and card tables provided additional entertainment, with students placing their bets using Monopoly money and embracing the spirit of the occasion.

The evening also featured the much-anticipated awards ceremony, including the crowning of the Prom Queen, before celebrations continued with more dancing late into the night. After the event, many students headed off to sleepovers and after-prom gatherings to continue celebrating with friends.



The prom was a fitting way to mark the end of an important chapter and to celebrate the hard work, and achievements of our Year 11 students throughout their GCSE years. A huge well done to everyone involved in making the evening such a success - we hope it was a night to remember and wish all our students every success for the future.

POLITICS

It was wonderful to welcome Caroline Voaden back to TGGs. The Liberal Democrat MP for South Devon spoke about her role and campaigns on issues such as the widow's pensions and the impact of Brexit on the fishing industry based at Brixham. She also spoke about education issues as Liberal Democrat Schools spokesperson, before taking a wide variety of questions from the audience on topics from social media bans for under-16s and rural bus services, to proportional representation and Andy Burnham's prospects.

It was also lovely to welcome TGGs alumna Molly Pimm back, in her role as constituency case worker for Caroline Voaden. Thank you so much Ms Voaden and well done to Year 12 Politics Ambassador Freyja Germon-Hussey for organising this talk.



PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM DONATIONS

We would be very grateful for donations of clean, good-quality pre-loved school uniform. Items can be dropped off at Main Reception and will be sold by our PTA to help support the school.

All proceeds are reinvested directly into the school for the benefit of our students. We are currently raising funds towards the replacement of one of our minibuses.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the best of luck in their GCSE and A Levels. Results will be published on Thursday 13th August 2026 for A Levels and Thursday 20th August 2026 for GCSE's. I am sure they are all going to do us all proud and I look forward to seeing many of our Year 11 students back in our Outstanding Sixth Form in September.

All TGGs staff are looking forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Monday 7th September 2026 and the rest of the school on Tuesday 8th September 2026.

Yours faithfully

Ms Sarah Forster BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH
Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 7th September – Year 7 & 12 return.
- Tuesday 8th September – Whole School returns.
- Friday 11th September – Whole School individual photographs.
- Wednesday 16th September – Year 11 Discovery Fair.
- Thursday 17th September – Year 12 Information Evening.
- Thursday 24th September – Year 11 Information Evening.
- Friday 25th September – Sixth Form Macmillan Coffee Morning.

- Tuesday 29th September – Year 12 – River Dart Trip.
- Friday 2nd October – PTA Hoedown Line Dancing Night.
- Thursday 8th October – Main School Open Evening.
- Thursday 15th October – Year 7 Concert.
- Thursday 15th October – Year 10 Information Evening.
- Tuesday 20th October – School Tour (morning).
- Monday 26th October – Friday 30 November – HALF TERM

Dates for your diary – Academic Year 2026-2027 can be found by [clicking here](#).