



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

30 Shiphay Lane
Torquay Devon TQ2 7DY
admin@tggsacademy.org
☎ 01803 613215

HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for your continued support of the school. Please see below some highlights from this term.

CELEBRATION OF GYMNASTICS & DANCE

The annual celebration of gymnastics and dance was a spectacular extravaganza once again. This year, for the first time, we had the privilege of showcasing our students' efforts to local primary schools, in addition to an evening performance for parents.

The first half of the show featured impressive gymnastics displays, while the second half was dedicated to dance, allowing students to demonstrate their incredible talent and dedication. It was a bittersweet moment, as this marked the final show for our Year 13 students, who have been an integral part of this event every year.

With heartfelt thanks to Olivia Girvan, Emily Lawton, Thalia Pappin, Lottie Fyfe, Mary Borbon, and Norah Robertson—your commitment and dedication made this show possible. Your hard work, creativity, and passion have been truly invaluable.

We can't wait for next year's show and to witness once again the incredible talent of our students!

CRICKET SUCCESS

The U15 cricket team enjoyed success at the Devon indoor tournament. Having comfortably won the regional tournament before Christmas our students played the County finals at Exeter University.

The whole squad played some tremendous cricket and won the group with a record of five wins from six matches. There were many notable performances including 2 sixes in a last over win group win (versus Maynard's) by Maria and the highest score of the day by Rosie.

The top two teams then competed for a place in the next stage (to be played at Bristol).

Maynard's won the toss and elected to field. This decision proved significant and despite us making 65 (from our 6 overs) Maynard's scored the runs with 4 balls to spare.

However, Runners up in Devon is a great achievement and the whole squad should be extremely proud of themselves.



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

TGGS HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

The TGGS Healthcare Conference took place on Saturday 22nd March – with 150 students booked from 19 schools it was a very busy and lively event which allowed students from Year 9 upwards to explore a wide range of healthcare and veterinary careers. The opening plenary session featured talks from alumnae Dr Charlotte Drewett and Ruby Clemans on their medical and psychology careers, and from Dr Laura Mather of Greenbay Vets in Torquay. Afterwards all students took part in three sessions, rotating between a carousel of stands and workshops run by Bath, UWE, Exeter and Plymouth universities, as well as our local Physio Outreach, the Devon Medical Heritage Trust, the TGGS Year 13 MedSoc Committee, and 9 of our recent alumnae studying a range of healthcare and vet courses. The carousel featured 30 stands representing many aspects of medicine, vet med and nursing, psychology, allied health professions and healthcare sciences.

We are hugely grateful to all the alumnae, parents and friends of the school from Torbay and RDUH NHS trusts for their time and enthusiasm in sharing about their roles with so many engaged students, and to those staff who gave up their Saturday to run the event.



SIXTH FORM SOCIETIES

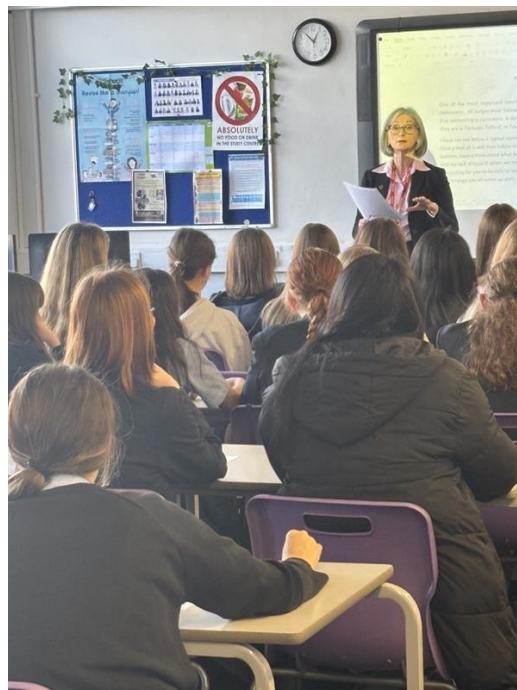
Our Sixth Form societies give students autonomy and experiences of leadership and this half term has seen a great range of meetings. Model UN have debated Climate Change and on the politics of outer space, and now that the Year 12 country reps have gained experience of debating international issues, they have opened up their meetings to middle school students to watch and vote.

MedSoc have continued their Speaker series with a visit by paramedics Alex, Ashley and Elaine who spoke about the rewards of being a paramedic and working for the Ambulance Service.

LawSoc had a great attendance from students from all years hearing from Judge Rachel Drake about her role. She took the group through a sentencing scenario she had created, which was really engaging about the factors judges have to weigh in reaching a decision.

Meanwhile Politics Speaker Secretary Issy Passarelli achieved an unprecedented Grand Slam by getting speakers from all 5 main political parties into school for talks in one calendar year! A packed meeting with Reform speakers Matt Sykes (previously their candidate for Torquay at the General Election) and Gordon Scott heard about how the traditional constitution has been subverted by politicians of all parties, how post-modernism undermines traditional values, and how women are more nurturing while men are more rational and analytical. Lots to discuss in the question period and to talk about afterwards.

And more recently Councillor Tess Read of the Green Party, last year's Deputy Mayor of Exeter talked about environmental challenges and what each of us can do to respond to them, as well as about her experiences in local government and what we can look out for in the future. Politics ambassadors Preety and Eleanor also ran a well-received Voter Registration drive in the Sixth Form, important given that many Year 13's will cast their first vote in the local elections this May.



VISIT TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Forty-eight Year 10 and 11 students visited Oxford on 18th March, being hosted at our link college, Exeter College, Oxford. After a talk about Oxford, students participated in taster workshops on either Classics, AI, Law or Materials Science before lunch in the college Hall and then tours of the college with student ambassadors. In the afternoon, some students visited the Earth Sciences faculty while others toured Hertford College with TGGs alumna Lucy Stevens the Outreach Officer. A sunny day concluded with tours of the city centre with 4 other TGGs alumnae studying at Oxford, who also shared their own experiences.



LANGUAGES COMPETITION

Early in March a group of our linguists travelled to North Devon to take part in the Southwest Languages Speaking competition, competing against a range of different schools from across the region.

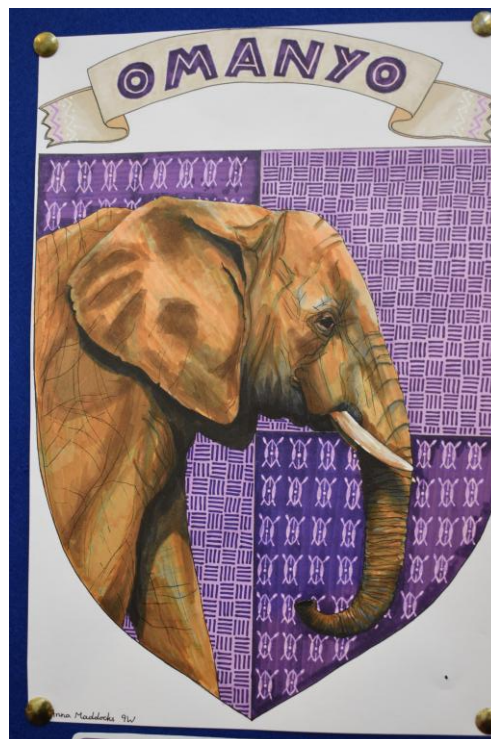
We had students presenting on a variety of different topics in French, German, Spanish, Polish and Mandarin. A massive well done to all who took part, but particular mention should go to Amelia Jackson who won her category and Amy Gibbons, Riyan Goh, Yan Yang Shi, Alice Taylor and Grace White who were runners up in theirs. We were the only school competing who won prizes in every category – well done to everyone.

OMANYO HOUSE

Recently we have marked a historic next step in the introduction of our new Omanyo House. Students, parents, staff and trustees voted and the colour Purple and the mascot of elephant came out on top! (By quite a large majority!) This led us to hold a competition for our students to produce a shield that would reflect the new house. We had 14 amazing entries from students in Years 7-11 and Ms Forster, Mr Smedley, Mrs Gale, Ms Thompson and Sophia and Bonnie our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl had a difficult task to judge each entry.

Entries were judged on use of space and proportion, creativity and imagination, links to Kenya, transferable to digital form and wow factor. We are pleased to announce that the winner was Anna Maddocks in 9W. Second place went to Summer Wellington in Year 10 and third place to Ruth Hu in Year 11. We are so proud of all students who entered.

We will now take the new logo and turn it into digital form so watch this space for when it joins the other shields of Beal, Cross, Jackson, Robertson and Wilkinson!



SCIENCE WEEK

The week of 10th - 14th March 2025 saw the students getting involved in a variety of activities to celebrate British Science Week. The theme of the week was “change and adapt” and students looked into everything from how plants and animals have evolved to the effect humans are having on our planet. The Physics Department started the celebrations by running lunchtime session where students could investigate the forces of flight. They made gliders and modified them to improve their aerodynamics and flight times. They also had the opportunity to develop their piloting skills by flying a drone.

For KS4 and KS5 students, the department took part in an online interactive session with women working at Airbus in Bristol. This provided a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about careers in aerospace engineering, gain insight into real-world applications of physics, and be inspired by female professionals in STEM.

Additionally, Sixth Form Physics students participated in a specialist workshop with NHS Radiology staff from Torbay Hospital. This session explored key concepts in Medical Physics, allowing students to engage with experts, enhance their understanding of imaging techniques, and discover career pathways in medical physics and healthcare technology.



The Biology Department were inundated the following day with students eager to learn about the structure and function of the heart through dissection.

The Chemistry Department organised a circus of activities for students to explore physical changes and chemical reactions. Students saw crystals of silver metal growing; they explored a non-Newtonian fluid and looked at precipitation and decomposition. The modelling of the rock cycle in chocolate was also a

popular activity! The celebrations were rounded up with a science quiz, at the end of the week, which saw teams from Years 7 to 11 competing to win a range of prizes.

These events reflect the Science Department's commitment to providing students with enriching experiences beyond the classroom, connecting them with experts, and inspiring them to consider exciting careers in STEM.

DRAMA WORKSHOP

Earlier this year, some Year 9 and 10 pupils took part in three devising-theatre workshops. Two of these took place in school and the third and final one was an all-day workshop using the studios at Exter University. The project culminated in a performance at the Northcott Theatre. Pupils were given a variety of different bags and suitcases to inspire their performance and could create any story line they liked which included these props. After a strong and creative performance at the theatre, TGGS came away with a gold certificate in recognition of their outstanding performance in the Devising Discovery Programme.

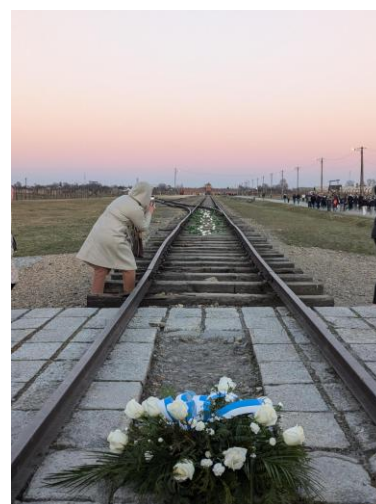


OUR TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

Upon returning to school from Auschwitz, students were asked, "Did you have fun?" In short, no. However, the trip was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Before they left, students were able to hear a testimony from a Holocaust survivor reminding them of the families, identities, and livelihoods lost. This deepened their understanding as they entered Auschwitz, where history became disturbingly real.

Walking through the gates felt surreal - learning about the Holocaust in a classroom is one thing, but standing where it happened is another. The most haunting part was seeing personal belongings - shoes, suitcases, even human hair - reminders that these were real people, not just numbers in a history book. The silence across the site spoke louder than words.



Auschwitz-Birkenau laid bare the depths of human cruelty. The vastness, endless rows of barracks and looming watchtowers made the scale of suffering unimaginable. The railway tracks, leading so many to their deaths, remain a chilling testament to state-funded genocide - a graveyard without graves.

Students were grateful for this experience, one that will stay with them for a lifetime.

UCAS DISCOVERY FAIR

On Wednesday 12 March, Year 12 students visited the UCAS Discovery Fair at Westpoint where they had the chance to meet over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers to discuss their post-18 opportunities and discover what exciting next steps are available to them.

As well as visiting exhibitor stands and talking to experts in their fields in person, students had the opportunity to listen to tailored presentations to ensure they make the right decisions for them and their future careers. It was an extremely informative experience, with all students making the



most of the opportunity available to them. This experience will be invaluable when, in the coming months, students are guided through the UCAS and Apprenticeship process to get their future careers underway.

WORLD BOOK DAY

TGGS students embraced the theme of magic for this year's World Book Day celebrations. We had an array of amazingly creative costumes, and the judging proved to be very tricky for Professor Umbridge (Ms Stacey) and Bellatrix Lestrange (Ms Keen). Students also produced some fantastic magical artefacts – these have been displayed in the school library for everyone to admire.

As part of the day's focus on reading for pleasure, Year 9 students were treated to an online Q&A session with popular teen author Karen M McManus who, as well as talking about her bestselling thrillers, gave insights into her career and offered tips for those at the beginning of their own journey as a writer.

Thank you to everyone who donated books for our World Book Day house competition - we are delighted to have received over 10 metres of donations. The towers were carefully measured, and Jackson were declared the winners with 346cm of books. All suitable books are being processed and catalogued by Mrs Holt – we have already added 150 extra books on the library shelves ... with more still to sort!



EASTER CAKE COMPETITION

The aroma of freshly baked cakes filled the air as students from Years 7 to 9 put their baking skills to the test in this year's Easter themed Cake Competition on Tuesday 1st April. It was a true celebration of creativity, craftsmanship and, of course, delicious desserts!

With a variety of cakes ranging from classic chocolate to intricate themed masterpieces, our talented student bakers wowed the judges with their presentation, taste, and originality. The competition was fierce, but after much deliberation, our panel of expert judges made their decision.

🥇 First Place: Millie Jones (Year 9) – Their cake stole the show with its incredible flavour and eye-catching basket design!

🥈 Runner-Up: Beatrice Lovelock (Year 7) – Impressing everyone with their jam-filled cake (the judges were impressed that she had made her own jam! Their creation was a close contender for the top spot.

🥉 Third Place: Freya Beard (Year 8) – A beautifully designed and decorated cake that oozed Cadbury's mini eggs when a piece was removed - that had the judges asking for seconds!

Beyond the winners, every participant deserves a round of applause for their hard work and dedication. Whether it was a carefully piped buttercream design or a surprise ingredient that wowed the judges, every cake had a story to tell.

A huge thank you to all students who participated, our wonderful judges, and the staff and 6th form students who helped organise this fantastic event.



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LAKE DISTRICT

Our Year 12 geographers have just returned from their Lake District and Manchester fieldwork. In the Lakes students got to see glacial landforms up close, investigated place rebranding in Keswick and gain essential fieldwork skills for their NEA's. In Manchester, students explored the Ancoats district, finding out about all the past and present changes relating to the birth of the industrial revolution, deindustrialisation and the current regeneration of the area. They even found time for a university tour and a spot of shopping.



MUSICAL AT TBGS

Well done to the 47 of our students who performed brilliantly in the Torquay Boys' Grammar School production of The Addams Family in March. All the staff and TGGs pupils who watched the show were proud to see them on stage – they were brilliant!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the best of luck in their forthcoming public examinations. I'm sure you are going to make us proud.

KEY DATES NEXT HALF TERM:

- Tuesday 22nd April - First day of summer term.
- Thursday 24th April – Year 10 Parents' Evening.
- Monday 28th April – PTA Year 7 Wicked Singalong.
- Wednesday 30 April – PTA Year 8 Wicked Singalong.
- Thursday 1st May – Year 13 Immersion Day.
- Friday 2nd May – Year 11 Leavers Day.
- Monday 5th May – BANK HOLIDAY.
- Tuesday 6th May – 6th Form Photograph.
- Tuesday 6th May – Year 13 – Dartington Leavers event.
- Wednesday 7th May – Year 13 – Leavers Day.
- Thursday 8th May – GCSE's start.
- Monday 12th May – A Levels start.
- Thursday 15th May – Parental Mental Health Workshop.
- Wednesday 21st May – House Music Competition.
- Friday 23rd May – Non-uniform day (Cultural Diversity Day).

Academic year 2025-2026 term dates can be found [here](#).

Academic year 2026-2027 term dates can be found [here](#).

Don't forget our **Main School Open Evening is taking place on Tuesday 24th June, 6:30-8:30pm.** To book a place [click here](#)