



# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, what a fantastic start to this new academic year. It has been so lovely to meet all our new Year 7 students and see them settling into TGGs school life so quickly. Our new Year 12 students have also made a significant and positive impact in their first few weeks as Sixth Formers.

At the time of writing this newsletter I have just had the pleasure of watching our whole school production of "Annie". It gives me enormous pride to know that more than 10% of students, across all year groups have been involved in all aspects of producing such a fantastic and professional show. We were also delighted to invite into school some local primary school children to watch our matinee performances. They all left having an amazing time and gained a snapshot into the life of a student at secondary school.

So many other things have also been happening around school and it gives me great pleasure to share some of the highlights with you below.

## English Trip to Stratford-on-Avon

Our school trip to Stratford to see *Othello* was an unforgettable experience! The moment we entered the theatre, the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation—talk about a *stage* set for greatness.

As we gathered at the theatre, excitement was in the air—no *Moor* thrilling experience could be found. The performance of *Othello* was a powerful exploration of jealousy and betrayal, and it kept us on the edge of our seats.

The performance was nothing short of spectacular, with the actors embodying their roles with such intensity that it truly brought Shakespeare's words to life. The actors delivered their lines with such passion that we couldn't help but be drawn into the *tragic* depths of the story.



This trip highlighted the educational value of live theatre, bringing Shakespeare's words to life in a way that textbooks simply cannot. By the end, we all agreed: Shakespeare's genius is timeless, and we left with a newfound appreciation for his *craft*.

## Year 12 – Model United Nations

TGGs's newest society is the Model United Nations, founded by the new Year 12 students under Secretary General, Bonnie Skinner. Nearly 30 Year 12s are taking the roles of different countries, researching their position on global issues and debating resolutions. The first General Assembly debate was on Nuclear Disarmament on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October and featured impassioned and well-informed speeches on all sides of the issue. Eventually the resolution was defeated, with Gabby Glynn, the Russian delegate being voted best speaker.



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

### **Year 7 – Author Visit**

Year 7 students were thrilled by a recent visit from Annabelle Steadman, author of *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief*. During the engaging session, Steadman shared insights into her writing process and the imaginative world of her novel, captivating students with tales of adventure and mythical creatures. The students were eager to ask questions, learning valuable lessons about storytelling, perseverance, and creativity. Many were inspired by Steadman's journey from aspiring writer to published author, sparking new dreams of pursuing careers in writing. The visit not only deepened their love for reading but also encouraged them to explore their own potential as future authors.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The Sixth Form hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Sixth Form students baked and sold cakes during breaktime and raised £154.45 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



### **Year 12 – River Dart Country Park**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, the new Year 12 cohort travelled to River Dart Country Park to enjoy a day of fun activities, teambuilding and getting to know each other at the beginning of their A Level studies. A combination of engaging activities that promoted teamwork and collaboration was paired with high ropes fun in the treetops (that was definitely not for the faint-hearted)! The whole year group came together to embrace the opportunity; friendships were formed, zip wires were conquered and the celebration of new beginnings was enjoyed by all involved.

### **Harvard Book Prize**

The Harvard Book Prize is awarded each year to an outstanding student who is academically excellent, exhibits exceptional personal qualities and makes a significant contribution to the school. This year the prize was "The Weirdest People in the World" by award-winning anthropologist and Harvard professor of Human Evolutionary Biology, Joseph Henrich which we were delighted to award to Izzy Drewett.



### **Head Girl Hustings**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October the whole school gathered in time honoured tradition for the annual Head Girl Hustings.

Following a rigorous selection process and a week of campaigning, 4 extremely capable candidates stood in front of the 1000 TGGs students and the staff to state their case for becoming the next in a long line of Head Girls before them.

Each of the 4 Year 12 students gave a 3-minute speech to their peers and the staff, who all then exercised their democratic right to have their voices heard in casting their vote. Well done to Sophia Sutton who was voted in as Head Girl and Bonnie Skinner as Deputy Head Girl.

The official handover ceremony will take place during the Christmas end of term assembly, where outgoing Head and Deputy Head Girl, Annemieke and Izzy (who have been incredible leaders and role models), will hand over the Head Girl Jackets and present Sophia and Bonnie with their Head Girl badges.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

We are really looking forward to welcoming all students and parent/carers to our forthcoming Sixth Form Open Evening on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 6-8pm**. This event will give prospective applicants a chance to meet our fantastic team of A-Level teachers and some of our inspiring current Sixth Form students. The evening will include an introductory talk from the Head of Sixth Form. You will also be able to get an overview of UCAS, Oxbridge, Medic and Careers programmes on offer – enabling our students to access the most competitive university courses, careers and apprenticeships.

**This event is suitable for all our current Year 11 students (current TGGs students will be guaranteed a place in our Sixth Form providing the admission criteria is met) and from September 2025 boys will have the opportunity to apply for a place.**

Further information can be found by [clicking here](#).



### **Careers Department visit to Drakewalls Mine, Hemerdon, near Plymouth**

A group of Year 11 and Year 12 students joined Mr Neighbour and Mr Steen on a visit to the Tungsten mine at Hemerdon. They had very informative tours of the Open Cast mine and the mineral processing plant. These workplace visits are an important part of our careers offer at TGGs, highlighting careers in shortage occupations (where there are more vacancies than applicants).





### **Geology**

Year 11 students joined Mr Neighbour and Mr Hewitt to undertake their fieldwork for GCSE Geology looking at the sedimentology and structural geology in Widemouth Bay, North Cornwall. Other students visited Yennadon and Burrator to study Dartmoor granite and its metamorphic aureole.

Our Year 12 enthusiastic Geologists have started the newly launched A Level Geology course and are already undertaking fieldwork at Meadfoot looking at the geology of the area and also modelling how silicates form minerals - a tasty exercise in practical geology!



### **Year 7 Bikeability**

It has been great to see how many Year 7 students have signed up to the Level Two Bikeability course. Level 2 teaches children how to grow more confident with each turn of the pedal. The participants ride on quiet roads to experience “real” cycling. Over 70 students have signed up and the 6-hour course takes place over two consecutive Mondays.

Well done to everyone and keep up the good work.



### **Languages Week**

Earlier this term, we celebrated Languages Week at TGGs. This encompassed European Day of Languages, which is celebrated across all of Europe every 26<sup>th</sup> September. In amongst the flag making, treasure hunting and quizzing there were also two very highly contested Duolingo competitions; one between students and one amongst the staff. The student leaderboard changed daily and Henrietta Carpenter in Year 8 eventually came out on top. As her prize, Henrietta got to choose a book in the language of her choice, so goes away with a book of Spanish short stories and some chocolate to enjoy whilst reading. Mrs Wallwork meanwhile dominated the staff leaderboard and fended off some stiff competition from Mrs Smedley and Mrs Holt to come out victorious!



### **Harvest Festival**

Last month, we launched the annual TGGs 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 Paignton Community Food Larder which is part of the Torbay Food Alliance.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this worthwhile cause.

### **Year 7 Concert**

A huge congratulations to all Year 7s who participated in their Year 7 concert. Each class performed a song, competing for their first House trophy (and lots of house points!)

Every performance was fantastic, full of beautiful vocals, high-energy actions and matching house colours! Wilkinson won with their rendition of Firework by Katy Perry - well done Wilko!



### **Geography Across the Years**

At the very end of the summer term geographers in Key Stages 4 and 5 enjoyed an action packed trip to Iceland, the land of Fire and Ice. Highlights were the hot springs at Hvammsvik, a hike on the Sólheimjökull glacier and a boat trip to Heimaey to explore houses buried in lava and spot the puffins.

Year 7's have been working on their fantastic places topic and have the opportunity to win Amazon vouchers in a competition within the wider South West Academic Trust, good luck girls!

Finally, Year 11 Geographers visited Dawlish Warren last week to collect data on coastal processes for their physical geography enquiry, they even found time for an ice cream.



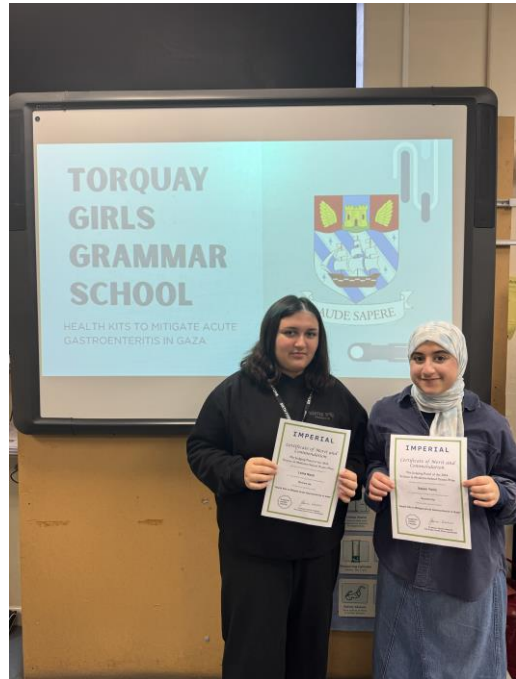
### **Imperial College Global Health Prize 2024**

Current Year 13 students with an interest in pursuing careers in medicine and dentistry, submitted entries for the Imperial College Global Health Prize, 2024.

The teams had to submit an e-poster detailing their vision of how health science and technology can protect the health of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and / or refugees in the weeks and months following a major natural or human-made disaster.

The e-poster submitted by Ramisa Lashkor, Lema Nasir, Sumaya Sailsbury and Salam Yonis was selected, from 45 entries from schools and colleges across the country, to take part in the finals event. They presented their work, alongside nine other finalists, on “Health kits to mitigate acute gastroenteritis in Gaza” to a team of academics in the Imperial College School of Public Health.

The judges were extremely impressed by the e-poster and presentation and the team was placed as runners up, receiving a prize of £350, for supporting a science-related activity in school. The team will also have the chance to have a mentoring meeting with an academic from Imperial College.



### **Student Gardens**

We are undertaking a number of projects this autumn to provide garden areas for students. Not only will this offer chill-out activities but also add to our green ethos so providing insect food areas and help to gain an understanding of how growing plants can add to our lives.

Many of our gardening parents will be sorting their gardens ready for winter on these autumn days so a big ask from us. If you have any herb bed surplus, specifically, rosemary, thyme, sage, mint, chives, young still bushy lavenders and marjoram please think of us.

Any donations would be welcome if you can drop these at Reception, please.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break. **Please remember that Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 is a non-pupil day. All students and staff return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November is a Wellbeing Day where students and staff will not be in school.**

Yours faithfully

**Ms Sarah Forster BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH**

Headteacher and Accounting Officer  
Torquay Girls' Grammar School



## Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Non pupil Day.**
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 13 Healthcare workshop.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Non-Uniform Day (Children in Need).
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – PTA Christmas Craft Fayre.
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Parental Self-Harm Evening Presentation.
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Wellbeing Day (students and staff not in school).**
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 Mocks begin.
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Year 13 Parents' Evening.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 Parent Information Evening.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Charity Week begins.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 & 8 Christmas Dinner.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas Dinner.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 PTA Disco.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas Dinner.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of Autumn Term.



A final curtain call to our all students, staff and families who have supported our fantastic Annie production in the last week of half term – well done everyone – you were brilliant!

## Non-Uniform days

	Young Minds Friday 25th October 2024
	Children in Need Friday 15th November 2024
	PTA Fundraiser Friday 7th February 2025
	World Book Day Thursday 6th March 2025
	Comic Relief Thursday 3rd April 2025
	Cultural Diversity Friday 23rd May 2025
	Non-Uniform for Impreza Friday 11th July 2025

