



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

17th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of this academic year. Our students have lived and breathed our school values: **Collaboration, Equality, Kindness, Open Minds and Wellbeing** and we are proud of their achievements.

I am delighted to share with you some of the fantastic events and achievements undertaken during the last 6 weeks.

Athletics Success at Exeter Arena

A huge well done to our Year 7, junior and inter girls' teams at the South Devon Area Athletics Championships. Our inter girls (Year 9 & 10) won their overall category, bringing home the prestigious shield! Phenomenal performances across the boards but some special results of note are below:

- Inter girls relay team: 1st place finalists (Maria. W, Frankie. L, Darcie. B, Grace. M)
- Grace. M: 300m champion
- Darcie. B: Hurdles champion
- Yasmin. Y: Discus champion
- Jessica. R: 800m champion
- Poppy. D: 200m champion
- Emily. G: Javelin 2nd place
- Emilia. B: Hurdles and high jump 2nd place
- Frankie. L: 100m 3rd place finalist
- Evie. S: 1500m 3rd place finalist
- Georgia. M: 800m 3rd place finalist
- Frankie. T: 800m 4th place finalist
- Liberty. C: 1500m 4th place finalist
- Rosie. F: 1500m 4th place finalist



Careers Fair 2025

We hosted 47 organisations at our annual careers fair, where our students were able to learn about a number of different pathways and study options. Thank you to all our exhibitors and to our students for their interest and engagement.



Sponsored Walk 2025

On Friday 4th July, we held our annual sponsored walk raising money for Imprezza School in Kenya and TGGs projects. Over 650 students and staff took part this year; the route included walking from TGGs to Torquay Harbour, boarding three ferries to Brixham and then walking the coastal path back to TGGs. A route of 11 miles.



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

Many students dressed up in fancy dress with this year's theme, voted for by students, being festivals.

One highlight for many students was the sense of achievement in completing this walk especially as the weather this year was warm and sunny. This was a wonderful day, and a tremendous effort by all those involved. We have so far raised £8322.00. Well done!



Year 12 – Geology Visit to Linhay Hill Quarry

A Level Geology visit to Linhay Hill Quarry, Ashburton. Our Year 12 Geology students experienced a lesson with a difference during a visit to Linhay Hill Quarry, Ashburton. They were given a tour of the site, allowing them to put into context the work they have completed on geological mapping and preparing them for their module on resource geology.



TGGS U15 Crowned MKT10 Hardball Champions

In scorching conditions at Mount Kelly College, the TGGS U15 cricket team delivered an exceptional performance to be crowned champions of the MKT10 Hardball Tournament. The 12-player squad remained undefeated throughout the day, showcasing skill, teamwork, and composure under pressure.



TGGS opened with consecutive victories against Truro College, Shebbear, and Mount Kelly. Heading into their final game against Plymouth College, they

needed to avoid defeat to clinch the title. In a nail-biting finish that went down to the final ball, batters Sophie Bax and Rosie Arnold held their nerve to guide the team home.

The day featured numerous standout performances:

- **Emily Gaffney** delivered brilliant displays behind the stumps, proving invaluable as keeper.
- **Molly Walker**, **Maria Wood**, and **Sophie Bax** impressed with sharp fielding and timely run outs.
- The batting lineup, led by captain **Frankie Lee**, along with **Arabella Greenwood** and **Roberta Tomlinson**, built strong totals throughout the tournament.

However, the most decisive factor in the team's success was their **bowling consistency**. With every player required to bowl, the squad's accuracy and discipline kept opposition scores low and ensured wickets fell regularly.

A brilliant all-round team effort – congratulations to all involved!

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics News

Year 10 GCSE RS visited Plymouth synagogue and St Andrew's Church to support their Judaism and Christianity studies. In the synagogue, some students were given a different role to perform and enjoyed getting into character. This interactive approach certainly made the learning fun and memorable. This was followed by a visit next door to St Andrew's Church where students were split into groups to explore the Christian beliefs evident in the stunning architecture of the building.

Years 7, 9 and 12 have enjoyed visits from Linx Christian Youth Trust this term. Year 7s heard about the importance of Jesus for Christians, Year 9s were able to "Grill a Christian" about arguments linked to the existence of God and Year 12 discussed religious experiences. We really appreciate the support of Linx to enhance our students' understanding of Christian beliefs.



Year 5 – Geology Day

Able assisted by our Year 10 Geology ambassadors, Mr Neighbour ran a Geology Outreach Day for our local primary schools where they learnt all about how we can use Dinosaurs as a means of teaching science - including looking at their extinction including experiments looking at volcanic eruptions.

Inter House Languages Competition

This half term saw the first Inter House Languages Competition at TGGs, in which Year 7s and Year 8s represented their houses presenting in different languages; both those that they learn at school and those that they speak at home. We had an amazing 12 languages represented and congratulations to Grace, Marta, Lily and Laranya who won their categories. The overall winners were Wilkinson, but a huge well done to everyone taking part. Presenting in English can be daunting enough, let alone in another language! A big thank you has to go to the brilliant Year 10 Languages prefects, who ran the event (and to Anca in Year 12 for helping with the judging).

Inaugural House Cricket Competition a Resounding Success

This year marked the very first House Cricket competition, played over two glorious days of sunshine and spirited sport. The event showcased an exceptional level of talent across all three disciplines—batting, bowling, and especially fielding.

While there were plenty of powerful shots and impressive spells with the ball, it was the fielding that truly stood out. Spectators were treated to stunning catches and brave boundary dives, with players giving everything to save runs for their teams.

The competition was fiercely contested, with many matches going down to the wire. The eventual champions, Wilkinson House, clinched their final two games by just 5 and 3 runs respectively, highlighting just how closely matched the sides were.

Final Standings:

- **1st:** Wilkinson
- **2nd:** Jackson
- **3rd:** Cross & Robertson
- **5th:** Beal

A huge congratulations to everyone who took part, and a special thank you to the umpires—particularly Mr Ryder—for generously volunteering their time to ensure the competition ran smoothly. We look forward to an even bigger and better tournament next year!

Library News - Carnegie Medal for Children's Books

Once again, TGGs students have taken part in shadowing this prestigious book award—the experience gives young readers the opportunity to follow along with the official judging process. Our shadowing group of Year 9 and 10 students met weekly in the library to discuss their thoughts on this year's shortlisted books, before casting their all-important vote. For the first time, we also shadowed the medal for illustration, giving younger TGGs students the chance to get involved too. All shadowing students were invited to watch the live awards ceremony online (the literary equivalent of the Oscars!), complete with refreshments, as a special culmination of the judging process.



Shadowing group members also participated in the Devon Schools' Carnegie Event, travelling to Exmouth Community College to give a presentation on our chosen book. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading, to connect with students from other schools, and to meet the recipient of last year's Shadowers' Choice medal – author Tia Fisher. As well as giving an inspiring talk and Q&A session, Tia spoke to each TGGs student individually, creating lasting memories of a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Public Speaking Championships

On 30th May, 3 TGGs students (Rosie Read 11C, Mia Maddock 10J, Hattie Eve 10J) travelled to Dartmouth House in Mayfair, London to compete in the Grand Final of the ESU nationwide schools public speaking competition. From over 300 schools, TGGs was one of the last 6 teams standing - a huge achievement in its own right.



The 3 girls were truly inspirational to watch, giving strong performances individually - Mia as Chair, Rosie as Questioner, and Hattie as Speaker - and proving unbeatable as a team. For the first time in TGGs history, they brought home the trophy and are now the official ESU public speaking champions of 2024/25! Rosie was also awarded Best Questioner, a well-deserved accolade as this is the second time Rosie has reached the Grand Final.

This was a hugely prestigious event to take part in, and the Grand Final was the culmination of 6 months of hard work and commitment. Overall, 1,400 students competed from over 300 schools. Huge congratulations to Rosie, Mia and Hattie for your achievement - we are so proud!

Year 9 End of Season Rounders

The Year 9 rounders team delivered an outstanding performance at the end-of-season tournament.

The girls started the day in fantastic form, dominating their pool and remaining undefeated, with a series of confident and well-organised displays. Every player contributed to a series of clinical wins, earning TGGs a top spot and progression to the semi-finals.

In the semi-final, TGGs faced Dawlish, a strong side with some big hitters. However, our team rose to the challenge, playing with both tactical awareness and intensity. A combination of sharp fielding and composed batting saw TGGs secure a well-deserved victory, booking their place in the final.

The final brought a tense match against local grammar school rivals, Churston. Both teams were evenly matched, and after a closely fought contest, the game ended in a 4.5 – 4.5 draw. With the title on the line, the teams entered a final three-batters shoot-out to determine the overall winners. Despite a valiant effort from our batters, Churston edged ahead by the narrowest of margins, finishing 2–1.

Although narrowly missing out on the title, the TGGs team should be immensely proud of their efforts, commitment, and sportsmanship. To go unbeaten through the group stage and reach the final demonstrates the depth of skill and resilience within the squad.

A special mention to the following players for receiving "player of the match" as nominated by opposing teams:

- Etienne x3
- Ella x 1
- Roberta x1

Congratulations to all players involved throughout the whole rounders season. We look forward to seeing what you achieve next!

Rugby National Finals

We are incredibly proud of our Year 9 T1 Touch Rugby Team, who competed at the National Finals last week, held at the iconic Sixways Stadium, home of the Worcester Warriors!

After a series of 40 qualifying tournaments held across the country, our students earned their place among the top 24 teams in the nation — a phenomenal achievement in itself. But there's more...

TGGs were the ONLY all-girls team to qualify for the National Finals!



Their determination, skill, and teamwork set them apart, proving that they can compete — and excel — on the biggest stage.

A huge well done to all the players for their hard work and to the staff and supporters who helped them along the way. You've done yourselves and TGGs proud!

Year 9 Fundraiser

Year 9 students held a fundraising event on the 8th July in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and raised an incredible £353.66!

There were stalls selling second hand books, jewellery, face painting and fortune telling. Students could also pay £1 to sponge a teacher whilst they attempted to complete an obstacle course.

The Guide Dogs team then came into school and were presented with the money raised. We were joined by Lenny, a working Guide Dog, and heard all about the life changing impact he's had on his owner.



Sailing for Success

Edith Phillips, in Year 9 has been training relentlessly throughout the winter as part of both the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Regional Training Group and the Southwest Youth Sailing Academy (SWYSA).

Edith competes nearly every weekend in preparation for the Topper World Championships in Medemblik, Holland this July.

Her recent performances have been outstanding. At the South and Southwest Regional Youth Championships held at the prestigious Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (the UK's Olympic sailing venue), Edith was the first girl, third South West sailor, and placed sixth overall – an incredible achievement in a highly competitive field!!



We wish Edith every success at the upcoming World Championships.

Geography Games Club

This year a mix of Year 8 and 9 students have spent Wednesday lunchtimes playing geography-based games, including the board game version of the popular TV show "Race Across the World". The club has been well-attended all year and we look forward to inviting new joiners come September!

In the meantime, we hope students will enjoy their own Geography travels over the summer.

Battlefields

Our Year 10 students recently took part in a visit to the French Battlefields.

The highlight of the trip was laying a wreath and personal words at the Menin Gate at the 8pm ceremony.

The students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and dressed to impress for the occasion, including one student wearing a WW11 medal from their great grandad!

SWAT EPQ Event

TGGS held their first South West Academic Trust (SWAT) Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) event on 7th July, welcoming colleagues from the SWAT Grammar schools to discuss best practice and share expertise.

The EPQ, offered to students in the Sixth Form, is a fantastic opportunity to stretch students' knowledge and develop new skills of project management, research, presentation and report writing. In summary, it is a unique qualification that makes students better applicants for university and develops a great deal of employable skills.

Delegates reviewed the most up to date research by Dr Tim Gill (2024) from Cambridge University. His analysis of outcomes of students taking the EPQ compared to those who did not take the qualification, concluded that there is "strong evidence that the EPQ effectively prepares students for HE. Compared to non-EPQ students, EPQ students are more likely to achieve higher A level results, progress to Higher Education and have a higher probability of being awarded a higher class of degree, than their non-EPQ peers".

With huge thanks to Mrs Wills, who oversees EPQ at TGGS, for hosting the conference and to all who attended and work tirelessly to improve outcomes for students.

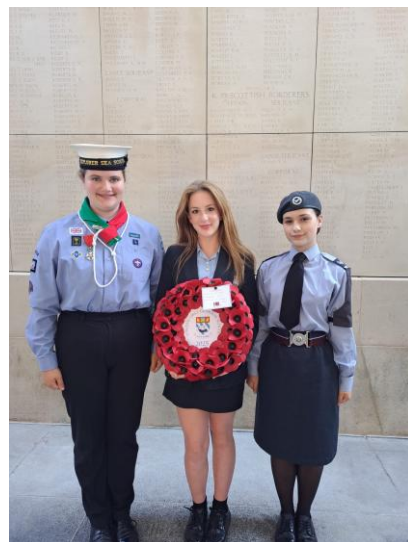
Cricketing Dreams

Year 10 student Arabella Greenwood, has been pursuing her cricketing dream, participating in the inaugural Apex Cricket Festival earlier this month.

Arabella was selected from Devon to play for the Southwest Superchargers who went on to win the cricket festival over 16 other teams!

Arabella was also lucky to meet cricketing legends Sir Andrew Strauss and Ebony Rain-Ford Brent who were ambassadors for the event, who spent their time with players, both during hands on practical training and mental wellbeing sessions.

Arabella is dedicated to women's cricket, spending hours travelling, playing in multiple cricket matches weekly, plus all the training. Congratulations Arabella on this epic win and we can't wait to hear of your next achievement!



6th Form Cake Sale – Pete's Dragon

Our amazing 6th form wellbeing ambassadors hosted a cake sale to support local charity Pete's Dragons.

Cake sales always go down well here – their excellent baking skills led to sales of £125 in just 45 minutes!

Congratulations to the Ambassadors and thank you to all the staff and students who purchased the delicious cakes!



DofE Voluntary work

Over the past year our Duke of Edinburgh students have been giving up their time to take part in various voluntary roles.

They have completed a total of 2860 hours, on average that's 7.8 hours per day benefitting many fantastic causes.

Well done everyone!

Junior Chef of the Year

The Southwest (Devon) Junior Chef of the Year has been awarded to Year 10 student Jessica Klapsia!

The competition was to produce a main course for two in 90 minutes, and the entries were judged on the creativity of the recipe, the balance of the ingredients, the skills required to create the dish, and the use of ingredients produced locally/in the Southwest.

Jessica will now meet the other five county winners at the final in October and will be mentored by judge Scott Paton, who will help her prepare her dish.



Huge congratulations Jess, and good luck in the final.

Year 11 Prom

On 2nd July the Girls' and Boys' schools combined to host the Year 11 prom at the Imperial Hotel. Over 250 students gathered in stunning dresses and smart suits, arriving in all manner of vehicles to celebrate the end of their GCSE exams and to start the summer in style. On this beautiful Devon summer evening, they danced the night away, had fun at the photo booth, laughed at the 'most likely to....' awards, sang their hearts out and made memories that will last forever. It was the perfect way to end the school year.



Golf

Year 7 student Katie Loader has been competing in the Faldo Futures Gold Tournament. She played her first round at her home club of Torquay, qualifying for the next round at Woodbury Park, which took place on 30th May.

Having successfully shot her way through this course too, she now goes on to play in the final at the Belfry, during the week of the British Masters, at the end of August!

We wish Katie the best of luck in the final.



Rowcroft Hospice

Rowcroft Hospice have a fundraising initiative that Torquay Girls' Grammar School are pleased to support. Rowcroft are accepting donations of foreign currency (coins and notes) and they convert this into UK currency to support their charity. So far, they have raised over £1000 from this initiative. We have a special Rowcroft Hospice foreign currency collection box located in our main reception to accept any unwanted foreign currency. If you have any coins or notes left over after your summer holiday, please remember to send in for our donation box.



Changes to our Safeguarding Team

From September Mrs Wilkinson will step down as our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mr Hulbert will take on the role of DSL at TGGs. I'd like to thank Mrs Wilkinson for all her work in this role. In September, she will be leading on school curriculum and parental engagement. Next year we are aiming to move our parents' evenings to face to face in school.

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 14th August 2025 for A Levels and Thursday 21st August 2025 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, joined for the first time, by boys.

All TGGs staff are looking forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 and the rest of the school on Thursday 4th September 2025.

To keep up with all the news and fantastic things happening, follow our social media posts on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Yours faithfully

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

Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Torquay Girls' Grammar School

KEY DATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025:

- Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September – Non-Pupil Days
- Wednesday 3rd September – Year 7 & 12 return only.
- Thursday 4th September – Whole School returns.
- Wednesday 10th September – Awards Evening.

- Friday 12th September – Whole School Photographs.
- Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th September – Year 8 Residential.
- Thursday 18th September – Year 12 – Parents’ Information Evening.
- Saturday 20th September – 11+ Examination.
- Monday 22nd September - Year 12 River Dart Country Park Trip.
- Tuesday 23rd – Wednesday 24th September – Year 13 Parliament/History trip to London.
- Thursday 25th September – Year 11 Parents’ Information Evening.
- Friday 26th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning.
- Friday 26th September – Monday 29th September – Year 13 Geology Fieldwork Trip.
- Tuesday 30th September – Year 11 GCSE French Trip (Parents Information Meeting).
- Wednesday 1st October – Friday 3rd October – Year 11 DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition.
- Tuesday 7th October – Main School Open Evening.
- Friday 10th October – Year 10 Art Trip to St Ives.
- Thursday 16th October – Friday 17th October – Year 10 DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition.
- Thursday 16th October – Year 10 Parents’ Information Evening.
- Monday 20th October – Thursday 23 October – Mary Poppins Production.
- Wednesday 22nd October – School Tour (morning).
- Friday 24th October – Non-Pupil Day.
- Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October – HALF TERM BREAK.

Term Dates for Academic Year 2025/2026 – [click here](#).

Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027 – [click here](#).