



# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: DR N SMITH - MB BS

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15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Key Stage 3 (KS3) Parents

I really hope this letter finds you well, and that you and your daughter have had an enjoyable and relaxing time during the Easter holidays. This will be another very busy term for the Lower School, as you will know, with all KS3 girls taking important end of year exams. Our taught Year 8 and Year 9 'Preparation, Participation and Progression (PPP) Programme', together with the work the girls do with their Form Tutors, has been focused on helping them to prepare for these professionally - and hopefully calmly! Year 7 students will have an introduction to some of the key principles of effective learning and revision later this term.

More broadly, I am constantly amazed to learn of the many achievements of our younger students in sport, music, drama, art and a whole host of extra-curricular activities both within and outside school. Some girls are a little shy about letting us know of their successes. So, please do encourage your daughter to share these with their Form Tutor, in order that as many students as possible can be praised and specifically involved in our end of term Celebration Assemblies!

The mental and physical health of all TGGs students is taken really seriously, and the national increase in mental health issues amongst the young has rightly received significant press coverage recently. Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would please spend a few moments reading Dr Smith's accompanying 'Well Beings' pamphlet. This outlines our current programme to help prevent stress and to support girls where it becomes an issue.

My brief as Head of Lower School is to work with my colleagues to do our best to ensure that:

- All KS3 students will look forward to coming to school each day, knowing that they will have fun; be happy, safe and supported; spend time with good friends and be both challenged by, and interested in, what they learn.
- Every student should feel that their hopes and dreams will be encouraged, and in the Lower School they will begin to develop the personal qualities and skills that will enable them to achieve their aspirations.
- All girls should begin Year 10 mentally and physically fit for the challenges of Key Stage 4.

We are constantly evaluating all aspects of the education we provide for our students, and welcome feedback regarding your daughter's experience at school. Currently there are several ways in which you can do this; Parents' Evenings; Information Evenings; Surveys etc. However, in addition I would like to trial a new opportunity. Each half-term I will be holding a **Lower School Parents' Clinic** where you will be invited to come in to talk to me about any aspect of the school or your daughter's experience of it. If there is a topic you would like to discuss, be it a suggestion for improvement, clarification of procedures, or an issue specific to your daughter then please feel free to book a session with me. The first two sessions will be: **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, 1pm-3pm** and **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, 11am-1pm**.

Twenty minute appointments can be made by emailing my PA, Mrs Marian Batt on [mbatt@tggsacademy.org](mailto:mbatt@tggsacademy.org). Please can you provide details of the topics that you would like to discuss, and if possible some alternative times on these days when it would be convenient for you to come into school.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

*Chris Charwood*

**Deputy Headteacher – in charge of Lower School**

**Useful Dates for your diary:**

- Please note that Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April is a non-pupil day.
- Half-term is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

