



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

24th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that we are now fast approaching our last half term for this academic year. Since I last wrote to you before the Easter break there have been many successes and achievements by our students. They have been truly inspirational, and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights.

60 Hours Outside

Since the start of the Summer term we have been encouraging students to spend more time outside, to support their physical and mental health.

Students can make the most of the incredible outside space we have here. They can walk the half mile circuit for house points or take part in one of the 42 clubs that are on at lunchtimes.

Staff walk the school throughout these times and it has been a joy to see them enjoying fresh air and spending time with friends. Here are a few snapshots from a lunchtime this week. The final half term is a great time to try a new club. Please encourage your daughter to give a new club a try when we return – [click here for list of clubs](#).



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

Cultures Day

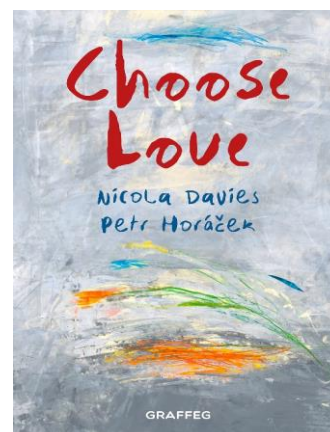
We celebrated our first ever TGGGS Cultures Day on Friday with students, staff and visitors. Student Council (supported by the Head Girl, Annemieke Karssens, Ms Thompson and Ms Browne) were the key drivers for the day as they wanted an event that would really celebrate the diversity of our school community. We were joined by cultural champions who visited the school to deliver workshops ranging from Bhangra folk dancing to reggae music and learning about many different cultures. The Dining Hall offered a fantastic array of different Indian foods which was a complete sell out by the end of lunch! There was also a bake sale led by students at lunchtime and the monies raised will support future diversity projects.



As a school we have also started reading [Musical Truth](#) which allows students to experience a diverse musical journey of modern Britain. Finally, thanks to the kind contribution from Torquay Old Girls' Association ([TOGA](#)) we have been able to invest in a map which will highlight the diversity of the TGGGS school community and will be updated annually to reflect our demographics.

Carnegie Shadowing Group Author Visit

Students in Years 9 and 10 have been meeting in the library at lunchtimes to 'shadow' the judging process for the Yoto Carnegie Medals - reading, discussing, and reviewing the books on the shortlist. The group were lucky enough to have a virtual visit from one of the shortlisted authors, Nicola Davies, who has written more than 80 books, including fiction and poetry for children and adults. This was a valuable opportunity to learn more about Nicola's work and to ask questions about the Carnegie award process, ahead of voting for the Shadowers' Choice Award in June.



Christmas Earth Science Lecture 2024- Speaker Announced

We are very fortunate to be able to announce that we have secured our speaker for the 2024 Christmas Earth Science Lecture, which this year will be delivered by Dr Hazel Beaumont (Senior Lecturer in Geology/Geoscience at UWE Bristol). Dr Beaumont will be delivering a very topical talk, looking at the problem of microplastic pollution in our rivers. More information will follow nearer the time.

Student Librarians

We recently invited students from Years 7-10 to apply for this new role and were delighted by the volume, and high quality of their applications. It was incredibly difficult to choose between such detailed and carefully considered applications, but we have now appointed our first team. After completing some initial training, they will help with the day to day running of the library, as well as contributing ideas on the library's development and helping organise library activities. Our new librarians will remain in post until Christmas – we will then invite new applications for January.

Junior Maths Challenge

Over 200 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge this half term, which is a 60-minute, 25 multiple choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. The problems on the Junior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think; most are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience. This followed on from the intermediate maths challenge where we had a student perform so well that they have qualified to go to a maths summer school. Well done to Jess Jiang.

Computer Science

Six students accompanied Mr Neighbour to the South Devon University Technical College (UTC) in Newton Abbot, in order to participate in a "Drone and Robotics Workshop". Students were able to program robots to complete a number of set tasks in competition with other secondary schools from across the area, then moved on to work collaboratively with a variety of students to program Drones, to complete a number of set tasks.



Medical Society (MedSoc)

MedSoc has continued to be very active this term, with two speakers helping students from Year 10 to 12 explore dentistry; Fateh Hossain shared his experiences as a third-year dental student at Plymouth, with plenty of good advice on admissions, while Brandon Beng and Stacey Aggett visited to speak about the role of a Foundation Dentist and a Dental Nurse. Dr Kate Gee also spoke at MedSoc about her role as a local GP, encouraging students to think about general practice as a potential career route. We are very grateful to all these speakers and proud of the MedSoc committee for all their hard work in organising such a lively programme.

Year 13 Leavers' Celebration Evening

In time honoured tradition, we celebrated the end of our current Year 13's journey with TGGs at Dartington Hall. The atmosphere was highly charged with emotions as staff and students said their heartfelt goodbyes.

Students were joined by family and friends for an inspirational evening of music, memories, and exciting plans for next steps. All performances and speeches were exceptional, and the evening drew to a close with all students taking to the stage to sing the school song for one final time.

Remember that all pupils at TGGs are guaranteed a place in our growing Sixth Form as long as they meet the entry criteria.

Spark! Book Award Poetry Competition Winner

In March, students were invited to submit a poem inspired by the Spark! award shortlisted books. We were delighted to hear that one of our Year 7 students, Eloise Zaleski, has been announced as the overall winner of the secondary school category. The winning poem can be viewed on the Spark! website ([click here](#)) and also at the bottom of this newsletter. Eloise has been invited to make a recording of it to be played at the awards ceremony in July. We are extremely proud of her success!

Bake Off Competition

We held our annual House 'Bake Off' competition this term, with a theme of 'Summertime'! The judges thoroughly enjoyed sampling all the amazing entries, and it was very difficult to select just one winner! Well done to everyone who participated and to our 'Star Bakers' who were awarded special recognition for their creativity and baking skills!

- BEST OVERALL CAKE & BEST PRESENTATION: Millie Jones 8B
- BEST AT 'MEETING THE BRIEF': Freya Jones 7B
- BEST TECHNICAL SKILLS: Isla Corbett 7C
- BEST TEXTURE: Rosa Jefferson 7R
- BEST TASTE: Penelope Clark 7J
- HIGHLY COMMENDED: Darcey Hawker 8B
- HIGHLY COMMENDED: Amy Everett 9C
- HIGHLY COMMENDED: Edith Phillips 8W



Careers

TGGS Careers Fair 2024 - We are working excitedly towards our annual Careers Fair and have been successful in gaining the support of a number of different companies to enthuse our students, with a host of companies ranging from the local to International - we still have some spaces available for the fair, so if your business or employer would like to be involved, please email Mr Neighbour (gneighbour@tggsacademy.org) or Mrs Rolfe (srolfe@tggsacademy.org) for a discussion.

Careers Fair 2024 – 27th June 2024

The banner features the following logos and organizations:

- Row 1:** Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter Cathedral, opentech, andrew price&co (Chartered Accountants for the Business Advisory), Devon Shire Homes.
- Row 2:** NHS, TUNGSTEN WEST, ROYAL AIRFORCE, IMERYS.
- Row 3:** ROYAL NAVY, SIBELCO, ARMY BE THE BEST, AECOM, Devon & Cornwall Police, children's hospice SOUTH WEST.
- Row 4:** AMERICAN SOUTH WEST, WILLMOTT DIXON, INNOVUS, Kitson Boyce, DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE, TORBAY, PKF FRANCIS CLARK.
- Row 5:** pwc, Greenbay Vets, BBC, Met Office, EDF, South West Water.
- Row 6:** Taylor Wimpey, Mercure HOTELS, konker, th trowers & hamlins, hymid, Michelmores.
- Row 7:** South Devon College, BICTON COLLEGE, BATH SPA UNIVERSITY, OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY, NORLAND, exeter college.
- Row 8:** UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of South Wales, UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY, ARTS UNIVERSITY PLYMOUTH, UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Year 8 Residential

On Monday 13th May, 148 Year 8 students travelled to The Ultimate Adventure Centre in North Devon for an action packed 3-day, 2 night residential.

The students were certainly kept busy with a range of exciting activities including: High ropes, climbing, paddle boarding, kayaking, raft building, camp craft and, the students' favourite, the wipeout assault course! Evenings offered up more fun with movies, a quiz night, problem solving games, a blindfolded group trek and very competitive mini-Olympics. It was amazing to see the students throwing themselves in to the challenges this trip offered; they showcased incredible resilience, fantastic collaboration and were an all-round an absolute pleasure to take away for a few days.



Lots of fun had, many sweets consumed, and memories made. Well done Year 8 you were great!

Law Society (LawSoc) New this year, LawSoc has continued a busy programme of meetings, hearing from Barristers and Solicitors, as well as having students present topics they've researched. Most recently TGGs alumna Tracyann Tweedie of Tozer's Solicitors visited LawSoc to talk about different legal careers and to give application advice.

On 2nd May ten Year 12 LawSoc members visited the Exeter Courts where Clerk of the Court Lisa Roberts had arranged an amazing programme of discussion and court observation. CPS Barrister Beth Rickerby shared her career experiences and perspectives on the justice system, and then Judge Climie gave us an hour to discuss his own route to becoming a judge, and the processes and challenges of the criminal justice system. After that we observed the morning's hearings, which included guilty pleas to some shockingly serious offences, bail hearings, an accused attempting to defend themselves, and a convicted offender checking in for his monthly rehabilitation monitoring meeting. A debrief afterwards from Judge Climie then helped us understand what we'd witnessed in more depth. Overall, the day gave us all a really valuable insight into the justice system and the practice of criminal law, and we're very grateful to all those at the courts who facilitated the visit and were so generous with their time and encouragement.



Geology

Students have been working hard on creating and developing their entries for the CRM-Geothermal Video Contest for 12-18 year olds from the European Federation of Geologists. In addition, Mr Neighbour has been busy preparing for next year and has recently taken delivery of resources which have been donated to the Department from Hitchens of Exeter, Lantoom Quarry and De Lank Quarry in Cornwall as well as from further afield with the London Stone Company and the Cloburn Quarry Company in Lanarkshire, Scotland! These resources will be invaluable in helping to deliver the GCSE and A level Geology courses.

Year 10 Fieldwork in Bristol

Year 10 Geographers have been enjoying fieldwork in Bristol. We had some lovely sunshine whilst exploring the impacts of regeneration around the Temple Quarter, Harbourside and Cabbot Circus area. Students carried out Environmental Quality Surveys, mood mapping and questionnaires gathering data in order to learn about the enquiry process in preparation for paper 3.



I would finally like to wish you all a pleasant and relaxing half term break and we look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming Summer Concert and meeting all our students again on **Monday 3rd June 2024.**

Yours faithfully

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

Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Torquay Girls' Grammar School

KEY DATES NEXT HALF TERM:

- Monday 3rd June – Summer Concert.
- Tuesday 4th June – Year 12 Mentoring Day.
- Thursday 13th June – Year 12 UCAS Training Day /Parents UCAS Information & Future Pathways Evening.
- Friday 14th June – Year 12 Bristol University Open Day.
- Tuesday 18th June – Year 6 Parents' Information Evening.
- Friday 21st June – PTA Prize Bingo Evening.
- Tuesday 25th June – Main School Open Evening.
- Wednesday 26th June – Year 12 Oxford Open Day visit.
- Thursday 27th June – Careers Fair.
- Friday 28th June – Sponsored Walk.
- Tuesday 2nd July – 6th Form Open Morning.
- Thursday 4th July – Year 6 Transition Day.
- Friday 5th July – Sports Day.
- Wednesday 10th July – Summer Fair.
- Thursday 11th July – Year 7-10 & 12 – Awards Evening.
- Friday 19th July – Mufti Day, House Shout and Last Day of Term.

Term Dates for Academic Year 2024/2025 – [click here.](#)

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



Away With Words

By Eloise Zaleski

Angels fly across the sky but can never fly like books
Wizards of the sky with their leather as wings,
And their tiny gold titles like halos
Yearning for an enthusiastic reader to pluck them from the sky

Waiting for a person like me.
Icons in words and protagonists on paper
Teachings of ancient leaders
Heroes and villains tied in the perfect paper twist

Where writers get their ideas from, I will never know,
Orchestrating a choir of crickets is easier than writing a compelling book
Radiant settings in dramatic lights of despair or happiness
Deep characters drawn by love, revenge or curiosity
Stunning stories will always take you away with words

