



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: DR N SMITH - MB BS

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1st September 2016

Dear Parents

I hope you are well. We very much look forward to welcoming back our returning girls, alongside our new Year 7 and Year 12 students. I hope your daughters are rested, relaxed and ready for action, just as I imagine you are ready to hand them over.

It is always a pleasure to report on exam success at TGGs, but this year it is a particular pleasure. Our girls bucked the national trend of grade deflation by producing our best performance ever at both GCSE and A Level. With a 100% pass rate they achieved 73% A*/A grades at GCSE and 83% A*-B grades at A Level. In the Telegraph league tables we were the top performing state school in the South West. More importantly, this tremendous effort meant that 96% of our Year 13 applying to University got into their first choice institution and 4% into their second. Students and staff are to be warmly congratulated. They have received a just reward for their considerable efforts.

To maintain this success a key feature of the school development plan for this year, is to embed our 'Well Beings' programme ([click here](#)). This is aimed at nurturing our girls' physical and mental fitness so they are able to cope, and ultimately thrive, with the pressures of the 21st Century. Another major preoccupation will be steering a course through the bewildering array of new governmental directives. The highlights of these include, major changes to A Level and GCSE specifications, the demise of AS Levels, a new 1-9 GCSE grading system and the new Progress 8 measure. Rest assured we will do what is in the best interests of students and staff.

At the end of term we said goodbye to eight members of staff who, collectively, had served TGGs well for 122 years. They were; Miss Blackler (1yr); Mrs Western (2); Miss Stanlake (6); Mrs Hamilton Scott (14); Mrs Seward (14); Mrs Bloor (20); Mrs Cross (27); Miss Neal (38); They were given a rousing send off and we will fondly remember Mrs Bloor singing her farewell song, probably forever. We wish them all well in the next stage of their lives.

So next week it is back to business:

- Year 7 and Year 12 are due back on Monday 5th, all other years on Tuesday 6th.
- Mr Charwood **Head of Lower School** (Years 7-9) or Mrs Colombini **Head of Upper School** (Years 10-13) will be writing to you shortly with an update from their stage of the school.
- Please, please avoid parking in the school grounds or in the bus circle (the council are still actively fining offenders) as this causes dangerous congestion.
- You will find a copy of the school calendar and key dates on the school website ([click here](#)).
- If you or your friends have a daughter who wants to join us in September 2017, our last Open Day is on Wednesday 7th September.

I wish you and your daughter(s) a happy and successful year.

Yours sincerely

Dr Nicholas Smith
Headteacher

