



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

7th December 2023

Dear Staff, Parents and Friends of TGGS,

I wanted to write to you on behalf of the Trustees in my capacity as Chair. As you will know, following an inspection at the beginning of November, Torquay Girls' Grammar School has been judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, in spite of a significant change to the criteria required to achieve this judgement. You may not be aware, but the new Ofsted framework is significantly different from the one applied in 2011 (when the school was last inspected). Staff have worked tirelessly to drive forward standards in all areas of the school to achieve this. This means that once more, TGGS has been independently assessed as providing the highest quality of education and care for your children.

We are proud to be one of a small number of schools to be graded as Outstanding. In 2022/23, Ofsted undertook 3,720 graded inspections of state-funded schools and only 7% of these were judged Outstanding ([The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23](#)). Locally since September 2019, Torquay Girls' Grammar School is the only state-funded secondary school to be judged Outstanding within Torbay, one of only two within Devon and one of only six within the South West.

As you are aware, Trustees appointed Ms Forster just over two years ago with a mandate for continued improvement in order to maintain the school's reputation gained for academic achievement over the last 100 years. Alongside this we also asked her to focus on the wider elements of education and character development such as pastoral care and extracurricular activities necessary to equip students with a 360° skillset that will help them to achieve whatever they desire when they leave us. In the space of two full academic years, Ms Forster, exceptionally well supported by a strong and united Senior Leadership Team, has led the school through necessary changes whilst also carefully managing challenges including Covid, national teacher strikes and national funding shortages. This Ofsted report outcome demonstrates that the expectations set when Ms Forster was appointed have been admirably met.

I wanted to share a comment made by the Lead Ofsted Inspector – 'this is the first time in my entire career that each fellow inspector has independently said that the lesson they witnessed was so inspiring, they wished they could go back to school'.

This is not to say that as Trustees we believe that there aren't any areas to further develop or that the school's journey of change and development is complete, but we want to recognise and celebrate this as a moment in time; and of course, to congratulate our Headteacher and



Equipping students for a future in which they have the academic qualifications, character skills and high self-esteem to make decisions that lead to long, happy and content lives.

the Senior Leadership Team for the exceptional leadership and teamwork they have shown in getting us to this point, as well as the entire staff team for the unbelievable work they do each and every day which does not go unnoticed.

We will never stop trying to improve but wanted to publicly share our thanks and recognition to Ms Forster and her whole team for the exceptional progress that the school continues to make and the positive impact that this has on our students. As Trustees, we will go back to being a critical friend tomorrow, but for now we would like to send our very well-deserved congratulations to the entire TGGs community.

On behalf of all Trustees,

Louisa Brown
Chair

James Arnold
Vice Chair