



28th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for your continued support of the school. Please see below some highlights from this term.

Modern Foreign Languages Competition

A team of students from Years 8 - 12 recently took part in the Southwest Modern Languages Speaking Competition at Pilton Community College in North Devon. Competing in either their native language or the language that they are learning at school, the students had to present to a crowd on a range of different topics. We had students competing in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Mandarin and talking on topics ranging from 'my hometown' to 'my dream for the future'. All our students did a fantastic job. Standing up on stage presenting to a crowd in English is daunting enough but doing it in another language is something to be very proud of!



Particular well done to Rhiannon Arnold (Year 12) and Emily Feasey (Year 9) who won their categories and to Iria Cortes Conde (Year 9), Erin Dawkins (Year 11) and Tiffany Tai (Year 11) who were runners up in theirs.

Maths Feast 2024

Jess Jiang, Ruth Hu, Alexi Sellar and Alice Taylor in Year 10 participated in the Maths Feast competition at the Met office this half term.

They competed against 7 other schools across the southwest in 4 rounds of questions which tested both their problem solving and teamwork skills. Each round was out of 25 and were all different and varied from cross-numbers to constructing 3D shapes from card. Overall, they achieved 90/100 which meant that they were the highest scoring school on the day!



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

Supporting Rowcroft Hospice

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

Eco News

We have been successful in obtaining help from Southwest Water Business. This month they installed devices to reduce our water usage.

The Woodland Trust has kindly donated over 300 hedge and tree saplings for our eco greening project. This will form a wildlife corridor across the site, not just increasing our biodiversity but helping to reduce the neighbouring fragmentation of habitats that urban living brings. The eco group has applied for a grant from Kew Gardens to buy wildflower seeds and signage to help create bee deli cafes.



Funds from last year's sponsored walk have been put to good use, providing 11 new recycled benches from Devon Contract Waste. These will give more seating areas for students around the site to enjoy the fabulous summer we are going to have. DCW Polymers use your rigid plastic from recycling collections and from beach cleans to produce these. So, 1,276 kg of your plastic rubbish is now at the school, just in a different shape. Recycling does work.

A Level Religious Studies Students Visit to Exeter University

In February, the Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Department took a group of A-Level Religious Studies students to Exeter University for a series of relevant lectures and a tour of the campus.

Year 12 students got to experience a real taste of university life, with lectures from several of the University's professors.

Dr Sam Wilkinson (Senior lecturer in Philosophy) delivered two lectures: Philosophy and Mental Health, and Philosophy and Social Media. Professor Christopher Southgate lectured on the problem of evil and Christian theodicy: How could a good God create nature so red in tooth and claw? We also heard from Professor Susannah Cornwall on Utilitarianism and Sexual Ethics. Students were able to make links to their Religious Studies A-Level course, where they study applied ethics and the philosophy of religion as two of the three components.



The campus was leafy green and buzzing with energy and our students all agreed it was a valuable learning experience!

Borneo Expedition 2025

Seventeen of our students have taken up the exciting opportunity to participate in a 3-week expedition to the fabulous island of Borneo next summer.

The itinerary that we have planned is one big, brilliant adventure offering a balance of physical challenges, jungle experience, wildlife spotting, community work, city exploration and a bit of well-deserved beach relaxation at the end! As well as experiencing adventurous travel abroad, the expedition will also allow students to develop personal confidence and

leadership skills, encourage teamwork, teach personal time management, financial awareness and resourcefulness; all vital skills to carry into life.



The students are busy fundraising for their trip, and we hope you look forward to all of the photos next summer!

Our Talented Musicians

We have had a very busy term in the Music Department!

We welcomed Devon Baroque to deliver a workshop and invited players from TGGs and TBGS to play alongside them. We learned a lot about the Baroque era, and we experienced traditional instruments in the flesh (the harpsichord and theorbo were particularly exciting!)

GCSE Musicians had the exciting opportunity to hear live performances and analysis of their set works, performed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO). Our Year 10 cohort workshopped a melodic idea that we submitted to the orchestra. They then demonstrated a live composition where their melody was developed into a full piece - it was so exciting to hear it come to life, being played by professional musicians! Hannah Spear in Year 12 had the amazing experience of playing alongside the BSO at their Plymouth event! As a very accomplished flautist, she absolutely rose to the challenge. Well done, Hannah!



TGGs Choir, Orchestra and Reeds Ensemble are celebrating success after fabulous performances at Torbay Music Festival. They had wonderful feedback from the adjudicator (the choir sounded 'effortless' and were awarded with a Distinction!) and we brought home 3 shiny trophies!

A Celebration of Gymnastics and Dance Evening

On Thursday 14th March, over 50 hardworking gymnasts and dancers got to reap the rewards of a term and a half of hard work by absolutely shining on stage. This was an opportunity for all students to experience performing in front of an audience in a relaxed and encouraging environment. This was a chance for parents, families, and friends to see live the progress our students have been making in class and at club.

Act 1 started with gymnasts who rolled, flipped, and somersaulted their way through the first 30 minutes. There were individual, pair and group pieces as well as gravity defying acrobatics.

After a short break, it was the turn of the dancers. For the remaining 30 minutes, the audience were treated to many genres of dance such as street, contemporary and ending with a Year 9 student performing a beautiful ballet piece en pointe. The show was completed with an upbeat finale where all performers took their well-deserved bow.



Sixth Form Societies

Sixth Form societies have been very busy this half of term, with well attended meetings by visiting speakers in the Study Centre every week. MedSoc have enjoyed hearing from Danielle Edge of Plymouth University about nursing, and Dr James Puryer of Bristol University Dental School gave a sample lecture to a very well attended meeting recently. At the time of writing we are looking forward to welcoming Mr Nathaniel Ahearne, a surgeon from Torbay Hospital to speak about that side of Medicine.

LawSoc have welcomed Kate Barton, a family law solicitor who is the managing partner of a Plymouth law firm, as well as Victoria Latham, a commercial law solicitor who particularly explored legal career pathways. LawSoc are also looking forward to a visit to Exeter Courts in early May. And the Politics ambassadors have continued their series of meetings with local party candidates in the build up to the General Election, with Anthony Mangnall, Conservative MP for Totnes speaking to a packed audience about his role and his views on Britain's place in the world since Brexit.

We are grateful to all our visiting speakers and proud of the MedSoc, LawSoc and Politics teams for their dynamism and organisational skills in securing all these meetings, which are always open to students from Year 10 and upwards.

TGGS SWAT Ambassadors (Sout West Academic Trust)

On Friday 1st March our TGGS SWAT ambassador team went to Parkstone Grammar School to spend the day doing a wide range of fun challenges. They tried (and failed) to get the fastest time on block puzzles, attempted to make a ramp for a toy car out of cards and tape, then escaped from a virtual reality escape room! They also made and presented a Lego animation—ours was heavily inspired by the music artist Drake. At the end of the day they went home with their winnings (a box of celebrations), although at the SWAT challenge cup in June they plan to win much more!



Year 12 Geographers visit Lake District and Manchester

Our Year 12 Geographers have just returned from an action-packed fieldtrip to The Lake District and Manchester. Students arrived at Blencathra Field Studies centre on Sunday evening and awoke to breathtaking views of the snow-capped peaks of the Lake District mountains Helvellyn and Scafell Pike. After a short classroom session introducing the physical geography of the Lake District, students then walked from Grasmere to Easedale Corrie, gaining experience identifying the glacial features they've been learning about in school as well as collecting data showing evidence of glacial processes. We managed even to find time to purchase some of the famous Grasmere gingerbread. In the evening students learnt how to use GIS mapping to present the data collected, learning useful techniques which will help them when writing their own NEAs. The second day was spent learning techniques for human fieldwork in Keswick. Students were in good spirits despite the very drizzly weather and were praised for their great work ethic by the instructor.

Students had an early start on Wednesday, catching the train back to Manchester where students had a tour of Manchester University and met with student ambassadors. This was followed by a delicious evening meal in Zizzi's. For the final day students carried out some very wet fieldwork exploring changing places in an area of Manchester previously dominated by the cotton industry before setting off on the long journey home.



Bikeability

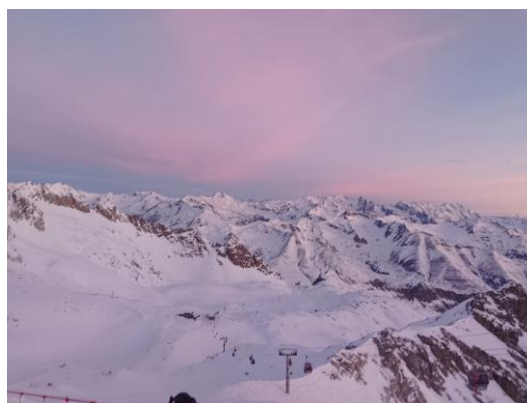
This term 15 students from Year 7 have completed their Level 2 training with another 12 having completed their Level 3 training. Level 3 training allows the students to learn more advanced skills including riding on and negotiating more complex roads, riding next to other cyclists as well as learning the best riding position for any situation. Next term, we look forward to many more Year 7 students passing their Level 3 course.

Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau

On Wednesday 6th of March 6 Year 12 students travelled for a one-day trip to Poland to visit the concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. They travelled from Exeter Airport to Krakow and headed straight to visit the Jewish town Oświęcim, where they learnt about Jewish culture before heading to the camps. The students visited Auschwitz 1, to see the memorials created and then travelled to Auschwitz 2, (Birkenau) where they explored the mass extermination camp. It was a very long emotional day but such a valuable experience for the 6 students to undertake.

Ski Trip 2024

During February half term 44 students from Years 10 and 11 plus six staff took to the slopes in Passo Tonale, Italy. It was a fantastic week with all the students progressing well with their skiing. Ski lessons during the day were matched with après ski activities that included ice skating, bum-boarding, a hot chocolate and ice-cream treat, visiting the local shops plus a quiz night, a bingo evening and a film night.



The weather was superb during the week with plenty of snow to ski on and sunny days. The hotel provided great food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One of the highlights of the trip was going to the top of the glacier (3000m) to watch the sunrise on the last morning.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this newsletter. We hope you find the dates below a useful reminder of what's coming up next half term.

We wish you and all your family a peaceful Easter break.

Yours faithfully

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

Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Torquay Girls' Grammar School

KEY DATES NEXT HALF TERM:

- Monday 15th April 2024 – First day of the Summer Term.
- Wednesday 17th April 2024 – Year 10 – Parents' Evening.
- Tuesday 23rd April 2024 - Year 10 & 11 – DTP Vaccinations.
- Thursday 25th April 2024 – Year 13 – Immersion Day & Year 7&8 Junior Maths Challenge.
- Friday 3rd May 2024 – Cultural Diversity Day Celebration.
- Monday 6th May 2024 – BANK HOLIDAY.
- Wednesday 8th May 2024 – Year 11 last day and Year 13 Dartington Leavers Event.
- Thursday 9th May 2024 – Year 13 Final Day.
- Thursday 23rd May 2024 – House Music Competition.
- Friday 24th May 2024 – Mufti Day.

Academic year 2024-2025 term dates can be found [here](#).

Don't forget our **Main School Open Evening is taking place on Tuesday 25th June, 6:30-8:30pm.** Booking is not required – just turn up!