

# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

St Ives Trip 2022

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. It has been an absolute pleasure to meet our students again after the long summer break and getting to know all the new faces around school.

Our students have had a very busy first half term and it is a real pleasure to be able to share with you all that they have accomplished via this newsletter. Underpinning all their achievements are our VISION and VALUES. Your daughters have really demonstrated their commitment to supporting the ethos of our school in all they do.

### News from the Student Council



#### Student Voice

Our new TGGs Student Council is up and running for 2022-23, with a brand new team of enthusiastic reps and deputies. Their job is to ensure that student voice is heard and has a real impact on the culture of our school for the people whose experience matters most: TGGs students. The new Student Council has already met this half-term to discuss their roles and responsibilities and they are looking forward to their first full council meeting, which will take place in the week after half-term. Currently, they are busy talking to their form groups about any issues or ideas they would like to bring forward to build on last year's 'Student Wins', which have included: creating a brand new TGGs library (more details below); Y11s having social time with TBGS on the paddock; wearing shorts in the summer term; getting rid of uniform in the Sixth Form and more social events with TBGS.

#### The Library

Our exciting new library space is nearly ready! Over the last few weeks, we've added some comfy furniture to the growing stock of brand new fiction that students requested in the whole-school summer survey. Student voice told us (loud and clear!) that people wanted plenty of space to read and relax in to make the library feel like a home-from-home. So, we've installed some comfy sofas along with coffee tables and larger round tables/chairs for when students need to do some work rather than curl-up with a book.

Probably the most important part of the plan to create a fantastic new library has been to get the best possible person in role as our new Learning Resources Supervisor. We have been looking for someone creative and dynamic to make the library a fantastic place to be! Also, that person needs great communication and people skills - a friendly face who will welcome everyone into the library and who will continue to work with you to develop it into the space our students want it to be. We've had lots of applications for the post and are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Learning Resources Supervisor to TGGs in the weeks following October half-term.

## The Joint Council

The Student Councils of TGGs and TBGS joined forces in September for the first of their Joint Council meetings this year. Reps from both schools worked together to discuss ways in which they could collaborate to make students' experience even better through curriculum, charity events and, of course, the all-important socials and fun trips. Plans for the joint Year 11 Prom was high up on the agenda, alongside ideas for a shared Activities Week/trips in the summer term, charity netball and football matches with mixed teams and a joint music festival at the end of the year.

## Extra-Curricular

The PE department hit the ground running this term with clubs available every lunchtime ranging from gym, dance, hockey, netball, football and badminton for years 7 to 13! There have been many hockey and netball matches since the start of term with some excellent performances in both sports. In hockey the U16's were placed 3rd in Devon, a great achievement, and the U14's and U13's will compete in the Devon round after half term.

In netball, our U16's qualified to go through to the Devon round in November, winning 5 out of their 6 matches. Our U18 team won all their matches and are currently the top team in South Devon and will compete in the Devon county round after half term. Congratulations to all our teams, we are very proud of you.





## Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Forum



TGGS Religion, Philosophy & Ethics department, in collaboration with the Philosophy & Applied Ethics department at TBGS, were delighted to host over 120 students from both schools at the 2nd Forum After Hours event on 11th October. The aim of these events is to give students from both schools an opportunity to socialise together and reflect on topical issues. After some time to chat over nibbles and a quiz, students were treated to a lecture on the philosophy of social media by Dr Sam Wilkinson from Exeter University. Staff and Dr Wilkinson were really impressed by the engagement and

contributions of students during the lecture. The feedback from all students was really positive. They all really enjoyed the event together.

## The Macmillan Bake sale raised £327.85 !!



Our students continue to impress us with their ongoing commitment to wider social causes. This half term, Sixth Form students baked cakes for the Macmillan coffee morning - see pictures above.



We held a Dress Day Down to support World Mental Health Day which raised £502.00 for local mental health services.



## Aquarium Visit



On 12th October, Challenge Day 1, 157 Year 9 students and 11 staff took the short coach journey to the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth. The Art Department having been running a trip to this venue for close to 20 years. A myriad of colour, pattern, shape, form, texture and so on are on display from the various aquatic animals and plants - perfect for aspiring art students. This year, as the trip coincided with StemFest, pupils were lucky enough to get to try a variety of workshops, including Creative Writing and Visual Art, Physical Theatre and Crafts and Creative movement, as well as the usual Observational Drawing Tour.



Although the day was very 'full-on', the students responded fantastically to the challenges laid before them and behaved excellently throughout the day - the aquarium staff personally thanked me for this.

There was also the additional excitement of some pupils being filmed and possibly featuring in a BBC2 Series 'Secrets of the Aquarium' to be aired in 2023.

The pupils now have an extended period of time through to Christmas to put together a 'Visual Diary' in response to the trip. This will particularly serve well the students contemplating taking on GCSE Art, Craft and Design next year.

I would like to formally thank the whole of Year 9 for their exemplary behaviour and the 11 staff who kindly gave up their day to support this venture and without whom it could not happen at all.

Mr S. D. Smedley (Head of Art, Craft and Design)



A huge thank-you from TGGs to Arabella (year 8), Charlotte (year 10) and the rest of the Greenwood family for their kind and generous donation of cereals, juices, and cordials which will be thoroughly enjoyed by our students who use the out-of-hours study centre in the mornings! There's no excuse for not having your breakfast now!

## A very kind donation!





Calla Banner, Year 8, has been attending our lunchtime Knitting Club since year 7 and deserves a special mention for this wonderful collection of crocheted creations! Well done Calla on inspiring others with your creativity! These are simply adorable!

Thankyou also to Daisy Sandbrook, year 10, and family for their kind donation of wool and knitting needles which are greatly appreciated.

### Leadership Training Programme Year 7-11 Student Leaders



Over the last few weeks our lower school Student Leaders have taken part in a Leadership Training Programme to help prepare them for their positions of responsibility (this could include form captain, school council representatives etc). Taking part in group activities, students were able reflect on what it means to be an effective leader while also developing their own leadership skills. On completion of the training, all students were provided with a handbook that includes guidance on how to be the most effective TGGS Student Leader as well a leadership certificate. Overall, the students had a lot of fun (and a lot of sweets!) and we look forward to watching them further develop their leadership skills throughout their time at TGGS.



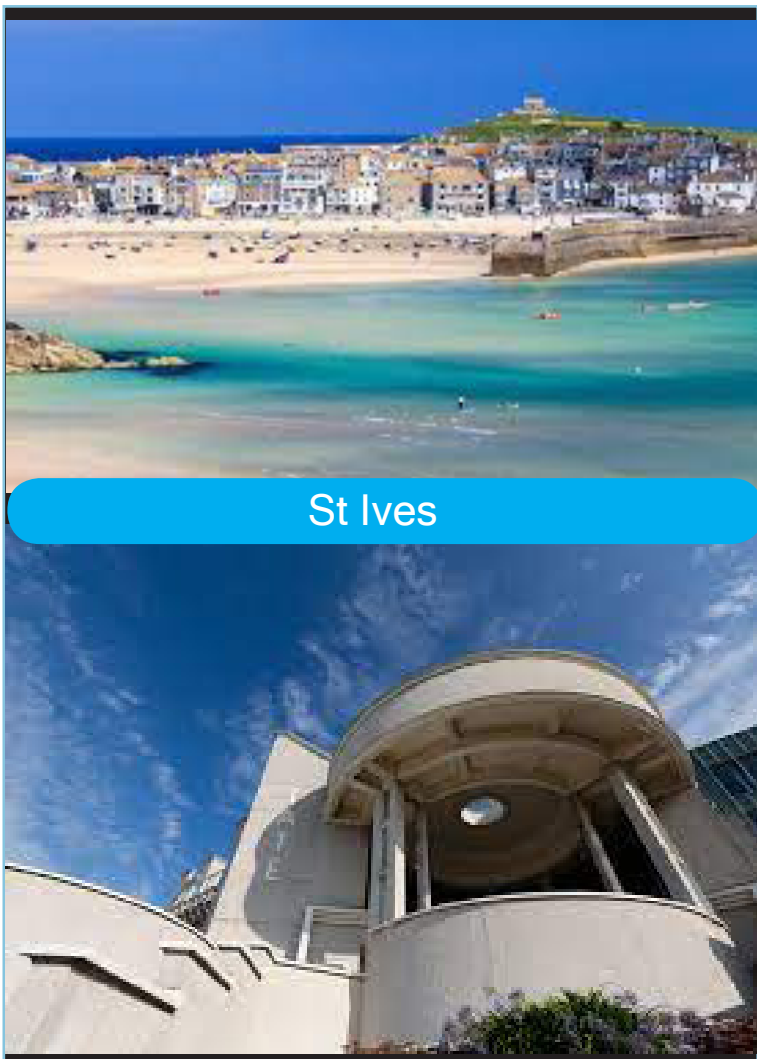
On Friday 14 October Miss Malone, Mr Smedley and Miss Austin took 35 keen Year 10 art students to St Ives to visit the Tate Gallery and the Barbara Hepworth Museum as part of their course work

Despite the threat of rain all went well, as the sun always shines on St Ives! It was a great opportunity for the students as it was the first time many of them had visited St Ives or been to a gallery.

The students saw work from such artists as Picasso, Henry Moore, Patrick Heron and Ben Nicholson, amongst many others. They were particularly impressed with the Hepworth Museum, which was the sculptor's home, her studio and the venue for a large collection of her work.

The trip was beneficial as it enabled the students to see the landscape and environment which influenced many of the 20th century St Ives Modernist artists.

It was a fantastic day with students producing lots of great drawing of the art on display and of the environment, as well as capturing the essence of the day photographically.



St Ives

## Year 12 Induction Day at River Dart Country Park

Our new Year 12 students spent a day of team building at the River Dart Country Park as part of their induction to sixth form; building a community, developing friendships and personal resilience. Despite the rainy conditions, they had fun climbing on the high ropes, zooming down the mega zip-wire, bouldering and working as teams on a range of activities, such as building a Fred Flinstone car and completing an assault course. They encouraged and supported each other throughout the day and it was fantastic to see both the leadership skills and camaraderie amongst the group, which has continued to flourish this first half term in sixth form.





## We welcome the return to Face to Face Evenings

It has been really lovely to welcome back parents into our school for face-to-face information evenings. Year 11 parents were invited to an evening which provided information about revision skills to support success at GCSE, wellbeing provision and pastoral support and post 16 future pathways. The Year 10 evening focused upon Year 10 identical to 11 except work experience was added.

## Online Safety Evening



The school held a parental Online Safety Evening on the 12th October. Mrs Wilkinson, Ms Saunders and Mr Neighbour delivered key information on how parents can support their child to stay safe online. Parents who attended the evening fed back that it was very useful and helped them become more aware to the potential risks children face online and how they can monitor it. As a result of this feedback, Mrs Wilkinson is intending to repeat this evening before Christmas and details regarding this will be shared at a later date.



## Harvest Festival

Contributions to the annual Harvest Festival have been very impressive during a time of financial difficulty for many families, with food donations going to Torbay Community Food Larder which is part of the Torbay Food Alliance.



"A haven of inspired, structured academic provision... supported by a nurturing and enlightened pastoral approach and a wealth of opportunities. Girls leave with the belief that everything is attainable." - GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE 2022



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.