



# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: DR N SMITH - MB BS

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16<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Key Stage 3 (KS3) Parents

I very much hope that you and your daughter(s) have had a great summer holiday, and that the start of the new academic year has been a time of some excitement and minimal stress in your household! I teach all Year 8 and Year 9 students our 'PPP' Learning Skills Course and certainly, without exception, each of my classes have begun the term positively and enthusiastically. My **Heads of Year Mrs Gale (Year 9), Mrs Seville (Year 8) and Ms Saunders (Year 7)** are also very pleased with the start their students have made. All girls in the Lower School are now wearing our new school uniform and are looking very smart indeed; I ask for your support please in helping us to maintain these high standards.

My brief as Head of Lower School is to work with my colleagues to do our best to ensure that:

- all KS3 students will look forward to coming to school each day, knowing that they will have fun; be happy, safe and supported; spend time with good friends and be both challenged by, and interested in, what they learn;
- every student should feel that their hopes and dreams will be encouraged, and in the Lower School they will begin to develop the personal qualities and skills that will enable them to achieve their aspirations;
- all girls should begin Year 10 mentally and physically fit for the challenges of Key Stage 4.

Crucial to these aims are the development of the students' **learning skills**, and as I mentioned above all Year 8 and Year 9 students follow a two year course with me which seeks to enhance these further. All parents of Year 8 or Year 9 students should have recently received a letter about this course from their daughter(s), and I attach these for your further convenience and for the information of Year 7 parents. You will see that the Year 9 course includes a substantial (Mindfulness) '**Well Beings**' component which Dr Smith referred to in his recent letter to you.

We are constantly evaluating all aspects of the education we provide for our students, and welcome feedback regarding your daughter's experience at school. There are several ways in which you can do this; Parents' Evenings; Information Evenings and a **Lower School Parents' Clinic** held each half-term. At the **Lower School Parents' Clinic** you are invited to come in to talk to me about any aspect of the school or your daughter's experience of it. If there is a topic you would like to discuss, be it a suggestion for improvement, clarification of procedures, or an issue specific to your daughter then please feel free to book a session with me. This term's sessions will be: **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 11am-1pm** and **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 1.30pm-3.30pm**. Twenty minute appointments can be made by emailing my PA, Mrs Marian Batt on [mbatt@tggsacademy.org](mailto:mbatt@tggsacademy.org). Please can you provide details of the topics that you would like to discuss, and if possible some alternative times on these days when it would be convenient for you to come into school.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

*Chris Charlwood*

**Deputy Headteacher – Lower School**

## Useful Dates for your diary

- Please note that Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October is a non-pupil day
- Half-term is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

