



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

22nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you today to share with you some of the events that have taken place since the start of term and recent information regarding COVID-19. I have now formally introduced myself to all students via assemblies with each year group in which I have shared the vision for the school going forward:

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

In these assemblies they have heard from our Designated Safeguarding Lead Ms Bucklar and our lead on sexual violence and sexual harassment Ms Browne. The key message to all students was that we know that sexual harassment takes place and that we as a school want to support students who experience this and use our voice to make a difference for this generation and future generations of young people.

On Friday evening I met with Mr Kevin Foster MP, in which I urged that more needs to be done outside of schools to reduce the occurrence of sexual harassment in the workplace. Listening to feedback from our Sixth Form students this work needs to focus on the industries in which many young people participate in part time work while they are studying.

The message to all students is clear. Sexual violence and sexual harassment sadly does happen and if it does, as a school, we will listen and support. There is a section in the school planner that signposts this support as a reminder for all students.

We were also delighted to invite former pupils Ellie and Lucy into school for assemblies with Year 7 – Year 12 for an 'In conversation with.....'. They talked with Mr Charlwood about the challenges they have overcome in achieving their goals of attending Oxford and Cambridge. Their take home message was that there are several routes to success, the pathway is not always one that is planned and that being prepared to seek and accept advice and support is a key life skill. They also shared their fond memories of TGGs and the joys that come from knitting.

My joy since the start of term has come from meeting the students in and around the school at break and lunch time and those corridor conversations. They tell me that they are really enjoying being back in school and being in the classroom with their teachers.

The fruit and vegetable patch have expanded significantly during lockdown thanks to the hard work of Dr Nigel Coles resulting in plenty of harvest for our food technology department to use. This week I supported a proposal from Y8 students to create more spaces for bees by the introduction of bee loving plants on school site.

In sport we must pass on a huge congratulations to Georgina Scoot who competed as part of the three girl Senior Devon Schools team at the weekend in Bedford in the national heptathlon championships. The Devon girls won the national title and set a British record at the same time which is an amazing success given the limited chances to train across all 7 events over the last year! Georgie scored an overall personal best score and personal bests in three events – amazing!

Finally, from me I wanted to let you all know that the Heads of Year have lots of spare uniform in their offices. If you are experiencing any difficulties in this area and your child needs uniform items, please do not hesitate in getting in touch with your Head of Year.

COVID-19 Update:

As you know, following the change in guidelines from 16th August, children under 18 years and 6 months and adults who have been double vaccinated for over 14 days since last exposure to a confirmed case no longer need to isolate if they have been identified as a close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Any adult who has not received both doses of the vaccination will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace required to isolate and asked to take a laboratory confirmed PCR test.

If you child tests positive on a lateral flow test or PCR test you must let us know by either emailing emergency@TGGSacademy.org or phoning 01803 613215 and your child must isolate at home.

The advice from Public Health is changing in response to the evolving situation therefore I wanted to provide some further clarity. One of the changes is that we will no longer inform you of single confirmed cases on Covid-19. **Instead we will inform all parents when a government defined 'threshold' has been reached or if there is another reason that we need to communicate with all parents.** These letters will be written in conjunction with Torbay Public Health and are called '**Warn and Inform**' letters. At the point of writing, we will also be communicating to you any changes that we will be making within school to manage any potential transmission in line with our 'Outbreak Management Plan.'

A threshold is defined by the government as:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely and test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely and test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

I understand that this new way of communicating COVID cases within school may make you feel nervous, but please be reassured we are following advice from Public Health and using the government's new guidance to manage COVID within school. If we need you to take action, we will inform you.

When does my child need to stay away from school? Please refer to the diagram over the page.

Thank-you for your ongoing support and working with us to keep our community as safe as possible.

Best wishes

Ms Sarah Forster BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH
Headteacher
Torquay Girls' Grammar School

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



NO

- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.
- Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test, NOT a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.
- If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.