



TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MS S FORSTER | FOUNDED 1915 | ACADEMY TRUST

14th March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the lighter evenings now stretch out before us and the Summer Term is nearly upon us, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on some of the exciting events that have taken place at TGGs this term.

UPDATE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

This term we sadly thanked one of our valued Trustees, Mrs Fancisca Fung for her years of dedication and service to the school as a volunteer Trustee. She resigned from her role on 18th February 2022 after more than four years' service. Please see below the updated full list of Trustees. We have warmly welcomed all new members who have already shown dedication to the school:

- Mrs Sally Timmins (Chair of Trustees)
- Mrs Suzanne Wright (Vice Chairman)
- Mrs Penny Bailey
- Mr Lee Vallance
- Mr Stewart Biddles
- Ms Mary Twomey
- Mr James Stock
- Mrs Josie Medforth (Clerk to the Trust Board)

TEEN LIFE PROGRAMME

Following a successful bid with the Sheila Coates Foundation in the summer of 2021 the SEND department has been able to further enhance their autism provision at TGGs. Some of the funding went towards training for our ASD Lead Mrs Silvia Stones and her colleague Mrs Antje Jaeger to become licensed users for the National Autistic Society's Teen Life Programme. As a result of this the SEND department have hosted their first Teen Life Programme during the first half term of this spring term. A number of parents have now benefitted from the 6 week-long course to deepen parents' understanding of the impact of Autism during the teenage years. Staff involved found it beneficial to be able to meet face to face for a 2 ½ hour session each week and the feedback received has been very positive. A second run of the programme is already under way; this time on Thursday afternoons. Any parents of a teenager with Autism or expected diagnosis interested in attending the Teen Life Programme in future can email Silvia Stones (sstones@tggsacademy.com) for more information.

OUTREACH ACROSS THE OCEAN

On the 19th of January, over 40 students from across the school had the opportunity to speak with the outreach officers and scientists from the JOIDES Resolution - the JOIDES Resolution (JR) is a research vessel that drills into the ocean floor to collect and study core samples. Scientists use data from the JR to better understand climate change, geology and Earth's history. This really brings alive to our fantastic students the importance of the science they study in their Geology lessons!



Find out more here - [JOIDES Resolution - Science in Search of Earth's Secrets](#)

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Chemistry - Year 12 and 13 students have taken part in the prestigious and challenging Chemistry Olympiad - The competition is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their thinking and problem solving skills, and to test their existing knowledge of chemistry in real-world situations. This year, the students attempted questions on different topics including the chemistry of nitrous oxide, a propellant in whipped cream, a question about coronavirus testing and storing of vaccines. The papers have been marked and the scores submitted. We will get the results in March. Well done everyone that took part!

DEBATING SOCIETY

TGGS Debating Society continues to flourish, with Sixth form debates nearly every Thursday on a wide range of topics from "No Confidence in the Government" to "Quotas for Women in Parliament" and "Ending Online Anonymity". Over 30 different students have now delivered 5 minute main-speeches. Meanwhile we have been very successful in two national competitions. After winning through two virtual preliminary rounds, our team of Lisa Hoerning, Alice Thompson and Maya Gyosheva compete in the South-West Final of the ESU Schools Mace on 28th February, debating for a place in the England Final. On 7th February three of our teams competed virtually in the SW Regional round of the Oxford Union Schools Competition, alongside 45 teams from 25 other schools. After everybody had had two debates, 7 teams broke to Finals Day, 2 of which were from TGGS (the only school to break two teams)! Maya Gyosheva, Elle Clarkson, Grace Brown and Stacy Glover now go to the Oxford Union on 12th March to compete in the Finals.

SWAT CHALLENGE

On Friday 11th February the newly appointed SWAT Challenge Ambassadors Team were invited to take part in a challenge day at Parkstone Grammar School in Poole. SWAT is the South West Academic Trust - a collaboration of eight schools in the south of England.

The day gave our team the opportunity to get to know each other, meet the teams of ambassadors from other schools, visit a school different to our own and really test to the limit their skills in teamwork, problem-solving, presentation, collaboration, working under pressure within time limits and using their initiative. Our students did really well and gained a lot from the experience. There was also a motivational presentation by the ex GB netball captain and now BBC pundit Pamela Cookey, who afterwards stayed to meet everyone and chat to all our students, answering their questions individually.



TORQUAY OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION (TOGA)

On Thursday 7th March we were visited by Mrs Janet Pottinger (Chairperson) and Mrs Alison Morgan (Treasurer) of TOGA. Ms Forster met with them to discuss their recent donation to the school which will fund a new planting scheme in the triangle, and to look over the plans for this. There was also a very positive discussion about how we can help to improve TOGA's profile amongst our students as well as our alumnae. We hope to be able to introduce the new plants & trees to the triangle as soon as the weather improves!

Yours faithfully

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

