



19 October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been a fantastic first half term with so many activities happening around school. This newsletter is designed to share with you a few of the highlights.

Our whole school focus has been .....**EVERY INTERACTION COUNTS**. Both staff and students have been asked to model this. It is about each and everyone one of use taking responsibility for the way we interact and communicate with each other and the impact our behaviours and language can have on those around us, both positively and negatively. I have been so proud of the way your daughter(s) have excelled in modelling this and for the kindness shown to all.

### History trip to Berlin

After a very early start and a long journey up to London on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, Year 12 and 13 History and German students made it to Berlin. They had 5 days of activities planned that complimented their History and German studies. Saturday, they spent part of their afternoon relaxing on a boat cruise on the river Spree, reflecting at the Memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe, before finishing their evening at the Brandenburg Gate.



### Kevin Foster MP visit

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Year 12 & 13 Politics students welcomed Mr Kevin Foster MP for Torbay into school. Mr Foster spoke about his way into politics, what influenced him to join the Conservative Party, how politics works in the UK and then took a Q&A session from students on topics including the Net Zero Emissions Policy, buildings in Torbay and what constitutes an effective campaign. Ms Forster challenged him on further action to reduce sexual harassment in Torbay.

### Black History Month

It is Black History Month and along with a presentation delivered to all students in Tutor time our amazing new Year 7 students have chosen the books and put together a display for the library.



### Open Evening

Last week we hosted an Open Evening which saw a packed Dining Hall, vibrant atmosphere and lots of inquisitive primary children taking part in experiments, eagerly looking at animal organs in Biology, finding out more about how our Spanish, French & German lessons, attempting to navigate at the Ten Tors/DoE stand and trying their luck at quizzes and win prizes!



We are more popular than ever with lots of families attending one our 8 school tours which take place during the school day. The feedback from parents and students was 5\* and it is with thanks to our amazing staff and students, across all year groups, that we are able to hold these events.

### **Year 11 Geographers visited Dawlish Warren**

Our Year 11 geography students visited Dawlish Warren at the start of October to carry out fieldwork investigating the coastal processes. We had a great day in the sunshine and the students were an absolute delight although the seagulls were a different matter, they tried to steal the dog biscuits we were using to measure longshore drift! Students worked hard collecting data and learning techniques for their Paper 3 exams.



### **Year 13 History & Politics trip to London**

On the 21st and 22nd September, Year 13 History and Politics students took a trip to London to see some sights relevant to their A Level courses. After a very early start (and an academically enriching coach journey watching 20th Century Fox's Anastasia), they arrived at Westminster Abbey where they saw the tombs of monarchs they've studied, such as Henry VII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, as well as memorials of other well-known figures like William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and Stephen Hawking.



They spent the afternoon on a guided tour around the Houses

of Parliament, where they met Lord Cashman, founding chair of Stonewall and prominent LGBT rights campaigner. Later they were able to watch a live House of Lords debate and stood in the House of Commons. They then met with former TGGs student Olivia Cairns, before taking part in a workshop on political pressure groups. Day 1 ended with dinner in Central London and watching a fantastic performance of Hamilton, a musical about the American Revolutionary War.

The next day, the students had free time on Oxford Street, and some students visited 'Gay's the Word'

bookshop with Ms North for their LGBT history coursework. The

group then took a guided tour around the impressive Hampton Court Palace, once home to Cardinal Wolsey, one of Henry VIII's Lord Chancellors, and later Henry himself. The trip ended with excitement as they bumped into Geri Halliwell, better known as Ginger Spice, as she was filming promotion for her new book about Anne Boleyn.



### Kindness is valued at school

Over the last 2 weeks 5 students from each of Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been nominated where they have displayed **kindness** at school. These students took part in a special celebration during breaktime where they joined Ms Foster in the Sixth Form Café. With a friend to accompany them, they choose a drink, a snack and were congratulated on holding the high standards at TGGs.



### TGGs Wins an Award for Careers Education

TGGs was awarded 100% for the Gatsby Benchmark – [click here](#) to find out more. The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework for School Leaders, Headteachers and Careers Advisors to assess the development of their pupils in employability skills. They also help students track their own progress and identify areas in which they need to continue developing their skills.

### Matilda

The Whole School Production in October this year was Matilda Jr. This is the first time in 5 years that we have been able to put on such a large performance. From auditions to first night has only taken 6 weeks during which great community spirit has been shown by both students and staff around school. We even had 5 Year 7 students taking part.

Matilda tells the story of a young girl who is brilliant, resilient, creative and kind, despite growing up in difficult circumstances. Her parents treat her poorly and she has a cruel headmistress but Matilda escapes into a world of books. The production follows Matilda's journey as she used her wit and powers to overcome adversity and protect her kind-hearted teacher, Miss Honey. This story of power, knowledge, courage and justice!



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The show was performed over three nights and students from Sherwell Valley Primary and Year 7s were invited in to watch the dress rehearsal. Students, from Years 7 through to 13, performed with incredible confidence, enthusiasm, energy and humour, keeping the audience gripped and entertained throughout!

### Macmillian Coffee

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students hosted the [Macmillian charity](#) cake fundraising sale, during morning break. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form students baked some amazing creations for the occasion. Pumpkin cake pops, spooky cup cakes and ghoulishly green frosted muffins were all up for grabs.



Well done to all who volunteered their time and baked for this very worthy cause. Their efforts raised a total of £144.75.

### Guest Speaker – TGGs Student at Oxford University

Staff who work at TGGs are always so happy when they hear about the success stories of past students who have achieved their goals and following their dreams.

Recently, an ex-student, Maddie Dale, returned to school to deliver an inspiring assembly to our Key Stage 4 students about her journey since leaving TGGs. She is about to graduate from Oxford as a doctor, hoping to specialise in Psychiatry.

### Year 7 Concert

Contrary to popular Friday 13<sup>th</sup> superstitions, 7J had plenty of good luck on their side this half term, when they absolutely stunned the staff judges with their rendition of Pompeii by Bastille for the Year 7 Concert! For the first time on their House Culture journey, Year 7 donned their house colours and performed a class song that they had been rehearsing in their music lessons. We love to learn music 'musically' and singing plays such an important role in this, as well as promoting self-esteem and strong collaboration skills. The students all contributed to their class songs by choreographing actions and adapting the structure to showcase their skills and to add interest to the performances. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and the students demonstrated true kindness and support to each other through their passionate cheering for each class. Well done Year 7!



### Sports Awards Celebrations

The first ever TGGs Sports / Physical Activity Awards Evening took part on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Nearly 200 students were awarded for their commitment and achievement in school sporting activities. The following students achieved the Outstanding contribution award: Estelle Roots for Athletics | Charlotte Greenwood for both Cricket and Rounders | Charlotte Bruce for Dance and Hockey | Grace Clark for Football | Mia Choules for Gymnastics | and Isabel Baker not only achieved the award for Outstanding Netball but also the Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Variety of School Sports. Isabel has represented the school in football, cross country, athletics, netball, hockey, swimming with both the swimming and the netball being National Competitions. Well done to all of you and thank you for your commitment and dedication to school sport.



### **St Ives Art Trip**

Year 10 GCSE Art students enjoyed a lovely, sunny day out to St Ives, Cornwall at the beginning of October. They are currently studying the work of Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Barns-Graham, Terry Frost from the St Ives school of Art, so a visit to the Tate Modern was a must for these students. The students were also given some time to sit and draw whatever took their interest.



I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break. Don't forget that Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October is a non-pupil day along with Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. All students and staff return on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

Yours faithfully

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

### **Dates for your diary:**

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Year 13 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Year 7 Parents' Evening (with Form Tutors)
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 mocks begin
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 Parents' Information Evening
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Year 12 – Parents' Evening
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – PTA Quiz (further details to follow after half-term)
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Main School Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> Form Christmas Dinner
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Mufti Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – END OF TERM