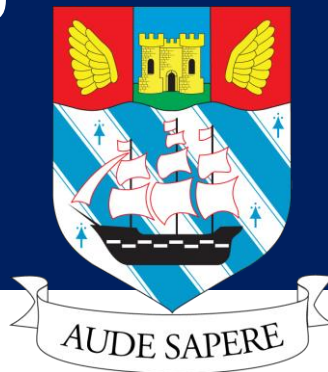


Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2022



Welcome...

A huge warm welcome to all existing students and their parents as well as new students and parents who have joined Torquay Girls' Grammar School. We hope your children are settling in well and are enjoying many different aspects to TGGGS life.

For our new parents who will be receiving this for the first time, we release a half termly newsletter focused purely on giving advice and updates on all safeguarding matters, to support keeping our whole community safe.

Changes to our Safeguarding Leadership Team.

Firstly, we would like to introduce our brand-new safeguarding leadership team! Mrs Wilkinson is our new Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Wilkinson has joined us from Paignton Academy, she has extensive experience in safeguarding and pastoral matters and is passionate about students' welfare, well-being and ensuring that they have everything they need to be as successful as possible both academically and personally.



"I am absolutely delighted to join the TGGGS family as DSL. All staff at TGGGS are aware that safeguarding our students is everyone's responsibility and I will be ensuring that all stakeholders at TGGGS have the tools and knowledge to keep themselves and others safe. This half term our focus is 'prevention' and working with staff, students and parents on how we can prevent children from coming to harm in any way. Students have already received an assembly on online safety. On the 12th October 2022, I will be offering the opportunity, through an information evening, for parents to gain support on how to ensure your child is safe online. I am looking forward to working with everyone in the TGGGS community to ensure we are all safe, happy and content. Please now let me introduce you to the rest of the safeguarding leadership team."

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Safeguarding at TGGGS –

Keeping your child safe is paramount to all staff at TGGGS. If you would like to give feedback on this newsletter, or request a specific topic to be covered, then please get in touch.



We use CPOMS to securely communicate and store all safeguarding concerns.

Anita Saunders is head of PSHE, a history teacher and now one of our three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.



Ms Anita Saunders
History



Ms Lisa Neill
Head of French

Lisa Neill is Head of French and new to the role of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Sophie Cross is an existing member of the safeguarding leadership team and continues to be an English teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. She is however, leaving us at October half term to have her third baby.



Miss Sophie Cross
English

Seasonal Advice

Getting to and from School

With colder days, darker evenings and spooky season fast approaching, this half termly newsletter is going to focus on giving you and your child some advice to help to keep them safe.

With winter drawing near, we all dread those cold and dark mornings and evenings. Many of your children will be making their way to and from school in the dark. Please ensure they have appropriate warm clothing and footwear. It is also a good idea to remind your child to charge their phones and if they must walk home from stations or bus stops, it might be an idea to encourage them to walk in pairs or groups when possible, keeping to main roads and not taking shortcuts through unlit areas.



Trick or Treat?

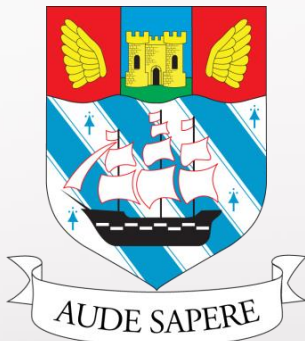
With Halloween around the corner, there are a few things that could potentially become hazardous, so it is a good idea to think about the following:

- Many of us enjoy Trick or Treating but sometimes we aren't always aware of where our young people are going. Please talk to your children about appropriate behaviour when out in public. Halloween can be a time for pranks and with the use of social media, it wouldn't be beyond the realms of possibility, that some children may find themselves willingly or unwillingly participating in antisocial behaviour. Candles and fireworks are easily accessible so please be vigilant knowing your child's whereabouts and who they are spending their evenings with.
- Every year there are serious accidents involving fire and polyester costumes which can leave long-lasting injuries. Halloween can also be a time for fun parties, but with that can bring the opportunity for our youngsters to try smoking, drugs and alcohol. Having open and honest conversations with our young people is the main way we can give them autonomy but also teach them about social responsibilities and safety.

We all want to have fun but after two years of lockdowns and restrictions, it is easy to understand why some of our children might get a little carried away with the party season.

Driving Licences

As many of our students turn 17, they are going to be heading out into the world of independence by learning to drive. Please make sure your child has their provisional licence and when looking for local instructors, please do some thorough research. It is paramount that you carry out safeguarding checks on potential instructors, as they will be spending copious amounts of one-to-one time with your child. Please check the company are registered, licenced and have the relevant safeguarding policies in place. They should also have up to date DBS checks as they are working with minors. Look for good reviews, ask questions and make sure your child knows what is and is not an appropriate relationship to have with their driving instructor.



We thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact us at safeguarding@tggsacademy.org if you are concerned about your own child or another child at Torquay Girls' Grammar School.



"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

