

TBGS



Newsletter ~ Spring Term 2010



Please accept this as the Spring Newsletter with your calendar of dates for next term. At the same time I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful Christmas and peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Speech Day and Prizegiving 2009

Recently we enjoyed a fascinating Speech Day and Prizegiving when Dominic Acland, Chief Executive of the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, outlined to parents and students the excellent work carried out by the Trust, caring for the beautiful Torbay environment – from Berry Head to Maidencombe. Dominic gave us a whistle-stop tour of the bay's geological heritage.



He went on to describe the work at Ocombe Farm and with that made **an offer to parents which you might find attractive** – with this Newsletter is a flyer, as Dominic suggested an ideal Christmas present – it offers **10% off Ocombe Shop and café purchases along with free parking at the Trust's sites, plus other benefits.**

At Speech Day, besides celebrating the academic successes – TBGS is in the top 20 maintained boys' grammar schools in the country – images of the Manor were displayed alongside the description of its restoration, showing the work to date on what will be the Art and Media Studies Centre. The work of the South West Academic Trust is also growing, with staff and students linking with our Trust grammar schools and Exeter University, researching into deep learning among able children – this is in collaboration with the National Association for Able Children.

Individuals were also congratulated on national performances in Chess, Maths, Computing, Technology, Orienteering, Politics, Judo, Water Polo, Skiing, Sailing and Swimming.

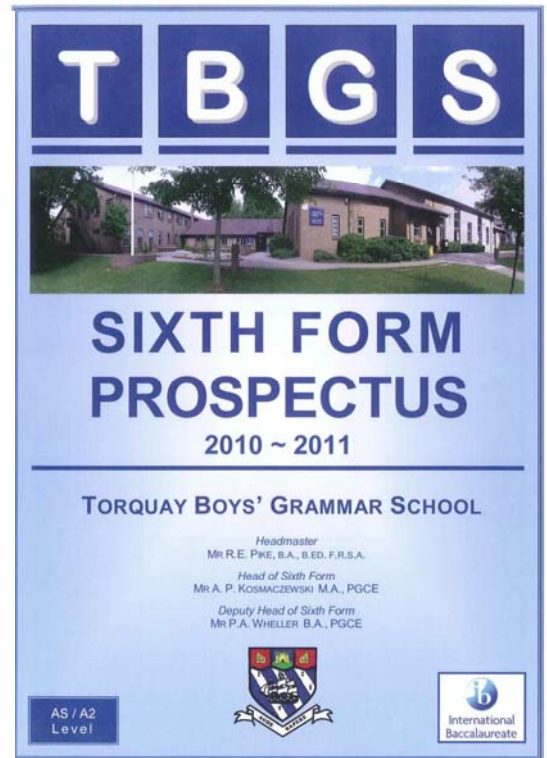
**TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL, Shiphay Manor Drive, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7EL
Tel: (01803) 615501 Fax: (01803) 614613 email: enquiries@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk www.tbgs.co.uk**

Year 11 Students

Two important dates are coming up soon for Year 11 students:

1. Wednesday, 13th January is the Sixth Form Open Evening, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Centenary Hall.
2. Friday, 12th February at 4.00 p.m. is the deadline for receipt of Sixth Form applications.

All of our students received a copy of the Sixth Form prospectus and an application form during the recent Careers enrichment day; however, both are available online by following the sixth form link on www.tbgs.co.uk. Careers interviews are available to be booked through Mrs Parnell in the Stable Block and priority will be given to Year 11 students up until the deadline for applications.



Sixth Form

The dates for Sixth Form study leave are as follows:

There is no block of study leave for the January modules. Lessons will continue as normal throughout January and students will be expected to attend afternoon lessons after a morning exam. Students may, however, take the morning off for revision before an afternoon exam.

In preparation for the summer exams, Year 12 AS students' study leave will begin on Monday, 17th May and the first day of lessons after the AS exams will be Monday, 14th June.

For Year 13 students the last day of lessons is Friday, 28th May.

The Sixth Form is on the lookout for spare sofas/armchairs so that our sixth formers can study in comfort.

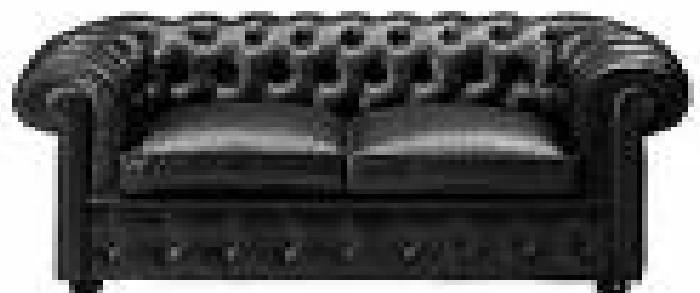
Please contact Mrs Lidbetter on 01803 615501 (ext. 231) or Mr Kosmaczewski (ext. 250) if you can help.

The internal deadline for university applications passes on Friday, 18th December 2009.

The Student Finance system for students who are expecting to begin their university studies in autumn 2010 has been delayed by a government review but will be launched "at the earliest opportunity" on

www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk

After last year's debacle it would be wise to get to grips with this process as soon as possible. Information packs (containing a digest of the online information) will be distributed to the relevant students as soon as we get them, probably in February.





Following discussions with the parent council, it has been resolved not to pursue the World Challenge expeditions formally through the school for the time being. Of course there are many ways that young people can get involved in such expeditions – World Challenge is but one of a number of organisations who run these experiences abroad for young people. Some are better value for money than others, whilst some give the young people a fulfilling experience in helping those less fortunate than themselves. Thus, while World Challenge is a perfectly well run organisation, it was felt that the school ought not simply to align itself to one such but should advise students that they can participate in these activities with any number of organisations.

Parent Governor

A vacancy for a parent governor will arise at the end of January when the term of office of a current governor expires. If you are interested in serving on the school's governing body you should complete the form on the reverse of the enclosed letter and return it to the Headmaster, c/o TBGS by **Friday, 8th January 2010.**

Senior Maths Challenge News

The Senior Maths Challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust took place in November. Boys from years 11 – 13 took part with many gaining Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Special congratulations should be given to Brett Larder, Dylan Ede and Ben Howitt who, after exceptional performance in the Maths Challenge, made it through to the next round, the Senior Olympiad. This took place on 3rd December and we are currently awaiting the results.

..... Congratulations to

- The World Wise Quiz Geography team of Sam Head, Tom Lewis and Dean Pomeroy who have just set out on their campaign, having won the regional round last week.
- The UK Senior Maths team challenge of Brett Larder, Ben Kingsley-Smith, Rob Thompson and Peter Richards, who competed recently in the Devon final where they were successful and have now won through again to the national final.
- The U.14 swimming and water polo teams, captained by Jack Skerritt, who came fourth nationally in both competitions, whilst on Sunday, 6th December the 14-19 water polo team defeated Cheltenham College, Kingsley School, Winchester and Dauntsey's to head the tournament and so again go forward to the nationals.
- And finally congratulations to George Fearnley as the winner of the 100m. freestyle individual event at the English Schools' Swimming Association's national championships in Crystal Palace. He will be amongst those considered for selection for the English Schools' Swimming team in the WISE schools' swimming international. The team will be swimming against Scotland, Wales and Ireland in March. Many congratulations to George – this year's Sportsman of the Year.

CHESS NEWS

There were some outstanding performances at the recent Torbay Congress. In the Minor Tournament Freddie Sugden (11R) came 1st with 4.5 points out of 5, winning £90 plus the trophies for the Best Junior, Best Torbay player and Best Devon player in the congress.

In the Intermediate Tournament there were fine prize-winning performances of 4/5 from Alex Billings (11G) and Oliver Demeger (9F).

Orienteering Success

At the British Schools' Orienteering Championships in Newcastle 16 runners competed, all doing extremely well. The senior team of Matt Ryder, Jacob Shah, Jack Baker and Luke Hayward came 1st to bring the trophy to Devon for the first time.

TERM DATES - 2009/10

TERM	FIRST DAY	LAST DAY
Autumn 2009	Thursday, 3 rd September (Years 7 & 12 only) Friday, 4 th September- rest of school	Friday, 18 th December
Spring 2010	Monday, 4 th January	Thursday, 1 st April
Summer 2010	Monday, 19 th April	Friday, 16 th July

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

Autumn 2009	Monday to Friday 26 th to 30 th October (inclusive)
Spring 2010	Monday to Friday 15 th to 19 th February (inclusive)
Summer 2010	Monday to Friday 31 st May to 4 th June (inclusive)

Non-Pupil Days: 1st and 2nd September 2009; 19th to 21st July 2010

ADVANCE NOTICE - TERM DATES - 2010/11

TERM	FIRST DAY	LAST DAY
Autumn 2010	Friday, 3 rd September (Years 7 & 12 only) Monday, 6 th September – rest of school	Thursday, 16 th December
Spring 2011	Tuesday, 4 th January	Friday, 8 th April
Summer 2011	Wednesday, 27 th April	Friday, 22 nd July

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

Autumn 2010	Monday to Friday 25 th to 29 th October (inclusive)
Spring 2011	Monday to Friday 21 st to 25 th February (inclusive)
Summer 2011	Monday to Friday 30 th May to 3 rd June (inclusive)

Non-Pupil Days: 1st and 2nd September 2010; 17th December 2010; 18th February 2011 and 26th April 2011