



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

I very much hope that all of you were able to enjoy a holiday during the summer and that whatever you were planning turned out well. As we return for the new school year I should like to start by welcoming a large number of new staff – this year the number is greater than for several years and I do hope that they will enjoy their time with us and that their careers will grow as they would wish.

So welcome Emma Browne to teach History and Politics, Roger Evans (Physics), Peter Flynn (Geography), Constantina Katsianis (German and Spanish), Gemma Mansfield (Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics), Stuart Maudling (Biology), Jen Mitchell (Biology), Joe Mulvey (Mathematics), Andrew Otty (English), Alice Roberts (German and French), Charlotte Seymour (Religious Studies and Ethics), Andrew Startup (Business and Economics) and Justin Yau, our new P.E. Technician.

Results:

I should just say that our GCSE results were phenomenal. Not one boy who entered five scored fewer than five.

All others, including one of our students who was very ill just before his examinations, scored over five A* - C. In fact, of the 143, the pass rate was 99.2% - that is the highest ever pass rate - and 60 boys gained eight A's and A*'s or more. The point score per candidate again was the highest ever and Adrian Wong, a boy two years young, scored ten A*'s. Sadly he has moved to the South East and will be attending school there.

In the core subjects, e.g. Mathematics, there were 114 A's and A*'s, 101 in Science and 112 in English Language. It is probably worth noting that given Art is not part of the academic entry test, congratulations to Mr Davis and his team on the points total – and given the constraints under which the Religious Studies department works, their results and points were similarly fantastic. But, in fact, well done to everybody – a brilliant performance all round for what was a less academically strong year. At GCSE the school stands at 15th boys' selective state school in the country.

At 'A' Level it turned out to be, in Mr Dobbs' words, 'a stellar year'. Nationally, in the leagues we are the 11th boys' state school and the A's and B's are a record 77.8% with A – C of 92%. Again, congratulations to all involved – 14 to Oxbridge, 10 medics and boys going to high quality universities across the country.

AS was not so strong and there will be quite a taxing year on staff next year to endeavour to maintain the high standards.

Teaching and learning development:

The school has recently purchased IRIS, a mobile camera with software, designed both to enable a teacher to effectively observe him or herself teaching in the classroom as well as allowing in-person observation without their presence altering the ambience within the teaching environment. We believe that observation is a critical component of the professional development of teachers but you will be aware that observation of this type is likely to entail the inclusion of some students and their responses within many lessons. We should like to emphasise that clips from these observations will only be used for educational purposes to promote best practice within the school but if you would prefer that your son is not involved in this then we can make suitable arrangements to accommodate this. We would be grateful if you could inform us, in writing, if you would prefer your son to be excluded from lessons 'observed' in this manner. If we do not hear from you then we will assume that you are happy for your son to be involved in these observations.

First Aid:

As we start the new school year could I please remind you of the procedure to follow if your son/daughter is feeling unwell. During the school day, boys from Years 7 – 11 should report to Reception and see the on-duty First Aider who will assess his condition and contact you should he need to go home. Sixth form students who feel unwell should report to Mrs Lidbetter, the sixth form secretary, in the first instance.

Data Collection Sheets:

So that our school records are kept as up to date as possible, could all parents please check and amend as appropriate the enclosed Data Collection Sheet, with particular attention to mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please could your son return this form to his form tutor as soon as possible (even if no amendments are required).