

Torquay Boys' Grammar School



Founded
1904

PROSPECTUS



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



From the Headteacher

Torquay Boys' Grammar School is more than a powerful academic institution with a reputation for top quality examination results. It also boasts a comprehensive range of sporting, musical and cultural pursuits with an outstanding record of success unsurpassed in the South West.

The facilities are of a very high quality and the school is well placed to develop its ideas and courses. Our aim is to create a synthesis between the best of the old and the best of the new; academic excellence, punctuality, smartness and courtesy combined with a curriculum appropriate to the next century with participation, consultation and the very latest technologies.

According to Ofsted, Torquay Boys' Grammar School is in every respect an outstanding school. In teaching, learning, achievements, standards, in pastoral care, sport, extra curricular activities, building and resources the school is acknowledged to be in the premier league. The Inspectors wrote, "The school is enthused with a lively and open atmosphere which encourages innovation and underpins a relentless drive to provide the very best education for the student".

At the time of writing there are 1120 students in the school. To join Torquay Boys' Grammar School a pupil must be successful in the school entrance examination. The school is arranged as a six form entry school in Year 7, thus enabling us to keep the maximum group sizes as near to 25 as possible.

Mr P. Lawrence, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.





Academy Status

In November 2010 the school converted to Academy Status. Thus Torquay Boys' Grammar School became a free, independent state school. At the time, the Trust was headed by six directors working with 19 governors, including parents, staff and members of the community.

Many developments over the last 25 years have resulted in the school establishing itself as one of the top 20 boys' schools in the country with a commitment to retaining academic results comparable with the best in the land.

Shortly after converting to Academy Status, Torquay Boys' Grammar School was approached by the DfE and invited to sponsor the new Torquay Academy and, in doing so, the TBGS Multi-Academy Trust was formed. This is led by eight trustees, six of these being the original directors of the converter academy.

The TBGS MAT is one company involving two distinct schools with the common aim of providing outstanding educational opportunities to all students in the bay. It is hoped that, with the support of TBGS, Torquay Academy will continue to go from strength to strength, offering its students an innovative curriculum, maximising each young person's potential. The MAT will also seek to work closely with primary schools in the bay again with the aim of ensuring all students have a seamless transition from one high quality experience to another.

Our School

There are 85 members of the teaching staff at Torquay Boys' Grammar School, all of whom have a specialist subject qualification. They are assisted by 44 support staff, including science and technology technicians, librarians and ICT support staff. The first people you will meet on entering the school are the office staff who are always ready to assist with your enquiries. Other personnel in the school are caretaking / cleaning staff, maintenance and ground staff, catering and supervisory staff. In total there are over 1200 people involved in the day to day activities of Torquay Boys' Grammar School. The overall governance of the school is chaired by Mr Brian Wills-Pope MBE, Chairman of the Governing Body.



Entry to the school in Years 7 – 11 is by examination. Places are offered to those boys who demonstrate through the examination that they have the ability to benefit from our high quality provision.

Students who wish to join the school in Year 12 are required to have demonstrated their academic ability in their GCSE studies.

As we are an Academy, the governing body is responsible for setting the admissions policy. The admissions policy is reviewed annually following consultation with other local admissions authorities; the latest version is available on the school website.



The Aims of the School

The school celebrated its centenary in 2004. Although the site of the school changed in 1983 there has, for over 100 years, been a continuity of academic excellence of which the community has been justly proud – openly acknowledged by the centenary celebrations and substantiated by the centenary Cavanna Hall. The Headteacher and governors are totally dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of the school as a grammar school.

The purpose of Torquay Boys' Grammar School is:

- to retain the academic results comparable with the highest quality in the land.
- to provide pastoral care and guidance from expert teachers.
- to encourage the highest endeavour and skill in sport and expressive and creative activities.
- to properly resource the school in its activities.
- to maintain and improve our national reputation.
- to sustain the outstanding quality identified by Ofsted in 1997, 2003 and 2007.



Staff, students and parents of Torquay Boys' Grammar School contributed to formulating the vision for the school. A consensus emerged about the values which should inform the school's mission statement. This has been incorporated as below to:

- enable students to enjoy learning for its own sake, to develop their creative talents and to fulfil their intellectual potential.
- provide individuals with the skills to respond to a changing world with confidence and humility.
- encourage each person to be reflective, open-minded and principled so they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.





Academic Standards

Teachers at Torquay Boys' Grammar School believe that teaching and learning are as significant as curriculum content in determining student progress and achievement. To this end we seek to develop shared experience between teachers and learners.

We see the curriculum as a whole, providing a basis from which to make informed and realistic choices and decisions at all stages.

At GCSE we expect all students to gain at least 5 A* - C grades, including English and Mathematics. Most students will achieve at least 10 passes at grade C or above, with huge numbers gaining all As and A*s.

Post-16 students usually attain at least 3 'A' Levels and one AS Level or the International Baccalaureate. Their results ensure that those who wish go on to study a degree course at universities and go on to act as our finest ambassadors in the world beyond.



Profiles and Reporting

The reporting system is designed to give as full a picture as possible of a student's performance and involvement in school life. All pupils receive a profile each year which provides a detailed assessment of his/her performance. This is sent home either by email or the parent portal (the SIMS Learning Gateway). There are also parents' evenings where parents can consult staff as to the progress their children are making and, beyond that, First Impressions evening and Options Evenings support further the links between parents and staff.

It is self-evident that the triangular support – parent, student and school working in combination – will lead to success for the student. The closer the links and understanding, the better will be the outcome.

Homework

It is the school policy that homework is considered in relation to all teaching and learning. It forms an integral part of a child's education and must generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences additional to those provided in school - to discipline the mind, to research, revise, manage time and to prepare independently.

Homework will be set throughout a child's school career in varying amounts according to the year. Parents are requested to familiarise themselves with the homework tasks which will provide an important link between home and school, by using the Student Planner. Of course, written homework must be completed and handed in on time.

The Houses



BLAKE

DAVYS

FROBISHER

GILBERT

HAWKINS

RALEGH

When a student joins Torquay Boys' Grammar School he is placed into one of six Houses – Blake, Davys, Frobisher, Gilbert, Hawkins, Raleigh. Even before starting, students come into school for a day to become familiar with the buildings, to sample lessons and to get to know their tutor. A happy child is a successful child. As parents you entrust your son to us and we must work together to ensure that he is secure and well integrated.

Beyond that, the pastoral system performs various functions. First, it supports the academic work of the school, improving a student's motivation. Happy children thrive.

It also provides an important element in the educational process. The House activities are designed to encourage a student's social and personal development. In brief, the House system exists to:

- *provide continuity and pastoral care*
- *foster greater involvement in the life of the school*
- *enrich the school's sporting and cultural life*
- *develop a greater sense of community*
- *provide senior students with greater opportunities to take responsibility*
- *develop qualities of leadership*

The six Houses are named after sailors with West Country connections. These men demonstrated the qualities of enterprise, responsibility and leadership that the school is keen to develop. In addition there are close parallels between the running of an efficient, happy ship, such as HMS Torbay, and the organisation of a successful House.

Thus all students belong to one of six Houses in the school – **Blake** (Blue), **Davys** (White), **Frobisher** (Gold), **Gilbert** (Green), **Hawkins** (Purple), **Raleigh** (Red). The House is the family group for a student throughout his/her school career. The sense of belonging is strengthened by the importance of the Houses in the school and of the Heads of House who have overall responsibility for the pastoral care of students in their House. Within each House is one sixth of the staff in the school. These act as tutors to the year groups and are people who will know the students on an individual basis. Parents are encouraged to contact the tutor or the Head of House whenever they have matters to discuss.

Sport



The sports and all-weather pitches and the purpose-built sports hall, along with new changing rooms, provide our students with high quality facilities.

Sport is to the body what study is to the mind. At Torquay Boys' Grammar School we are concerned with all aspects of personal development, and health and fitness is an integral part of an individual's education. What is more, every student can find some success and this can often provide the key to a more positive outlook and the will to succeed throughout other school activities.

With the school sitting in superb grounds of over 35 acres and surrounded by half a dozen pitches, students can thus participate at all levels. During the autumn and spring terms games offered are rugby, soccer, cross country and hockey; in the summer term athletics, cricket and tennis. It may be that boys wish to play for the sake of playing and keeping fit. On the other hand, should boys wish, they can play in the inter-House matches for the school and, through success here, for the county and at national level. In years 10 and 11 many other activities are offered, from squash to fencing.

Each year the school has large numbers of county caps in many different sports. Indeed, the school has a proud reputation as an outstanding sporting establishment at national level.



Music

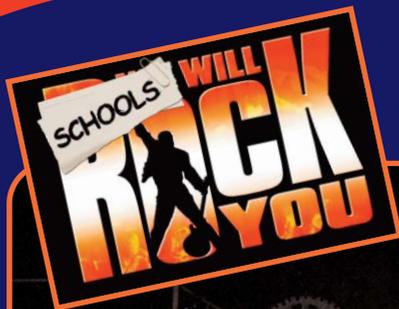
The outstanding reputation for Music at Torquay Boys' Grammar School is thanks to the superb performances by the bands, orchestras and individual music scholars led by highly talented staff alongside peripatetic teachers.

Equipped with purpose-built music and practice rooms and a recording studio, every boy becomes familiar with the keyboard, whilst over 150 boys enjoy individual music tuition.

The bands have toured both nationally and internationally, performing at such prestigious venues as the Montreux Jazz Festival. What is more annually, for over 20 years, Drama and Music have combined to stage what has become a supremely professional musical production – now a focal point of the school's tradition.



Montreux Jazz Festival



We Will Rock you - 2014





Extra Curricular Activities

The extra curricular life of the school is of pivotal importance; without it, no establishment can hope to fulfil its wider educational aims. Torquay Boys' Grammar School is particularly strong, with over 20 clubs and societies catering for a wide range of interests and ages. The overwhelming involvement of students in these many different areas creates a very special ethos. From Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors to public speaking and Business Studies competitions these challenging societies cater for all tastes and individuals.

Often from an activity comes a lifetime of engagement and even occasionally a career. Successes in chess, astronomy and sailing have led students into national awards or long-term careers.



Uniform

All students are expected to wear school uniform and to be smart in appearance. Extremes of fashion are not acceptable. In Years 7 – 11 a uniform consists of a navy blazer with House badge, dark grey trousers, white school shirt, black shoes, dark socks and House tie. In the sixth form the blazer is black with the sixth form House badge and tie.



School Rules

The school rules can be summed up in two sentences:

- Show respect for others and property as well as yourself.
- Take responsibility for your actions.



Destinations of Alumni

All those who wish to – this normally amounts to around 99% - go to university. Thus when a student starts at Torquay Boys' Grammar School he can anticipate at least 10 years of education and probably 12 or 13 as part of his lifelong learning. Both regional universities and those further afield are exceptionally popular, with the Russell group and the other top universities providing places for many of our students. Every year, around 10 – 12 students gain places at Oxbridge whilst Exeter, Bath, Cardiff, Durham, Warwick, Nottingham and Southampton will receive students from Torquay Boys' Grammar School. Popular courses are Engineering, Biological Science, Sport, Physics, Business, Law, Medicine, Pharmacy and Architecture whilst many students read specific disciplines such as Maths or English.



Alumni

Students from Torquay Boys' Grammar School occupy positions in industry, business, academy, politics, economics, international relations and many occupations beyond. We can currently boast Members of Parliament, national sportsmen, emeritus professors both in this country and abroad, high flying lawyers and bankers, financiers, medical consultants and space directors. Founded in 1904, the Headmaster and his fellow pioneers wanted to enrich the lives and ambitions of young men who, until that time, had few opportunities. The dreams and aspirations of William Jackson, the Headmaster in 1904, were for the school to put down roots into the fertile soil of the south west to send out alumni to influence the economic, social and political life not just of the region but nationally and even internationally. Doubtless he and his fellow pioneers, along with all those who have worked over the years to make Torquay Boys' Grammar School what it is, would today feel confident that Torquay Boys' Grammar School has not let the founding fathers down.

Parents' Association and Council



The school is extremely fortunate to possess an active and successful Parents' Association and a committed Parent Council. The Parents' Association creates a network of links of parents across the school; they help out at school functions, generate entertainment such as Wine & Wisdom and generally seek to create links between parents.

The Parent Council is there to challenge the senior management of the school, questioning decisions and providing support in order to bring continual improvement to the lives of all in the institution.



Careers

Careers support is provided in a number of ways. Advice is available at GCSE, 'A' Level and IB option time whilst our careers advice, mock interviews, work experience, industry and higher education days are all arranged by the careers staff.

University advice, dates and details of open days precede university applications with guidance on personal statements and UCAS, tuition and accommodation grants.

Evenings are also arranged for parents to learn about the university application procedures, the variety of courses, entrance requirements, funding issues and so on.



Food

School meals are provided on a self-service, cafeteria basis. A variety of two-course specials are on offer daily and the food is very popular though, should they wish, students may bring a packed lunch. Emphasis is placed upon healthy eating, both in the dining room and through the curriculum. With our resident chef and his team, we are committed to exciting, mouth-watering breakfasts, brunches and lunch.





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Shiphay Manor Drive
TORQUAY
TQ2 7EL
01803 615501
enquires@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk
www.tbgs.co.uk

