



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

"The drive for academic achievement is balanced by a deep commitment to students' wider personal and social development."

OFSTED





Dare to
join a top
school

where
individual
talents are
nurtured

with a
track record
for academic
progress &
attainment

with a wide
range of extra-
curricular
activities

and a
national and
international
sporting
reputation

Dare to
be here...

Dare
to take
a closer
look...



Welcome to Torquay Boys' Grammar School

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms and a man in a suit standing outdoors in front of greenery. The boys are on the left, wearing dark blue blazers with a red crest on the left chest, white shirts, and dark ties. The man is on the right, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. They are all looking towards the right. The background consists of tall, green, spiky plants.

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 students".

There are over 1,100 students in the school. To join, a student 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 to 28. Teachers can know their students well allowing for nurturing of each individual's talents.

We are confident your son will thrive here; not only do we have a track record of success in both attainment and progress, but we continue to strive to deliver the best personalised education for everyone who joins us.

Mr P. Lawrence, BSc, PGCE
Headteacher

TBGS was founded in 1904, and moved to this idyllic site, surrounded by acres of parkland and sporting facilities, in 1983.

For well over a century, there has been a continuity of academic and pastoral excellence of which the community has been justly proud.

Our ongoing drive for change and improvement means we never rest on our laurels, and so the school has established itself as one of the top 20 boys' schools in the country, and indeed the best in the southwest.

The Headteacher and governors are totally dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of the school as a grammar school, aware that it has been proven that students with academic potential thrive in a selective environment, and so make more progress in grammar schools than in schools where they are in a minority.

As an academy, Torquay Boys' Grammar School is a free, independent state school, able to ensure that we provide what is most important: a rounded education which offers all pupils access to literacy, numeracy, sciences, humanities, the arts and sport.

'Students with the same primary school performance who attended selective or grammar schools are far more likely to achieve the highest grades at GCSE – 57% compared with 32% in non-selective schools.'

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector



Our success comes from strong relationships between committed students and inspiring staff.

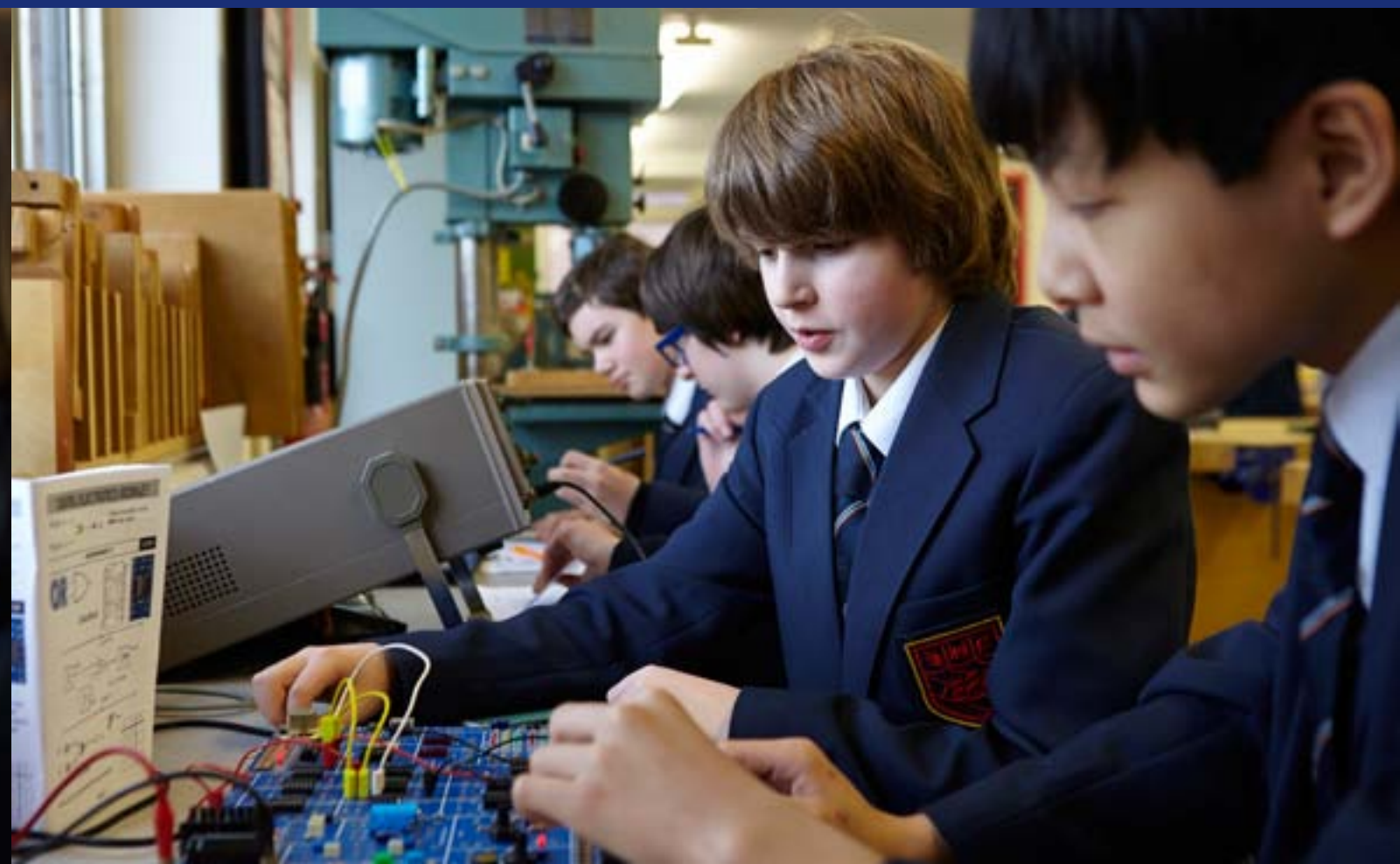
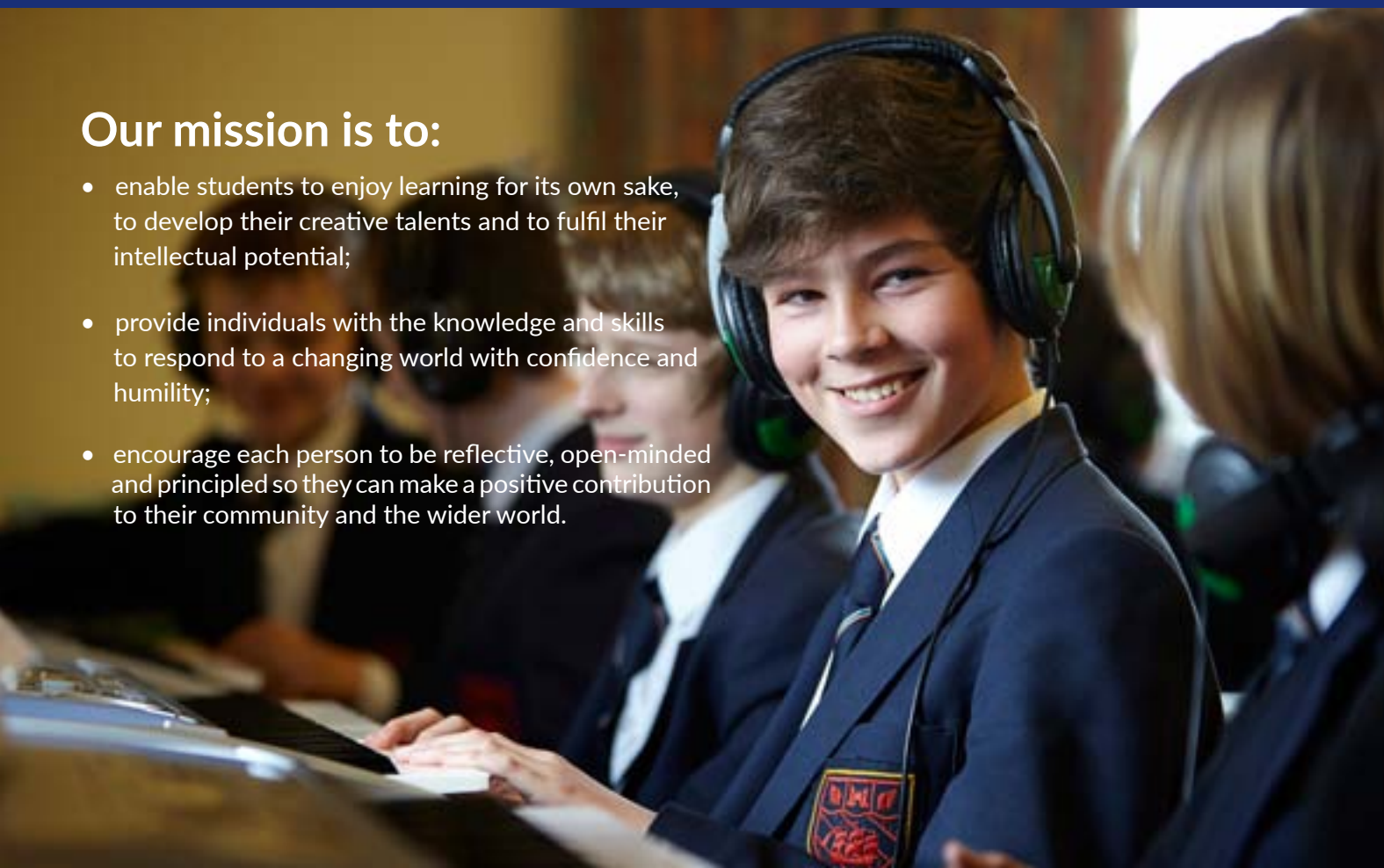
There are over 80 specialist subject teachers at Torquay Boys' Grammar School, many holding multiple subject qualifications specific to their discipline. In addition, there are over 40 support staff, including science and technology technicians, librarians and ICT support. In total there are over 1200 people involved in the day-to-day activities of Torquay Boys' Grammar School, a dynamic and busy community that prides itself on communication, creativity and collaboration.

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. By GCSE, we aim to guide students to make the most progress they each can in all subjects, whilst maintaining a balanced and healthy approach to study, nurturing well-rounded individuals. We have a strong track record of exceeding the expected levels of progress: the government set targets are not a glass ceiling as we incubate a knowledge-rich environment of curiosity, problem-solving and imagination.

Our mission is 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 knowledge and 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.





The extra-curricular life of school is packed: there is so much on offer. Learning beyond the set curriculum is essential if students are to fulfil our wider educational aims.

There are dozens 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.

A range of educational trips are also offered, including day visits for outdoor activities, as well as longer residentials to Normandy and Spain, and later in school to Iceland and China.

'TBGS has been extremely supportive to all of my sons and has nurtured their individual talents. We couldn't have asked for any more. TBGS gives every child the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Brilliant'

Parent



Music has an outstanding reputation at Torquay Boys' Grammar School 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, a technology suite, and a recording studio, every boy becomes familiar with a wind or brass instrument in year 7, and with the keyboard in year 8, whilst over 150 boys enjoy further individual music tuition.

The bands have toured both nationally and internationally, performing at such prestigious venues as the Montreux Jazz Festival. At the end of the summer, our very well-received Tor-chella Music Festival around the Manor House allows all students (and staff) to showcase their musical talents.

What is more, annually, for nearly 30 years, Drama and Music have combined to stage what has become a supremely professional musical production – now a special focal point of the school's tradition and sense of community.



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.

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. A wealth of activities is on offer, from traditional sports (rugby, football and cricket), to exciting opportunities in martial arts, bowls and table tennis – something for everyone!

With the school sitting in superb grounds of over 35 acres and surrounded by half a dozen pitches, students can participate at all levels. Boys may just wish to play for the sake of playing and keeping fit. On the other hand, they can also compete in the inter-House matches, for the school and, through success here, for the county and at national level.

The school has a proud reputation as an outstanding sporting establishment at national and international level in sports from football to orienteering.

BLAKE

DAVYS

FROBISHER

GILBERT

HAWKINS

RALEGH

The six Houses are each a family. Students join one house for their school career. They are named after West-Country sailors, who demonstrated qualities of enterprise, responsibility and leadership, and there are close parallels between the running of an efficient, happy ship, and the organisation of a successful House. Indeed, once students enter the sixth form, they may apply to take the post as Captains, to serve as role models for the younger students.

Heads of House, alongside a school counsellor, have overall responsibility for the pastoral care, well-being and safeguarding of students. In addition, each member of staff also belongs to a house, acting as tutors and the people who know the students on an individual basis. Parents are encouraged to contact the tutor or Head of House whenever they have matters to discuss.

Before starting, students visit for a summer-term induction day to familiarise with the buildings, to sample lessons and to get to know their tutor: a happy and settled child is a successful child.

The pastoral system supports the academic work of the school, by improving a student's motivation, and enriching the educational opportunities on offer. House and inter-house activities are designed to encourage a student's social and personal development, and collective participation.

The house system is also a key route to communicating with you. The parent app displays attendance and attainment updates, alongside annual reports, offering a full picture of your child's performance and involvement in school life, written by the tutor, and further up the school by specific subject teachers. There are also parents' options and information evenings for further consultation with staff.



'Parents agree that the school is very good with its pastoral care, which ensures that any problems are sorted out smoothly and efficiently.'

Good Schools Guide



Homework forms an integral part of a child's education to generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences to discipline the mind, to research, revise, manage time and prepare independently. Homework is set in varying amounts according to pressures through the year. By parents familiarising themselves with the homework tasks using the Student Planner, the link between home and school will be further strengthened.

Of course, written homework must be handed in on time, in line with the **school rules**, which are simple: show respect for others, property and yourself, and take responsibility for your actions.

As part of this, students are expected to wear **school uniform**, professional in appearance, avoiding extremes of fashion. The 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 meals are provided on a cafeteria basis and a variety of two-course specials are on offer daily. The food is popular though students may bring a packed lunch. There are plenty of places to eat including the Bistro, Sandwich Room and outdoor seating areas.

Each school day is organised around 5 one-hour periods. Hot breakfast is available before registration each morning, and there is a 25-minute morning break between period 2 and 3, with hot snack food and sandwiches available. At lunchtime, which is just over an hour, a full hot counter service is open.

Emphasis is placed upon healthy eating, both in the dining room and through the curriculum.



'We are committed to exciting, mouth-watering breakfasts, brunches and lunch.'
School Chef



'This must be the best school the world.'
Parent

The Parents' Association and Council

are a valuable asset. The Association creates a network of links of parents across the school; they help out at school functions, generate entertainment and fundraising such as through the Wine & Wisdom evening, and Torbay Art Show, and generally seek to create links between parents.

The Parent Council offers an opportunity to communicate with the senior management of the school, raise collective issues and provide support in order to bring continual improvement to the lives of all in the institution.

Similarly, a Student Council meets regularly to allow students the opportunity to explore their concerns, through their form representative, and contribute to the development of teaching and learning within the school.



Careers support is provided as part of students' life preparation. Individual support and advice is available at all times, and is especially helpful when students choose their options in the sixth form. Most students join the school to embark on a 7-year journey here, and after GCSE, most students will continue to the sixth form, choosing the A-level route or International Baccalaureate. Their results ensure that those who wish go on to study a degree course at university and to act as our finest ambassadors in the world beyond.

Both regional universities and those further afield are exceptionally popular, with the Russell group and other top universities providing places for many of our students. Every year, around 10-12 students gain places at Oxbridge, and many will graduate from Exeter, Bath, Cardiff, Durham, Warwick, Nottingham and Southampton. For many years, a student has been successful in being granted a place at Harvard, along with a \$250,000 Sutton Trust grant. Popular courses include Medicine, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Business, Law, Pharmacy and Architecture, whilst many students read specific disciplines such as Mathematics or English.

We have a dedicated careers team including an independent advisor. Careers advice, mock interviews, work experience, careers fair, industry and higher-education days are made available at relevant times. University advice, 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.



Alumni from Torquay Boys' Grammar School occupy positions in industry, business, academia, politics, economics, international relations and 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, TV personalities, Oscar winners 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 southwest 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 the school has not let the founding fathers down.



**Dare to
join us?**

Entry to the school in Years 7 – 11 is by examination, assessing verbal ability (comprehension, vocabulary and verbal reasoning), numerical reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. There are two CEM Tests (approx. 50 minutes each). A familiarisation booklet is available on our website

Places are offered to those boys who demonstrate that they have the ability to benefit from our high-quality provision. Around 250 students take the tests, for around 168 places. Some students also join the school in Year 12 each year, if they have demonstrated their academic ability in their GCSE studies.

Simply complete the online registration form to take the year 7 entrance tests. We will acknowledge your application and you will be provided with further details regarding the procedure for the test morning.

For potential year 7 students, following testing, the school will give guidance as to whether an application for a school place is likely to be successful. You must then complete the Common Application Form for your local authority by the end of October. This is essential for your child to be considered for a place.

For applications to other year groups, contact enquiries@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk for details of places and testing.

successful

yourself

caring

a team player

outgoing

creative

reflective

knowledgeable

collaborative

balanced

dare
to
be

confident

inspired

informed

ambitious

dedicated

self-disciplined

adventurous

“Outstanding”

Ofsted



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