

TORQUIN



July 2022

TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Burgh



It has been wonderful to get back to normal after the last few years of COVID restrictions, and for the Heads of House, that means that the Houses are back as the central focus of our school community – nurturing healthy competition through the return of House chess, the quiz, sports, poetry and the spelling bee to name but a few! It has also been wonderful to be able to meet as an entire House now that Assemblies are back – they give us the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our amazing students, but also to reinforce the values and ethos of our Houses – that integrity, compassion and resilience are just as important as academic prowess. These values have been exemplified by all of the charity work we have done this year, from filling 250 Christmas Shoeboxes to raising money for the Marine Conservation Charity, but my proudest achievement this year was the incredible response to our Ukraine Appeal; we filled a van full of donations in just a week! Students and staff gave up their time and energy with such enthusiasm it really did define what a great community we have at TBGS.

The incredible achievements of Burgh students are too numerous to mention here, but a few individuals deserve highlighting for attaining such high levels of performance at local and national level: Josh Jones, 11B, who competed in the National Taekwondo Championships this year, and came away with two Bronze medals in the under-18 category.



Reuben Murphy, 8B, who has won Gold Medals in the 50m, 100m and 200m Devon County Trials, in addition to a silver medal in the 50m free. Reuben is now training for upcoming regional competitions.



Congratulations also to Oliver Herdman, 10B, who has been selected to train with the under-19 GB Underwater Hockey Squad, and also to Tobias Alsop, 8B, who has been selected for an overseas tour with Exeter Football Academy. Max Stone 10B, has also been selected to represent Devon Cricket team in a tour to South Africa – congratulations!

Three standout performances from George Menter, James Gibbs and Rupert Hill in *Sweeney Todd* also deserve special mention, as all three sixth formers gave their final bows after contributing to so many school productions over the years.

Our year-11 and year-13 students have displayed incredible determination and resilience this year as they have prepared for the first formal exams in three years and we wish them all the very best of luck as they move onto the next stage of their education, incredibly proud of how they have coped in the face of such disruption.

Mrs A Kilpatrick



Dart



The academic year began with something that the House has not been able to do for 19 years – celebrating victory in the House Championship! The phenomenal efforts of all pupils meant that the House trophy was in our possession for the first time since Mr Dobbs was Head of House – well done to everyone involved in the competitions.

There have been other successes also, with our Chess players claiming equal first place with Goodrington in this year's event.

The Accelerated Reader award has also proved to be immeasurably popular with pupils across the House, pictured are some of our first recipients in 7D with their Word Millionaire awards.



Charity fundraising for the SW MS Centre has continued to be a focal point, with numerous events taking place over the course of the year, including a Sponsored Fancy Dress Run by 7D, the annual Santa Fun Run with 8D and members of the



Sixth Form, as well as, a magnificent Tombola by 9D – all of which took place in the Autumn Term. Since then, 8D have also organised a raffle with generous contributions being made by a host of local companies in aid of MS: Cranch's Sweetshop,



the Eastgate Bookshop and the Edgy Veggie Kitchen, to whom we are deeply indebted.

No resting on their laurels, 8D, alongside 8H have also run a bake sale to help raise funds for Y8 camp. Well done for everyone who has contributed and supported the charitable efforts this year!



As we turn our attention to the next academic year it is also time to offer our thanks to Mrs Travis who will be leaving us at the end of the academic year and who has contributed so much to 8D and the History Department. Equally, we are heavily indebted to Mrs Godfrey, a constant source of support and inspiration to so many tutees in her role as a tutor in Dart House, who will stepping down as a tutor to enable the wider delivery of PSHE at the school. Mr Passenger also leaves Dart House this year; in similar fashion he will be deeply missed within the House and appreciated as he moves to a different House for the coming year. It will be down to our new senior team to help build on the successes of this year as we look toward September 2022.

Well done to all members of the House for their



outstanding efforts, you can proudly reflect that you have lived up to the mantra of 'be the best you can be'.

Mr D Hore

Fox Tor



The year has simply flown by yet again. It only seems like yesterday that I became the Head of the then Frobisher House and yet it has been 13 years. Since then there have been many trips of House Bowling, House BBQs with the infamous bean game, camping trips to Salcombe beach, and the ever popular Taskmaster competition.



The countless bakes sales, waffle weeks, pancake day, all in the aid of charity (you'll notice food is always involved). We have supported many charities over the years but for at least the last eight we have supported Rowcroft in the amazing work they do in our local area, providing for our local community when they need it most.



This year we re-branded the Houses and Frobisher became Fox Tor; we kept our famous yellow and first letter of F as well as our unofficial mascot 'the pig of happiness', but we have an exciting new logo, in part designed by Isambard Ebbutt, 10F, and as of September a new Head of House.

Mrs Pitocco is taking over and will continue to bring positivity to the House and the school with Fox Tor's morale boosting motto: 'from positivity comes possibility'.

Mrs H Jones



Goodrington



It continues to be a real pleasure to be Head of Goodrington House, sharing the successes, progress and achievements of all the students throughout the year. Welcoming all Goodrington students together in assemblies has been a real positive, where I was able to finally unveil the new Goodrington House crest. Following a house competition, the design unanimously chosen was created by year-13 student Daisy Haslam-Ivens.

Goodrington students have all benefitted from the efforts and commitment of the outgoing Senior team. Led by Lily Shanks and Jack Jones, they were instrumental in the success of the Expressive Arts evening and provided constant support to all students throughout the year. We wish them well in their future studies and the new Senior Team certainly have a big act to follow!



The students decided that *Above Water* would be our charity to support over the next few years.



Cake sales, random acts of kindness, our popular yearly Santa Run and the Expressive Arts evening are just a few of the events that have taken place throughout the year. I am always in awe of the community spirit and thought for others that Goodrington students continually display.



After the two-year enforced break, it was great to be able to welcome parents and family along to support our Expressive Arts evening. The senior team, led by Lily and Jack, worked tirelessly to put on an amazing performance, showcasing the extraordinary talent within the house!



Students have enjoyed the opportunity to, once again, take part in the numerous house competitions on offer. Goodrington students continue to demonstrate the values and ethos of the house; success through endeavour, teamwork, respect and integrity. A whole house effort has



Mr C Porter

led to finishing first in the spelling bee, chess and poetry competitions, also finishing runners-up in the quiz. This follows on from retaining our title in Sports Day at the end of last year. All students can be proud of their continued efforts.

Haldon



What a wonderful year Haldon and the rest of TBGS has had; it has been such a joy to see so much of the culture and life of the school return to normality after three years of disruption. It has been such a pleasure to see the students be able to flourish in all walks of their school lives and really be able to show us, how amazing they all really are. From my perspective, this has been one of the first years I have been able to meet the house as a whole and I can honestly say I am blown away with the standard of the academic, personal, and creative talent we have in our community both students and staff.



Haldon achieved their highest position to date so far in the house championship, taking the bronze position for this year – although we did not always score highly in the house events this year, every single member of Haldon house who represented themselves in any event this year, be that House poetry, swimming gala, House chess or House cross country, did so with 100% effort and tried to be the best that they could be. This is echoed in the outstanding BFL/ATL grades achieved throughout the year as well as continuously topping the totals for the number of commendations received; again, this is all down to their hard work, determination and strive to be an outstanding member of the community. Furthermore, this was demonstrated in their passion to raise money and support the house charities this year of *Young Lives versus Cancer* and the *Bumblebee Conservation Trust*, both which received nearly £200 in donations respectively.

Some outstanding sporting achievements this year as Fin Kerswell, 10H, climbed his way to success as part of the GB Climbing Team and was crowned Junior British Bouldering Champion; Jamie Rickhuss, 8H, continues to train and be signed for another year with Southampton Football club; Elliot Bowery, 9H, had the opportunity to participate in the Juventus Academy Football World cup where his team came back victorious in the Silver Cup match against Chile. Sports Day saw some successes for our



Year 7s, with Finlay Cull and Noah Bevan both coming out on top in their long jumps.



Continuing with the 7H success, they topped the Accelerated Reader championship at the end of the year having read a total of nearly 21 million words. A fantastic team effort by 7H – what a fantastic start to your TBGS journey!

Ten Tors saw several Haldon students take on 35-mile, 45-mile and 55-mile challenges with all of the students completing their walks, some coming out as the first or second teams back. This requires the students to have a huge amount of discipline, teamwork, and planning to successfully navigate their team to the finish line, so a huge congratulations to our year 10s, 11s and sixth-form students who competed; Oscar Burkhill, Will Curtis, Ed Wickham, Will Nolan, Harry Collett, Charlie Tier, Daniel Spear, Oscar Dunne, Will Thomas, Max Drysdale, Guy Lewis and Jack Piercy.

Further sixth form success came from Guy Lewis, Billy Adamson, Will Thomas and Archie West who excelled themselves in the Chemistry Olympiad this year, either achieving Bronze or Silver awards.

Haldon has excelled itself musically as well with many students performing in the Autumn concert,



Carol service, jazz band, *Sweeney Todd* (the school musical) and lastly this year in Torchella, our music festival. A special mention must be given to Daniel Spear, 9H, for achieving a distinction in Grade 8 Saxophone this year. Amazing Daniel!

The courage, community and integrity exhibited this year has been second to none and I am already excited to see what Haldon has in store for the next year to come.

Miss V Pellant

Rougemont



What a joy it has been to be back to nearly normality this year, as a school and as a house. In Rougemont we have placed a strong emphasis on serving each other again and coming together, after too long a period isolated as individuals, to help one another succeed and evolve positively. We have enjoyed celebrating each others' successes in assemblies.



We have continued to prioritise the efforts of our students, for example mid-term grades culminating in a new breakfast celebration as seen in our photos.



Beyond the classroom, there has been much for the students in Rougemont to get involved with this year, from paintball, barbeques and Christmas fairs. Each one of these opportunities has allowed us to grow together as a house and recognise our wider responsibilities to each other.



Speaking of wider commitments, we continue to prioritise supporting the effort to protect and repair our local landscapes and rich natural heritage. This last year we have raised over £300 for the *Devon Wildlife Trust* and look forward to making this donation as we did last year. Thank you to all who have supported this effort and seek to regenerate our landscape, protect the animals and plants who live here and increase biodiversity for years to come.

As we look ahead to next year, I want to wish well our senior prefect team who have already made a fantastic start to their roles: House captain Fraser McMeekan; deputy house captain David Cooper; senior prefects Harry Gurd, Hugo Hedges, Josh Escott and Reuben Darke.



Also thank you to the Rougemont tutor team who have worked tirelessly to support and promote the skills of our students. Thank you to Mr Plumridge, Dr Tollerton, Mr Last, Mrs Lewis, Ms Martinez, Ms Ho and Mr Flynn. In particular, we congratulate Ms Martinez on becoming Deputy Head of House and thank her for her dedication to the students of Rougemont. Finally, to all students of the House, thank you for your effort to serve and better our community and wider world.

Those who have moved on, best of luck in your future endeavours and I hope you look back on your time as a Rougemont student fondly. To those who return in September, we look forward to again supporting you to achieve excellence in all that you do.

Mr A Brown

Art

There has been much to celebrate and reflect on during this year in the Art department. Although for some there have been adjustments made to their course requirements, the work that has been produced across all key stages has once again been a joy to see.

It is difficult to measure what impact the pandemic has had, but for many throughout this strange period it was creativity which became a source of inspiration to lots of our students to help their well-being. Creativity is all about exploring, imagining and discovering, which makes art a perfect catalyst for increasing creative thinking and expression. And we are well aware that regularly creating art is a great way to consistently lower stress levels, which can lead to overall mental and physical health improvements. As such, Art at TBGS is thriving and it is so pleasing to see so many enjoying their creative journey in the Manor.

Trips

It was brilliant to be able to organise the year-11 visit to London in September. This trip is a highlight for all the students, who experience a weekend of gallery visits, as well as being immersed in one of the most exciting cities in the world.



It was a matter of only a few weeks until we returned to London with the year-13 IB and A-level students, who were a real pleasure to be with. Again so many highlights, including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Tate Modern which never disappoints, as well as a walking tour of some brilliant street art in Shoreditch and the British Museum. Inspired and enthused in equal measure, it was a memorable trip for all.



Art Club

Art club remains a very popular lunchtime activity for many students. Always busy, full of energy and bursting with creativity. Whether tackling new ideas or extending classwork it has been wonderful to see so many experience it during this academic year. Alongside art club, warhammer club has also been very popular with students from years 7 to 10 all making the most of the opportunity to come together and share ideas and models.



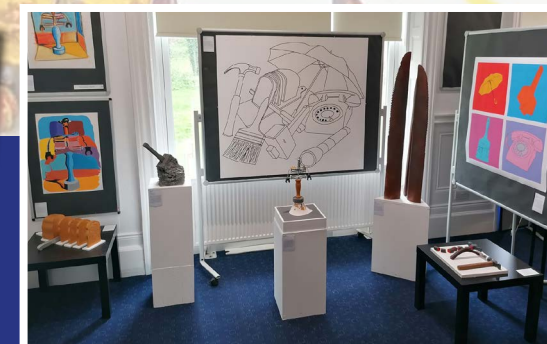
Year-8 Aboriginal Cushions

Year 8 have recently completed their cushions, designed and inspired by traditional Aboriginal Art. Dreamtime stories, symbols and music are key elements to understanding this important cultural art form. Students use this knowledge to develop and design their own cushion, which they paint using fabric paints. Pictured is a selection of students with examples of their fantastic work.

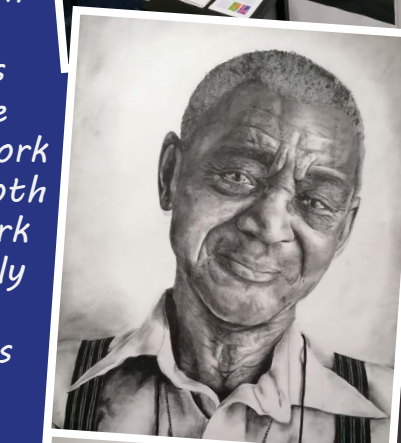
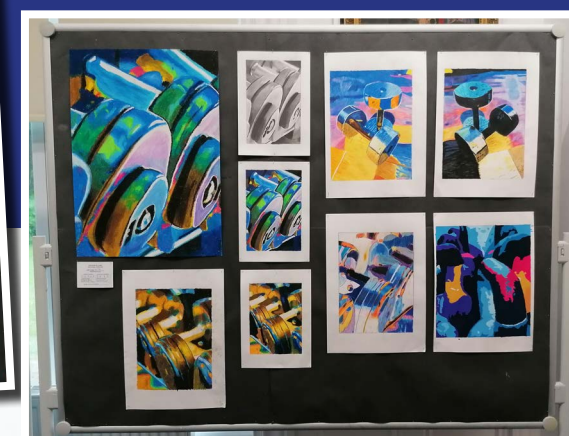
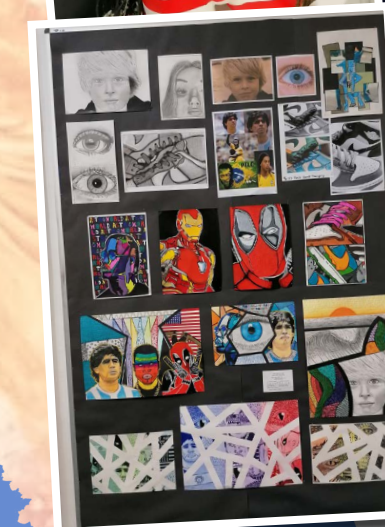


Year-9 Art Project - Movement

Year 9 have been working with Mrs Griffiths on a movement project inspired by Futurism and artist Ian Cook. They used bike wheels and toy cars to create printed backgrounds which they then superimposed an enlarged section of their bike drawings onto.



One of our favourite times in the year is the preparations that we make for our moderation exhibition, in the TBGS gallery. This year the Art department is proud of the students who have worked tirelessly on their coursework to produce excellent exhibitions both for IB, A level and GCSE. The work on display in the Gallery brilliantly showcases the wide variety and range of processes that students have developed. We hope that some of the work will be seen from September onwards.



Modern Foreign Languages

French

It's been another busy year in the French department! We have welcomed Mrs Dawson and Mr Webb to the MFL and French department.



Madame Bailey and Mr Webb have been busy in French Soc, helping out students with homework, revision (especially for the GCSE students!) and some who wanted to start learning French.



In particular we want to thank Emily Shore, Miles Proctor and Tom Voaden from the year 12 IB class, who have also been instrumental in offering their support to younger students at the club. We also said good-bye to our year 13 IB class, who worked tirelessly throughout the last two years, with the challenges of Covid, and look forward to celebrating their successes with them on results day!

TBGS students welcome the Year of the Tiger with a roar!

For the first time in two years the Chinese department has been able to celebrate Chinese New Year in class in February. The Year of the Tiger was introduced to year 8 with a variety of activities including traditional brush calligraphy and the folk craft of paper cutting.

Lina Luo, our new Chinese assistant, joined us in January and has been a full part of life at TBGS. She has introduced the students of Chinese to life in China and meets with every student of Chinese once a fortnight to practise their spoken Chinese. She has worked particularly closely with year 11 to prepare them for their oral exams; they truly appreciated her individual lunchtime sessions and her help in Hanyu Helper. In the Summer term, she visited Sherwell Valley primary school to work with year-6 on a four-week China project and she also accompanied year 7 to the River Lemon (Geography) and Buckfast Abbey (P&AE). We look forward to her returning in September to join us for another year!

Mrs M Foster



German

Traditional Christmas baking with 6th Formers: Every December, Y12 & Y13 IB students get together in the Language Café to bake German or Austrian Christmas cookies or cakes, based on an original recipe (in German, of course). Always good fun, and always (perhaps surprisingly?) delicious!



Oxford German Olympiad:

This highly prestigious annual event has brought us tremendous success over the last seven years; each year, our students have either been winners or runners-up in this competition. That often meant trips to Oxford University to obtain certificates and prizes. This year, the theme was the River Rhine, and one Year 9 group was commended for their creative work on writing and illustrating a children's book about a cat living on a Rheinschiff (Rhine barge). Many congratulations (and commendations!) to Hugo Dossett, Simran Singh, Mustavi Emdad, Rohan Chowtee, Oli Ciechacki, and Josh Keay. Most of these students had already taken part last year, also being commended for their excellent work. These talented and motivated young men will surely follow in the footsteps of our current Y13 students, who have just sat their IB and A-Level Exams: Reuben Bye, Francis Lee, Alex Webster, Matt Stranex, Ruben Locke, Rupert Hill, and Jack Jones were an absolute credit to the school and their families, winning awards every year since Year 8. We will miss them sorely, but wish them every success for life after TBGS.

DEUTSCH AG/German Club:

Several students from all year groups have met every Tuesday lunch time to extend their knowledge of all things Germanic. Firm favourites this year were German Wordle and Hangman, as well as the card game Mau Mau. Many thanks to all the Year 12 and Y13 helpers, who are there to support and guide our younger students. It was therefore also good to see some students coming in to get help with homework and exam preparation, one of our big objectives in running this club. Apart from learning in a fun and relaxed environment, there are also tasty chocolates, biscuits, or Haribo sweets on offer – es lohnt sich.

ukgermanconnection:

This organisation, as the name suggest, wants to bring British and German students together. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, trips were not possible, but we hope that we can resume our collaboration with them: They offer funded trips to Bavaria (one or two weeks in the summer holidays for GCSE students), and one-month-visits to Berlin in August for IB Students who study German. Again, we have been hugely successful here, and almost every year since 2013, students from TBGS have been selected to go to Germany.

Spanish

This year the Spanish Club has been busy supporting students with the learning of the language, and it has been great to have the year-13 students helping whenever they have been able to. I would like to give special thanks to all the year 13 who helped, in particular, Max Bowden who did not miss any lunchtimes and was extremely helpful to other students.

Years 9-11 students have taken part in a pen-pal project with a school in Valencia, and they have written two letters to their penpals. There was great excitement when we received the Spanish students' first letters!

A big part of learning Spanish in IB is the cultural aspect. At Christmas, year 13 tried a Spanish sweet eaten at Christmas called turrón and learnt about a Catalan tradition called Caga Tió (a log that gives presents to children at Christmas).

Year-13 students took part in a Spanish omelette cooking session. They did a great job and then loved eating it! They also had a session learning about different types of music: sevillanas (flamenco), bachata, reggaeton, la tuna, salsa, cumbias, and more. After learning about the different types of music and hearing an example of each type, students had the opportunity to have a go at dancing sevillanas and bachata. It was great fun!

The year 13 students have been a great group and they will be very much missed by Miss Martínez. All the best for the future.



Centrax Linguist of the Year

Every September we celebrate the Centrax Linguist of the Year and this year it was won by Thomas Walledge for having had the highest scores in the two languages (German and Mandarin) he took at GCSE. He has continued with German in the sixth form. Very well done, Thomas.



Business Studies

There has never been a better time to be a student of Business or Economics. The TBGS Economics and Business department has found the last two years exciting fodder for teaching staple concepts. We have also been fortunate that despite the upheaval in the rest of the country, the majority of our students have succeeded in gaining entrance to their chosen universities.

2020 was the year that we trialed doing an additional GCSE in Economics. This was initially to be run with the aid of sixth-formers, but with lockdowns and bubble restrictions, this became impossible, so students themselves took responsibility for their learning with much independent learning and some teacher guidance. Lunchtimes saw the year 10s and 11s engaged in lively debate on various government policies from the furlough scheme to withdrawal of the £20 universal credit. Year 12 students have also coped well despite the disruptions of the past two years. In addition we had some old students coming back for mentoring our current year 12 and 13; Thank you, Gabriel Alberici and Julia Zlotkowska.

Year-12 students were also involved in presentations on market failure and policy making. In macroeconomics, they were set a task of compiling a report on the economic situation in a country of their choice. The two were designed to give students a hands-on opportunity to investigate an economic issue of choice and present it to an audience of their peers, teachers and Mr Kosmaczewski. This task was developed in order to allow students to develop public

speaking skills and confidence. It was good to see that the students had picked countries from the island country of Palau to Brazil and France. The two winning teams (Todd Denning, Rueben Darke, Hugo Hedges, Gabriel Harper, Finn Hearn, James Robinson, Chris Abel, Tommy Cox and David Cooper) will be treated to Pizza.

eSoc met regularly every Thursday and has discussed a range of issues, from the COVID response and its repercussions on the government exchequer, to increases in National Insurance. Year-13 students notably Sam Grimshaw, Rueben Bye, Chris Kiddey, Ollie Hall and Francis Lee

were great contributors. The society is a great opportunity to extend and enrich the concepts taught in the classroom. It provides students with an opportunity to flex their intellect and develop their economic prowess.

Year-13 students sat exams and though it has not been the easiest of times, they were as well prepared as possible. Bearing in mind that this cohort has never sat for an external examination before, this is a tense time and the department wishes them every success.

Ms S Aziz



Music

This year has been one of renewed enthusiasm in the Music Department at TBGS. We have finally been able to run our full calendar of events, and the energy which our students have put into reviving these has been wonderful to see.

Our Autumn Concert is the finest public showcase of our musicians' talent and hard work. In addition to familiar groups we also saw debut performances by flute choir and drumming club, plus fantastic solos from older students including Tom Grogan (who is at the start of a very promising musical career).



Just as welcome was our return to All Saints' Church in Babbacombe for our *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*. As ever, the students' ability to produce beautiful choral music in a short rehearsal time was astounding.

This year we had another particularly talented year-13 cohort, so our year-13 concert in January

was a special occasion with performances in a range of styles at a very high level. At the core of this group are the *Zen Fyra Collective* – a jazz fusion quartet of Isaac Hutchinson, Oscar Garbett, Tom Grogan and George Menter – who were selected back in 2020 for the *Powderham Live program*. Their brilliant recording work can finally be viewed on the Powderham Live Youtube channel.



Other student achievements beyond the school include a raft of successes in instrumental and singing exams. Francis Lee, year 13 was one of only two students selected to perform alongside *Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra* in a GCSE Set Works concert and Jude Ellacott in Year 10 was recently appointed principal percussionist in Torbay Symphony Orchestra.

Our year 9 gifted and talented session in January was another great success, with students taking

part in a collaborative composition workshop, culminating in performances of riff-based music at the end of the day.

In March, the jazz band were treated to a workshop with Jon Stokes, trombone player with some of the country's leading Jazz Orchestras. Working on improvisation and ensemble skills, Jon was blown away by the ability of the students to take on really challenging musical material.



Towards the end of the year we enjoyed year-7 and 8 Concerts (it's always great to see the next generation of TBGS musicians in what is for many their first public performance) and Torchella, our music festival, which is back to its full three-stage glory on the last day of term.

Mr C Eastman

History

Debate

Year-9 have been studying the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the Second World War. This unit of work culminated in a debate that saw the class cleft in two, taking opposite sides of an argument that would either justify or condemn the bombing. Before the debate began, both groups organized themselves into roles



and gathered as much evidence as they could. They also assigned roles to each team member. One person would chair the group, four would compose arguments, one would conclude the arguments and two would ready themselves to dissemble the other team's points.

The day of the debate arrived, and the class congregated in front of a makeshift speaker's podium. The proceedings began with the chairmen delivering opening statements before swiftly moving onto the main body of the debate, the four arguments. All manner of topics were brought up, including but not limited to: natural

implications, social impacts, economic collapse, and political ramifications. Speakers played the crowd, questioning opposition members and delivering their monologues with all manner of character and style. After this had transpired, the conclusers summed up the claims with a flourish, ending each side's arguments decisively. Finally, the counter attackers took to the stage, shredding through the claims and tearing through any holes to be found. The teams seemed evenly matched, with standouts on either side, but it was not to be a draw. In 9N, the bombing was condemned and Team Against emerged from the heated debate victorious.

By Louis Dowell and Archie Bartlett, 9N

History Society

Recently, members of the History Society were fortunate enough to be able to visit *The Box*, the refurbished museum in Plymouth.



Set in fantastic new facilities, the museum houses a veritable treasure trove of historical artefacts. Among others, there was a chance to wonder at the salvaged figureheads of warships, celebrating Plymouth's naval past.

After that, there was a chance to investigate the exhibits that celebrated *100 Journeys*, charting Plymouth's association with the age of exploration, connecting to individuals such as Sir Francis Drake and Captain Scott who were central

to the development of the British Empire. Ranging from prehistoric man, to the development of TV, we were spoilt for choice!

Mr D Hore and Mrs J Shore.

Dr Mustafa Baig

Tying in with the year 7 study of the Crusades and their significance in history, with a specific focus on the legacies of the Crusades, TBGS students in years 7, 9 and 12 were fortunate to be an audience for the guest speaker, Dr. Mustafa Baig, who visited the school from Exeter University, to present a TED-style talk on the Crusades and Jerusalem and their significance up to the present day. Dr. Baig, a Lecturer at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, an expert in Islamic Law and Culture, dedicated time out of his very busy schedule to take students and staff on a turbulent journey through time, beginning in Jerusalem and including the attack on the Twin Towers in 9/11.

Dr. Baig shared his expertise in the history of Islamic religion, culture and the importance of Jerusalem to many people around the world. The conclusion that students made at the end of the talk was that the Crusades, which began in 1098/491 and lasted until around 1250/540, have had a profound impact, leaving profound legacies – both positive and negative – related to religions, cultures, languages and relationships between many peoples around the world up to the present day. Thank you, Dr. Baig for your time and expertise!

Mrs S Travis



Design & Technology

What a year it has been; we have welcomed two new members to the department, Mr Ross and most recently Mr Evans. They both offer different specialities which will help us broaden our offerings.

Next year we are going to expand our provision with the introduction of Food and Nutrition to the curriculum. Students have been learning about a healthy diet throughout this year and have been completing the practical elements at home. However, construction of a purpose-built food room is under way as I write this and will be ready for classes in September.

10/11 of our A level students are going on to study Design and Technology related degrees next year and we wish them every success.

Mrs H Jones



Physical Education

PE at TBGS has really bounced back well since the pandemic, with a range of activities being undertaken during curriculum PE lessons. PE lessons have evolved to incorporate three different strands of development during the Key Stage 3 curriculum. The process starts with the ADD units of work: Acquire, Develop, Do, where pupils are encouraged to broaden their range of sporting experiences. Once the pupils have acquired these skills, the CUE processes kick in, where pupils Choose, Use and Explore, in a range of sports. Towards the end of year 9, pupils are encouraged to LEAD: Lead, Evaluate, Adapt, Discuss, to highlight their skills. In years 10 and 11, the WRAP program is introduced. The Wellness and Recreational Activity Pathways involves pupils opting for different half termly blocked options.

The sports we offer include abseiling, athletics, badminton, basketball, biathlon, coastal walking, climbing, cricket, cross country, dodgeball, first aid, fitness, flag football, football, futsal, golf, hockey, kabaddi, kayaking, orienteering, paddleboarding, rugby, skiing, sports leadership, squash, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, tchoukball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, volleyball. I'm sure that you will agree, this is a rich tapestry of sporting experiences for all pupils at the school.

XLR8

We have had a hugely successful year in terms of individual and team successes on the pitches, courts, tracks and pools. The highlight was the under-15 rugby team's performance in the national final at Twickenham in March, as well as featuring in seven District and county cup football finals in May. We have seen swimming successes in the pool at Exeter, followed more recently by athletic successes at Exeter Arena, where there were team successes, as well as individual successes. Both Ise Aworinde (100m) and Mario Dache (800m) broke 20-year-old track records at the South Devon area athletics.

XLR8 School Team Achievements:

U12 South Devon 9-A-Side Rugby Champions
U12 South Devon Football Champions
U12 South Devon Cross Country Champions
U12 Devon Football Runners Up
U12 South Devon Athletics Champions
U13 South Devon 10-A-Side Rugby Runners Up
U13 Exeter School Junior Swimming Champions
U13 ESFA National Cup Football Quarter Finalists
U13 South Devon Football Champions
U13 South Devon Athletics Champions
U14 South Devon 10-A-Side Rugby Champions
U14 South Devon Football Champions
U14 Devon Football Runners Up
U14 County Rugby 7-A-Side Finalists
U14 County Cricket Finalists
U14 South Devon Cross Country Champions
U14 South Devon 10-A-Side Rugby Champions
U15 South Devon 15-A-Side Rugby Champions
U15 NatWest Vase RFU National Rugby 15-A-Side Finalists
U15 County Rugby 15-A-Side Finalists
U15 County Rugby 7-A-Side Finalists
U15 County Cricket Finalists
U15 ESFA National Cup Football Last 32 Game
U16 South Devon 10-A-Side Rugby Champions
U16 South Devon 15-A-Side Rugby Champions
U16 Exeter School Intermediate Swimming Champions
U16 Devon Football Champions
U16 South Devon Football Champions
U16 South Devon Cross Country Champions
U16 ESFA National Cup Football Last 16 Game
U18 ESFA National Cup Football Last 32 Game
U18 Exeter School Senior Swimming Champions



Individual International Achievements:

We have a number of pupils who have achieved amazing feats outside of school-based activities, and the following pupils can now boast international representation – congratulations:

Alfie Collier - English Senior Tumbling Team
Dan Cornall - Great Britain U21 Shooting
Flora Perkin - England U19 Swimming
Seb Looker - Germany U19 Cricket
Henry Gilbert - Great Britain U17 Octopush
Finn Kerswell - Great Britain Junior Bouldering Champion
Zac Morgan-Horwood - England U14 Welterweight Taekwondo Champion

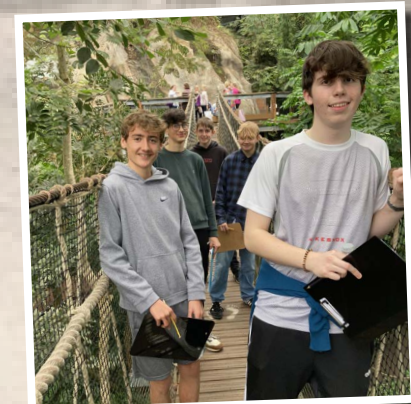
Geography

We are delighted to have been able to run a full complement of fieldwork this year, and the students have clearly been delighted to venture outside the classroom.

Year 7s enjoyed orienteering at Cockington and embarked on a magical mystery tour along the River Lemon from Haytor to Newton Abbot to look at river processes.



Year 8s learnt about the local coastal geology and landforms on their Geoparks trip and the Year 9s have recently investigated plant adaptations in the tropical rainforest at the Eden project.



We have also been lucky to host a couple of external visitors. Dr Mark Davidson did a talk about extreme storms in December, and more recently, former student, Jonathan Rosser, spoke to the sixth formers about his incredible work on Antarctica, the Southern Ocean, and climate change. Jonathan is currently researching for a PhD with the University of Cambridge and works with the British Antarctic Survey and the Meteorological Office.



Year 10s have been getting their wellies on and measuring river processes on the River Dart, whilst the year 11s did a whole lot of walking and investigated urban regeneration in Bristol. There are a number of residential opportunities offered to sixth-form geographers at TBGS and the year 12s have already enjoyed a couple of nights away in Swanage where they experienced the coastal delights of Dorset. Admittedly, Durdle Door took a while to appear out of the mist and rain, but Old Harry Rocks and Studland Bay looked resplendent in the spring sunshine.



The bright lights of London were shining in June, where the students got to look at gentrification and regeneration in the capital city. In addition to fieldwork, the year-12 students have been able to experience a bit of university life with attendance at a number of lectures and conferences. The A-Level geographers attended a Changing Places conference in December where they got to use GIS software and build computer models showing sea-level rise on the Isles of Scilly, and then in March, they visited the University of Plymouth to learn about wildfires, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes from geohazard scientists.



The introduction of a new lunchtime Geography quiz club has brought much excitement to the department. It has also led to great success for the year-9 super quizzers who saw off strong opposition to retain the Geography Worldwide crown for TBGS in March. Some of the year-9 and 10 geographers have a phenomenal knowledge which would surely challenge the chasers! Connor Flackett, Billy Cole and Thomas Crawford need a special mention for becoming the South Devon Worldwide quiz regional winners.



As ever, we have been delighted with the progress made by our GCSE and IB/A-Level students this year and wish them every success in the future.

Use your Geography to go on and do amazing things. You are all fantastic!

Dr H Fyfe



Chess

We have been running three weekly clubs for much of the year: running an all-years club, and separate sixth form and year-7 clubs has meant larger numbers of students have been playing weekly. Online, we have a weekly session on Li Chess with a small but dedicated group of regulars. Between October and March, our stronger players have been representing the school in evening matches against the chess clubs of South Devon in the Torbay League, mostly playing against seasoned adult players.

As regional organising school for the English Chess Federation (ECF), we have hosted inter school tournaments for the chess playing schools of the South-West, but also the preliminary round of the ECF under-19 national Schools' competition. This year we have progressed to the National finals of this competition beating other South-West Schools (Devonport High, Exeter School and Taunton School) in subsequent matches on our way there. This will be a challenge for our school team taking on the top-20 teams in the country which include Eton, Westminster School, St Paul's and Winchester College over two days in Leicestershire.

With the House chess competition which involved nearly a quarter of the school, run on consecutive Tuesdays after school in the second half of the spring term (which was a closely fought contest with a tie between Dart and Goodington for the title of House chess champions this year),

it has certainly been an active and successful year of chess at TBGS.

In the autumn we held our annual Junior Open Tournament, the first indoor over the board event in the county for two years, with section winning performances from Joe Forty (U12) and Josh Keay (U14). At the Devon Junior Championships held in Kingsteignton in December, Jamie Glasson and Alasdair Marr shared the title of Devon under-13 County Champion.

In the Spring Term we held the school championship with games weekly in our lunchtime clubs. Joe Forty won the year-7 Championship, but the main school championship was tied with James Gibbs and Evan McMullan sharing the title. We are losing James and Evan who have been loyal members of the club, this year - we wish all our year-13 players the very best for the future. A special mention must also go to Bradley Holland who has been a worthy chess captain this season, assisting with organisational aspects and ably taking control of the house chess results!

Finally a big thank you from all of us to Trefor Thynne, who has now retired from TBGS chess after many years of loyal service: he started the club back in the late 80s and I am sure there will be readers of this who will have memories of playing in the school club with him when they were students at TBGS.

Mr T Onions



Biology

It has been incredible to see such a large cohort of students from all year groups taking full advantage of the continued Friday meetings at MedSoc, this term. Josh Stephen, year 12, and James Johnson, year 12, led an enlightening session, highlighting the differences in the roles between doctors and nurses. Sam Oakshott, year 12, also gave a fantastic presentation about his work experience, allowing for students to consider ethical decisions to be made in a veterinary context.

We've also had the pleasure of having several guest speakers come in to present to our members. Fred Williams, a previous MedSoc member, came in to talk to us about his experiences as a first-year medical student and the process of applying to university. Some really eye-opening talks were given by Dr. Hobson and Dr. Kelly, who discussed alternative routes into medicine and dentistry courses, respectively, in addition to a fascinating talk from Mr Singh, consultant obstetrician at Torbay hospital, who led us through an unusual case of missing spleen!

Practical skills have been another one of our focuses at MedSoc; our members have had the opportunity to participate in several dissections.

We were particularly lucky this term to be able to hold a suturing workshop where our members were given professional demonstrations and had the fantastic opportunity to try suturing on some fruit!

by student Jack Zheng, 13R



Paul Martin from the Devon Wildlife Trust gave a fascinating talk to our sixth formers on the reintroduction of beavers to the river Otter; he

covered their impact on biodiversity and flood management, and brought in some artefacts for the students to handle to appreciate how superbly adapted these water engineers are to their environment.

Year-12 Biology students enjoyed the sun while completing ecological surveys at Dawlish Warren. Surveying in the afternoon was supported by a morning talk from the Dawlish Ranger team which explored the warrens history and evolving nature, the conservation methods employed on the Warren, and its legal protections.

Miss S Rowan



Chemistry

Having negotiated the challenges of teaching chemistry through the disruption of the pandemic, we are pleased to return to normality. We are particularly impressed with and proud of our exam-year students in years 11 and 13, who were positive and resilient through the disrupted years. We were confident in them as they headed off for their exams. This year we have had a change of personnel and welcome Mr Plumridge to the department who is making a positive impact with his classes and fitting into the school really well.

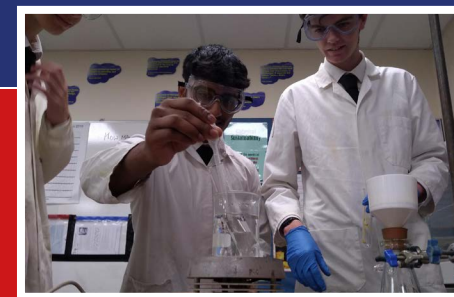
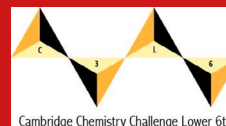
Beyond the Classroom...

In key stage S3, Mrs Britton and Mr Plumridge run a science club in which there is an opportunity to attain a Crest award. This included a group making a really good presentation based on chemistry. Very well done to them.

The Royal Society of Chemistry 'Olympiad' is a prestigious competition which attracts schools to enter their best chemists from year 13. A quarter of candidates achieved a silver award nationally and we put in very strong performances year after year, typically producing the best results in the south-west. Gold medals are awarded to only a small percentage of candidates and we usually have at least one student be awarded a gold award. This year we had 4! Mrs Shanks runs a popular lunchtime club focused on difficult problems solving in the month or two before the competition.



For year 12, there is an opportunity for all students to enter the friendly difficult Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This take place in June and, again, Mrs Shanks runs a club to prepare students for it.



Special mention to Henry Hunter, Guy Lewis and Will Thomas who, all in year 12, achieved a silver which is a fabulous achievement as this is, in every way, a year-13 competition, and so year 12 have not yet tackled organic chemistry, which features heavily on the paper. We are very proud of them and look forward to our clearly talented year 12s entering the Cambridge Challenge this June.

Nuffield Research places over 1,000 students each



Gold for Myles Harrison, Dan Brittan, Will Royce and Jake Bartram. Silver for Alex Tabbrown, Myles Begley, Henry Hunter, Michael Sinnott, Guy Lewis, Will Thomas and Fraser Dixon. Bronze for Sarah Probert, Peter Yates, Luke Bevin, Tom Walledge, Billy Adamson, Tom Voaden and Archie West.



year with the opportunity to engage in a hands-on research project alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers or mathematicians. In the past, several of our year-12 students have spent summers working on these. They loved it. For students committed to science education, these are a brilliant way to spend a summer and fantastic for your CV or UCAS application. Ask us about them.

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nuffield-research-placements>

Physics

New Staff

It has been great to welcome Mr Read to the science department this year, teaching both Physics and Biology. His dynamic teaching style and expertise across the sciences has been invaluable to students he is teaching. He is also the one person on the year-11 Physics Heist exercise book cover who actually looks like he could be on a film poster!

Academic Competitions

It has been great to be back to normal teaching this year, and part of this has been running the academic competitions administered by the British Physics Olympiad for years 11, 12 and 13. These are national competitions based around problem solving and a wider understanding of Physics beyond the syllabus taught in schools, and anyone who scores highly enough to be awarded a certificate should be very proud of themselves (since we are of you!). These are the headline awards for each year group:

Year-11 Intermediate Physics Challenge:

As well as almost 30 bronze awards overall, a silver was awarded to Keon Trinh, and a gold certificate, an outstanding achievement, went to Finn Sellar. Congratulations to these students for their awards.

Senior Physic Challenge (Year 12)

The following students were awarded a bronze II: Roman Cresswell, Samuel Dunne, Oliver Holroyd, Charlie Jay, Luke Bevin, Luca Carasco, Jack Maher,

Patrick Warren, Josh Thomas, Surinder Virdee.

These students achieved a bronze I:

Billy Adamson and Archie West.

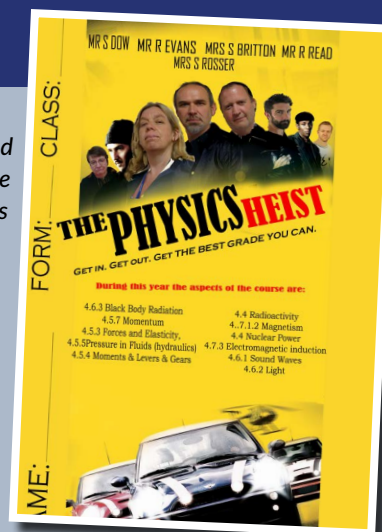
Finally, congratulations go to Tom Walledge, the highest score in the year group, who achieved a GOLD award.

The British Physics Olympiad Round 1 competition - the pinnacle of academic endeavour!

After a selection round, a few intrepid individuals take part in this round, consisting of two papers, each of 1.5 hour duration. Normally this is for year 13, but Will Thomas in year 12 participated.

These students achieved a GOLD award, a superb achievement: Myles Harrison and William Royce

The following achieved a silver: Herbie Dorman, Daniel Britton and Will Thomas
Alex Tabbrown gained a bronze I, and Michael Sinnott a bronze II award.



Special mention must, though, go to Will Thomas in year 12, with his Silver award, an outstanding achievement for his age and experience of higher-level physics.

Mr S Dow



Mathematics

The Mathematics department enjoyed another great year of student success in the Mathematics challenges organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT).

These challenges are designed to stretch and extend the best mathematicians in their problem-solving skills across a number of different fields of Mathematics. There are three phases of challenges available, the Junior Challenge for year-7 and 8 students; the Intermediate challenge for year-9 to 11, and the Senior Challenge for sixth-form students.

In total, 536 students took part in the challenges throughout the year, with 72 students achieving gold certificates, 132 gaining silver certificates and 195 students being awarded a bronze certificate.

Further to these successes, some of the highest-scoring students were then invited by the UKMT to take part in the follow-on rounds 20 students were invited from Years 7 and 8 to take part in the Junior Kangaroo round, with Makie Tian being invited to take part in the Junior Maths Olympiad. 14 year 9 students were invited to take part in the Grey Kangaroo round. 21 year 10 students were invited to take part in the Pink Kangaroo round, and congratulations go to Danial Spear who was invited to take part in the Caylay Olympiad and also to Finn Sellar who was invited to take part in the Maclaurin Olympiad. Additionally, eight students were invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo round. A huge congratulations goes to all students who took part in all these competitions!

Mr C Price



Philosophy & Applied Ethics

The Forum

Students across a range of year groups have been discussing ideas ranging from the metaphysics of pain [what actually is it?] to the reasonable limits of art, within The Forum lunchtime club open to years 9-13. Often led by students themselves, the chance to have a meeting of minds across classes, year groups and cross-curricular topics of interest has been embraced by many regular attendees - and a visit from TGGs students to consider the value of certain academic disciplines is certainly something we will aim to repeat in the future allowing our two communities to share perspectives and outlooks.



The Forum After Hours

Language: Friend or Foe?

On Wednesday 23 March, once the school day had ended, 100 year 9-13 students from both TGGs and TBGS gathered in the Centenary Hall for our first ever Forum After Hours event. It marked an exciting new era of collaboration and mutual exchange between the two schools, and aimed to create an opportunity to discuss a range of gender-related topics such as feminism, abortion and human rights in small, safe community of enquiry groups. After refreshments, and some ice-breaker activities, students broke out into six mixed community of enquiry groups in various classrooms to discuss these topics together. Sixth form ambassadors from each school facilitated the sessions and students rotated between them. At 5.15pm, everyone returned to the Centenary Hall to be treated to a buffet tea, comprising a range of culinary delights prepared by Chef Bea and her team. Further conversation prompts in small table groups, and some final thoughts brought this successful inaugural opportunity to a close. Subsequent feedback from participants has highlighted a desire to run regular, similar events in the future and student voice has flagged up a range of collaborative activities they would also like to see being developed.



Niki Kastev, 10H, was this year's winner of the year-10 Philosophy essay competition. He received a trophy and £20 Amazon voucher. Here is his winning entry...

We have a special moral responsibility to care for people in our local communities, rather than those further away. Do you agree?

In order to answer the question, there is a need to uncover what a local community is. According to Google, 'a local community is a group of interacting people sharing an environment.' But this is just a facade. In reality, it is different. A local community unites us, it helps us connect, allows us to help out and see a change, it makes us feel safe and secure. In this perfect local community, joy, reward, grief, and sorrow are all shared.

This is exactly why some argue that you obtain a moral responsibility to care for those people in your local communities, influenced utterly by the proximity. For example, we all feel a small sense of satisfaction when we buy food from a local farmers' market, or when we donate something to a community larder, knowing that we are helping those nearby. We do this to support those closest to us - seeing a difference - as their wellbeing often affects ours. Overall, one argument is that we support people in neighbouring areas as their wellbeing is of paramount significance to us.

In this utopia, there is no disparity between regions, neighbourhoods, and countries.

However, we do not reside in a utopia. Grief, pain, suffering, and evil are ubiquitous. Even in the UK, there are still households where parents struggle to provide for their families, leaving children deprived of a healthy upbringing. Luckily, in this country, many organisations have been established to tackle this, and schools provide many necessities for children too. One example of this is an emphasis on physical education in schools, especially for those that cannot afford private lessons outside school. Similarly, in this country events that cause hardship to communities, like flooding, are aided by a myriad of different institutions. Despite this, across the globe, there are countries where venal politicians rule. In these areas, no government institutions are likely to support those going through hardships and people in local communities often have their own problems. One recent example of this is in Tonga, where a tsunami destroyed many regions. In this case, aid from faraway Australia and New Zealand was sent, including necessities like food and water. So, overall one compelling view is that we must unite, not as communities or countries, but as humans, helping those who need it, regardless of all geographical and political barriers.

With the arguments presented, the unequivocal conclusion to the conundrum is this: there is an inescapable allure to favour those close to us, with the blind hope that others will be cared for and provided for. Although we should continue to support our closest, by donating to food banks and buying their products when possible, as a society we must prioritise those who are in the nadir. As humans, irrespective of all barriers, we should help those who really need it.

Back in November, our very own Dr Dimmock had an article on Sartre published by Dialogue magazine.



Year-11 P & AE Revision: Summer 2022

As with all departments here at TBGS, we have been working really hard over the past couple of years to keep our exam groups on track as independent, motivated learners during the challenges of COVID.

In our final few lessons before the exams, we decided to lighten the mood and create some fun but focused revision opportunities for our year-11 P & AE students. Where possible, we combined groups and set up a carousel of activities which included sweet pong, revision clocks against the clock and human part (d) answers. Each group also had the opportunity to attend a mastering the part (d) interactive revision session either in the Forum or the Library. We hope this helped to revitalise their experience of the subject and we wish them well in their exams.



Ten Tors

The Ten Tors 2022 event was preceded by some trepidation but also anticipation this year. After two years of the event being unfortunately cancelled, it was a relief to be finally able to restore this hugely beneficial part of school life. At the beginning of the year, it was clear to see the pent-up frustrations of students living under lockdowns with over one hundred students signing up to be involved in the event. Over the course of a year's tough training, this became 37 competitors and reserves for the Ten Tors weekend. Huge congratulations go to these 37 students for what they have achieved this year. It is so heart-warming to see the best characteristics encapsulated so prominently in a group of young people. Leadership, team work, resilience, maturity all were on full display over the Ten Tors event and both Torquay Boys' Grammar School and National Trust Teams put in very impressive performances. The TBGS 45s came back 1st in the morning and the NT 45s 3rd in their distance. All 35-mile teams across the two organisations came back before 2:30pm.

Mr A Brown



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh Award

participants have been volunteering, learning new skills and getting physical in a wide range of sports. It has been another fantastic year of achievement with over 50 awards completed and many more nearly finished. Students have recorded over 1000 hours

of volunteering in the community, involved in a diverse range of activities including a Dartmoor junior ranger, tutoring in astronomy and coaching rugby. In the skills section, students have been treating their families and tutors to a range of baked goods and meals as part of the skills section. Others have tested their skills in chess and many continue to develop their musical talents.

July 2021 saw the return of camping expeditions with Silver and Gold groups excited to be walking on Dartmoor again after lockdown was eased. The expedition is, for many, the highlight of the award and provides an opportunity to be outdoors and away from studies for a few days. It is also very challenging and Silver students faced torrential rain on their three-day expedition. This fully tested their navigation skills and safety training. Despite a very long final qualifying day all participants enjoyed the experience and particularly the sense of achievement.

The Award is a great way of gaining recognition for activities students are already involved in but also provides new challenges and develops new skills.

Mr A Farquarson and Mr A Brown

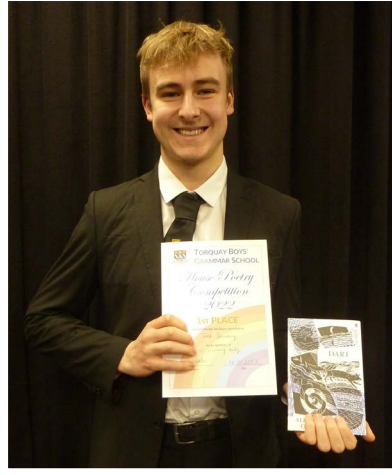


English

This year has been a fantastic one for creative enrichment, and students from all year groups have impressed us with their poetry, short stories and artwork both within and outside of the classroom.

The House Poetry Competition in October resulted in some very thought-provoking poems and as always, we were impressed by students' reactions and treatment of the given theme. This year the theme for the House Poetry Competition was Imagine. Students were encouraged to consider the power of the imagination and the results as ever were creative, thoughtful, and very clever. The winners were presented with some beautiful editions of poetry collections.

The winners;
Joseph Wilson, 7H
Reuben Tomlinson, 8F
Josh John, 9R
Alex Broadhurst, 10G
Dom Taylor, 11H
Todd Denning, 12B



Book Week followed in March, and this year's theme was Dystopian Fiction. Exciting events took place all week and included the Hunger Games-themed tavern each break and the Dystopian Party in the Library with an Escape Room, archery and Random Reaping challenges! In addition to this, students were tasked with producing an artefact from a dystopian book with the added challenge of it having to fit in the palm of their hand! We were overwhelmed by students' ingenuity and creativity: some of the best creations were put on display in the Library, and the overall winners from each year group received collectable



copies of some famous works of dystopian fiction. Congratulations to Ben Jerrald, 7H, Taylor Hanbury, 8D, and Elliot Wilkes in 9F.



Reading overall has gone from strength to strength this year with the help of the Accelerated Reader Scheme. AR is a computer program that helps to motivate children's independent reading practice during KS3; it encourages students to read independently and make progress whilst doing so, promoting literacy and learning skills across the curriculum. Following completion of reading a book within their book level, students can achieve points when they succeed in a quiz about the book, which leads to them receiving prizes. On top of this, students can aspire to achieve their one-million-word reader badge, their five-million-word reader badge or their ten-million-word reader badge.

In addition, it was wonderful to see the return of the spelling bee in April, held for the first time in the brand-new Forum. The atmosphere was intense as students battled to spell some extremely challenging words! Congratulations to Haldon and Goodrington who were joint winners this year.

Students have also benefited from a vast array



of creative clubs this year: drama club, film club and literary Extension Group have all been well-attended and provided opportunities for students to shine, develop and create. The drama club students, for example, have enjoyed a mix of improvisation activities and performing short scenes, including a confident performance of scenes from *A Christmas Carol* at the Christmas fair.

Film club has been extremely well-attended this year, with an official Torquay Boys' Grammar Film Club Teams page galvanising the group of dedicated cinephiles, who have this term taken the lead in curating our week-to-week programme. Moving away from the literary and box office

hit, *Ready Player One* to our more independent, eclectic cult comedies – *Napoleon Dynamite*; Taika Waititi's incredible *Boy* and *The Hunt for the Wilderpeople* – students have voted on the latest offering, based on Into Film's (school-based, free film charity) excellent online streaming options. It was a closely run race between Pixar's *Onward*; Matt Damon's potato-farming *The Martian* and everybody's favourite Steven Spielberg alien (nope, definitely not the ones from *Indiana Jones 4*!), *ET*, with our film clubbers choosing to 'phone home'. Our next project will be a short film competition, with director finalist's submissions due to be screened in our brand-new, purpose-built lecture/presentation studio, The Forum. Perhaps our next future Oscar-winning TBGS alumni cinematographer, Roger Deakins, will be recognised this year!

The English Extension Group has been attended by both A-level and IB students keen to extend their passion for English beyond the curriculum. The always lively sessions have focussed on a range of texts such as works by Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes and, more recently the Neo-Classical ideas of Alexander Pope. The group of regular attendees invariably shine with their combination of mature critical skills and diverse, well-informed opinions.

Moreover, an impressive number of our key stage 3 students have had success with a range of national writing competitions. Over 40 students from years 7-10 entered 2 writing competitions for Young writers and had their creative writing published in either an anthology of short stories called *Twisted Tales* or an anthology of poetry. Congratulations to everyone who entered and became a published writer!

TBGS Radio made a popular return to the ReTreat in the Autumn term and it was wonderful to have a growing squad of techies provide their editing expertise to the podcasting teams. Alongside using MS Forms for all students for the first time to have a say on their song requests, we've had regular features including mobile games talk shows, weekly football reviews and the always entertaining *The General Show*. There will be a final Summer Term special to come before we begin again in September. New members always welcome, so if anyone wants to get into the recording studios in the Manor next year, students can look out for adverts early next term!

Mrs C Warde

Computer Science

We have had a busy year in Computer Science with lots going on. With this being our first full year "back to normal" after two years disruption caused by the COVID pandemic, it has been great to see great progress from students in all stages.

Bebras Challenge

In Term 1, all Computer Science students took part in the Bebras challenge, a competition in problem solving and logical thinking, these being two thinking skills that underpin the subject of computer science. Our results across the school were fantastic with 286 students gaining a merit or distinction and 156 students gaining a gold award for results in the top 10% nationally, a spectacular achievement and demonstration of the strength in depth of computer science students in the school.

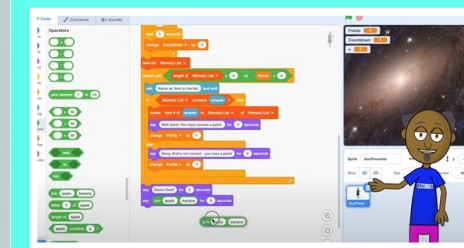
The best in school performances for the four age categories were gained by:

- Juniors (10-12) Theodore Fitzgerald, 7R
- Inters (12-14) Bryn Jeffrey, 9O
- Seniors (14-16) Jacob Warren, 11Y
- Elite (16-18) Herbie Dorma, 13D

Scratch programming competition

The Edulito annual Scratch programming competition for year 7 students opened in early 2022 with this year's theme based on the very pressing issue of climate change. By the deadline of Friday 22 July 2022, we had seen some great work from many of the regular Code Club students.

For more information, please see details on the Edulito website at <https://www.edulito.com>



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday, 8 February 2022 marked this year's edition of the Safer Internet Day, an event which aims to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. This year's theme was *All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online*, which aimed to encourage students to start thinking about online relationships with other, via an online quiz posted on Microsoft Teams.



Code club

It has been lovely to see students enjoying working on their programming projects in CodeClub! Year-7 students engaged with various Scratch activities, such as the puzzle room or guess the flag whilst others experimented with Python programming. In between projects we also engaged with the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition where we solved puzzles and ciphers. These are still available on the competition website to try and test your knowledge! <https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography-competition/>



In the summer term we continued with some new and interesting Scratch and Python pathways, which included challenges such as code breaking using frequency analysis, creating a model of the solar system or building a 2.5D simulator!

British Informatics Olympiad

The annual British Informatics Olympiad is a programming competition for sixth-form computer science students. This year, we hosted our round of this event in January with 13 students taking part in the event. During the three hours of the event, students have to design and create computer programs to solve some incredibly challenging problems set by the staff at Cambridge University Department of Computer Science.

This year the problems involved solving an "optimal stopping" problem relating to car parking, modelling the movement of bees through a colony and a cryptography problem. More than half of our competitors produced solutions to the problems, an excellent achievement considering the difficulty of producing solutions in the very limited time available. Notable performances were seen from Herbie Dorman and Oscar Wright in year 13 and Bradley Knight in year 12.

Attend the Tale of Sweeney Todd...

Students from Torquay Boys' and Girls' Grammar schools staged an electric production of Sweeney Todd, held over four nights in the Cavannah Centenary Hall, March 8-11, 2022.

Work started six months before with rehearsals for cast and orchestra, at the start of the academic year: those familiar with the show will know it is a huge challenge in terms of complexity of the music, characterisation and staging. Despite the hurdles to overcome (blood special effects, teasing out the light with such dark characters, and endless music-action cues, to name a few) it turned about to be the perfect show choice as a spectacular to welcome the community back to school as we edge back to normal from the pandemic.



Over 100 people were involved either on or off stage, as well as in the orchestra; all their contributions were invaluable in bringing the story to life on stage, and no doubt a hair-raising experience that will be long remembered.



A word from the Headteacher

Welcome to the latest edition of Torquin! There are four pillars which are central to the life and success of the school: academic progress, extra-curricular activities, the Houses and sport. In this magazine you will have seen just why these areas are so important in providing the students with a multitude of opportunities to demonstrate their talents and to have their lives enriched by engaging in activities beyond the classroom.

We have three key values as a school; excellence, integrity and leadership. Excellence means being the best you can be; integrity is about doing the right thing and leadership is to do with taking responsibility. Everything you have read in this magazine demonstrates that those values are taken to heart by the students and that they fully embrace the opportunities on offer to them.

Torquay Boys' Grammar School is a fantastic, dynamic, caring and stimulating place in which students are pushed to reach their potential in all that they do and I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the things that have taken place during the last year.

Pete Lawrence
Headteacher

Torquay Boys' Grammar School

☎ 01803 615501

email: enquiries@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

www.tbgs.co.uk