

TORQUIN



July 2023

TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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Burgh



We have had a busy and successful year in Burgh House – developing new initiatives like the House Orchard and continuing our commitment to well established charity work like the Christmas boxes for Ukraine. None of these could work without the effort and dedication of the students in Burgh, and I am proud of the sense of community that we have in looking after our environment, each other and our neighbours who need our support.



The House Orchard planting was a huge success and I am grateful to all the staff, students and parents who came to dig a lot of holes, plant a lot of trees and erect some beautiful woodwork for our new space. We are hoping to see the fruits of our labour (literally) later on in the year, and in the meantime the students

are keen to raise funds for some tables and benches, so that the Orchard can be used at lunchtime as a space for friends to meet.

In the House Competition we have had success in the myriad events held across the year, and there are too many individual performances to mention here. However, 2 exceptional performances from Rory Parkhill and Tom Voaden of year 13 who have won the House Quiz for Burgh every year since they joined us in year 7. A fantastic achievement which has been celebrated with 2 especially commissioned trophies for them.

In a fiercely contested House Chess competition this year, 7B won the year 7 Chess Championship amongst some strong opponents - but they held their nerve to gain maximum points towards the House Championship. Well done to the whole team!

We have also introduced some new ways of recognising the progress and success of our students with the celebration breakfasts – this has been incredibly popular and we hope to extend this into next year.



Our new senior team of House Captains has recently been appointed, and now that we are definitely out of the shadow of Covid, there is a real sense from all of the Captains that we want to build on inter-form activities as we finish this academic year and plan for the next. Congratulations to Ben Brugge, Will Kenefick, Dan Seaward, Emily Litster and Anya Manlow as they take on this high profile and prestigious role.



Mrs A Kilpatrick

Dart



It has been a busy year for the staff and pupils of Dart House in which there have been exemplary charitable endeavours, contributions to the House Championship and exciting events to become involved with.

At Christmas, Mrs Medway organised a fantastic evening of bowling. With 70 pupils in attendance, there were some great performances among the pupils (and staff)!



With the assistance of Haldon, there was also a magnificent Halloween Disco. Without the generous support of the staff and Sixth Form, this event could not have taken place. The same is true with the Charity Penalties that our new Senior Team organised – capably assisted by the goalkeeping talents of Mr York and Mr Zursiedel, enabling generous funds to be raised for our long-standing charity, the MS Society.



The traditional Curry night with this year's Senior Prefects also provided the usual fun and opportunity to relax as a team.



As ever, I remain impressed and proud of everyone's efforts in the House Competition. Whether it has been organising teams, volunteering to participate, giving every ounce of effort on the Sports Field or, proudly lifting the House Chess Trophy once again, there have been some truly stellar performances for which you all can feel justifiably proud.

Mr D Hore

There have also been a number of charitable efforts that have been well-supported, including the annual Santa Run by 7D and 8D, and a Bake Sale co-ordinated by Mrs Torocisk and 10D.



Fox Tor



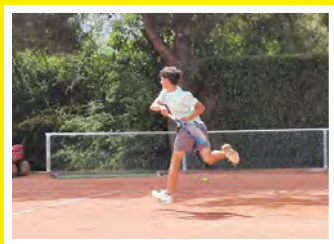
Becoming Head of Fox Tor House this year has been a privilege. I have loved every minute of getting to know the students, celebrating their achievements and supporting them to be the best they can be. I have been blown away by the sheer talent and commitment of our Fox Tor community.

This year, our priority was to continue to build and develop the 'Fox Tor Way'. Having canvassed student voice to inform our values and priorities, our focus is for all students to:

- **Embrace challenge** – think creatively, demonstrate resilience and be resourceful;
- **Support each other** – promote a culture of mutual respect, empathy and collaboration;
- **Shape the future** – develop as leaders, to demonstrate vision and to think innovatively in the knowledge that they can make a difference.

Already living these values, Fox Tor students have achieved much to be proud of this year. We have taken part, and been successful, in many house competitions, winning house poetry and coming second in house chess, to name a few. Some individuals also deserve a special mention here for attaining high levels of performance at both local and national levels:

Bilal Anam 7F, Year 7 Chess Champion, Jonny Handley, competed for Devon at U13 County Cricket, Panayot Popov 9F, competed for Devon in U14 County Cup and placed third. Gabe Manlow and Leo Martin 10F, who completed Ten Tors.



Charity fundraising has also continued to be a primary focus for Fox Tor House this year. For the ninth year running, we have chosen to support Rowcroft Hospice in all the amazing work they do in our local community. To this end, our senior team were determined to bring back the famous Fox Tor Pancake week. They worked tirelessly, making in excess of 800 pancakes and, raised an incredible £840. In addition, we have held numerous bake sales, ran a luxury hot chocolate stand and even organised a 'soak a teacher' event. In total, we have managed to raise a huge £1470.



As we turn our attention to the next academic year, it is time say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Bellenger and Mr Reshad, who are sadly leaving us at the end of the year. They have offered unwavering support to their tutees and will be sorely missed by us all in Fox Tor, but particularly by 9F and 10F respectively.

Lastly, I just want to say a huge well done to all members of Fox Tor House. I'm already looking forward to seeing what the next academic year has in store! If you would like to stay up to date with the latest news from Fox Tor House, please follow our Instagram page: [tbgs_fox.tor](https://www.instagram.com/tbgs_fox.tor).

Mrs C Pitocco



Goodrington



This is my 10th year as Head of Goodrington House, and the students continue to impress with their selfless commitment to charity, community, and competitions. In addition to their relentless pursuit of being the 'best they can be' in terms of their academic studies! The students in Goodrington House really are remarkable young people and the tutors and I are proud to be associated with them all.



The Goodrington students efforts and commitments were deservedly rewarded by being crowned 'House Champions 2021/22', receiving the brand new trophy. It was great to be able to welcome the new 7G into such a high-performing and supportive House, demonstrating the teamwork that is evident throughout the year.



7G have settled in so well into life at TBGS - Ms Moore cannot speak highly enough of them! They really have embraced the TBGS values of Excellence, Leadership & Integrity, making positive impacts both in and out of lessons. Richard and Dhee represented the group with distinction, being crowned House Quiz champions!



I'd like to thank the 'Class of 23' for the 7 years' service they have given to Goodrington House and wish them well in all of their



future endeavours. They have led the House with distinction, being role models for all other students. Hayden Parsonage (House Captain), and Oli Marsh, Devon Muzvimbe, Tom Mortimore and Song Bartlett (Vice-captains) are to be congratulated on being appointed Senior Team for this upcoming year and I know they will leave a positive legacy behind them.



Numerous events have taken place to raise money for our House charity, *Above Water*. From cake and ice-cream sales to Santa Run and a raffle, I'm always proud of the students efforts in raising much-needed funds. The FIFA tournament (10G) and Hot-Dog sale proved particularly popular and will hopefully become a regular annual Goodrington event.

Mr C Porter



Haldon



Excellence, Integrity and Leadership has really been interweaved throughout another fantastic year both for Haldon House and TBGS. Throughout this year, every single member of the house has pushed themselves in to being the best that they can be. We have been top of the commendation chart for the whole of the academic year which is a great illustration of how much effort Haldon students put into everything that they do. A special mention here must go to 7H as seven members of the form achieved their impressive centurion awards; a massive congratulations to Henry Allsop (116), Jacob Beringer (121), Benji Bones (151), Elliott Hunt (102), Oliver Lewis (107), Ollie Lockwood (103) and George Oakley (130). Fantastic effort guys! This is also celebrated through the excellent Mid-term review grades that again, Haldon students dominated at the top of. As a result of this, 5 students from years 7-10 were invited to our celebration breakfast this year to commemorate their outstanding achievements throughout the year. A great morning had by all.



Community is a huge part of who we are in Haldon motto and this year, there has been so many opportunities to celebrate our community in school as well as our connections outside of TBGS. Our Senior Team worked extremely hard this year to organise charity events throughout the year such as our charity football tournament and Easter egg hunt raising hundreds of pounds for Young Lives vs Cancer, our house charity. In addition, Haldon held the first TBGS Colour Run which again, was organised to raise money for the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, a charity as voted for by the students to raise nearly £300.



This will be an annual event so watch this space for next year's event! In the Spring term, both staff and students headed on down to AMF and had a great evening of bowling as organised by Mr Adderley and our inter-house chess meet-up. It was brilliant to see students across year groups sharing their passion for chess and I definitely learnt a thing or two.

Sporting is going from strength to strength in Haldon; sports day saw Ruben O'Neil Cutipa break the Year 7 record for High Jump – an amazing effort from Ruben there! With Dylan Joyner 10H being a couple of seconds off the Y10 1500m record and smashing this at the Devon Athletics Championships. Furthermore, Noah Bevan and Finely Cull, both 8H, retaining their double long jump championship. Louis Cook in Year 12 was chosen to play for Devon Under 17 Rugby to beat Somerset 60-10 and Tim Brodbelt 10H competed successfully as part of the U15 Devon Hockey Team. Freddie Slocombe, Oli Lockwood, Ben Hales and Ethan Hancock (all 7H) all had success as being part of the winning U12 cricket team with Ethan having represented Devon and part of the winning U13 team too. This is without mentioning the success across the house sporting events for rugby, football and park run to name a few. Just outstanding!



It never ceases to amaze me the wealth of talent that is shared within the house and musically, many students have performed this year in the Autumn Concert, Carol Service, Year 7 and 8 concerts, Jazz Band, Orchestra, In the Heights (school musical) and Torchella music festival. Additionally, Daniel Spear 10H has gone on to complete his diploma (beyond Grade 8) in Saxophone this year and received another distinction, whilst also winning the 3000m on Sports Day – a fantastic all-rounder; congratulations Daniel!

This is without mentioning all the students who have been involved in the wealth of clubs, Ten Tors, DofE, SWAT events and other activities that our students grasp with such enthusiasm. Looking to the year ahead, Mr Adderley and myself are excited to see how all in Haldon just continue to grow together, continuing in strength to strength.

Miss v Pellant

Rougemont



It has been another great year and a privilege to be a part of Rougemont House. Students have continued to achieve their full potential in a supportive environment. A huge thank you to the students and staff in Rougemont for making this a special house to work in.

We have had a big push on recognising students' effort and the improvements they make this year, and it has been so pleasing to see them responding to this. An initiative of Ms Martinez, we have been celebrating with students by a Rougemont breakfast, to add to the formal recognition students receive in assembly.



Furthermore, Rougemont, alongside the other houses have been doing their bit to help the environment with their project this year. The house has planted a Willow coppice and a wildflower meadow. Students from all seven year groups have been involved with this which has been great to see and re-assuring that there is a generation coming through with real care for our environment and planet. In a similar vein, Rougemont has raised over £400 for the Devon Wildlife Trust this year, well done everyone!



Thank you to the students for making the most of their time at TBGS but also to the parents of the house. Your support for your child and for the school is a winning combination and helps us to achieve the absolute most we can for TBGS students, so thank you. Similarly, a huge thank you to our outgoing senior prefects, this year. It has been fantastic to see this group, in particular, engaging so well with younger students in the house and having such positive relationships with them.



They have made a tremendous difference to the house and I wish them all well in the future; stay in touch!

Other notable events this year include the return of the house bowling evening which was a lovely and relaxed social occasion to celebrate the bonds and ties in the house that contribute to us enjoying our school so much.



Duke of Edinburgh

TBGS students have been volunteering, learning new skills and taking on physical challenges through their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The last twelve months have seen a record number of awards completed with 67 Bronze, 15 Silver and 8 Gold. It has been great to see students giving back to their local communities through litter picking, coaching Tae Kwon Do, working in charity shops and libraries and helping with gardening. In total TBGS students devoted over 1400 hours to volunteering, a phenomenal achievement.

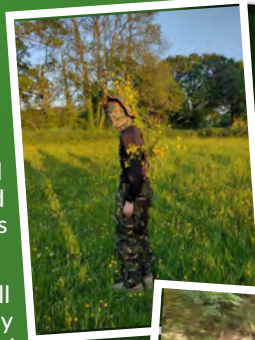
Students have also been developing their skills in a range of activities including chess, debating, film making, first aid and lifeguarding. Students have been involved in a range of sporting endeavours, swimming at regional competitions, rowing, climbing and playing in cup competitions in football, cricket and rugby.

The 2022 enrolment for Bronze was our highest ever and 78 Bronze recently completed their expedition in very hot conditions. Leaders from our partner organisation, Off Grid Adventures, were impressed by the commitment and positive attitude of students throughout training and the expedition weekends.

Year 10 students will be out on Dartmoor with TBGS staff in the coming weeks and will be wild camping for the first time. Numbers opting for Gold have increased significantly and 30+ students will be visiting the Breacon Becons in July. Our thanks to the staff and volunteers who are helping with all walks and supporting the delivery of the Award.

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. Hopefully our current year 8 students will dare to go further later this year.

Mr A Brown



Dartmoor Society & Ten Tors



It has been another hugely successful and rewarding year with Dartmoor Society and Ten Tors. In the first half of the academic year, it was great to see so many TBGS students out on the moor walking and enjoying all that it has to offer. In all, we had over 70 different students taking part in at least one Dartmoor Society walk this year, which is fantastic and a huge well done to every one of those students who I am sure got something from the experience.

It is also with huge delight that I am able to report all of our six teams, thirty-six students in all, entered between TBGS and the National Trust, successfully completed Ten Tors 2023. A huge congratulations to all those students who needed, and I am sure developed, so many important character traits to get through such a challenging event. I hope now that the blisters have subsided, they can watch the 2023 Ten Tors video on YouTube and smile back fondly at the memories! I would implore them to remember the opportunities they have had this year and help to pass on similar experiences to other people in the future.

Finally, a huge thank you to TBGS, the National Trust, particularly Pete Davies, and our huge team of staff and volunteers without whose expertise such a programme in its current form would not be possible. We are so blessed by the skills of our team, who are so talented and ever reliable, even in the grimmest Dartmoor weather! Over 20 different adults have been out helping to train and support the students this year giving up their free time in the process which is such a statement about the importance of a well-rounded education and the culture here at TBGS. Beyond that, all the support in school to get these weekend trips going and the support of staff just wishing the students well makes such a difference. I look

forward to being out again in September, welcoming back previous Ten Tors students to accomplish greater distances and indeed a new crop of young people eager to test themselves mentally and physically but also learn about and appreciate our natural Devonian heritage. If you would like to see more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dbKr8gN6ls> for this year's Ten Tors video.

Mr A Brown

Latin Society

It has been great to see the Latin society in its second year at TBGS. Through a mixture of lunch and after school teaching, we aim to take as many students as want to GCSE standard in Latin, opening up doors for themselves and adding a very well-respected discipline to their bow.

A big thank you to Ms Martinez, Ms Foster, Mr Brown and Dr Tollerton for giving up their free time to help students. Particularly well done to Billy Cole and Archie Bartlett who are racing towards GCSE standard and have started to consider when to take their exam! Also, to our committed year 7s Guy and Tom.

Mr A Brown



Philosophy & Applied Ethics

The hard work and initiative displayed by students in Philosophy and Applied Ethics has, across the board, made for a year to remember. The whole of year 9, for example, demonstrated a sincere willingness to show their intellectual curiosity when visiting Buckfast Abbey for their Re: Connect experience day, taking their well-established skills of Socratic questioning and analysis into the varied scenarios presented and receiving the plaudits of Abbey staff for their creative ideas. In a different way, these same skills of questioning and curiosity were exemplified within a purely academic context by Emily Shore and Miles Procter whose independent work on their IB coursework topics [the ethics of euthanasia and the nature of identity over time] showed a level of intellectual rigour and independence of approach that role-models the best of the TBGS Philosophy learner.



Elsewhere, events such as The Forum: After Hours have continued to be impactful for students across years 9-13, and so many of our students asked pressing and insightful questions to Dr Sam Wilkinson from the University of Exeter on the Philosophy of Social Media, and to our visiting barrister and judge during a more Legal Philosophy focussed event back at TBGS in April. The willingness of our own year 12 Philosophers to step forward and help to organise and run aspects of these events – whether organising sessions or breaking the ice with pictiorary (!) – further gets to the heart of what the active TBGS Philosopher offers back to the community.



Finally, our PSHE Ambassadors have again done inspiring work in delivering assemblies to younger year groups of their own making and organisation. Most of all, however, their running of sessions on the different PSHE days for years 7-9 have been invaluable in helping to deliver key messages on being healthy, being safe and the role students themselves can play as active citizens in their communities, including TBGS. Thanks to them all – and on to more next year!

Mrs S Godfrey

Design & Technology

It has been a busy year in Design and Technology with all our usual curriculum and exam work but there was added excitement with the opening of the long-awaited food and nutrition room. The room opened to students in January and has been in frequent use within the curriculum, and also for extra-curricular activities such as Cookery club, activities week and drop down PSHE days. The students have really enjoyed cooking within school and have made some amazing tasty treats. In year 7 they have worked on their basic culinary skills such as vegetable egg fried rice, chicken fajitas, vegetable soup and a cheesy pasta bake. While year 8 have explored different raising agents through Star bread, apple and blueberry muffins, and profiteroles. All these practicals are supported with theory on food and nutrition. We hope to expand on this in the next few years, so more students can benefit.



The department have run extracurricular clubs and competitions this year including; The Design Ventura competition run by the Design Museum open to year 9, The future of flight for year 8 and up, and Citizen for sixth form. All these opportunities help to broaden students' knowledge and experience in the world of Technology. Next year we hope to run these opportunities again, as well as a new local competition for design and engineering, run by Hymid. This will be open to year 10 students to develop their knowledge of industry practices, as well as strengthening our links with local industry.



Mrs H Jones

Computer Science

In Computer Science, our primary goals involve helping students develop their problem solving and logical thinking skills, while exploring and developing an understanding of the technologies and techniques used to create computer systems large and small.

In October, students demonstrated their problem-solving skills while excelling in the Bebras and Oxford Computing challenges with many of our A-level students taking part in the British Informatics Olympiad.

Meanwhile, in March, speakers from the Informatics Unit based at Torbay Hospital visited us to talk to year GCSE and A-level students about the work they undertake. Two weeks later, Spirant came into school to discuss their work in developing GPS testing systems and how programming and Computer Science underpins the work they do.

Mrs Medway's Code Club has continued to be a great success with students creating lots of exciting and challenging games and programs. The club is open to predominantly KS3 students and offers the prospect of learning something new and different to that of the usual classroom environment. Students get to program using different languages such as Scratch, Python or Visual Basic; as well as creating games

in Microsoft MakeCode Arcade or animations in Blender.

Finally, in May, a group of our year 7 and 8 students has participated in an online workshop led by Baasit Siddiqui. Students learnt about how cyber security impacts our everyday lives and those of businesses, as well as learning about jobs and careers in this field. Students also enjoyed solving some of the missions and challenges on the new Cyber Explorers platform.

Mr R Green



History & Politics

The History and Politics Department have had an exciting year with lots of extracurricular opportunities being provided to students to enrich their overall learning. After a brief pause due to the Covid pandemic, the Model UN returned this year with students across the six Houses debating how each country could decrease their military capabilities with the aim of global peace. This was a fantastic experience for all involved and a particular mention needs to be given to the Politics Society team who ran the event. We have also had visits from Kevin Foster MP, Anne Marie Morris MP and former Liberal Democrat MP Adrian Sanders. All discussed with students their roles within politics and there was lively debate and questions from the students about the current political events that have occurred over the past year.

Recently, we were fortunate to be selected to have a visit from a member of the House of Lords, who spoke to students about his work in the House and also his previous roles. Lord Hogan-Howe is the former Chief of the Metropolitan Police so the students had a fantastic opportunity to ask questions about the law and the role of the police in modern society.

In History, year 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to experience the Department's new enrichment sources that

have been purchased thanks to a kind donation from a former student. We now have numerous armour collections including a full Roman Centurion set of armour and various helmets from across History. Using material History has been extremely valuable in bringing to life the content that students are studying.

Year 7 were also recently taken to Oakhampton Castle where they completed a local History project, addressing the castle's development and changing role over time. In order to support our sixth form in their coursework studies, the Department also took year 12 to Exeter University Library so that they could experience completing research in a university setting. Finally, the History Society had another local History adventure, visiting Hound Tor and studying how people lived on Dartmoor in the past.

Miss J Bradbury



Business Studies

The end of the academic year 2022-23 and 3 years to the Covid Lockdown has seen the Economics & Business Department regain much of its pizzazz and vibrancy. We are happy to announce good departmental results in both subjects; Economics performed well with Business making significant improvements.

The current academic year has seen consecutive visits from alumni such as one by John McNaughton who is currently doing a Degree Apprenticeship with the Department for Digital, Cultural, Media and Sports working towards a BSc Economics degree while working.

This was well attended by sixth-form Economists who walked away with a better knowledge of the system works and whether it works for them; many have been inspired to apply conscious of the debt that a university degree may ultimately burden as they become economically active.

The highlight of the year was the talk by Mr Iain Ramsay from the Bank of England; he discussed inflation targeting 60 sixth-form Economists. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about the Role of the BoE in inflation targeting and about its overarching responsibilities with regards to the robustness of commercial banks. Mr Ramsay faced a volley of robust questions including why the BoE had risked printing £900bn in the last decade and how was the UK shielding itself from hyperinflation similar to that experienced by Weimar Germany. Mr Ramsay also explained the Pension Fund Crisis triggered off by the Truss government and how it impacted interest rates in the money markets. The students greatly enjoyed the talk with, "It was fab!", "Great talk, Miss" and "It was well worth the time, Miss". In The quiz about economic indicators, Dan Seaward and Kiefer Mann won cash prizes albeit they were shredded bank notes from the Bank of England.



The return of year 12s from mock exams saw them working on projects in teams. Topics ranged from Microsoft's acquisition of Activision, to the housing market crisis. Students had to put forward their analysis of the issue and come up with solutions; winners were Sam Moffat, Joe Tranter and Song Bartlett who put up some great analysis of The UK's housing market. The business students also presented Business Plans ranging from food trucks to mobile car valeting Services. The idea was to give them a taste of the challenges faced in getting together a viable business idea. It was encouraging to see that students gave due thought to the challenges faced by nascent entrepreneurs.

Last but not least, the Economics Club had its last session as year 11s put in their analysis of the current state of the economy and how it could be fixed. Last year students had done amazingly well given the Club was only held twice a week at lunch times. They were taught in part by sixth form Economists. Good work, all!

We now look forward to an even more exciting and dynamic academic year as ChatGPT emerges as a significant shock to conventional Economics as Businesses scramble to find solutions. Roll on 2023-24!

Ms S Aziz

Physical Education



TBGS PE Department record best ever GCSE PE results with 91% of students recording a Level 7 or above.

- First XLR8 fixture of the Year - U14 Rugby Vs Wellington, a 33 all draw and a sign of things to come with Ise Aworinde scoring 5 tries!
- U12 Rugby Team play the first fixture for TBGS.



- U13 Rugby Team beat Exeter School to kick start their unbeaten 13-a-side season, with highlights beating Ivybridge twice, Kings Hall Taunton and St Peter, Lympstone.
- U16 Rugby team become 15-A-Side Devon Champions against Queen Elizabeth's, Crediton

- The Top AstroTurf was relayed with a new surface
- TBGS 2nd XI welcomes 4 Italian exchange students in a game with South Devon College, with Matteo Cercato going on to become a fixture in the 1st XI until he returned home after Christmas.
- Year 7 Outdoor Education/Away day at Decoy lake. Raft building, problem solving and water confidence skills just three of the key skills developed over the course of the session. Best raft went to Fox Tor house!



- U16 Rugby Team Become South Devon 15-a-Side winners with victory against KEVICC under lights at Teignmouth RFC.
- Cross Country Team achievements:
 - U12 South Devon year 7 Champions
 - U14 South Devon Junior Boys' Champions
 - U16 South Devon Intermediate Boys' Champions



- Pickleball introduced to the PE curriculum for the first time as part of the INNOV8 pledge. We now have a thriving lunchtime ACTIV8 club and it is part of all 3 key stages' PE/Games programmes.
- U18 Rugby Team crowned as Larter Cup 10-a-Side Champions
- TBGS Old Grammarians regain the Penford Cup in the annual Boxing Day Rugby match with Torquay Athletic Rugby Club



- Individual achievements:
- South Devon Area Cross Country: 14 schools entered teams of 6 - we won the year 7 team event, with overall event finishing positions of: 3rd Ruben O'Brien Cutipa, 4th Fabian Joyner, 11th Henry Alsop, 12th Josh Wilson, 15th Ethan Bellamy, 16th Fergus Mudd
 - South Devon Area Cross Country: 15 schools entered teams of 6 - we won the Junior Boys team event, with overall event finishing positions of: 5th Henry Cadwallader, 7th Josh Lockwood, 10th Mario Dache, 11th Maike Tian, 14th Sam Gray, 25th Ethan Lopeman
 - South Devon Area Cross Country: 12 schools entered teams of 6 - we won the Inter Boys team event, with overall event finishing positions of: 1st Louis Axford, 3rd Dylan Joiner, 7th Oran Bonar-Foster, 8th Dan Spear, 11th Oscar Eve, 13th Oliver Broom

Many of our runners are going on to represent the South Devon District Squad on Saturday 21 January 2023 in the Devon Championships.



- Ise Aworinde become the Devon Junior U14 Long Jump Champion with a leap of 5m16cm. He will represent Devon in the South West Championships later in the month.
- South Devon Area Athletics Champions
 - Year 7
 - Year 8
 - Year 9/10
- Dylan Joiner - 1500m - 4 :33

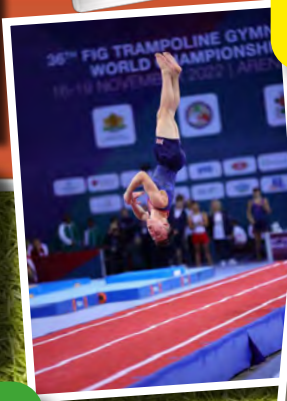


- TBGS 1st XI Football team win the Devon Schools Cup at Coach Road against Ivybridge
- TBGS U13 Football team win the South Devon Schools Cup at Coach Road against Ivybridge

Oct
2022



Nov
2022



Alfie Collier finishes 9th in World Trumbling Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. This was his first contest for Great Britain and he was 3rd youngest in the 17-21 age group.

• Year 8 undertake sessions at The Bunker in Torre as part of the Outdoor Education Programme, learning basics around climbing and bouldering.

- U13 Rugby Team become South Devon 10-a-Side Champions at Forches Cross
- U14 Rugby Team become South Devon 10-a-Side Champions at Forches Cross
- The first house competition takes place with year 9 House Badminton



• U16 Rugby team become South Devon 10-A-Side Champions at Forches Cross

- TBGS hosts a bonanza of sport for the local primary schools. A year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival, Young Leaders delivering basketball sessions to year 2 students and a year 3/4 Futsal Tournament to finish the day.
- U12 Rugby team become South Devon Champions at CFGS
- U18 Football Team start their Devon Cup campaign with a resounding victory over Teign School

Dec
2022

- The U12 Football team make eagerly awaited first appearances for the school in the national Cup vs St Peter, Exeter.
- The House X-Country season is in full swing with every child between year 7 and 11 representing their house.

4 pupils, Ashby Edmonds, Stanley Mitchell, Max Winter, & Henry Allsop had the privilege of representing TBGS in the 64th ESSA Schools Team Championship at the London Aquatic Centre (Olympic Park). The boys qualified for both the 4x50m Freestyle relay & the 4x50m Medley relay finals in the Junior age group, and the team set 2 new school records; 2:05.49 to come 13th in the country in the Freestyle event, and 2:24.73 in the Medley event. It was a shame that Oliver Woyce who was part of the original team broke his collarbone playing rugby a fortnight before the National Final - commiserations to him!



Feb
2023

- Year 7, 8 and 10 House Rugby
- TBGS U16s took the silver in the Sherriff Shield Relay Event (Devon Schools' Competition) at the Plymouth Life Centre on Saturday 14 January 2023. The team of Theo Elliot, Seb Winter, Ashby Edmonds & Max Winter were excellent ambassadors for the school, and three of them set new personal bests for the long course event.
- TBGS has success at the Area X-Country Championships with students qualifying to represent South Devon at the Devon Championships.

- TBGS 1st and 2nd XI visit the hallowed turf of Millfield as the first leg of the inaugural annual trophy between the 2 schools.
- U15 Cricket Team are victorious at the South Devon Indoor 6-a-side competition.
- TBGS sends 16 boys off to the Devon Schools Table Tennis Finals following its return to the school PE curriculum.



Mar
2023

May
2023

- U16 Qualify for the 2nd day at Rosslyn Park National 7s tournament having gone unbeaten on day 1 with resounding victories over Oakham School.
- The U14 & U18 rugby squads put up an excellent showing at Rosslyn Park National Schools' 7s narrowly missing out on qualification on points difference.
- In total 104 boys represented TBGS XLR8 Football over 8 games against Millfield, TBGS coming out the inaugural winners.
- U13 Football dispatch of Torquay Academy for the second time this year to progress to the County and South Devon Cup Finals .
- U13 Cricket Team are victorious at the Devon Indoor 6-a-Side competition.
- Exeter Swimming Gala



MFL Department

This year Joe Pratt became the Centrax Linguist of the Year for the highest results in GCSE Spanish and French. We also introduced a new award: the TBGS Linguist of the Year award, which was won by David Percival for his also superb results in GCSE German and French. To celebrate this incredible achievement, David and Joe were invited for lunch with Mrs Maureen Palfrey, from Centrax, alongside Adam Picot-O'Connor, who achieved an outstanding combined score in his Spanish and French GCSEs.



In November, the Languages Department celebrated our annual *International Week of Languages* and students had the opportunity to attend different language sessions at lunchtime such as Catalan, Welsh, Russian, Polish, Swahili, Basque and Swedish. The week finished with the popular International Food Market with typical foods from Spain, China, France and Germany.

The Department this year has been given the opportunity for gifted and talented French, German and Spanish students to take part in the Oxford Anthea Bell Translation Competition. On 6 February, over 100 students took part in Translation Master classes in the forum to prepare for the translation competition and to learn about the skills needed to be a professional translator. It was fantastic to see the outstanding level of work students produced for the competition!



Two of our students are South West Winners and are now going to the UK National round. There were around 15,000 entries, so this is a massive achievement for these two students:

Lewis Haym 7F - Spanish Level 1 (level for Y7/Y8 beginners)
Matthew Norris 12D2 - German Level 4 (level for KS5)

This summer we sadly say goodbye to Miss Martinez, who has inspired so many students these past few years. I would like to thank her for being such a superb colleague and always being positive and supportive of everyone. She will be terribly missed by all of us in the MFL Department, and we wish her all the very best in the future.



Chinese



It has been fabulous to fully return to school events after the past couple of years. In October, the Year 11 Chinese groups travelled to London to sample the sights and sounds of the bustling Chinese quarter, as well as tucking into a family-style lunch in a well-known restaurant. Many of the students practised not only their chopsticks skills on the visit but also their language skills.

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) is always a big event at TBGS for the department: we welcomed back the Bristol-born, Chinese language band 'Transition' for an afternoon. They ran a song writing workshop for KS4 students based on their most famous hit 对不起. They encouraged the students to rework the lyrics based on a topic they had studied at

GCSE, with great results! Later in their visit, the band performed a concert in the Centenary Hall to all students who currently study Chinese. It was great to see a packed hall singing along to the band's greatest hits that we also study in class.

The department also organises a morning of cultural activities celebrating Chinese New Year for year 8 students. This includes cutting traditional paper decorations, learning Chinese calligraphy, and decorating T-shirts with pictures of colourful Beijing Opera masks.



The year 12 students of IB Chinese were treated to a Chinese feast by Miss Ho and Miss Luo. They made and sampled tasty treats such as Mongolian hot pot and dumplings.

Throughout these past two years we have had the pleasure of working with Miss Lina Luo, a visiting teacher from Sichuan, China. Sadly, she will return to China in July 2023. We will miss her kind and friendly manner, and her endless support for the students. We wish her well in the future!



German

German club has been really popular this year, with a regular crowd coming along to take part in German Wordl and many other things! The year 12s and 13s enjoyed their annual Weihnachtspätzchenbacken (Christmas cookie baking) which everyone enjoyed a lot!

Mr C Zursiedel



French

This year has been a busy one in the French department! In particular the extracurricular curricular clubs from Madame Bailey and Monsieur Webb have been providing pupils with the opportunities to practise their language skills, learn something new, or simply enjoy French in a different context.

Monsieur Webb has been running the French Film Club every week, with Bienvenue Chez Les Ch'tis, Taxi and Les Visiteurs being some of the films shown this year. Film is always a fantastic way to immerse yourself into a country's culture, and we thank Mr Webb for giving the students the opportunity to experience this.



French Soc has been instrumental in supporting GCSE students to prepare for their exams during the year, especially the Speaking exams, and has been well attended this year. Similarly, the introduction of French Café on a Thursday morning has proved a huge success with the Sixth Form French students. Whilst enjoying their petit déjeuner, the pupils are able to converse about a multitude of topics from current affairs to themes relating to their studies in the IB. Special thanks go to Adam Picot-O'Connor and Mariia Bober for their help with French Café, and to Madame Bailey for running this throughout the year.

Spanish

This year some year 12 Spanish students wrote some beautiful poems to imagine "what they would do if they were ..." to practise this grammatical structure and their creative writing skills.



The Spanish Club has continued to offer students of all levels an opportunity to develop their language skills. Thank you to Callum McKenzie, Miss Martinez, Miss Roberts, Mrs Dawson, and Miss Garcia for all their help with the club.

On the last week of the Autumn term, 17 students from years 11 and 12 visited Valencia to immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture for a week. The students attended a Spanish school for 3 hours each day to complete a Spanish intensive course, and outside of this, they enjoyed cultural activities for the rest of the day. The cultural activities were varied and dynamic; here are some examples: a visit to the Fallas museum, the Science Museum and Aquarium, a tour around the Duque's palace, a "merienda" of chocolate con churros, a Paella night, a salsa lesson, a football match in the Mestalla stadium and many more! We are looking forward to going again in the future! A very big thank you to Miss Martinez for organising such a fantastic trip for the students and to Mr Webb for his support during the trip. Now we are looking to take 30 students in December.

In the Summer Term, 10 year 12 students delivered Spanish lessons to Year 6 pupils at All Saints Babbacombe Primary School. It was a very positive experience, and the Year 12 students were fantastic teaching the primary pupils some basic Spanish.

Mrs M Foster



Physics

Academic Successes

This year there were three British Physics Olympiad Competitions, and our students were particularly successful this year in each event.

For year 13s, the challenging Round 1 papers were sat by 7 students, who, for the first time ever, all achieved certification. Congratulations go to Jack Maher and Lucas Huitema with a Bronze II, Archie West and Tom Walledge with a Bronze I, Luke Bevan and Billy Adamson with Silver, and particular congratulations to Will Thomas who received a Gold, a truly outstanding result.

In year 12, students took the Senior Physics Challenge, with 4 students achieving Bronze. Will Bevan, Alfie Collier, Jake Fox and Sakchyam Gaire were awarded Silver certificates, and Ed Hunter, Keon Trinh and Finn Sellar achieved Gold. Particular mention should be made of Finn, who scored so highly on his paper, that he has been invited to Cambridge University to attend a problem-solving masterclass, as well as attending lectures and talks to give him an insight into the university itself and hints on applying there next year!

Finally in year 11, in the Intermediate Physics Challenge, a huge number of students were awarded Bronze certificates. For Silver, it was Tom Derrington, En Jian Liang, Zach Stone and Rio Koyikkara, and Gold certificate went to Piran Wills and Thomas Lee. Congratulations to all the students who achieved these awards – it demonstrates a real talent for the subject, problem solving, and a passion for the subject – keep going, guys; who knows where this might take you!

Thorpe Park

Good EVANS, this must be, without a DOWt, the best Physics trip in Great BRITTON. READ on for more information! On 6 June, 127 Year 10 students went to Thorpe Park to explore and reinforce their understanding of all the Physics they have been learning about in their course this year, Theme Park Physics.

The trip was great value for money since there was almost zero wait time for most rides, and our students had many opportunities to experience centripetal forces as they went round in circles, free fall as they plummeted down on the drop tower (you will need to recall this is an acceleration of 9.81 m/s^2 , kids!), and the extreme acceleration of the stealth ride (0 to 80mph in 2.3 seconds) – be sure to convert 80mph to m/s before you use that in the equation to calculate it, though! – which turns out to be 15 m/s^2 . Most members of staff lost their voice during the day through screaming to overcome their fear of rollercoasters (it really is an activity for young people, isn't it Mr Read), and we look forward to the trip next year.



Crest Awards

Nathan Stonehouse has been awarded Silver for his Coil Gun project that he developed over several months, wrote up and demonstrated at the Science Fair. He is working now on upgrading this to a Gold award!

Finally, Peter Yates for 13G1 was awarded a GOLD CREST award, one that can only be gained by working on a project with industry, which he did over his Summer holidays when he was in Year 12. He worked on a research project for Spaceport Cornwall on Rocket Fuels, at degree level standard.

Science Fair

On 24 January 2023, TBGS held the Science Fair which had not run for 2 years due to Covid was fantastic to see so many students developing and presenting their projects during the of explanations and demonstrations was superb, and students embraced the opportunity their enthusiasm for Science to a whole variety of audience members. This included primary attended the morning at TBGS as an enrichment activity where they built and tested rocket TBGS community, and parents and other members of the public who came in the evening. The open, and lots of people took the chance to see our telescope in action with members of the Society (TAS) giving talks.



Professor Chris Lintott, old boy of TBGS and Patron of the TAS, 2016.

Science Club

This year was our biggest and best science club ever. We had 24 students from year 7 and 8 attend every Friday lunch time. They worked in groups of up to 3 students on a project of their choice. Most groups then demonstrated their project at the science fair and explained very confidently what they had been working on. 8 groups have now submitted their projects for bronze Crest awards. This is an award given by the British Science Association for a 10-hour project and includes a full write up of the project. We have two groups who are continuing their projects to make Silver awards – a 30-hour project.



There was quite a lot of variety this year one group dissected a series of rats to understand how their bodies worked and the process of dissection. Another group made a working rotating model of the solar system. A third group investigated filtering and how to make water potable. We had a group investigate pistons and make a working piston that could be controlled to open a door and also a working remote control car was made. One group mixed chemicals together that, once mixed, glowed in the dark – a reaction called chemiluminescence and a group made a cascade where a metal bar was moved around using electromagnetism. Our final group made a working vertical turbine powered by water.

We have already heard back that three of these groups have been successful at attaining their award and are waiting for a decision on the remainder!

A final word...

It is with a fair bit of sadness that this is the last *Torquin* article I will write about the amazing Physics and Science department successes and achievements this year. After 21 years at TBGS, and 27 years as a teacher, I am leaving the school to pursue other interests. It has been a real pleasure to have witnessed so many students going through the school, and enjoying their study of Physics here, and I hope that a little bit of my passion for the subject and enthusiasm for learning has made a bit of a difference here. Farewell!

Mr Dow, Head of Physics.

Biology

Dawlish Warren Field Trip

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.



Hate ocean plastic?

Eve Gadd from the European-funded research group INdIGO gave a talk on a new cross-channel research project, involving University of Plymouth, which aims to tackle the issue of marine litter made up of netting lost by the fishing industry. The project aims to clean the oceans of plastic currently within them, improve the recycling of fishing gear, and to hopefully prevent the oceans from being polluted further by developing the first biodegradable fishing gear. Visit <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/materials-and-structures-research-group/indigo> for more information on this project.

MedSoc

MedSoc continues to go from strength to strength with members from nearly all year groups attending each week. We have been incredibly lucky this year to welcome a host of guest speakers who have covered everything from psychiatry to emergency medicine, oncology and radiology. We have welcomed former students who are now studying medicine and radiography back into school to give our students a first hand and fascinating account of life as a student, and we are so grateful to former students Will Passmore, Sam Jones, Seb Vaguhan-Burleigh and many others who have given up their time to come and inspire the next generation of medics.

We are working more closely with TGGs to combine some of our speakers, and have also been generously funded by the the Old Grammarian's Society to help develop our anatomy sessions beyond dissecting hearts and rats! For the first time in 3 years we have welcomed Plymouth Medical School back into BL2 to run practice interview sessions, which our sixth formers always find invaluable preparation for their own university interviews. We are always looking for health professionals to come and present to our students, so if you would like to contribute to MedSoc, please contact Mrs Morrell via the school's email.

Miss S Rowan



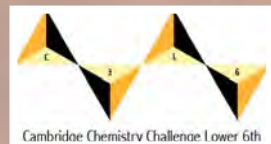
Chemistry

Chemistry Olympiad & Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

We run two competitions in the chemistry department: the Cambridge Challenge in June of year 12 and the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad in Jan year 13. Both competitions are available to A-level and IB students. We also encourage year 12 to have a go at the Olympiad whilst they are still in year 12 as a practice, and we find that sometimes they perform well enough to gain a certificate a year early! This is obviously something that they can use for their UCAS applications. The Cambridge Challenge is set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists; it is designed to be accessible to year 12 students but will take them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university. Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field.

Budding chemists will develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively, and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. They could even find themselves representing the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad.

This January saw outstanding performances from Henry Hunter, Will Thomas and Archie West. The 2023 quality year 13 cohort achieved 3 golds, 3 silver and 2 bronzes. The scores achieved by our gold winners, Henry, Tom and Archie, are some of our highest ever scores. Impressive performances also from Thomas Walledge, Guy Lewis, Jack Maher, James Johnson and Wilf Purser-Mountford



This June we are entering another mixed group of year 12 IB and A level chemists for the 2023 Cambridge Challenge. Watch out for the results in the late summer newsletter. Year 11, if you are feeling bored with all that free time after your GCSEs, you are welcome to enter also, just get in touch.

Mrs Shanks

Nuffield Research Placements over 1,000 students each 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> .



Mathematics

It is a real pleasure to celebrate the successes of our students in the Mathematics department. Each year, students take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) competitions. These competitions are split in to three leagues. The Junior Challenge, for Year 7 and 8, the Intermediate Challenge for Year 9, 10 and 11 students and then the Senior Challenge for Sixth Form students.

I enjoy numbers, so I thought I would share some numbers with you this year. A total of 563 students took part in the UKMT challenges this academic year. 214 students were awarded a bronze certificate for their successes, 132 students received a Silver certificate and 64 students achieved a score resulting in a Gold certificate and our congratulations goes to each of the students involved in this.

Due to the success of our students in these competitions, 43 students were selected to take part in the invitation-only follow-up rounds. 19 students were invited to the Junior follow-up rounds, 15 students were invited to the intermediate follow-up rounds and 9 students were invited to the Senior follow-up rounds. Special congratulations go to Archie Bartlett (Year 10) who was invited to take part in the Hamilton Olympiad paper and also to Henry Hunter (Year 13) for his invitation to the Senior Olympiad round.

Further information about the UKMT challenges and follow-up rounds can be found on their website: ukmt.org.uk

The Mathematics department joined forces with the Computer Science department this year, preparing students to use their Mathematics and programming skills to decipher encrypted messages as part of the National Cipher Challenge, organised by the University of Southampton. Students were given 10 missions to complete where they had to decipher two messages within a limited timeframe. Congratulations go to team "Waffle House" with members Finn Sellar, Jacob Warren and Keon Trinh for achieving joint 13th place nationally at the end of the competition.

If you would like to try and decipher some of the mission messages, visit the National Cipher Challenge website: www.cipherchallenge.org

Mr C Price



Chess



We have continued to run two clubs this year – a year 7 and 8 club on a Tuesday lunchtime, and the 'senior' club on Thursday lunchtimes, both of which have been well attended. We have had two teams playing matches in the Torbay League in Divisions 2 and 3 in the evenings. This gives our top players valuable experience against adult players, and some of our up- and-coming younger players have had opportunities to play in these.

We also continue our weekly online session on Wednesday evenings.

Highlights of the season:

- Trip to London by train in September 2022 for our first team to play in the Team Challenge Final at Imperial College;
- Our annual TBGS Open Tournament in the 6th Form block in October with about 50 players from around the county and with sections from U9 up to U18;
- The National U19 Schools' Chess Championship 22-23 S.W. Regional Qualifier in the RetrEAT in November;
- 10 of our students represented Devon in the West of England and South Wales annual Inter – County Junior Chess Jamboree held in Chepstow in early January. Devon's Under 18 A team came first with two thirds of the team from TBGS - Bradley Holland, Jun Li Yeap, Aritra Paul and Guillaume Beaudoin-Pope;
- We hosted the SW Team Challenge event for secondary schools in February in the RetEAT for teams of 4. This was the largest the event has been with 27 teams and over 100 players. Congratulations to our U13A team of Joe Forty, Ben Darlington, John Petsios and Ruben Arnold who were the U13 Champions;
- The school internal championship held through the spring term was won by Joe Forty and Aritra Paul. Year 7 Champions were Bilal Anam and Samuel Keller;
- The most enjoyable to organise and the highlight of the chess year was our House Chess competition which involves more than 200 students and was won this year by Dart;
- We reached the regional final in the ECF National Schools' competition but lost narrowly in a great match against Exeter Mathematics School. Our team this year has been Bradley Holland, Jun Li Yeap, Piran Wills, Aritra Paul, Jack Smith and Guillaume Beaudoin-Pope.

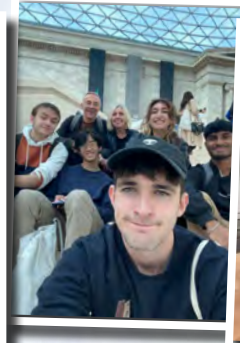
Mr T Onions

Art

30 Happy Years

It is with very mixed emotions that I reflect on my time here at TBGS and in particular the wonderful Art Department that I have been so lucky to work in. The journey has been so varied and so full of highlights, it is certainly one that I could not have imagined all those years ago. To have been able to work alongside so many amazing students and with such a brilliant team of staff has been a joy and I will miss it more than I would care to illustrate here. I will though look forward to continued contact with the department and be happy to play a supportive role from time to time. Thank you to Mr Lawrence and the team for supporting me so well at all times and to Mrs Torocisk and the Art Department for sharing the creative journey with me and the students.

Mr D Reshad



Art and Design Year 13 London Visit

We were back in London for our year 13 A level and IB trip mid-way through October. It was lovely to be able to spend time together outside of the classroom as always and of course immerse ourselves in some of the rich art experiences that the capital city has to offer. The National Gallery and Tate Modern always deliver an overwhelming variety of international art for the students to respond to, from the traditional to the contemporary. We are encouraged to consider art and craft from different cultures within our curriculum so the British Museum provided plenty of opportunity for this to happen. In very different ways these three venues are incredible architectural statements and this provided further stimulation for the group, especially the prospective architects. For some of our students the street art tour of Shoreditch and Spitalfields was a real highlight, we were able to reflect on the ever changing profile of urban art in our streets, in our galleries and even in our homes.

Dare to be inspired . . .

Taking the time to reflect on the amazing work produced by all Art students throughout the year is always such a pleasure. Putting together the work for display in the Gallery is so rewarding and an opportunity for all to recognise the talent and creativity of our GCSE, A level and IB students. Art Club is still a popular option for many of those who enjoy exploring further creative opportunities including a variety of workshops on collage, oil pastels, charcoal techniques and collagraphs to name a few. Students studying Art at KS3 have been inspired by the work in the Manor and I hope you can see from the photographs on these pages how Art continues to thrive and flourish at TBGS.

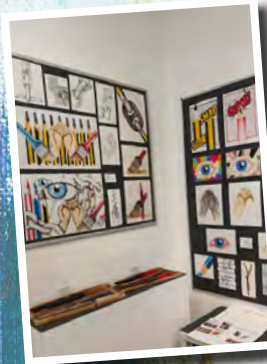
Mrs Torocisk



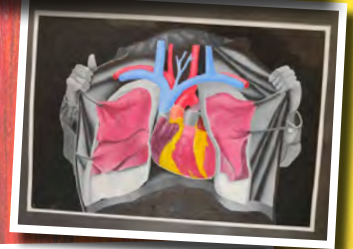
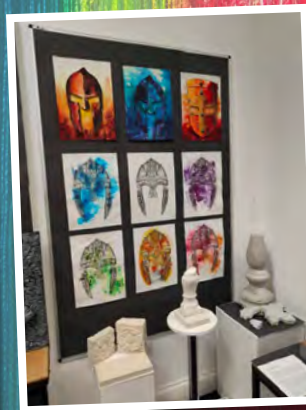
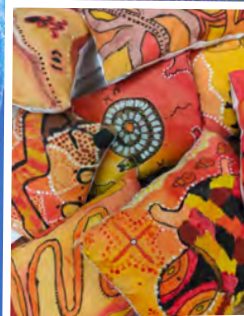
Collective collage by Art Club



Collagraph workshop - Art Club



Quality Year 11 GCSE Artwork recently displayed in the Gallery



An example of collagraph design and subsequent print



Students from 8K pleased with their finished cushions



Showcasing many of the different processes both IB and A level students experience, the exhibitions are the culmination of many hours of work and a reminder to all of the amazing creative talent that our students have.

English

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

Poetry

The House Poetry Competition in October was a great success. The theme was 'Renew, Remake, Revive' as a response to all the difficulties the world has suffered in the past few years. We wanted to strike a note of positivity and hope. The entries were diverse in their topics and reflecting the students' desires to really make the world a better place. Some really great poems were produced and as ever choosing the finalists was very difficult. However, Fox Tor was the overall winning house so congratulations to them. The individual winners were: Lenny Blakesley 7D, Rhys Parsonage 8G, Rufus Moore 9H, Archie Bartlett 10D, Thomas Lee 11H and Emily Fyfe 12F.



Each student received a book of poems reflecting the theme of hope and positivity. Well done to all the finalists and hope you can dip into your poetry and enjoy it.

Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee in March was another exciting and hotly-fought house competition: the winners this year were Goodrington, so congratulations to them and everyone who took part.

Clubs

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 have this year focussed on improvisation and each week have enjoyed a variety of improv games and exercises with some hilarious results.

Shakespeare

In December, the A-Level Literature students enjoyed a full day of enrichment to the birth place of the Bard, Stratford-upon-Avon. They were treated to a guided tour of his historic classroom, a lecture on King Lear and a tour through the house in which he was born in 1564. It was an inspiring day, despite the cold, and one that they will never forget!



The IB students were also treated to a Shakespearean extravaganza: over 60 year 12s were taken to see an phenomenal production of *The Tempest* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford in February. It was an incredible production with some thought-provoking comments on modern society being made through the stunning set and props. There was even time for some dressing-up.



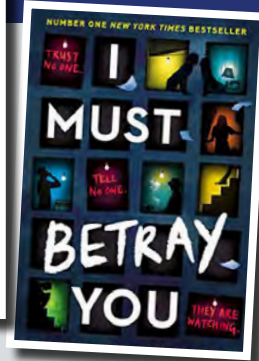
Book Week

Book Week was celebrated in March, and this year's theme was *The Sea*. The English Department made a big splash this year with sea-themed events throughout the week: highlights included *The Admiral Benbow Inn* with staff dressed as pirates selling sea-theme goodies; the party in the Library and the now-legendary Escape Room! In addition to this, the creative challenge involved a blank postcard for all students to be filled with their most imaginative artwork inspired by literature about the sea: we had a tidal-wave of impressive creations including poems, environmental drawings, paintings, 3D models, collages and creative writing. Well-done to everyone who got 'Highly Commended' and we hope you enjoy the special edition of *Treasure Island* that you all received!



Carnegie Readers

This year's Yoto Carnegie 2023 shadowing group (TBGS Readers) was formed after KS3 students were identified by their teachers as being keen readers with an enquiring and ambitious mind. Since March 2023, the group, along with students in their own shadowing groups in schools across the country, have been 'shadowing' the reading of the short-listed books as the judges also read them. They have been reading, reviewing, engaging with resources and taking part in weekly challenges, whilst also meeting up regularly for heated discussions about the books! Individuals each had to vote for their favourite book by 6 June, before finding out the winner of both the Shadowers' choice and the judges' choice on 21 June at a live-streamed ceremony. The best bit about this year, apart from getting to know some super students, was that they all said how they loved reading something that they would never have usually chosen. Result!



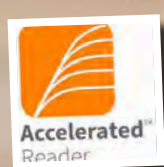
Film Club: To Infinity and Beyond!

This year has seen the club reach stratospheric heights, with the launch of Film Club 2.0: we saw a significant rise in members and moved into the Centenary Hall. The surround-sound system and large screen enabled us to achieve a cinema-style experience for the ever-expanding, rag-tag group of cinephiles. With the recent success of the original Star Wars Trilogy marathon, and even exploring iconic classics, such as Akira Kurosawa's The Seven Samurai (also a hit!), the next evolution of Film Club, aims to be the setting up of a Year 10-13, KS4 and KS5 iteration, led and curated by new and original members (some of whom, have attended for three years, since Year 7!) In addition, with recent funding acquired, the vision is ultimately in creating content to be filmed at a proposed, annual TBGS Film Festival. So, watch this space, true believers...



English Extension Group

The English Extension Group continued to examine a range of texts and forms this year with the soon-to-be-sorely-missed Y13 pupils welcoming the incoming Y12 students into the group. Working outside the more rigid constraints of the A-level and IB curricula resulted in the consideration and analysis of an eclectic range of texts including, but not limited to, Restoration Stage Comedy, Jane Eyre, Wordsworth's poetry and Babel as well as looking at a variety of critical theories and approaches in their own right. Along the way, students produced some of their own fiction in order to explore and experiment with the most basic elements of narrative. Some of our regular attendees also used sessions to successfully prepare for the admissions exam for English at Oxford. The current Y12s look forward to taking the lead in welcoming new recruits in the Autumn and we wish the best of luck to all the departing Y13s whatever next year holds for them.



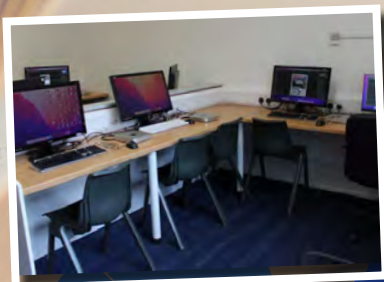
Accelerated Reader

Students' passion for reading continues to develop with the help of the Accelerated Reader Scheme offered to all of KS3: they partake in termly Star Reader tests used to gauge Book Levels for best progress; earn rewards as a celebration of their dedication to the scheme; and we regularly buy new books – fiction and non-fiction – to keep them challenged and engaged. Since TBGS joined the scheme in September 2019, we have had our first 5-Million-Word-Reader, which is fantastic, especially as the student is in Year 7! So, a massive congratulations to Dylan Hammett in 7F!

Media Studies

Sixth Form Media Students had an inspiring visit to the world-famous Pinewood film studios in November to hear from industry experts about media careers and get hands-on with some impressive cameras. The group heard from Radio 1 Film reviewer, Ali Plumb, got to see how a sound sequence from the Idris Elba film Beast was edited together in a cinema-sized editing suite and we even got to hold real Oscar and Bafta awards! Many of the students came away with a buzzing sense of all the opportunities that Media Studies could open up to them in the growing industry of film and television production.

A brand-new Mac Suite opened up in January in the Manor, upgrading the existing Macs for the Media Department. Sixth Form and GCSE Media students have been able to benefit from the most recent Adobe Creative Cloud programs for photo and film editing in Photoshop and Premiere to work on Practical production skills using industry-standard software as well as have a dedicated IT space for research and planning Non-Examined Assessments as part of their courses.



Geography

Students have experienced a rich variety of experiences in Geography over the last year.



Year 10 in the River Dart

The Iceland trip in October is always a highlight but there have been plenty of other trips happening too.



Year 8 students on the coastal Geography trip at Babbacombe and in Kents Cavern



Old Harry Rocks



Girls measuring profile on Swanage beach



Year 9 students in the tropical biome at the Eden Project



Measuring beach profiles at Swanage



Students at Durdle Door



Year 11 students investigating urban change in Bristol



The South Devon Geographical Association lecture series has been active this year and we were delighted to welcome academic Simon Dickenson to speak about the Christchurch earthquake and former student Jon Rosser to talk about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Jon is currently completing his PhD at the University of Cambridge and it is great to hear how his work in the Southern Ocean is contributing to our understanding on the impacts of climate change.



Year 13 IB students Tom Voaden and Surinder Virdee have been running the Geography Worldwide quiz club this year and we had a large number of teams competing in the annual South Devon Worldwide quiz competition.



Churston, TGGs and TBGS students competing in the Worldwide quiz

And finally, we have been delighted to have the presence of Miss Ogilvie working in the Geography department this year and wish her well in her next adventure. Miss Ogilvie demonstrating demonstration to 7D



Music

Our reflection on a year of music really begins in July 2022 with Torchella. This was a return to full strength for our annual music festival and we were once again blessed with glorious weather for what was our best event yet. Our ever-growing group of student rock bands did us proud and there were highlight solo performances from Jude Ellacott on Xylophone, Luke Bevin on guitar and vocals and James Johnson getting the party started with his riotous DF set.

Our Autumn Concert was once again a great showcase of our musicians' talent and hard work. Highlights this year were Tin Can Wasps (our Year 12 band)'s energetic set and a heartfelt solo performance by Jonathan Chant-Stevens.

Jonno also made his (surprise) debut conducting performance during our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in All Saints' Church in Babbacombe. I am as ever astounded at the quality our students produce in such a short rehearsal time for this beautiful service.

This has been a year of workshops for our students. We were lucky enough to be visited by American Jazz group the Lunar Octet on the first leg of their UK tour in September. They conducted a fantastic workshop with Jazz Band and Sixth Form students before performing a few of their numbers to a very enthusiastic audience of Year 9 and GCSE music students, a great opportunity for our students to interact with professional musicians.



In the Autumn and Spring terms, Year 10 and 9 musicians took part in the 'Sonoroties' composition workshop with three local composers, working in mixed year group bands to compose pieces inspired by the musical elements of The Wellman. None of their pieces sounded remotely like that song, which was part of the point!

On Wednesday 22 February they visited TGGGS for a final sharing session, watching compositions by students from Paignton Academy, Churston Grammar and the Girls' School, as well as performing their completed work.

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.

Towards the end of the year we look forward to 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 3-stage glory on the 15th July.

Mr C Eastman



Musical

Torquay Boys' Grammar School is reaching for the heights, preparing this year's musical, In The Heights.

Students from both TBGS and TGGGS joined forces, as is annual tradition, and been busily prepared the spring spectacular, from September. This year's show was an upbeat homage to life in Washington Heights, a largely Dominican neighbourhood of modern-day New York.

Imagined by Lin Manuel Miranda, who brought us Hamilton and Encanto, the story is full of toe-tapping Salsa and hip-hop infused rhythms that are sure to be crowd pleasers. The story follows the characters balancing their hopes and dreams against the pull of finding a sense of home and belonging amongst their local community.

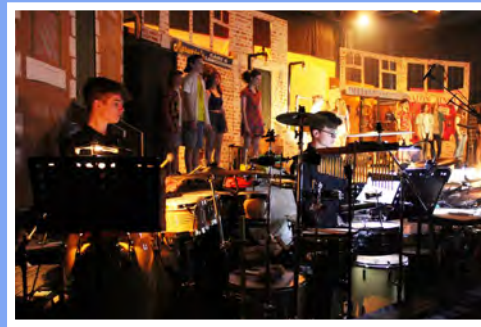
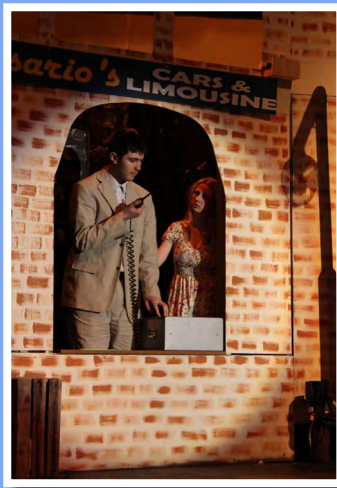
The cast learnt many new skills with adapting to a very different style of music, and the 70 cast worked really hard on perfecting the choral harmonies that make this show so uplifting, especially when accompanied by the talented 20+ strong orchestra.

The story is narrated by Usnavi (Jono Chant-Stevens), who runs a small bodega with his nephew Sonny (Charlie Baker). The shop sits alongside a cab company run by the Kevin and Camila Rosario (Josh Escott and Chloe Firrell) and Daniella and Carla's (Grace Williams and Evie Perkins) salon. The community that interact within this small district of shops witnesses the blossoming relationships of Benny (Piran Wills) and Nina (Charlotte Key), and Vanessa (Hermoine Whetton) and Usnavi, alongside the daily struggles of Carla (Evie Perkins), a street seller, Piragua Guy (David Cooper) and local vandal, Graffiti Pete (Fin Gribbin), and all held together by the matriarchal figurehead of Abuela Claudia (Ellie Schaefer Davis).

With so many students involved, working hard to develop and showcase their talents, this was a powerful and uplifting production with something for everyone!

In The Heights





A word from the Headteacher

Welcome to the latest edition of Torquin! It is hard to believe that another school year has passed but time really does fly when the life of the school is so full of the activities and events that you will read about in this magazine.

Torquay Boys' Grammar School is a wonderful place for students to study and develop as individuals and it is always a pleasure to see so many of them take advantage of the vast range of opportunities provided by such a talented and dedicated staff. The extra-curricular activities you will read about are crucial in developing a variety of skills, as well as providing memories for a lifetime.

It is a privilege to see hard-working students fulfil their academic potential and, just as importantly, grow into mature young men and women with the confidence and skills to move on to the next stage of their lives but, at all times, retaining a sense of humility and responsibility to the wider community.

Enjoy the read!

Pete Lawrence
Headteacher

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