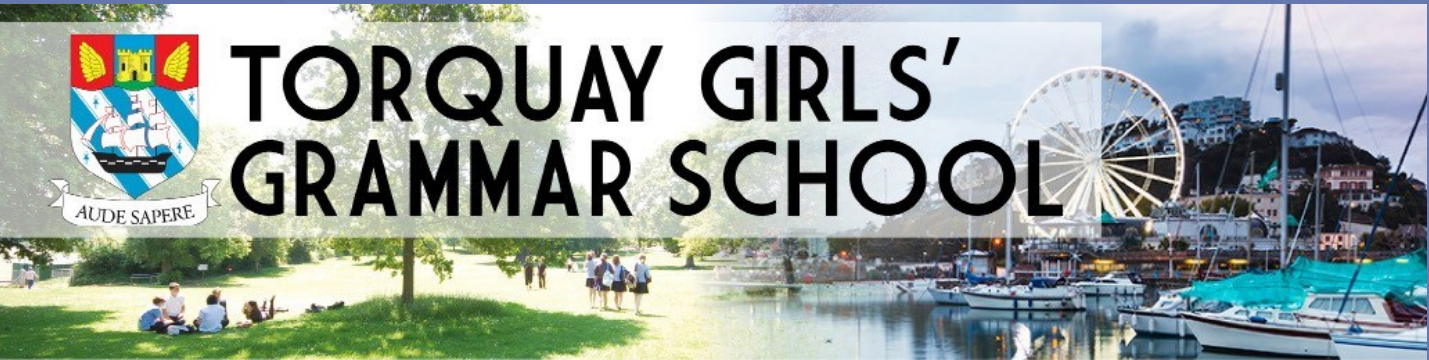




TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Head of Music Maternity Cover Recruitment Pack

Welcome from the Headteacher

Thank you for your interest in the role of Head of Music (Maternity Cover) at Torquay Girls' Grammar School.

Torquay Girls' Grammar School is a girls' 11 to 18 selective Single Academy Trust (SAT) in Torquay, Devon. Our status as a SAT means that we have the freedom to implement a curriculum intent which focusses on the whole child:

To equip students for a future in which they have the academic qualifications, character skills and self-esteem to make decisions that lead to long, happy and content lives.

Our school is founded on our core values which apply to our whole community:

Equality; open minded; kindness; collaboration; and well-being.

Our academic results are consistently high - we are 2nd in Devon and 6th in the South West - which is true testament to the continued dedication from both our students and staff.

I have been Headteacher of Torquay Girls' Grammar School since 2021 and during my first two years, the whole team led significant changes across the school to ensure we met the standards required by all accountability frameworks. We were delighted that even with the challenges of the new Ofsted framework, our hard work was recognised by achieving '*Outstanding*' in every category in November 2023. This is no mean feat, and we are incredibly proud of this achievement.

The school has a long history of success with committed students, staff and trustees. If you were to join us, you would become part of an outstanding school which values every individual within our school community.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

Sarah Forster
Headteacher



**Pupils are encouraged to become the
'history makers' of the future**

(Ofsted Report, November 2023)



Hello from our Head Girl Team

Dear Applicant,

We would firstly like to thank you for expressing interest in becoming our Head of Music (Maternity Cover) here at TGGs, a role which we view as crucial in helping to guide and equip us with the key values and characteristics which are critical for our futures as young adults.

We feel extremely lucky to be here at TGGs as we are surrounded by an incredible atmosphere which is in no small part due to the tremendous efforts of both the students and staff in nurturing our supportive, cohesive community throughout the school and Sixth Form, which allows us to progress not only academically, but also as individuals.

Since Year 7, TGGs has continually instilled in us the belief that we can accomplish anything we set out to achieve, and our school motto, 'Aude Sapere' (dare to be), is just one example of the many ways in which we are encouraged to have faith in both ourselves and our abilities. This is further reinforced by the countless opportunities we are offered within our TGGs Sixth Form besides the superb curriculum; from sporting fixtures and weekly non-academic enrichment such as knitting, national theatre and music, to university visits and the Extended Project Qualification.

Various leadership roles, including the Head Girl Team, Heads of Houses and The Hub, are imperative at not only enriching the supportive, collaborative culture here within TGGs, but also at enhancing the pride and positivity among students, reflecting the importance of our core values, in particular, equality, collaboration and kindness. Opportunities like this additionally allow us to grow as young adults, whilst having access to the amazing, ongoing support, if needed. Without a doubt, being part of our Sixth Form means being part of an inclusive, positive environment that provides students with a strong sense of belonging.

We hope this has given you a brief insight into what our Sixth Form is all about and if you 'dare to be' our Head of Music, we very much look forward to meeting you!

Thank you,

TGGs Head Girl Team



The Music Department

Music is taught to all students in Key Stage Three. As a performing art, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the practical aspects but these skills are underpinned by knowledge about the subject. Activities in lessons include composing, performing, arranging, vocal and instrumental improvisation, listening and appraising. This approach continues at Key Stage Four.

Many girls learn a musical instrument in lessons given by specialist teachers and everyone is encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extra curricular clubs, including the school orchestra, choirs, reeds ensemble and many more, which take place during lunchtimes.

There are regular performance opportunities both in and out of school, including our annual Carol Service, Summer Concert and inter-house opportunities such as the Year 7 Concert and the House Music competition.

The department boasts a large teaching room, equipped with keyboards, ukuleles and percussion, as well as a separate Mac suite, solely for the use of the music department for composing. There are 8 practice spaces which are used for the delivery of private music tuition and for use as practice spaces for the students.

Continuing Professional Development

At Torquay Girls' Grammar School, all staff have access to a wide range of Continued Professional Development (CPD).

Our internal CPD cycle for teachers is informed by the 'TGGGS Teaching and Learning Framework', focusing on evidence informed pedagogy designed to impact further the outstanding progress made by students at our school. We aim to gain a deep understanding of 'how' pedagogical approaches can be refined and adapted to support all learners in our classrooms, before sharing and embedding the practice to deliver consistently great lessons.

In addition to this, staff at every stage of their career have a wide ranging and evolving offer of significant investment, to ensure the development of people sits at the heart of our vision.

Our long term vision is to support additional investment in our frontline teaching and develop a fully embedded instructional programme model to enhance the delivery of our framework further. By ensuring that our CPD offer achieves advancements in both teachers' technical knowledge and their professional judgment in applying this knowledge in action, teachers develop into adaptive experts who can flexibly and effectively apply their technical knowledge to their unique contexts and adjust when these contexts change. To do so, we must have a clear idea of the kinds of technical knowledge and professional judgment capacities that teachers need to effectively serve our students. While many CPD programmes focus on specific elements of teaching, such as culturally responsive pedagogy or supporting social and emotional learning, at Torquay Girls' Grammar School we aim to provide more comprehensive support so that we can meet teachers wherever they are on their journey toward professional expertise.



Working at TGGs

Being part of the 'TGGs family' is special in many ways. Whatever role you play within the school community, there is so much that makes TGGs a great place to work.

Our school is situated on a great site with fantastic facilities including our lecture theatre, Sports Hall, and a fully kitted gym suite which staff can access. Across the year, there are also opportunities to join staff after school clubs including yoga and badminton - a great way to keep fit and socialise with colleagues! There are also organised staff walks on Dartmoor, and not forgetting our annual sponsored walk which raises £1000s for charity.

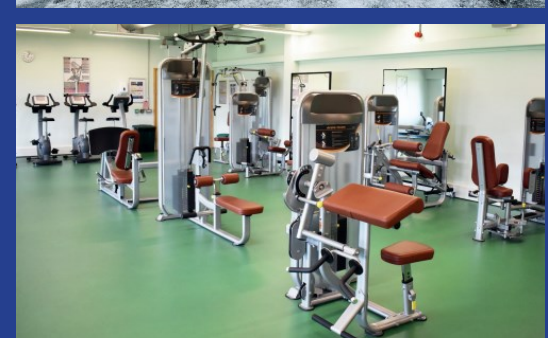
Our staff love to get involved with whole school events. Sports Day, Christmas Events, the House Shout and the Staff Lip Sync Battle are some of the highly anticipated dates in the calendar. Staff are also encouraged to be part of our wider extra-curricular offer by going on day and residential trips - Iceland and Rome to name a couple!

Our Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) has recently relaunched and they have been planning events for both staff and students, with the last quiz night proving a big success. Whether you would like to be part of the PTA or simply come along to the events for some fun, it is a great way to get involved with fundraising for the school.

As a new member of staff at TGGs, you will receive a full induction to the school which continues beyond your first week, to help you to be as successful in your role as possible. As a school, staff have access to a range of benefits from day one, including access to a good pension, the Cycle to Work scheme through salary sacrifice, and access to an Employee Assistance Programme alongside supportive policies for every personal eventuality.

The wellbeing of our staff is paramount. From the more formal aspects such as personal development to informal cake and coffee at break time, we are always improving what we can offer. We seek staff views, listen and take action to ensure staff feel as supported and valued as possible. We have recently introduced an annual 'Wellbeing Day' and have purchased TGGs branded items for staff including a coat, water bottle and coffee cup.

Our staff are incredibly dedicated to our students, but are also incredibly supportive towards one another. As well as your immediate department or team, you will get to know staff across the school who each bring something unique to our school community. We are incredibly proud of our 'TGGs family'!



Torbay and Beyond

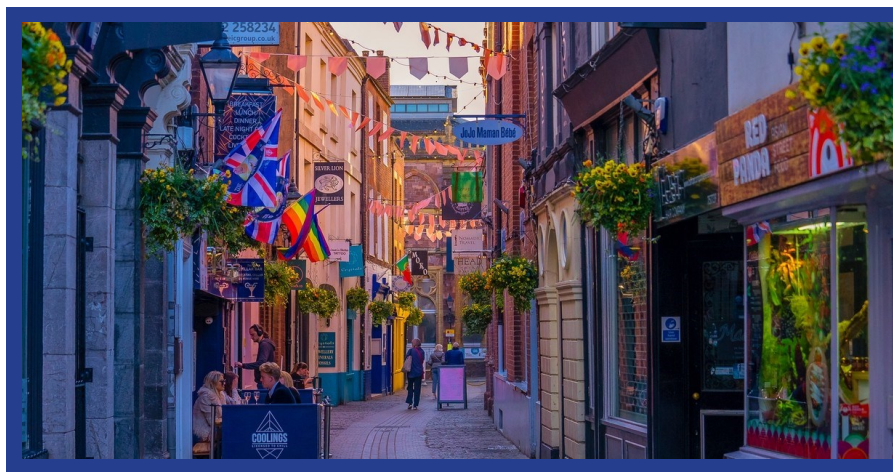
We are extremely lucky to be located within such a wonderful part of the world, and part of a superb community. Torquay Girls' Grammar School is situated in Torquay and is part of the wider Torbay area which is also home to the coastal towns of Paignton and Brixham. Torbay has so much to offer including beautiful harbours, popular tourist attractions, and plenty of choice when it comes to fish and chips, or an ice cream!



Our school is only a 30 minute walk to the closest beach, and driving distance to so many other stunning beaches and coastal towns including Dartmouth and Salcombe. As well as access to renowned coastlines within the English Riviera and the South Hams, Torquay also provides easy access to Dartmoor where there are endless walks and quaint villages to visit. We are also fortunate to be nearby North Devon where you can enjoy the wilderness of Exmoor; and Cornwall with plentiful sandy beaches.

Not only are we fortunate to be close to so many outdoor playgrounds, access to larger towns and cities is also incredibly easy. Exeter and Plymouth are our two closest cities which provide a range of facilities including shops, restaurants, bars and activities, as well as a variety of cultural, musical and sporting events. You can even hop on a train to get to Bristol in less than 1.5 hours, and London in 2.5 hours.

If you are looking to relocate to the area, there is something for everyone. Whether you want to live in a modern house in a bustling city or enjoy the peace and quiet in a thatched cottage on Dartmoor, there is plenty of choice. The area is also great for families due to the variety of family friendly opportunities available, whether on a rainy winter's day or a hot summer's day.



We are probably a bit biased because it's our home, but we are sure that you would love it as much as we do!



**Thank you for your interest in our school.
If you would like to get in touch about working at
Torquay Girls' Grammar School, please contact
admin@tggsacademy.org.**