



Working at Torquay Girls' Grammar School

Torquay Girls' Grammar School was the **Sunday Times South West Secondary School of the Year 2019** and is the top school in Devon and Cornwall 2020 in the Real Schools Guide.

Torquay Girls' Grammar School has been shortlisted for two TES 2020 Schools Awards. According to TES (the Times Educational Supplement), the shortlist recognises 'the most outstanding individuals that the education sector has to offer'. TGGGS has been nominated for:

- Wellbeing and Mental health award
- Environment Champion of the Year award.

Introduction

TGGGS was founded in 1915 and moved into the current main building when it was completed in 1939.

There are currently 992 pupils in the school, 240 of them in the 6th form. There are two major points of entry: 150 places in Y7, where the pupils must take the 11+, and the Sixth Form where we take in about 50 external students.

We take in students from a wide geographical catchment with approximately half coming from Torbay and half from Devon. This can involve up to 80 feeder primary schools.

There is a continual programme of refurbishment and development including over the last 5 years: a new Library, Humanities wing, English, Geography and Art wing, Dining Hall, Sixth Form Centre, and a new Music and Drama block. We have just opened a £2 million Sports Hall and Fitness Suite, new lecture theatre and bespoke exam hall. We completed an outdoor amphitheatre, an archive corridor and refurbished the vestibule to celebrate our centenary. Most recently, a restoration project has enabled us to internally refurbish the old building.

Who works at TGGGS?

There are approximately 64 teachers and 47 support staff. The TGGGS teachers are gifted individuals who are able to inspire pupils with their enthusiasm and subject knowledge. The support staff are committed professionals whose support allows the teachers to teach.

All are committed to providing a high quality education as well as playing a full and purposeful role in the School's extensive extra-curricular programme.

All teachers are graduates with PGCE's and their previous experience is extensive, ranging from Grammar schools to Comprehensives, the independent sector and industry. Many of the teachers are examination markers and several are lecturers at Exeter University. There is a clear framework for professional development and a number of staff are engaged in research.

We have a healthy balance of staff from NQTs to very experienced teachers, as well as a wide spread across the age range; this mix of experience and background provides for a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment.

The support staff numbers have grown from 8 in 1997 to 47 and perform a vital role in supporting the aims of the school.

The role of all staff is to nurture the academic and personal development of our students.

The teaching timetable is based on a 50 period fortnight with an average teaching load of 42 periods. The daily routine is from 8.40am to 3.45pm with after-school and lunchtime activities.

What about the Staff Social Activities?

The Staff Room Committee exists to provide social activities and support for staff. There are regular end of term socials at a variety of venues around Torquay. The Committee provides presents and cards for leavers and in other appropriate situations. There is a regular Friday Club where staff meet at the end of the week for coffee, tea and biscuits. There is a strong House Culture and all new members of staff are assigned to one of our four Houses. You will then be encouraged by your House to take part in the wide variety of house activities including staff vs students sports, fundraising activities, Sponsored walk and the House Shout. You will have voting rights for Head Girl and Head of House elections. The staff meet for annual celebrations such as Christmas mulled wine, the carol service, concerts, plays and productions. We have a regular end of term staff lunch. The new Sports Hall provides a fitness suite, with £50,000 of machines, free for staff use. A group of staff recently completed the 3 Peaks challenge and last year completed the perambulation of Dartmoor.

Is it a good place to live?

Torquay's position makes it convenient for the outstanding natural beauty of both Dartmoor and the South Devon coast. The beaches of the county are some of the best of the country and you can get away from the stresses of life by walking on the rugged moors. The beautiful cathedral city of Exeter is on your doorstep as is the City of Plymouth with its rich maritime history. Both of these have excellent new shopping centres. There is a unanimous feeling among staff that the area is a wonderful place to bring up children.

How well are we doing?

In 2018 at A level 83% of grades were A*/ A or B and at GCSE over 71% were A or A*. This makes us one of the top twenty performing state girls' schools nationally.

Our Progress 8 and ALPs scores show we make outstanding progress when compared to similar schools.

We were inspected by Ofsted in September 2011 and they judged us to be outstanding in all 22 key judgements and hence **Outstanding** overall. They wrote in the report that "**Staff morale is very high.**"

95%+ of pupils go on to top universities with some 10+ applying to Oxford or Cambridge each year.

We were the Sunday Times South West State school of the Year 2019 and were named the UK Parliament school of the year in 2020

The school is extremely fortunate in attracting and retaining staff of the highest quality.

Where are we going?

There is a buzz and vibrancy about our school. Our partnerships are enriching our experience. One example is the formation of SWAT, a Trust with 11 other top performing grammar schools, which delivers huge benefits to both staff and students. As an Academy we have more control over our affairs and destiny. We have a major focus on our 9 Habits to help live and big, long happy and healthy life for both staff and students. We have been at the forefront nationally of the student voice in climate change.

I hope that this gives you a flavour of life at TGGs. It is a very supportive and happy place to work. We warmly welcome your application.

Dr Smith
Headteacher
April 2020

- The School is an equal opportunities employer and a non-smoking establishment

- The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.