

TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM





Opening more doors to bright futures...

Thank you for your interest in studying with us in the Sixth Form at Torquay Girls' Grammar School.

Our collective mission here is to ensure that every single student leaves after two years with as many options open to them as possible. We achieve this through developing character skills, academic confidence and self-esteem. This ensures that when the time comes for our students to leave us, they have the fundamental qualities to embark upon successful careers in any field they choose. Put simply, we want to enable them to be the very best versions of themselves.

Torquay Girls' Grammar School has a rich history as a provider of education for over 100 years, and recently has regularly featured amongst the highest performing A-level providers, not only in the local area, but within the country. The vast majority of our students proceed to the top UK universities, with significant numbers taking places at medical schools, as well as STEM & Law courses, and a fantastic variety of other degrees, reflecting the breadth of provision on offer at the Sixth Form. We also have many students successfully gaining places on prestigious apprenticeship schemes with some of the UK's top employers, as well as others who opt to study at international universities, such as in Germany or the USA.

We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities in which all students are encouraged to take part. Be that in team sports, academic mentoring, charitable work, international travel or outdoor activities, such as Ten Tors and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; we like our students to step out of their comfort zone, dare to take risks and grow as individuals.

The benefits of attending a Sixth Form will be evident from the first day you join. We have about 250 students in the sixth form, so there is a family feel to the environment here. We will get to know you well, and you will get to know your teachers, tutors and peers as individuals. This allows us all to form strong bonds for support when it is needed. It also allows us to guide you on this most exciting phase of your education, when you begin to decide which path your future may take.

I hope you find the information with this booklet useful, and I look forward to welcoming you here soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tania Grigg".

Mrs Tania Grigg
Head of Sixth Form





“As the teachers are very approachable and willing to help at any time, the transition to A-levels has been smooth and enjoyable.”

Progressing to Sixth Form from Year 11 involves a significant amount of change for everyone.

Each year group within the Sixth Form has capacity for approximately 150 students. We expect to retain the majority of our TGS students from Year 11, but also welcome around 30 new students joining us each year at the start of Year 12.

Whether joining from another school or stepping up from Year 11, making the transition from GCSE to A-level study needs support and guidance. The increased expectation of independence and ownership of the academic programme is carefully introduced through the Tutorial Program, where study skills are taught alongside regular coaching with your tutor.

The start of Year 12 is also a great time to make new friends through the academic programme and a number of social activities.



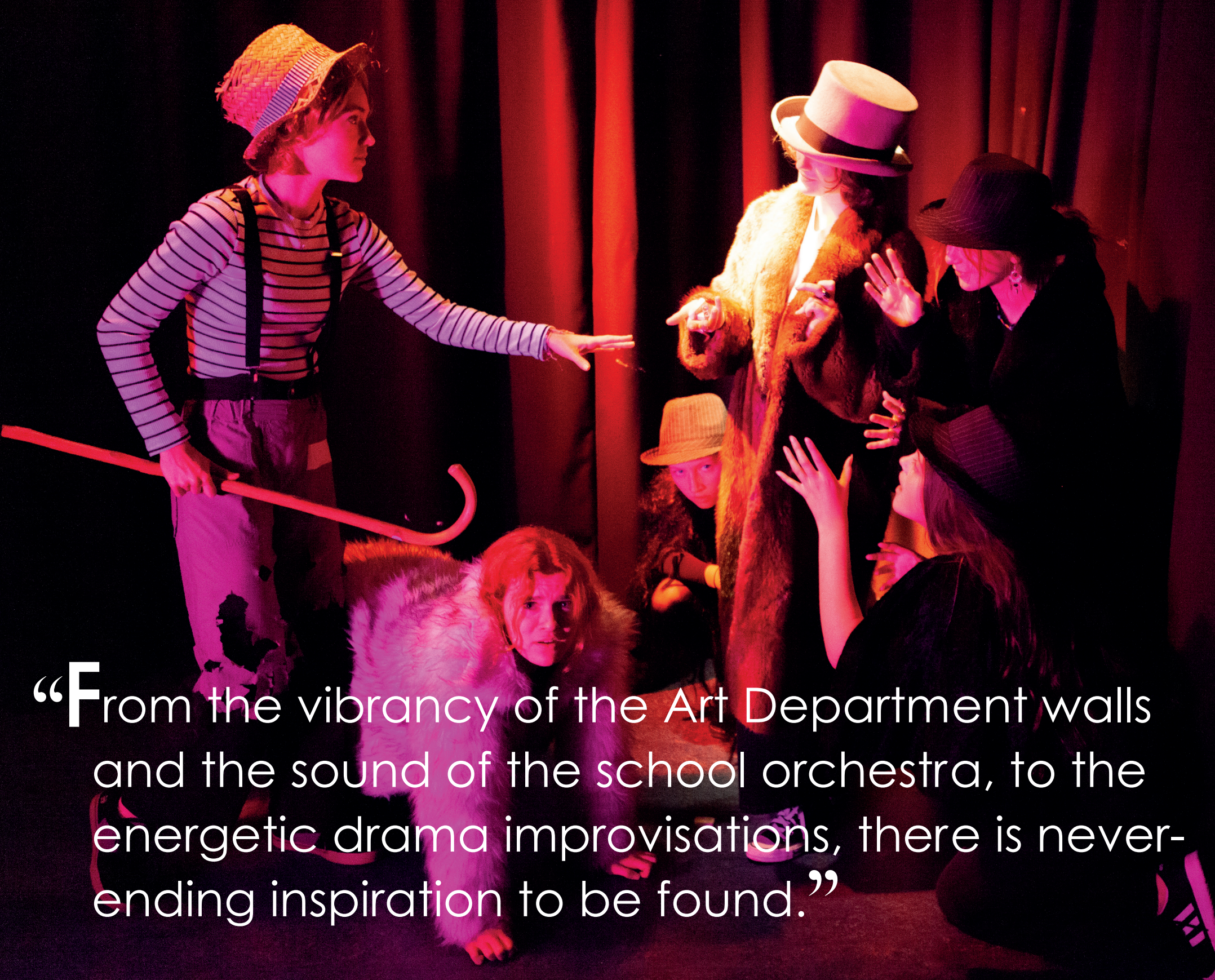
“It is so inspiring to be taught by teachers with a genuine passion for their subject and who are so invested in you achieving your academic potential.”

The pastoral support system at TGGS is designed to ensure that someone is always available for you when you need that extra bit of support. You will meet daily with your tutor, and they will have an oversight of how you are progressing as well as all the activities you are involved in. We also have a full-time non-teaching Head of Year 12, who is also available to discuss anything you may need to.

Within school we have two qualified counsellors, who are able to offer support, guidance and strategies for managing those times when things can seem overwhelming. To support planning for the future, we also have on-site careers advisers.

For academic support, the teaching staff here are also incredibly generous with their time. A number of lunchtime support classes run throughout the year, helping you to get personal assistance to stay on top of your studies or catch up, should you fall behind for any reason.





“From the vibrancy of the Art Department walls and the sound of the school orchestra, to the energetic drama improvisations, there is never-ending inspiration to be found.”

Some students are very clear on their vocational path when they join us and know what they need to study, but Sixth Form is a time to explore as many avenues as possible. To this end, our academic and extra-curricular program allows you to keep your options open.

As well as studying three A-levels, many students will complete the Extended Project Qualification – a highly regarded qualification by universities and employers, which develops independence and organisation as well as research and presenting skills. There is also an optional non-examined Critical Thinking course, which runs in year 12.

In order to allow a breadth of study, we offer the ability to complete “creative” AS levels in Art, Drama or Music within the normal timetable. During Year 12 you can make the decision to take these AS levels through to a full A-level, if you wish.

If you wish to pursue Art, Music and Drama as an entirely extra-curricular activity there are numerous options on offer, from whole-school theatre productions, choirs, bands and even smaller scale lunchtime musical performances – there’s always something to try out!



Local Roots, Global Vision

Our alumnae have gone on to a wide range of destinations and careers across the globe. We ensure that our students have those same opportunities and exposure through an ambitious extracurricular program which includes a number of national and international trips and visits. From university open days, skiing trips, visits to the UN or pupil exchanges with European partner schools, horizons at TGGS are broad.

We also benefit from a number of international students who opt to study with us for one or two terms in year 12. These students integrate with our normal classes and bring an overseas perspective and diversity which all pupils benefit from.

You will be encouraged to focus on our local setting too, be that giving back to the school community through academic mentoring to lower years, or helping out with activity groups and sports throughout the lower school. You can also get involved in the established volunteering activities we partner with, such as Torbay Hospital wayfinders or assisting with residential home or hospice care.



“The extent to which students develop independent learning and personal skills, take on responsibilities and show leadership is striking.” - Ofsted



We look to you as members of the Sixth Form to lead and set the example for the rest of the school. You may wish to become a leader of one of our many school community groups or get involved in the delivery of PSHE sessions with lower school classes. We have an active student voice that represents the views of the student body and ensure that current issues such as climate change, equality and diversity are championed throughout the school.

The House System from the lower school continues into the Sixth Form and you will have the opportunity to apply to be a Head of House – leading the house in the large number of competitions and events that run throughout the year. You'll be leading the fun!

You will also have the opportunity to become one of our Head Girl Team, the senior pupils in school, who help to support all pupils, lead charitable and social activities and represent the school at a number of events throughout the year.

“The school is equally interested in our development as well-rounded people as in our academic success.”



Physical and Mental Wellbeing is at the heart of what we do at TGGs.

If you like team sports, there are hockey and netball teams that compete at regional and national level. We facilitate our individual sportspersons to participate in their chosen fields, recently in such fields as international athletics, water hockey or competitive dancing.

Our sports hall is equipped with a gym, stocked with modern training equipment, such as weight training apparatus, running, cycling and rowing machines. The use of this is free to all members of the sixth form and you are encouraged to use it as part of your timetable with us. The sports hall is also used for badminton club and other sports, and we also run yoga and mindfulness sessions.



“Had I not come here, I would have missed out on experiences such as volunteering that have greatly helped me to decide on my future after Sixth Form.”

Our students are active in the local community. We support a number of local initiatives directly through volunteering, such as working in Special Needs Schools, volunteering at hospitals and hospices and many of our students undertake voluntary work in charity shops.

We have had a partnership with the Imprezza Academy, our sister school in Kenya, for over 10 years, and support them through events such as charity week in school. We also run a successful harvest collection to support the Torbay Food Banks. All of these activities are largely led by members of our Sixth Form.



Opening the doors to bright futures...

The broad offering and extensive support on offer at TGGs Sixth Form ensures that our pupils secure excellent A level results as well as developing character skills and self esteem that will equip them for the rest of their lives.

For those students interested in medical or veterinary courses at university, there are specialist groups and guidance, including interview practice and mock application days. For students interested in applying to Oxbridge, we offer a tailored package of support including one on one sessions to help with the application process and the interview stage. We have a large alumnae network who are more than willing to help and mentor current students who are interested in particular destinations.

Whatever path you choose after your studies are complete with us, we will help you achieve your goals. With tailored support through the UCAS program, expert advice on the job market and apprenticeship schemes, the guidance you receive at TGGs will be bespoke to you.

We believe there is no better platform from which to take the next steps in shaping your future.





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