



Understand that NOTHING
can LEARNING



Hard work · Int

every second counts



Family Handbook Class of 2033

www.TQacademy.co.uk



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

I hope your son or daughter was excited to receive their Golden Ticket to join Torquay Academy; it marks the start of a seven-year relationship between the school, you and your child. TA is an incredibly exciting school and full of incredible opportunities.

I am exceptionally proud to lead a school of so many hard-working girls and boys who are supported by a dedicated and highly-qualified staff body.

I hope this handbook will give you a lot of the information that you need prior to joining our community, but it will also serve as a reference over the years. You will always be able to find the latest handbook on our website.

When you are reading through the handbook, I hope you get a sense of the thought that goes into each aspect of the school's day. We like a plan! Can I suggest that you do the same at home? When will you check you child's homework, how will you make sure they have the right equipment each day, etc. I can assure you that this planning will pay great dividends in the years to come.

One of my favourite jobs each week is to write my weekly Blog, which highlights the incredible successes and activities that have taken place over the previous seven days. You can read this on our school website or by following our Facebook or Instagram pages (please see the QR codes at the bottom of the page for links to our Facebook and Instagram accounts).

I look forward to welcoming our new Year 7s in September where I hope they will understand our values of hard work, integrity and pride. I want them to be incredibly successful and enjoy their time at TA.

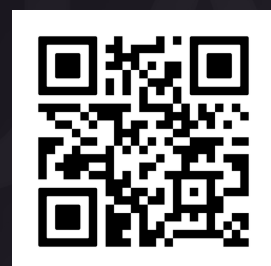
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes

Steve Margetts
Principal



Facebook



Instagram

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OUR VALUES



We have three key values at Torquay Academy that have been carefully woven into, and drive, everything that we do: **Hard work, Integrity and Pride**. Students will understand how these values will support them in achieving their potential and having a successful life.

Hard Work

- We never give up
- We do things properly
- We are ambitious
- We never make excuses

Integrity

- We treat everybody with respect
- We do the right thing
- We are honest
- We accept responsibility

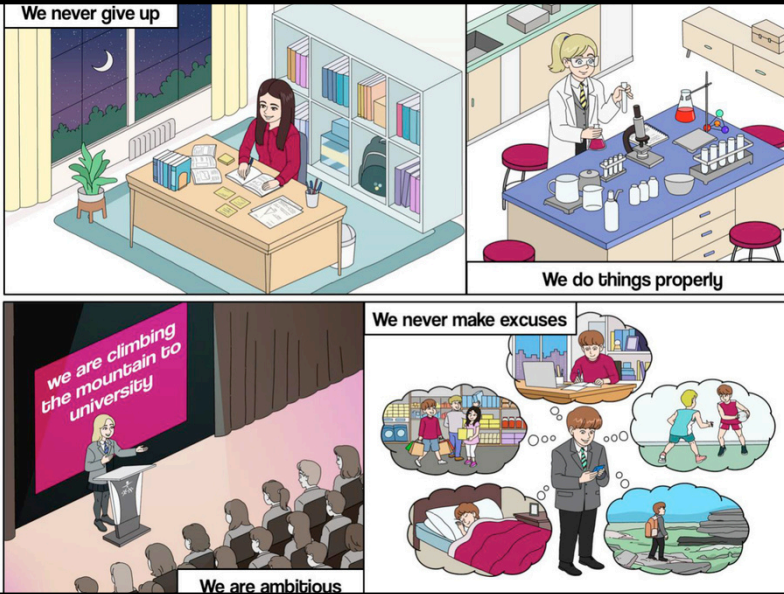
Pride

- We believe in ourselves
- We take pride in our work
- We are ready to learn
- We contribute to our school community

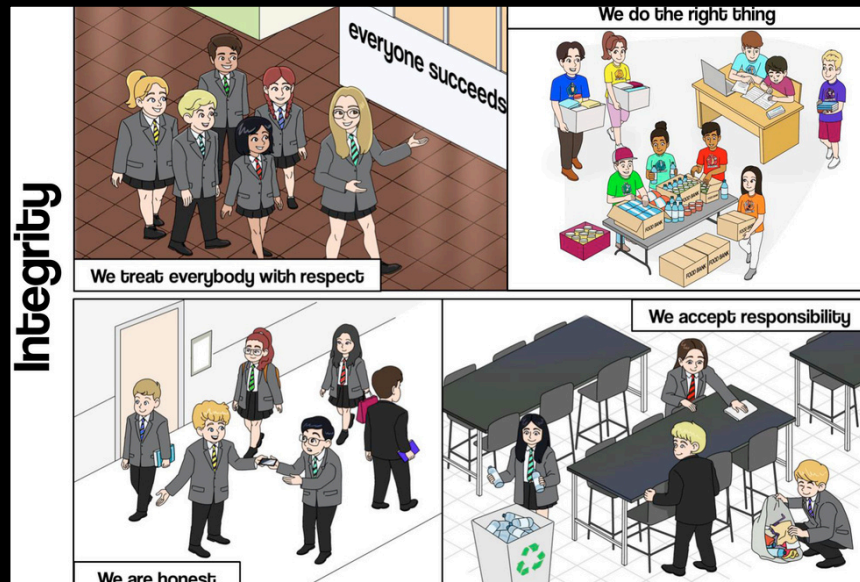


OUR VALUES

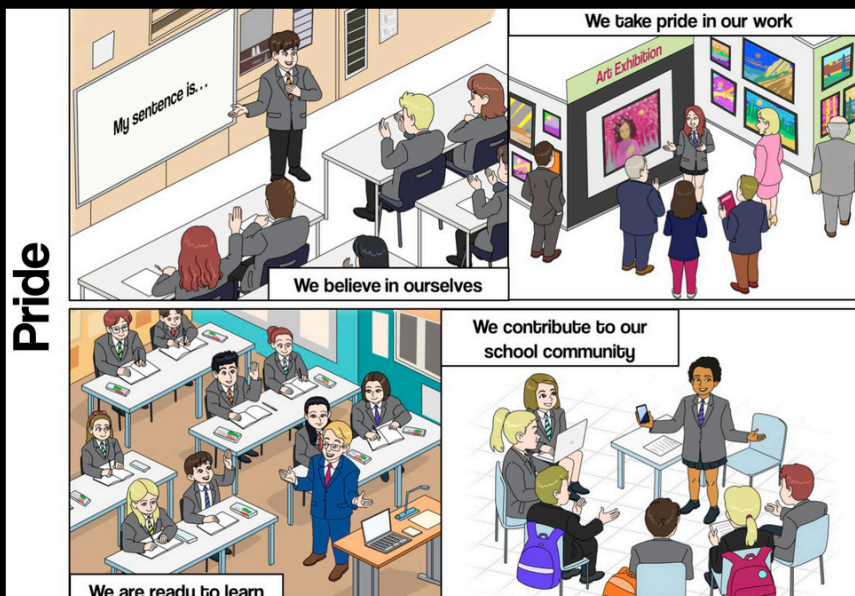
Hard Work



Integrity



Pride



OUR SCHOOL

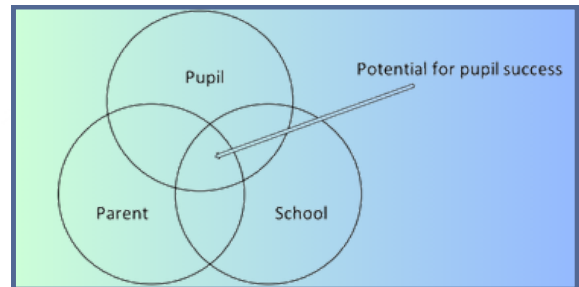


THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS & CARERS

Parents and carers (you) play a crucial role in education and schools because you provide the foundational support and encouragement that children need to succeed academically. When children's parents are involved in their education, then the children pick up on it. They think, "School is important. My parents think it's important". The effect of parental engagement over a student's school career "is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student's education".

Students say they want their parents to do all of the following:

- Ask them about how things are going at school.
- Give them space and quiet to do schoolwork.
- Sit with them and help them.
- Attend school events so they know what is going on.
- Take them to places to extend their learning.
- Ensure they have the equipment they need in order to learn.



Pupils with involved parents enjoyed school 51% more and achieved higher grades more often than those who didn't have involved parents. Students tell us that, despite what they may say to you and their friends, parents of secondary school pupils continue to have a huge impact on their lives.



CONTACTING TORQUAY ACADEMY

The school's reception is open between 8am and 4.15pm during term time.

If you are unsure of which department to contact, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our helpful reception team as they are there to support you.

Main Reception Telephone: 01803 329351

Key Contacts

Department	Email
TA Admin (Reception) team	admin@TQacademy.co.uk
Attendance & Absence	attendance@TQacademy.co.uk
Year team (Years 7-11)	pastoral@TQacademy.co.uk
Child Protection	cp@TQacademy.co.uk
Tassomai	tassomai@TQacademy.co.uk
Sparx Maths	sparx@TQacademy.co.uk
Sparx Science	sparxscience@TQacademy.co.uk

Key Dates for New Year 7 Students

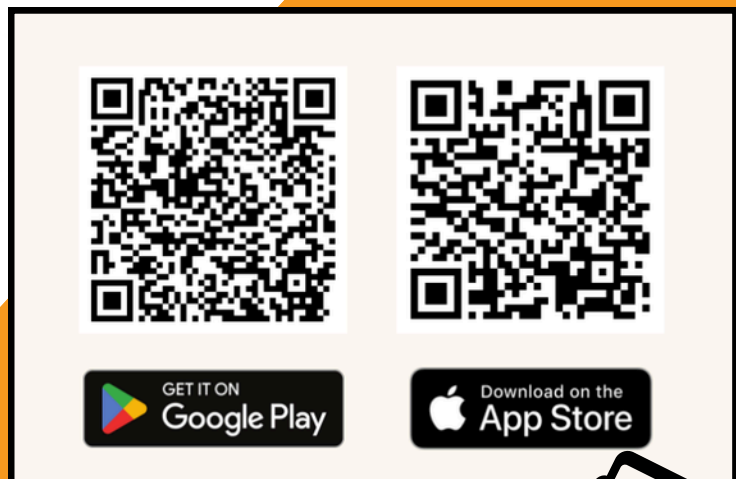
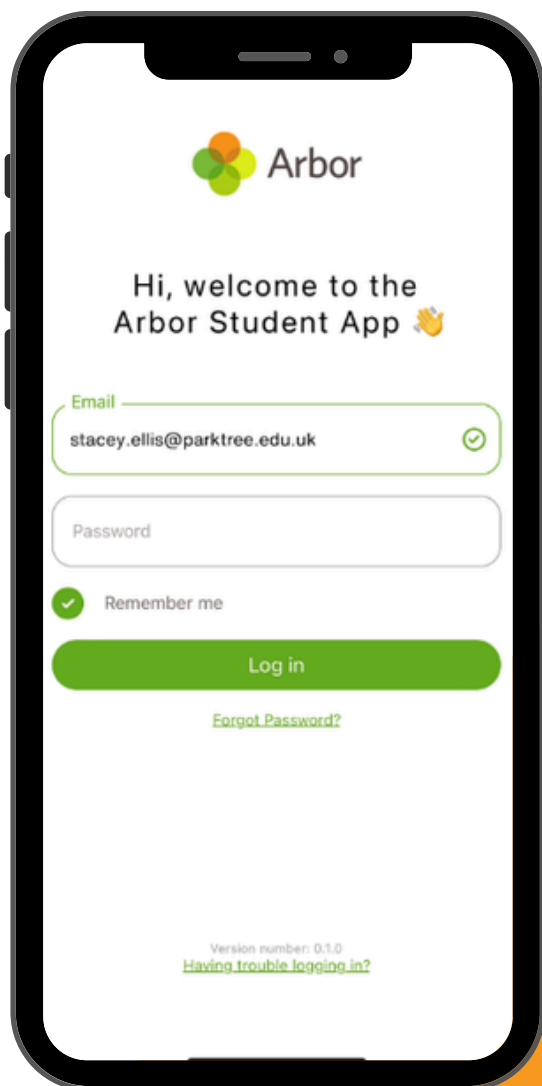
Event	Date
First day of school	Thursday 3rd September
Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening	Thursday 17th September
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 4th February

COMMUNICATION VIA ARBOR

Torquay Academy utilises the Arbor platform, providing both a Student and Parent App to streamline communication and enhance engagement.

The Arbor Parent App is a vital tool for offering real-time access to useful information about your child's school day. Parents can monitor attendance, track academic progress, view school reports, sign up for trips and clubs, and check their child's timetable.

The Arbor Student App allows students to take ownership of their learning. It provides access to timetables, house points and school announcements. Students can use 'Ask Arbor' within the app to find out information about their day.



The Year 7 Team



Miss Essam Wood

Head of Year 7

“

I will be your Head of Year for the whole of Year 7. I will always be on hand to answer your questions or help you deal with any problems that arise. You can either find me in my office by the Year 7 Hub or out and about in the Year 7 area.

”



Mrs Venter

Pastoral Leader for Year 7

“

I will be your Pastoral Leader for Year 7 and will be supporting you as you settle in and start your journey at TA. I will be based in the Year 7 Hub and will be around at each break time and always available to sort out any issues or answer any questions. Can't wait to meet you all!

”



Mrs Thompson

Deputy Head of Year 7

“

I am the Deputy Head of Year 7. I will be on hand to help you with any of your learning, including your homework. I will always be around the Year 7 / Science area to help and support you.

”

GETTING TO KNOW US



“

Starting secondary school is a huge milestone, and I am passionate about ensuring every child feels known, supported and excited about their journey at TA. As the SLT link for Year 7, I look forward to working with students, families and staff to help every child feel a strong sense of belonging and lay the foundations for a successful and ambitious future.

”

Miss Pappin

Senior Leadership Team
(SLT) Link for Year 7

Year 7 Tutors

Your tutor will be the person you see every morning. They will be there to help with any problems, answer questions that arise and also help you prepare for the day ahead. Your tutor group will be an important part of your journey at Torquay Academy as it will allow you to make lasting friendships and compete in our house competitions.



Mr King
Brunel (Blue)
7B



Miss Lewis
Christie (Cyan)
7C



Mrs Abraham
Darwin (Red)
7D



Miss Piggott
Fawcett (Yellow)
7F



Mr Hanley
Harrison (Orange)
7H



Mrs Aplin
Kitson (Green)
7K



Mrs Wilson
Nearne (Teal)
7N



Miss Flynn
Pengelly (Purple)
7P

HOUSE SYSTEM

We operate a house system consisting of eight houses named after famous former residents of Torquay. The house system encourages students to develop significant emotional involvement, make a greater behavioural effort, and engage with all aspects of school life due to the sense of belonging the structure provides.

Throughout the year, students have the opportunities to participate in a series of house activities and competitions including: Battle of the Brains, The Great TA Bake Off, TA's Got Talent, Blockbusters, Countdown, quizzes and sporting events. Additionally, students are awarded daily house points for homework, classwork and positive behaviour. House affiliation is instantly distinguishable by the colours displayed on the students' ties, PE kits and badges.

Each house has a designated local charity and students are extremely committed to fundraising activities. When joining Torquay Academy, students are assigned to one of the following houses:

Brunel

(Engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel)



Miss Pappin
Head of Brunel



Motto
Be Inventive

Charity - The Children's Society

Christie

(Author, Agatha Christie)



Mr Jones
Head of Christie



Motto
Be Creative

Charity - Rowcroft Hospice

Darwin

(Naturalist, Charles Darwin)



Dr Hocking
Head of Darwin



Motto
Be Industrious

Charity - Animals in Distress

Fawcett

(Explorer, Percy Fawcett)



Mrs Jukes
Head of Fawcett



Motto
Be Adventurous

Charity - Premature Baby Unit

HOUSE SYSTEM

Harrison

(War Hero, Arthur Harrison)



Mrs Hosking
Head of Harrison



Motto
Be Courageous

Charity - The Royal British Legion

Kitson

(Entrepreneur, William Kitson)



Mr Baker
Head of Kitson



Motto
Be Enterprising

Charity - Torbay Coast & Countryside

Nearne

(Espionage Agent, Eileen Nearne)



Mr Broome
Head of Nearne



Motto
Be Loyal

Charity - The Red Cross

Pengelly

(Geologist, William Pengelly)



Mr Chadwick
Head of Pengelly



Motto
Be Inquisitive

Charity - Torbay Stroke Support



PASTORAL STRUCTURE

YEAR 7



MISS ESSAM-WOOD
HEAD OF YEAR 7



MRS VENTER
YEAR 7 PASTORAL LEADER



MRS THOMPSON
DEPUTY HEAD OF YEAR 7

YEAR 8



MISS GRAHAM
HEAD OF YEAR 8



MRS BROOKS
YEAR 8 PASTORAL LEADER



MRS HORTON
DEPUTY HEAD OF YEAR 8

YEAR 9



MISS BAKER
HEAD OF YEAR 9



MS BELL
YEAR 9 PASTORAL LEADER



MR DYER
DEPUTY HEAD OF YEAR 9

PASTORAL STRUCTURE

YEAR 10



MR HENWOOD
HEAD OF YEAR 10



MRS POWELL
YEAR 10 PASTORAL LEADER



MRS MORTIMORE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MRS SCHWARZ
ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

YEAR 11



MR FOULDS
HEAD OF YEAR 11



MR GRINSILL
HEAD OF YEAR 11



MRS DUNN
YEAR 11 PASTORAL LEADER



MR GALE
VICE PRINCIPAL

YEARS 12 & 13



MRS HOSKING
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



MR SWETTENHAM
HEAD OF YEAR 12



MRS DIODE
HEAD OF YEAR 13



MR BROOME
VICE PRINCIPAL

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mrs Aplin

Associate
Assistant
Principal
Pupil Premium



Mr Baker

Associate
Assistant
Principal
Behaviour



Mr Bindon

Vice
Principal
Attendance



Mr Broome

Vice
Principal
Homework &
revision



Miss Cape

Associate
Assistant
Principal
Humanities



Mr Chadwick

Vice
Principal
Expectations &
wellbeing



Mr Gale

Vice
Principal
Outcomes



Dr Hocking

Vice
Principal
School Structure



Mrs Hosking

Assistant
Principal
6th Form



Mr Jones

Assistant
Principal
Director of Sport



Miss Jones

Assistant
Principal
Teaching & Learning



Mrs Jukes

Assistant
Principal
SEND / Safeguarding
Lead

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr Margetts

Principal



Mr Mellitt

Assistant
Principal
Science



Mrs Mortimore

Assistant
Principal
English



Miss Pappin

Assistant
Principal
Director of Creative Arts



Mrs Perkins

Finance
Director



Mrs Ryan

Associate
Assistant
Principal
Coaching



Mrs Schwarz

Associate
Assistant
Principal
Examinations



Mr Thatcher

Assistant
Principal
Maths

LIFE AT TA



TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026/27

Autumn Term		Dates
First day	Autumn Term 1	Thursday 3rd September (Years 7 and 12 only) Friday 4th September (Years 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13)
Last day	Autumn Term 1	Friday 23rd October
Half Term		Monday 26th October - Friday 30 th October
First day	Autumn Term 2	Monday 2nd November
Last day	Autumn Term 2	Friday 18th December (students finish at 1.05pm)
Spring Term		Dates
First day	Spring Term 1	Monday 4th January
Last day	Spring Term 1	Friday 12th February
Half Term		Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February
First day	Spring Term 2	Monday 22nd February
Last day	Spring Term 2	Thursday 25th March
Summer Term		Dates
First day	Summer Term 1	Monday 12th April
Last day	Summer Term 1	Friday 28th May
Half Term		Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
First day	Summer Term 2	Monday 7th June
Last day	Summer Term 2	Friday 16th July

Non-Pupil Days

Friday 2nd July and Monday 5th July are non-pupil days and the school is closed to students.

every second counts

The most important part of any school day is to be here. To be successful at school we know it is important for students to attend school and be in lessons, learning and achieving. For this to happen the expectation is that all students should have an attendance above 95%. Students who miss 1 day in 10 (90% Attendance) score, on average, 1 grade lower in every subject compared to students with over 95% attendance. This can have a huge impact on the future earnings and happiness of the student. The habit of coming to school every day is formed in Year 7, so we strongly suggest you get in the habit of sending your child to school every day. Students are more likely to attend if they feel supported and their anxieties listened to at home.

The table below shows the effect of different attendances on students' grades:

Attendance %	Days missed per week	Weeks missed per year	Effect on GCSE Grades
90%	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	1 grade lower in every subject
80%	1	7	2 grades lower in every subject
70%	$1\frac{1}{2}$	10	3 grades lower in every subject
60%	2	14	4 grades lower in every subject
50%	$2\frac{1}{2}$	20	6 grades lower in every subject

Punctuality

Everyone is expected to be on time to school, to lessons and to line up every day. The student gates are closed at 8.20am as all students need to be in and at line up at this time. Students should aim to arrive at school by 8.10am. For students who are late, they need to enter via the main reception where they are registered as late and issued with a detention. For students who are persistently late, meetings will be arranged with parents/carers to discuss the issue, and it could lead to a fine being imposed by the Local Authority.

At the end of each break time a lesson bell is sounded which is the cue to pack up or stop what you are doing and move directly to your lesson. There is a full 5 minutes before the 'late bell' sounds. Any student not in the classroom at this point is deemed late and this will be recorded by the class teacher. The late data is reviewed daily by year teams and sanctions are issued for students who are persistently late to class. We talk about 'every second counts' and the start of lessons is so important to set the tone, introduce the topics and check for understanding.

ATTENDANCE

Absence

Parents can log same-day absences for their children using the Parent Portal and Arbor App. To do this, they must access the Attendance section, input the absence details, and submit the request. School staff will then approve or reject the absence. Once approved, it will be visible in the Attendance tab. Absence requests cannot be edited, only deleted and recreated if changes are needed, and approved absences cannot be deleted. Medical appointments can also be reported via the Arbor app.

You can only record same-day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact the attendance team on attendance@TQacademy.co.uk.

Leave of Absence

Parents/carers have a legal duty to ensure their child who is of compulsory school age receives an efficient, full-time education. Therefore, if your child has no unauthorised absences and their attendance is at 96% or above, you are giving your child the best chance to achieve their potential. If parents/carers fail to ensure their child's regular and punctual attendance at school, they are committing an offence, unless the absence has been authorised by the school.

We acknowledge that some absence, e.g., illness, is unavoidable. However, any requests for avoidable absences from school (including holidays) can only be agreed by the school in advance, so it is therefore essential that you apply to the school in writing as far in advance of the absence as is reasonably possible using a form supplied by the school. Please be aware that a school can only grant leave in exceptional circumstances. The Department for Education guidance states that "leave is unlikely to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday as a norm."

First Aid or Illness

If a student feels ill or requires first aid during the school day they should tell their teacher who will contact the Pastoral team. A member of the Pastoral team will telephone home to have a conversation on what the next steps will be. If your child is to be picked up from school it is imperative that a member of the Pastoral team has spoken to you beforehand. In no circumstances can a student contact home and be asked to be picked up without the Pastoral team knowing this.



THE SCHOOL DAY



Time	Session
07.30	Breakfast served in year group hubs
08.10	Students should be on site ready for line up
08.20 - 08.25	First line up
08.25 - 09.05	Period 1
09.05 - 09.15	Second line up
09.15 - 10.55	Period 2
10.55 - 11.25	Break 1
11.25 - 1.05	Period 3
1.05 - 1.35	Break 2
1.35 - 3.15	Period 4
3.15 - 4.15	Period 5*

* Period 5 is for Academic Intervention which is compulsory for the invited students and for all students in Years 11-13

PERIOD ONE



At the beginning of each day, students will line up in their tutor groups. The Head of Year will welcome every student and give out key messages. Tutors will conduct an initial uniform and equipment check. The line-up allows for a calm and purposeful start to the day, as well as a check to ensure our students are happy.

Every student will receive a Period One to start their day at Torquay Academy. This is from 8.20-9.15am. For all students, Period One is designed to be supportive and ensure that every student is set up to be successful for their day.

Students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will have their Period One with their tutor in their house colours. We also run Period One interventions for students in Year 7 and Year 8. These are based on the needs of our students and are planned to support our students' progress. These are regularly monitored and reviewed.

Students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will partake in a range of Period One activities, including Numeracy tasks, Cultural Knowledge articles and the enjoyment of reading in their Period One reading book. Students will start the week with a LLAC (Learn Like a Champion) video that highlights the learning focus for the week. This involves a video of the strategy being modelled in a classroom environment. Students will also receive elements of PSHE teaching and important messages relating to homework, clubs and events during this time.

Equipment will be checked in Period One and students missing equipment will be given what is missing. Please note that students who are missing equipment will be charged for this to ensure that their pencil cases are fully stocked for the day. We ask that you support us with this and to ensure your child has a full pencil case to avoid being charged.

Revision Mastery (all years) and Written Homework books (Year 7 and 8 only) will be checked during Period One by tutors every Monday. Please note that students who lose their homework books will be charged £1.50 for each book replaced throughout the year.

Students in Year 10, Year 11 and Sixth Form will have a Period One with a subject specific teacher, receiving additional tuition in a subject we have identified that they will benefit from extra time in. These groupings are also regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that students have the necessary support in place for achieving their potential grade where we feel it is most required.

The Head of Year, Deputy Head of Year, Pastoral Leader and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) link for each year group will be in each of their year Hubs for Period One to support the calm and purposeful start to every day at Torquay Academy.

TEACHING & LEARNING CYCLES

The school year is divided into four teaching and learning cycles; each nine weeks in length. This enables departments to plan defined schemes of work to ensure students make good progress. All students in a year group cover the content of the topic(s) in a cycle at a pace that is appropriate for them.

Overview

Week of the Cycle	Description
Weeks 1 - 7	Students learn new subject content. Within these seven weeks, mid-cycle assessments will be undertaken by the students for teachers to see how students are doing.
Week 8	Assessment Week. During this week, students sit an assessment in their subjects. These assessments are generally multiple-choice and enable teachers to identify what students have learned, and what areas students have been less confident with.
Week 9	'Super Teaching Week'. During this week, teachers re-teach areas that students struggled with in the assessment, and provide extension work for students who achieved a good level of knowledge.

Assessment Week Dates 2026-27

You will receive an individual timetable showing the dates and times of your child's assessments for each cycle. The following weeks are the assessment weeks in 2025/26:

Cycle	Assessment Week
Cycle 1	9th - 13th November
Cycle 2	25th - 29th January
Cycle 3	19th - 23rd April
Cycle 4	28th June - 2nd July

TEACHING & LEARNING CYCLES

<i>Summer Holiday</i>				
Autumn Term 8 Weeks		A	31.8.26	TA way
	1	B	7.9.26	Teaching
	2	A	14.9.26	
	3	B	21.9.26	
	4	A	28.9.26	
	5	B	5.10.26	
	6	A	12.10.26	
	7	B	19.10.26	
<i>Half Term</i>				
Autumn Term 7 Weeks	8	A	2.11.26	
	1	B	9.11.26	Assessment
	1	A	16.11.26	Super Teaching
	1	B	23.11.26	Teaching
	2	A	30.11.26	
	3	B	7.12.26	
	4	A	14.12.26	
<i>Christmas</i>				
Spring Term 6 Weeks	5	B	4.1.27	
	6	A	11.1.27	
	7	B	18.1.27	
	1	A	25.1.27	Assessment
	1	B	1.2.27	Super Teaching
	1	A	8.2.27	Teaching
<i>Half Term</i>				
Spring Term 5 Weeks	2	B	22.2.27	
	3	A	1.3.27	
	4	B	8.3.27	
	5	A	15.3.27	
	6	B	22.3.27	
<i>Easter</i>				
Summer Term 7 Weeks	7	A	12.4.27	
	1	B	19.4.27	Assessment
	1	A	26.4.27	Super Teaching
	1	B	3.5.27	Teaching
	2	A	10.5.27	
	3	B	17.5.27	
	4	A	24.5.27	
<i>Half Term</i>				
Summer Term 6 Weeks	5	B	7.6.27	
	6	A	14.6.27	
	7	B	21.6.27	
	1	A	28.6.27	Synoptic Assessment
	1	B	5.7.27	Super Teaching
	1	-	12.7.27	Activities Week
<i>Summer</i>				

CURRICULUM



The main Torquay Academy curriculum is divided into three key stages:

- **Key Stage 3:** Years 7 and 8 where students study a broad curriculum of subjects that will give them a foundation of knowledge and skills before they progress into key stage 4.
- **Key Stage 4:** Years 9, 10 and 11 where students study the subjects they have opted for at GCSE in addition to the core subjects.
- **Key Stage 5:** Years 12 and 13 (6th Form) where students will study three A level (or equivalent) subjects.

Key Stage 3

We operate a two-week timetable: 'Week A and Week B'. In Years 7 and 8, students will have a certain number of 100-minute lessons per fortnight in each subject. It is a good idea to display your child's timetable at home and colour the days when they need their PE kit. The lessons will be different in each of the two weeks. The table shows the number of lessons students will have over the two weeks.

Teaching Groups

Students are taught in different groups to their tutor groups and these are based on academic ability in some subjects. This is done to ensure that students can learn at a pace that suits their own needs. It is common for students to move between sets after each of the four teaching and learning cycles.

Subject	Year 7	Year 8
English	6	6
Mathematics	6	6
Science	4	4
History	2	2
Geography	2	2
RE	1	1
French or Spanish	3	2
Art	1	1
Music	1	1
Drama	0	1
Technology	2	2
Core PE	2	2
Total	30	30

TEACHING & LEARNING

Lessons at Torquay Academy follow four key principles that we believe give students the best chance of success called the Principles of Teaching. These describe what you would expect to see in a typical lesson at Torquay Academy.

1. **Retrieval Practice.** This is when we ask students to recall knowledge from previous lessons. Examples include the 'Do Now' activity at the start of the lesson, and short quizzes at other times. This is intended to make sure students remember the content covered in previous lessons and build this into their long-term memory.
2. **Teacher Exposition.** This is how we deliver new information to students. This could be in the form of a teacher explanation, some class reading, or a video clip for example. This is intended to ensure that students 'hear from the expert', so that they have a really clear understanding of new knowledge.
3. **Deliberate Practice** (including 'I do, we do, you do' modelling). This is when students have the opportunity to see a modelled example of the task they are about to have a go at. For example, they may watch the teacher complete a paragraph in history. The teacher may then lead the writing of another paragraph, using questioning to encourage the students to guide them. Finally, students will have a go themselves.
4. **Progress Check and Assessment.** This is when teachers gauge whether students have really achieved the aims of the lesson. For example, the teacher may 'cold call' some students, or use mini whiteboards to ask a question to the whole class. Progress check and assessment is intended to make sure that all students have understood the content of the lesson, and help the teacher to adapt their teaching accordingly.

Every lesson taught is better than the last

At Torquay Academy we are continually improving our curriculum and the quality of our teaching. Every teacher receives one-to-one fortnightly coaching to help them to improve their teaching practice. Our judgement-free coaches use video analysis to support all teachers in making small steps to improve their teaching practice each week. Coaching is part of our culture, and central to how our teachers improve. We strongly believe in the words of Prof. Dylan Wiliam, that "Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better".

Doug Lemov's Teach Like a Champion (TLAC) techniques are consistently used by all teachers across the school and weekly Learn Like a Champion videos offer important messages to all students - including guidance around classroom expectations and support at key points in the school year, for example preparing revision timetables for practice exams.

Teachers also meet with their departments once each week to evaluate and improve the curriculum, and improve the bespoke student workbooks that our staff have written. Torquay Academy teachers benefit from over 50 hours of high-quality professional development across the academic year to ensure every lesson taught is better than the last.



KS4 OPTIONS



During Years 7 and 8, you will all study the same subjects. In Years 9, 10 and 11 there is the opportunity for you to follow a more individual course of study leading to a number of qualifications.

You will study 10 GCSEs in total. You will all study GCSEs in Maths, English Language, English Literature, Science, Statistics and Religious Studies. You then have the option of choosing 3 other subjects. Everyone also has a core PE lesson each week, and you will continue to have PSHE drop-down days throughout the year. This is summarised below.



KS5 OPTIONS

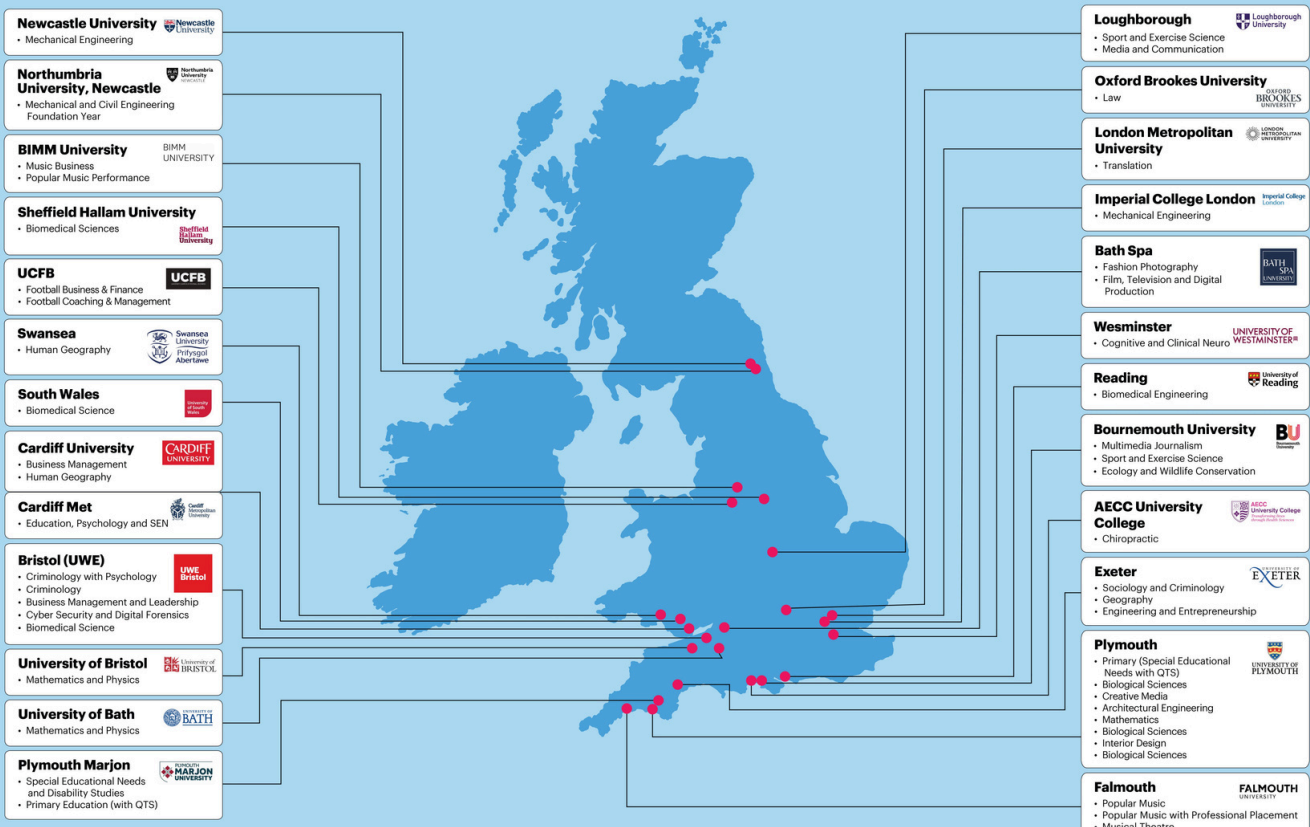


We believe that every student who joins TA has the ability to go on to university.

In Sixth Form, we encourage all students to aspire to the highest levels of achievement to enable them to prepare for their future. We offer the following subjects at Sixth Form:

Art & Design	Geography	Performing Arts
Biology	Health and Social Care	Photography
Business Studies	History	Physics
Chemistry	Information Technology	Product Design
Economics	Mathematics	Psychology
English Literature	Media Studies	Spanish
French	Music Performance	Sport
Further Mathematics	Music Technology	

TA UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



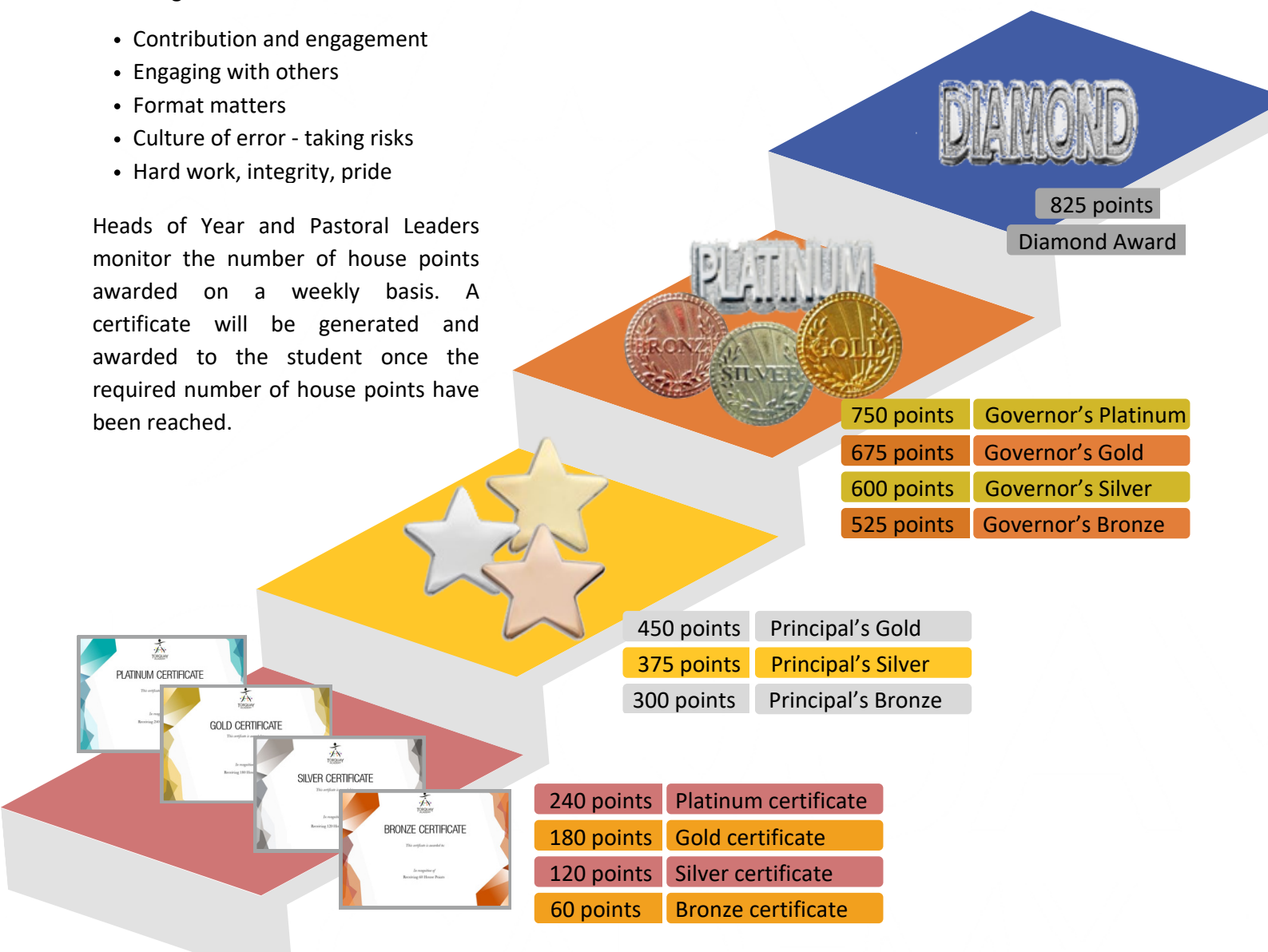
REWARDS



We believe passionately in celebrating success. Within classrooms, we measure success on academic ability, demonstration of our three core values - Hard Work, Integrity and Pride - and, most importantly, effort. House points are awarded each morning by the tutor for students that have completed their homework and for having the correct equipment. Subject teachers and members of staff will also award house points for the following reasons:

- Contribution and engagement
- Engaging with others
- Format matters
- Culture of error - taking risks
- Hard work, integrity, pride

Heads of Year and Pastoral Leaders monitor the number of house points awarded on a weekly basis. A certificate will be generated and awarded to the student once the required number of house points have been reached.



REWARDS



BADGES



BADGES



We are passionate about recognising and celebrating student effort and achievement. When students are recognised for their efforts and achievements, it boosts their self-esteem and encourages them to strive to reach even greater heights.

In the bustling atrium, and amidst the chatter of students, there's a silent yet powerful symbol of achievement and pride: the school badge. Earning badges serves as a reminder of a student's achievements. It's not just about the accolade; it's about the journey, the challenges overcome, the skills acquired along the way, their accomplishments and the values they uphold. These badges become symbols of perseverance, dedication, passion, friendships forged and milestones achieved. And here at Torquay Academy, our students love them and wear their badges with pride.



EFFORT BOARDS

A student's effort is a key indicator of their future success. At the end of each teaching and learning cycle, students are awarded an effort grade in each of the following categories:

- Attendance in this cycle
- Behaviour in each subject
- Mindset in each subject (willingness to keep going when learning is difficult)
- Homework (awarded by tutors)

Each grade is awarded on a scale from 1 to 4:

- 1 = outstanding
- 2 = good
- 3 = requires improvement
- 4 = unsatisfactory



The average effort grade from each subject is calculated and is then used to position students on the effort boards which are displayed in school. You will also receive their ranking in their report.

We classify effort using the university grading classifications of 'first class', 'upper second class', 'lower second class' or 'third class'. Every teaching and learning cycle is a fresh start in all four categories.



EFFORT BOARDS

The table below is what teachers will base their effort grade decisions on. Students achieving a '1' in each category would find themselves at the top of the effort board for their year group.

How to achieve 1st Class Effort

With hard work, there are no limits

Academy attendance effort	1	100% attendance.
	2	96 – 99% attendance.
	3	92 – 95% – Requires Improvement.
	4	Below 92% – Unsatisfactory.

Behaviour and readiness to learn	1	Outstanding behaviour. Always brings all the correct equipment.
	2	Good behaviour. Brings the correct equipment and is ready to learn.
	3	Behaviour requires improvement or does not always bring the correct equipment.
	4	Unsatisfactory behaviour or rarely brings the correct equipment.

Mindset for learning	1	Outstanding effort. Asks specific questions to push their thinking and asks for help when needed. Keeps trying even when tasks are challenging, perseveres until work is completed, frequently seeks feedback and applies it thoughtfully. Challenges themselves by extending far beyond the minimum requirements of tasks.
	2	Good effort. Asks questions to clarify their thinking and for help when needed. Keeps trying even when tasks are challenging. Acknowledges feedback and applies most of it to make corrections. Always completes tasks fully, often going beyond the minimum requirements.
	3	Effort requires an improvement. Only sometimes asks questions, or for help. Often gives up when tasks are challenging, accepts feedback but is unable to apply it thoroughly. Completes the minimum requirements of tasks.
	4	Unsatisfactory effort. Rarely asks questions, or for help. Does not persevere with challenging tasks. Unable to accept or respond well to feedback. Completes less than the minimum requirements of tasks.

Homework	1	Always completes homework on time and challenges themselves to complete high quality work or extension tasks.
	2	Always completes homework on time to a good standard.
	3	Sometimes completes homework on time but quality of homework requires improvement.
	4	Unsatisfactory - rarely or never completes homework.

everyone succeeds

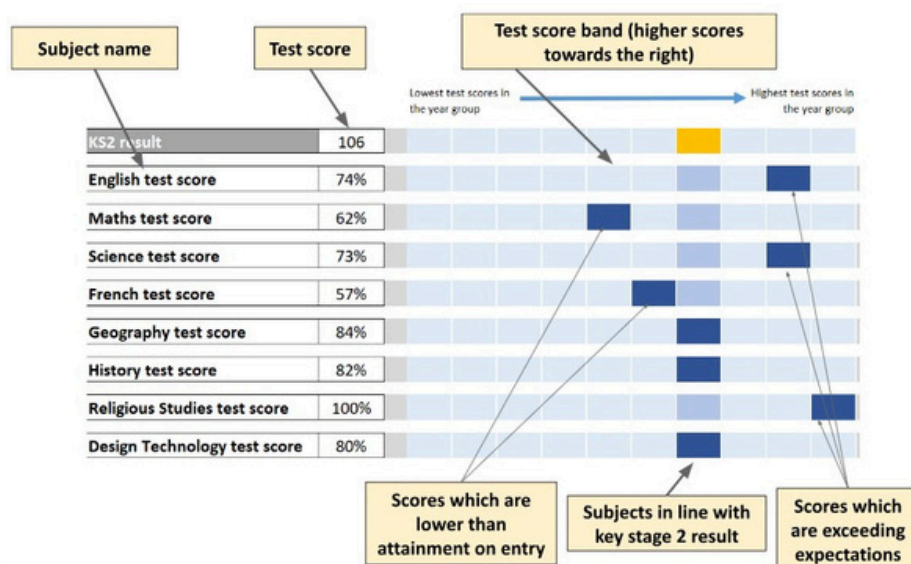


REPORTS

School reports are issued four times a year, at the end of each teaching and learning cycle. They are sent via email and contain information about your child's effort score in each subject, test scores, attendance, punctuality, house points and any behaviour points they have received. Teachers will write a comment if they are concerned about the progress your child is making in their subject.

To help you interpret the reports we host a 'Meet the Tutor Evening' and have guidance videos on our website, which explain the reports and suggest ways in which you can discuss them with your child.

In each subject, we give your child's most recent test score. Each test score is given a 'band', representing 10% of test scores. Band 1 is the top 10% of test scores in the year group and band 10 is the lowest 10% of test scores in the year group. On the school reports, the band for each subject is represented by a dark blue block. The dark blue test score blocks in each subject are compared with the band representing your child's key stage 2 results from primary school.

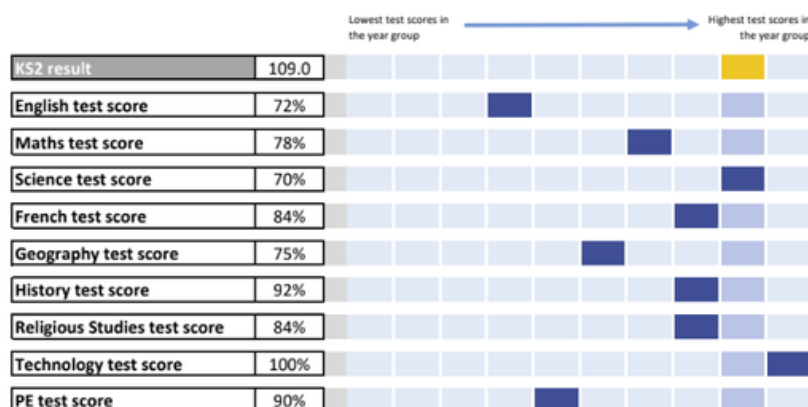


We take the average of their Reading and Maths SATs scores and use this to show their attainment on entry to Torquay Academy. This is indicated by the yellow block and the medium-blue target pathway on the reports.

You can use the reports to compare which subjects are in line with your child's key stage 2 result, which ones are lower than might be expected, and in which subjects your child is exceeding expectations.

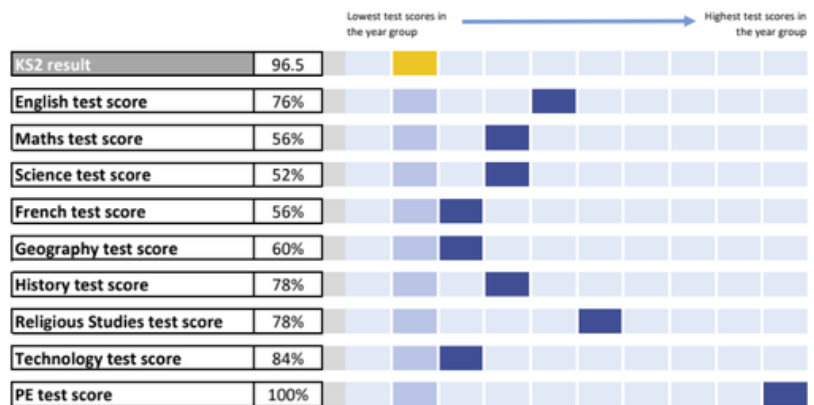
The bands in each subject show how the test score compares to all the others in the year group, and gives you a way to discuss which subjects they are doing well in, or less well in, when compared to their test scores when they entered the school.

In this example, the child's SATs scores were amongst the highest in the year group, as the key stage 2 result is towards the right. However their test scores in many subjects are lower than expected, as the dark blue blocks are to the left of the key stage 2 result. This student's effort in lessons has been identified as a concern.



REPORTS & PARENTS' EVENING

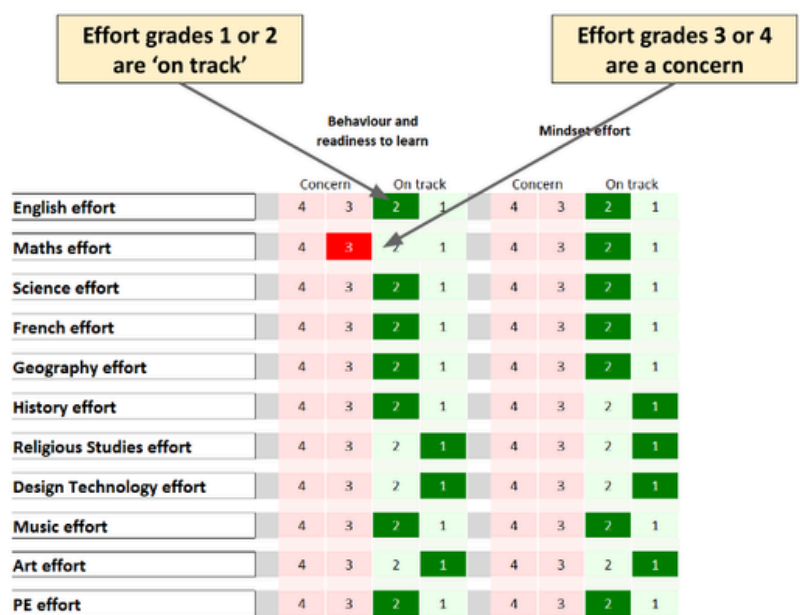
In this other example, the child's SATs scores were lower than the average student's from primary school, but they are doing comparatively well in every subject, as all the dark blue blocks are further to the right than the key stage 2 result. This student is to be praised for their hard work and their effort in lessons.



We award effort grades in four areas:

- Behaviour and readiness to learn (in each subject)
- Mindset for learning (in each subject)
- Homework effort (awarded by tutors)
- Attendance effort (one whole school grade)

Students are given a score from 1 – 4 in each area. Details of the criteria are shown in the report. Grade 2 is the most commonly-awarded grade; grade 1 requires significant additional effort. Effort grades 1 and 2 means your child is on track, whereas effort grades 3 or 4 are a concern. If there are concerns, the teacher will write a comment on the report.



Parents' Evening

Parents' evenings are an opportunity to consult with teachers about the progress your child is making. There is one parents' evening per year where you will be able to meet their teachers. Year 7 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 4th February.

We recommend students attend the evening so they can be part of the conversation with the parents and teachers. The details for booking appointments will be sent out in the week before Parents' Evening. Five-minute appointments enable teachers, parents and students to discuss progress to date and strategies for improvement.

If you have any concerns about your child, please don't wait until Parents' Evening to raise them, please speak to your child's Pastoral Leader.

As discussed in the 'Importance of Parents and Carers' section, we value opportunities to meet with parents and carers face-to-face very highly. Forging relationships between home and school is such an important part of helping your child progress.

ACADEMIC EQUIPMENT



Students are provided with all the resources to access their lessons and home learning in the form of work books, homework books and other written materials. Students are expected to supply their own fully equipped pencil case and a bag in which to carry their books and equipment. These items should be taken to all their lessons every day. Students must have the following in a clear 30cm pencil case:

- 3 black biros
- 3 pencils
- 1 medium rubber
- 1 clear 12" ruler
- 1 highlighter
- 1 protractor
- 2 purple biros
- 1 glue Stick
- 1 whiteboard marker



Fully stocked pencil cases can be purchased from the Finance Office for £3.00. You can order one at any time through the parent pay system and the pastoral team will deliver the pencil case to your child. If students are missing certain items, this will be picked up by their tutor during period 1 and they will be provided with the missing items. You will be charged via parent pay for these items. As mentioned previously, it would be very helpful if you could check your child's pencil case each evening to ensure they have a fully stocked pencil case which will enable them to learn effectively in their lessons.

We understand the importance of learning and that every second counts. Arriving to class with all the equipment needed to participate fully is the key to ensuring success.

You will also require a specific type of calculator which is the Casio fx-83GT CW or Casio fx-85GT CW Scientific Calculator, this can be bought online, in shops or from the school. The reason for asking students to all have the same calculator is that it has the required functionality for their GCSE exams. The students learn how to use this calculator over the 5 years, and the teachers use the same calculator when modelling how to use it. Becoming familiar with the calculator will add marks to examination papers, reduce stress and save time.

UNIFORM

Just as they will when they attend interviews for their top jobs in the future, it is important that our students take pride in themselves and their appearance. Having the correct uniform is so important, and this includes wearing it appropriately on their way to, and from, school. Uniform provides a sense of equality, so if a student arrives in the incorrect uniform, this wouldn't be fair on everyone else. We aim to rectify uniform problems immediately by contacting parents/carers who may be able to bring in the correct clothing. Students are able to borrow an item of clothing, such as a tie or school shoes, so they can attend their lessons. If the uniform issue cannot be resolved the students would not be able to attend lessons until resolved.

The uniform has been designed so that all items can be bought locally:

The official stockist of the Academy uniform is: Riviera Schooldays, 186 Union Street, Torquay, TQ2 5QP (01803 293650).

The official stockist of the Academy sports kit is: VX3, Stadium House, Aspen Way, Yalberton Industrial Estate, Paignton, TQ4 7QR (01803 524623).

All students attending Torquay Academy in September 2026 must be in full uniform.



BOYS' COMPULSORY UNIFORM



The following items must be bought from **Riviera Schooldays**:

- Grey blazer embroidered with Academy logo
- Black tailored shorts embroidered with Academy logo (optional item)
- School tie in house colour worn traditionally and full length

The following items can be **bought from other outlets but must conform to Academy requirements**:

- Plain collared white shirt (top button fastened, shirt tucked in)
- Plain black trousers of traditional design & material (no jeans, chinos, flares or skinny trousers or external stitching on the back pockets)
- Plain black ankle socks
- Plain black school shoes of traditional design (see below for further information)

BOYS' COMPULSORY UNIFORM

Shoe Guide for Boys (Not Exhaustive)

Shoes must be of a traditional shoe design. Many shops sell items in their school shoe section that are not allowed to be worn at Torquay Academy as we deem them to be trainers, for example:

- Any shoes made by Adidas, Lonsdale, Vans etc
- Shoes with a logo / brand name
- Training style shoes
- Boots
- Suede or canvas shoes

The following images will give you an idea of what is acceptable and unacceptable for boys.

Acceptable:



Not acceptable:



Advice:

Boots of any type; canvas and suede are not acceptable.

Trainer-style shoes made by Adidas, Lonsdale, Vans etc are not acceptable.

Other Uniform

Extremes of fashion, jewellery and make-up are not acceptable. These include hairstyles and items of clothing that do not conform to uniform standards. Facial hair is not permitted in Years 7-11.

Jewellery – Students can have stud earrings in the ears and a single plain stud in the nose (no hoop earrings or nose rings). No other piercings are allowed. Students are strongly advised not to wear expensive items.

The Academy may be able to assist in cases of exceptional hardship in buying the Uniform. Please contact the school to request a uniform grant form. Any uniform items must be provided by Riviera School days as official supplier, to be obtained by voucher, agreed by and collected from the School before purchase.

GIRLS' COMPULSORY UNIFORM



The following items must be bought from **Riviera Schooldays**:

- Grey blazer embroidered with Academy logo
- School tie in house colour worn traditionally and full length

The following items can be **bought from other outlets but must conform to Academy requirements**:

- Pleated black skirt
- Plain collared white shirt (top button fastened, shirt tucked in)
- Plain black trousers of traditional design & material (no jeans, chinos, leggings, flares or skinny trousers or external stitching on the back pockets)
- Plain black ankle or knee length socks or plain black tights
- Plain black school shoes of traditional design (see below for further information)

GIRLS' COMPULSORY UNIFORM

Shoe Guide for Boys (Not Exhaustive)

Shoes must be of a traditional shoe design. Many shops sell items in their school shoe section that are not allowed to be worn at Torquay Academy as we deem them to be trainers, for example:

- Any shoes made by Adidas, Lonsdale, Vans etc
- Shoes with a logo / brand name
- Training style shoes
- Boots
- Suede or canvas shoes

The following images will give you an idea of what is acceptable and unacceptable for girls.

Acceptable:



Not acceptable:



Advice:

Boots of any type; canvas and suede are not acceptable.

Trainer-style shoes made by Adidas, Lonsdale, Vans etc are not acceptable.

Other Uniform

Extremes of fashion, jewellery and make-up are NOT acceptable. These include hairstyles (hair must be a natural colour and not of an extreme style) and items of clothing that do not conform to uniform standards. Facial hair is not permitted in Years 7-11.

Jewellery – Students can have stud earrings in the ears and a single plain stud in the nose (no hoop earrings or nose rings). No other piercings are allowed. Students are strongly advised not to wear expensive items.

The Academy may be able to assist in cases of exceptional hardship in buying the Uniform. Please contact the school to request a uniform grant form. Any uniform items must be provided by Riviera School days as official supplier, to be obtained by voucher, agreed by and collected from the School before purchase.

BOYS' & GIRLS' COMPULSORY SPORTS KIT

We expect all students to bring their sports kit to every lesson. If you request for your child to be excused from physical participation due to injury or illness, they will still be expected to bring their full kit so that they can still take part in some other suitable role; such as coach, umpire, referee, choreographer, organiser, assistant or scorer. We understand that with some injuries or illnesses, this is not always practicable, and in this instance, we would not expect your child to get changed into their sports kit.

If you request for your child to be excused from physical participation, please can you email Mr Jones in advance of your child's lesson: djones@TQacademy.co.uk and a professional judgement will be made by their teacher as to what role they can undertake in the lesson.

For students who forget their sports kit, we have a stock of kit which we lend them for the lesson so that they can still participate fully.

The compulsory items of the sports kit is available only from VX3 and can be ordered via the link on the school website. Apart from the compulsory items there will be optional items available too.

- VX3 House T-shirt for indoor use. Available in the 8 colours representing houses.
- VX3 quarter zip top embroidered with the TA logo



BOYS' & GIRLS' OPTIONAL SPORTS KIT

Boys' Optional Kit

- Black Boys Shorts
- Black Playing Socks
- Football boots with moulded or screw-in studs
- Shin pads and mouth guard
- Trainers for indoor and outdoor use



Girls' Optional Kit:

- A choice of one of the following: Black Skort, Black girls Short, Black Short leggings or Full Length Black Leggings
- Black Playing Socks
- Shin pads and mouth guard
- Trainers for indoor and outdoor use



HOMework

At Torquay Academy, students complete more meaningful homework than in any other school, taking between 4 to 6 hours to complete per week. We are incredibly proud of our completion statistics, where we regularly rank within the top 10 schools worldwide on Sparx Maths, Sparx Reader and Tassomai. Over the academic year, this amount of homework equates to an extra 33 days of learning, which is the same amount of time as attending school for an extra half term! Our analysis shows that students who regularly complete every piece of homework will achieve better exam results in Year 11 too.

We cannot stress how important it is that you check and take an interest in your child's homework - it is one of the most important roles you will have over their academic career. By checking (but not doing!) their homework, not only do you have the knowledge that it is done, more importantly, you are demonstrating just how important it is to you! If it means something to you, it is very likely that it will also mean something to your child. If we can support you and your child in completing their homework, please get in contact with our year group team via email: pastoral@TQacademy.co.uk or by calling the school. There is more information about the support we can offer within the rest of this section.

We understand that sometimes students struggle with their homework and need support or help so they can be successful. We never wish for any student to be upset with homework competition and want to instil them with confidence and good habits. With this in mind, we offer support before afterschool catch-up sessions.

To support your child in meeting online homework deadlines, we have an on-track deadline the day before the final deadline. If a student fails to meet the on-track deadline, they will be asked to attend a catch-up session at break 1 and break 2 (if needed) where they will be supported by our staff. If they daily o reach the on-track deadline by the end of break 2, they must attend a catch-up session with their year team after school. Over the next few pages, you will find more detail about each of the different types of homework students need to complete each week.

Timings	Description
Before school	Students who choose to arrive before 8.00am can sit in a quiet classroom to do the homework.
Break 1 and 2	Homework support sessions for students who need help. On Mondays and Tuesdays these support sessions are focused on Sparx Maths and Sparx Science. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, these support sessions are focused on Tassomai and Sparx Reader. These support sessions allow students to meet their deadlines.
After school	Homework club runs every night from 3.15pm to 4.15pm with the support of a Teaching Assistant. This session is conducted in silence to help students focus.

HOME LEARNING SUPPORT

The following is a summary of the on-track deadline and deadline for the online homework.

Tassomai		Sparx Maths & Sparx Science		Sparx Reader	
Set	Saturday 12.00am	Set	Wednesday 6.00am	Set	Friday 4.15pm
On-track deadline	Wednesday 8.20am 300 points	On-track deadline	Monday 8.20am 75% complete	On-track deadline	Wednesday 8.20am 150 points
Deadline	Thursday 11.30am 500 points	Deadline	Tuesday 11.30am 100% complete	Deadline	Thursday 11.30am 300 points



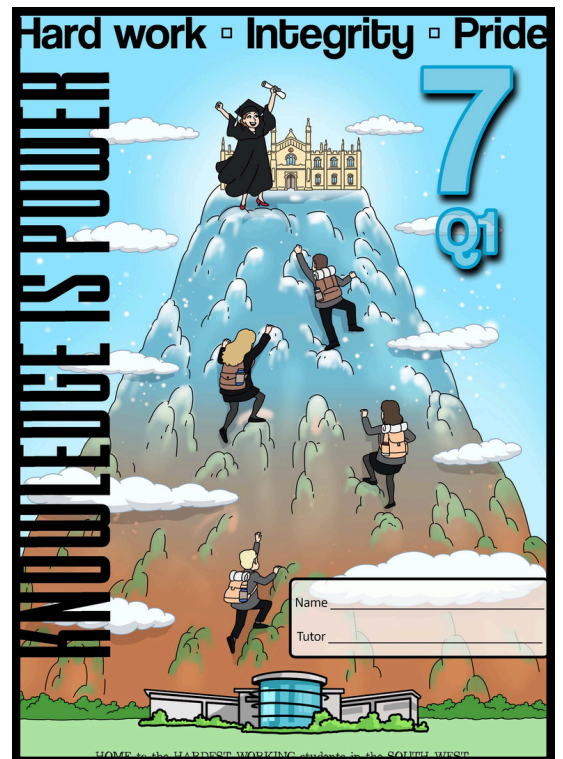
WRITTEN HOMEWORK

Written Homework

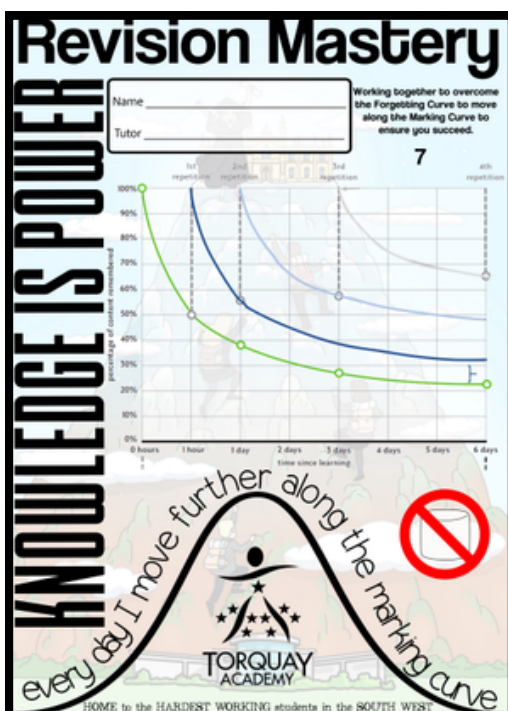
Written homework and revision mastery will be checked and recorded by your tutor for each week on Monday morning during Period 1.

Research shows that comprehension tasks that link closely to the knowledge that has been recently taught in lessons has a large impact on the retrieval and retention of that knowledge during examinations. To that end, students will be issued with one written homework book per cycle to complete their subject specific written homework. There will be a range of reading and writing activities that are aimed at improving their literacy skills at the same time as building their knowledge of each subject area. Completing written homework is crucial to our meaningful homework strategy as it enforces students to build the habit of reading and writing in an environment that they are comfortable in at home, which is crucial during the revision period before GCSE and A level examinations.

Written homework tasks often contain a QR code that links to a video of a Torquay Academy teacher who will read out the text to your child and deconstruct the questions. These videos will also model teacher's expert thinking to your child, ensuring they are filled with the confidence and the knowledge of how to arrive at the perfect answer. In essence, the QR codes bring out expert teaching to your desks/dining rooms/kitchen tables!



Revision Mastery Homework

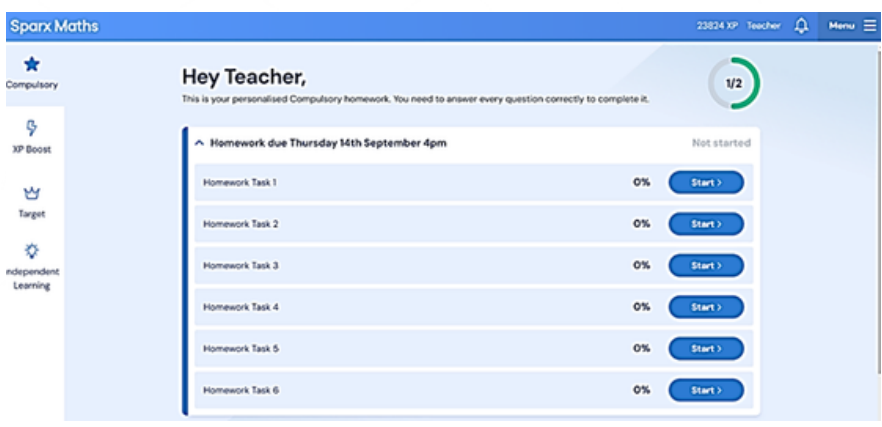
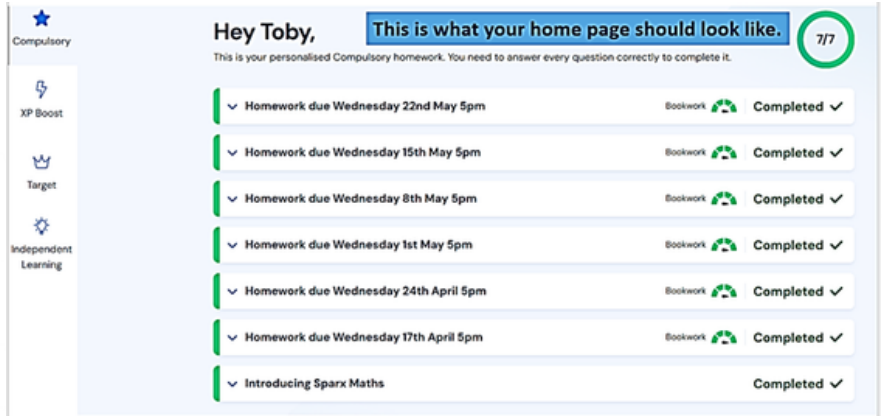


Every week, your child will complete a 30-minute Revision Mastery homework contained within their Revision Mastery book. The purpose of this book is to teach your child how to revise. This is a process that we start at the beginning of Year 7 and will continue to support your child in preparing for their end of cycle assessments, GCSEs and A levels. Over the course of this year, your child will learn how to revise using the following methods:

- Read, cover, write, check
- Mind maps
- Flashcards

The ability to revise effectively is probably the most important skill we can teach your child and it is vital that they complete these revision tasks to the very best of their ability. It is also important for your child to realise that these strategies should be used to revise in all of their subjects.

Sparx Maths is a platform that is proven to boost maths skills through online tasks that are carefully sequenced to our maths curriculum.

Sparx commences (homework starts)	Wednesday
On-track deadline	Monday 8.20am, 75% completed
Deadline	Tuesday 11.30am, 100% completed
How to log in	Students logon on www.sparxmaths.uk using their username and password, or sign in with Google
Questions?	If your child is struggling on a particular task, they should watch the associated video on Sparx, contact their Maths teacher for help, or attend the catch-up Sparx sessions during break times on Tuesday. Members of the maths department run the catch-up session to support those students who need support. Please email any queries to sparx@TQacademy.co.uk
How to check progress  Scan this QR code to watch a video with information for parents	 

Tassomai is an online platform that repeatedly asks multiple choice questions to students to test their knowledge retrieval in many of their subjects. Each cycle's questions are directly related to our end of cycle assessments and are an important revision tool. Students gain immediate feedback on whether they answered the question correctly. Tassomai will learn the strengths and weaknesses of the student in each subject, asking the more difficult questions on a more regular basis.

Students need to achieve 500 points each week. There is no maximum to gain mastery of their subjects, we would suggest at least 60-75 minutes of quizzing per week, which could lead to 2000 points per week, and support their knowledge required for future assessments.



What is Tassomai?



Supporting your child
with their Tassomai

Students will have a Knowledge Organiser in one of their homework books (please see above) for each subject which can be used to support searching for information to help answer questions they might not know. Additionally, Tassomai gives hints on some questions where a student may have struggled.

Students will gain bonus points for completing 'streaks' on Tassomai, and once a Daily Goal has been reached, there will be bonus goals to encourage students to complete 100 points for a five day stretch each week (Saturday-Wednesday).

Tassomai commences (count starts)	Saturday
On-track deadline	Wednesday 8.20am, 300 points
Deadline	Thursday 11.30am, 500 points
How to log in	Students logon on www.tassomai.com or the app using their Torquay Academy email address and password
Questions?	Please email any queries to tassomai@TQacademy.co.uk

Tassomai: How to check progress

Logging on using a computer

Step 1:

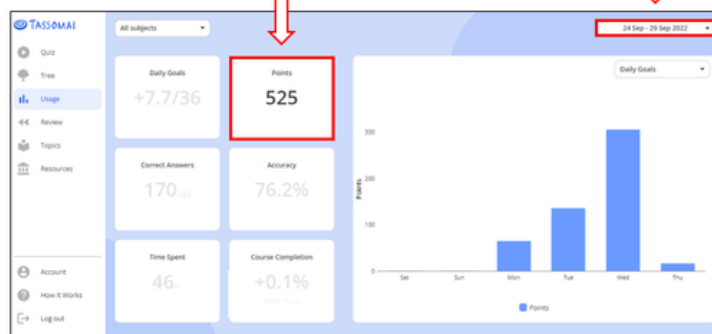
Once your child has logged in to Tassomai, click on 'usage'.



Step 2:

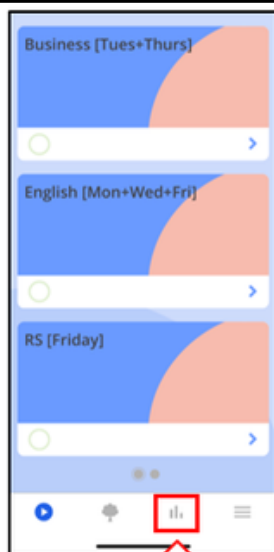
Check the **total points** in this box is at least on **500 points** by **Thursday morning at 8:20am**

Each time you check Tassomai completion, make sure you toggle this date to run from **Saturday** to include all **weekend Tassomai completed**



Logging on using a mobile phone

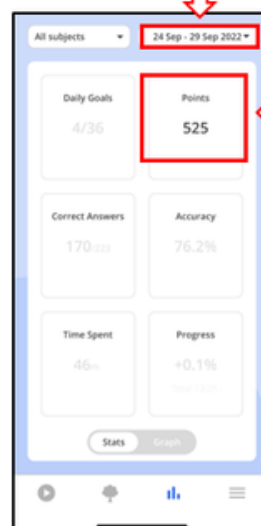
Step 1:



Once your child has logged in to Tassomai, click on these **three bars**.

Step 2:

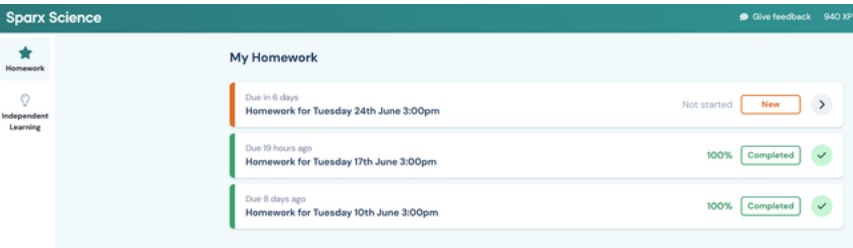
Each time you check Tassomai completion, make sure you toggle this date to run from **Saturday** to include all **weekend Tassomai completed**



Check the **total points** in this box is at least on **500 points** by **Thursday morning at 8:20am**

Sparx Science provides personalised homework that promotes deep thinking about scientific knowledge to aid retention and recall, as well as providing tailored support to help every student get the correct answer. Teachers will set topics recently covered in class which will make up the majority of a students homework, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning. Sometimes science questions may challenge students, however where this is the case Sparx provides unique support to fill knowledge gaps or guide them through application of scientific ideas.

Sparx Science will automatically adjust the level of questions based on your child's answers, please try not to answer the questions for them, instead ensure they are carefully reading the support and using this information to answer the questions.

Sparx commences (homework starts)	Wednesday
On-track deadline	Monday 8.20am, 75% completed
Deadline	Tuesday 11.30am, 100% completed
How to log in	Students logon on www.sparxscience.com using their username and password, or sign in with Google
Questions?	If your child is struggling on a particular task, they should watch the associated video on Sparx, contact their science teacher for help, or attend the catch-up Sparx sessions during break times on Monday. Members of the science department run the catch-up session to support those students who need support. Please email any queries to sparxscience@TQacademy.co.uk .
How to check progress	 Scan this QR code to watch a video with information for parents  You are able to keep track of the homework your child is doing by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Learning weekly homework email.

Sparx Reader helps every student to achieve regular independent reading, which is incredibly important for building vital literacy skills.

Your child's homework will be set on Friday at 4.20pm and due on Thursday at 11.30am every week.

Students can choose from a range of ebooks at their appropriate level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. As they read, they answer questions and earn Sparx Reader Points (SRP) for reading carefully. These points will complete their homework task.

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock Gold Reader. This means they can read any paper book from the library or from home by scanning in its barcode.

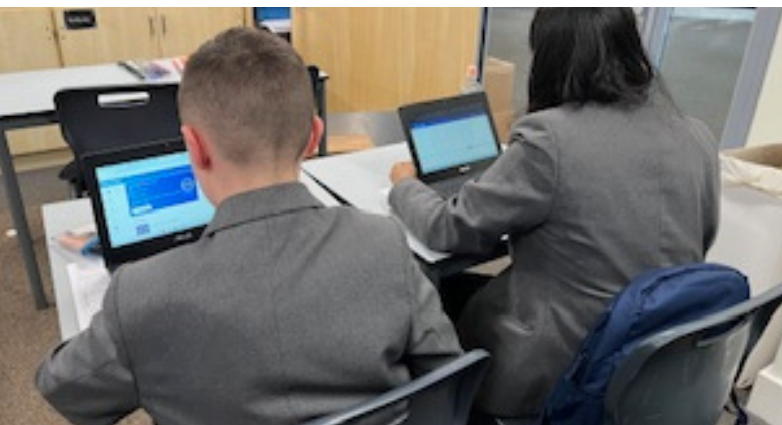
Sparx Reader commences	Friday 4.20pm
On-track deadline	Wednesday 11.30am, 150 points
Deadline	Thursday 11.30am, 300 points
How to log in	Students log in on https://sparxreader.com/ using the one click Google link. They will need to use their school Google account.
Questions?	If your child is struggling on a particular task, they should contact their English teacher, Mr Dickin or Miss Rowan to help. Your child will need to complete 300 Sparx Reader points by 11.30am on Thursday. 

Rise and Read Programme

We have a hugely successful 'Rise & Read' programme for all Year 7 pupils. The aim of this programme is to both provide a calm and structured start to each day and to instil a lifelong love of reading for all. The format is a simple one – each group will read a fiction book over the course of a term. The groups will be set according to reading ability and an appropriate book will be chosen for each group. Pupils will not necessarily have to read out loud, unless they wish to. For many, simply being able to listen to a story in a quiet and peaceful environment will engender a joy of reading and storytelling. There is also a clear link between children who read on a regular basis and the improvement of wider literacy and communication skills.

The sessions will run from 7.45am - 8.15am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. A breakfast trolley will be available in the Rise and Read classrooms. All pupils enrolled will be given clear instructions as to where their reading will take place and what date their first session will be.

To ensure a consistent and well managed approach, all pupils who sign up to the 'Rise & Read' programme will be expected to attend each session at the correct time. If your child is unable to attend a session, a parental note will be needed outlining reasons for non-attendance.



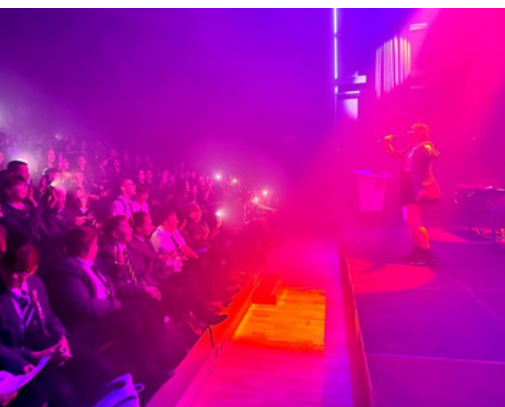
We believe that literacy levels impact not only upon success within education but on employment opportunities, career advancement and ultimately personal fulfilment and life chances. We understand and value the importance of literacy to a child's ability to access the curriculum in all subjects and to go on and be successful in their future studies. This is why reading and Sparx Reader form essential parts of the homework.

We have therefore invested heavily in dedicated literacy support programmes called Lexonik and Direct Instruction. These are run by specialist staff for those children who will benefit from some additional support in the area.

Lexonik is a face to face programme that improves student's phonological awareness, automaticity, vocabulary and comprehension. Promoting reading for knowledge by helping students to break down and make links between unknown words using common prefix, stems and suffix definitions.

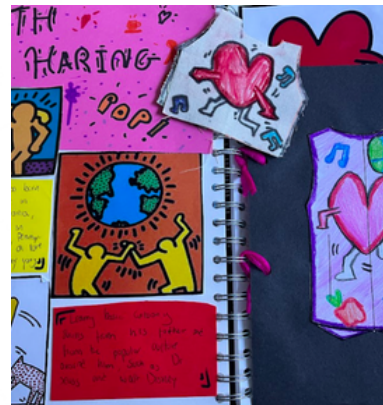
Direct Instruction (DI) is a model for teaching that emphasises well-developed and carefully planned lessons designed around small learning increments and clearly defined and prescribed teaching tasks. It is based on the theory that clear instruction eliminating misinterpretation can greatly improve and accelerate learning.

EXTRA CURRICULAR



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The phrase 'the more you put into something the more you get out of it' is something that we all know as adults and it is why all students have to join a club in Year 7. Joining a club is one of the best ways a student can feel a bigger part of our school community and it is an opportunity for them to expand their friendship group and also improve their interpersonal skills. The clubs on offer range from sporting activities to debating clubs and Science clubs through to pudding club! A full schedule will be shared with the students in early September.



SPORTS CLUBS

Physical Education is an integral part of your child's school curriculum. Regular sporting and health-related physical activities are fundamental in encouraging them to strive for a healthy, active and successful future. Physical Education and competitive sport builds character and confidence, embeds values such as fairness and respect, and is strongly linked to better academic performance. Therefore, we actively encourage all students to partake in at least one of our extra-curricular sports clubs.

It is our priority that all students at TA engage in some form of physical activity beyond curriculum lessons. We provide extra curricular opportunities, which includes many house competitions, recreational activities and a diverse range of inter-school competitive sports which are supported by top-class coaches. We recognise the difference between all of our students and provide a variety of activities that are best suited to the students' desired outcomes for participating. At the start of each cycle, the opportunities on offer will be sent to you and we would be grateful if you could encourage your child to attend at least one of them.

Please see below a list of the sports clubs that we can offer free of charge. Each term will offer a different selection of sports clubs.

- Years 7-11 Football Academy
- Girls Football
- Recreational Football
- Years 7-11 Netball Academy
- Table Tennis Academy
- Badminton
- Y7-10 Rugby (boys and girls)
- This Girl Can Club
- Junior Gym
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Pickleball
- Running Club



Scan me to watch our
Team TA video



GREENPOWER MOTORSPORT

What it is:

Greenpower is a Motorsport Association recognised series where children between 11-16 compete in school designed, school built, single seater pure electric racing cars. They gain direct engineering skills as well as soft skills, including team work, resilience and commitment. Each year we race at fantastic venues including Goodwood, Silverstone, Castle Combe and Dunsfold Park, the home of Top Gear.



When it is:

Greenpower is currently run on Tuesdays and Fridays after school, depending on which car you are linked to. Races take place on Sundays through British Summer Time (BST).

Who is involved:

Greenpower is open to children who study Engineering or Product Design at GCSE. No previous motorsport knowledge or experience is required. We are keen to develop a 'Motorsport Team' rather than a driver's club, we encourage children to take on roles such as Race Director, Communications Lead and Journalist, amongst others.

Benefits of joining the Greenpower Motorsport team

As well as enjoying learning whilst taking part in this amazing opportunity, the benefits can be far reaching. In recent years alumni have gained apprenticeships at prestigious car dealerships, and gone on to study a wide array of related competitive degrees such as Motorsport Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Automotive Design. We seek every opportunity to provide outstanding opportunities and have run extremely successful fully funded excursions to the USA on multiple occasions.



ADVENTURE ACADEMY

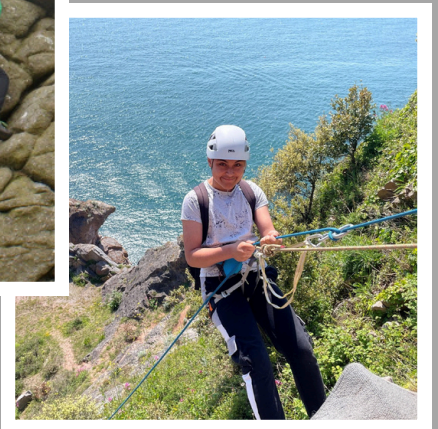
Adventure Academy includes all of the awesome outdoor activities that we offer here at Torquay Academy. The teachers that plan and run these activities have the same qualifications that the outdoor industry professionals have and the equipment available is as good, often better than, the equipment you'd find at an outdoor centre. The following activities are just some of what we do here but by the nature of some of these activities, not all of them are available to Year 7s but you will have the chance to do these activities throughout your time at TA.



ADVENTURE ACADEMY
TORQUAY ACADEMY

Climbing:

We have our own climbing wall and regularly go on trips to climb (and abseil) outdoors.



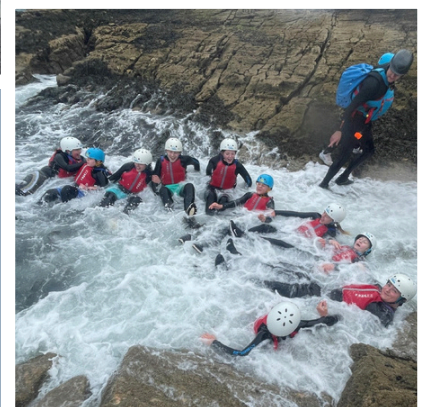
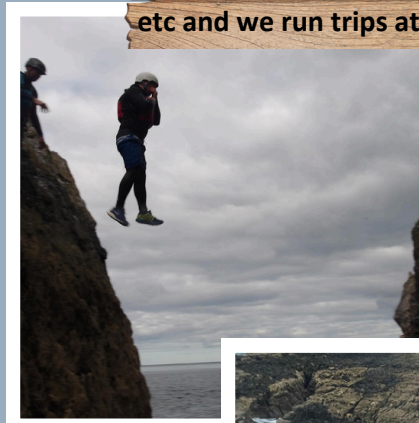
Mountain Biking:

We have our own set of bikes and regularly take trips to Haldon.



Coasteering:

We have wetsuits, buoyancy aids, helmets etc and we run trips at Anstey's Cove.



ADVENTURE ACADEMY

Kayaking:

We have our own boats, buoyancy aids and paddles (so you don't get stuck up a creek without one!) We paddle on the Dart near Totnes.



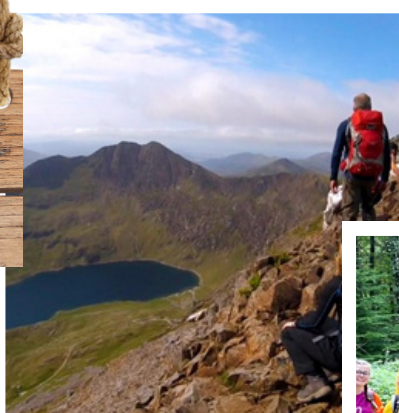
Ten Tors:

Every year we enter multiple teams in Ten Tors which is a legendary navigation, hiking and wild camping challenge organised by the Army.



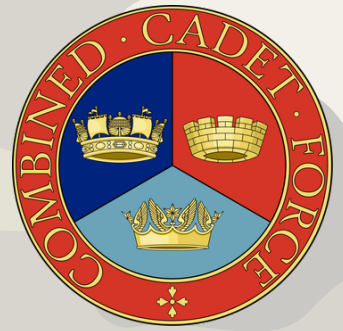
Duke of Edinburgh:

We run bronze, silver and gold which ranges from Year 9s on coastal paths to the older students up in the mountains.



COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a very big part of the extracurricular offer for students from Year 8. We have over 150 cadets who regularly take part in the Wednesday parade after school and enjoy some of the amazing opportunities that are available to us through these military connections. We currently have an Army, Navy and RAF section. In addition to the activities mentioned in Adventure Academy the CCF also offers:



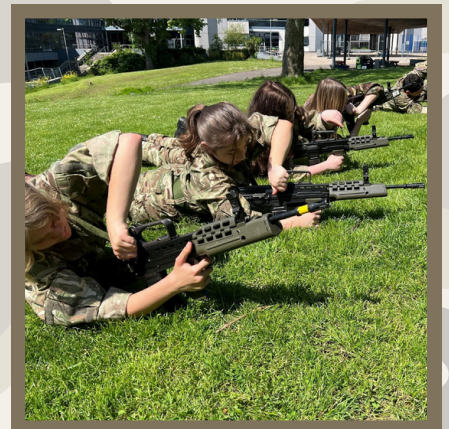
Military Training Skills:

On a regular Wednesday night, cadets take part in various activities including, but not limited to, command tasks, communication and leadership skills, survival, bush craft, first aid, navigation and drills.



Weapons Training:

We have access to and regularly train with various weapons systems including air rifles, paintball and the L98A2 Cadet GP rifle.



COMBINED CADET FORCE

Flying:

The RAF section get regular flights in gliders and fixed wing propeller aircraft used by the RAF.



Camps:

All three sections regularly go away and stay on military bases for various type of training. These includes an initial training camp; learning the basics of field craft, to the higher levels of leadership courses delivered by the Cadet Training Teams around the Country.



PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY



What it is:

The Performing Arts Academy (PAA) is a space for students to explore their creativity and develop their talents in acting, singing, and dancing. It's a fun and supportive environment where you can learn new skills, build confidence, and collaborate with others who share your passion for the performing arts. Every year PAA puts on a large-scale production in our multi-million-pound school theatre, The Platform. Previous shows include: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Aladdin, Fame, Annie, Guys & Dolls, High School Musical, Oliver and Matilda. In addition to putting on our own productions, we often take PAA members to the West End in London to take part in dance workshops and attend performances.

When it is:

PAA happens every Tuesday and Thursday after school until 5pm.

Who is involved:

PAA is open to students of all experience levels, whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting out. We welcome anyone with an enthusiasm for the performing arts! The most important attributes we look for are commitment and a love of performing arts.

How to sign up / speak to, to show interest:

At the beginning of each academic year in September, Miss Pappin will communicate information about the PAA auditions to each of the year hubs. These only happen once a year. They are always open, group auditions in acting, singing and dancing. The auditions focus on your aptitude, not just your current ability. We are an inclusive group with a focus on commitment above all else. If you would like more information on how to get involved, speak to Miss Pappin who will be happy to answer any questions.

Benefits of joining the Performing Arts Academy

Joining the Performing Arts Academy offers a treasure trove of benefits that go far beyond the stage lights. Key benefits include: boosts confidence and communication, enhances creativity and empathy, offers lifelong friendships and fun and provides stress relief.

MUSIC LESSONS

What are they?

At TA we are proud to show our support for the arts by subsidising private music and acting lessons to enable all students the opportunity to receive one-to-one private tuition on a range of musical instruments from specialist teachers and professionals. Currently we offer tuition on piano, vocals, guitar, bass, drums, music technology, music theory and LAMDA (acting and musical theatre).

What is the cost?

Students receive 10 x 20-minute individual lessons per term for £70 per term. Students who have been identified as Pupil Premium are entitled to tuition at £30 per term. LAMDA (Acting and Musical Theatre) are 10 x 30-minute lessons per term at £100 per term.

How do I apply?

ParentPay is open during the following windows for application for your child's lessons prior to their commencement.

Autumn Term: 3rd - 11th September

Spring Term: 1st - 18th December

Summer Term: 14th March - 25th March

Following your payment, you will get a confirmation email.



VARIOUS



SAFEGUARDING

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and SENDCO is Mrs Jukes. She can be contacted by telephone: 01803 317113 or email: cp@TQacademy.co.uk



Mrs Jukes
DSL & SENDCO



Miss Main
Deputy DSL and
SENDCO



Mrs Bond
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Saint
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Watling
Designated Teacher

The safety, health and wellbeing of our students is paramount. We are committed to safeguarding and working together to ensure that all our students thrive in a safe, welcoming and supportive environment where they are respected and valued. The Safeguarding team are here to listen to and help, not only our students, but their families as well. We work closely with agencies accessing support and resources. The other members of the safeguarding team are Mr Margetts, Mr Chadwick and Mrs Briant.

The pastoral, behaviour, wellbeing and attendance teams all work closely together to support our students.

Our Wellbeing Team



Mrs Briant
School Counsellor



Mrs Wetwood
School Counsellor



Mrs Staton
Lead Thrive practitioner
offering one-to-one
support and group work



Mrs Lewin
ELSA Support
attached to Learning
Support

Referrals to the Wellbeing team are prioritised based on the individual needs of each student. This results in some students being put on a waiting list until a space becomes available.

Year 7 is one of the biggest transitions your child will experience. This is an exciting time in their lives but can come with natural worries and uncertainty for you both. Part of this transition is developing your child's new found independence. A collaborative approach between families and school to encourage resilience and problem solving skills will set your child up for the very best start here at TA.

The staff are here to support and encourage your child through any difficulties they may have. If you feel your child may benefit from extra support at school, we ask you to encourage them to speak to their tutor or pastoral lead in the first instance. This will empower your child to develop their own strategies for gaining support in the future. Should your child access counselling or a wellbeing provision in school you will be contacted should any concerns arise as per our safeguarding policy.

SAFEGUARDING

Online

We live in a rapidly changing world. Our young people face challenges and dangers from the Internet and social media that, as adults, we find hard to understand and often not even aware of. We work to inform, educate and protect your children. We filter and monitor the students' use of the school's network. The pastoral team will follow up any inappropriate use and inform parents and carers if we are concerned.

Online conversations

We encourage students and parents to report online bullying and receiving inappropriate images and comments. We also advise you to report incidents to the social media provider and, if necessary, to the Police via 101 online. The use of the Internet and social media by your child needs regular monitoring by you. Please check they have privacy settings and are only using age appropriate apps and material.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a Police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership which supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools when a child or young person has been involved or exposed to a domestic abuse incident the previous evening. We are then able to support the student.

Weekends, Evenings and School Holidays

Please contact the Academy via email: cp@TQacademy.co.uk

If you have any urgent Safeguarding need during this time, you can contact the following services:

Alternative Services

Torbay Safeguarding Hub on 01803 208 100

Devon Children's Services on 0345 155 1071

Torbay Children's Services on 01803 208 100 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Torbay Children's Services 'out of hours' on 0300 456 4876

Crisis Team (CAMHS) on 01803 655 650

Torbay Family Hub - <https://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk/>

SHOUT - A free text service

KOOTH - An app based online support service

NSPCC

You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000, emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk or completing report an abuse online form. The NSPCC is help for children and young people.

Childline on 0800 1111

For online/social media issues:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Recommended Websites for Mental Health Support:

<https://teenagehelpline.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngdevon.org/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY COORDINATOR (SENDCO)



Mrs Jukes

DSL & SENDCO
ejukes@TQacademy
.co.uk



Miss Main

Deputy DSL & SENDCO
smain@TQacademy
.co.uk



Mrs Robins

Assistant SENDCO
srobins@TQacademy
.co.uk



Miss Bent

Assistant SENDCO
cbent@TQacademy
.co.uk



Mrs Heritage

Autism Champion
cheritage@TQacademy
.co.uk



Mrs Prew

SEMH Champion
cprew@TQacademy
.co.uk

Mrs Jukes is the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo). She works with our Teaching Assistants and other professionals to offer support to students, both academically and socially.

The SEND team is a large team that can offer a range of different support depending on your child needs. If your child has been identified from primary school, as needing to be on the SEND register, then Mrs Jukes will write to you before the Summer holidays to introduce herself and share your child's Provision Map. The Provision Map will detail what will be in place for your child as they transition to Torquay Academy. The SEND Information Report can be found on the school website in the SEND area. This details all of the support offered at Torquay Academy and is updated every year.

Transitioning from primary school to secondary school is a period of change which we have found to be most successfully achieved through lots of small steps. These small steps have already started to happen through transition days and visits. The SEND team alongside the Safeguarding team and Year team have already started to gather key information about your children and the adjustments they may need. These will all be shared with your child's teachers through their Pupil Passport. You will receive a copy of this before the Summer holidays as part of your child's Provision Map. Keeping us updated on any changes in your child's needs will be really beneficial.

A Pupil Passport may contain:

- Medical information – allergies, asthma plan, epilepsy plan
- Information about a visual impairment
- Information about current or past hearing loss
- Any diagnosis or pathways to:
 - Key support for social, emotional, mental health needs
 - Key support for cognition and learning needs
 - Key support for physical or sensory needs
 - Key support for communication and interaction needs

Good communication is essential in supporting the transition process and also in supporting your child's ongoing development. We would encourage you to email or call to let us know if your child is experiencing any challenges that we might be able to offer support with. Attending school every day is vital in building good routines and making sure your child has access to all the support available to them, letting us know quickly about any concerns means we can offer support and guidance.

The SEND team can be contacted via email or phone.

Cashless Catering / ParentPay

It's simple, safe and convenient and your child no longer needs to carry cash into school. ParentPay is an online payment system for schools. It allows parents to pay quickly and securely for school meals, trips and activities, uniforms, music lessons and fees. You simply top-up your ParentPay account online by debit or credit card. Your ParentPay balance can be used immediately to pay for any of your children's items at school using ParentPay. Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at any time.

Paying for Food and Stationery Items

When your child arrives at school they will have a thumb print taken which will allow them unique access to their account. This ensures food is charged to the correct person, especially where names can be very similar. If you have approved it, students will be allowed to go £2 overspent which ensures they will always be able to eat even if you have forgotten to top up their account.

You are able to put a limit on their daily spend, alternatively, the maximum amount they can spend is £5.50 per day. This amount allows them to have sufficient spend for refreshments at break and lunch.

Please talk to your child about your expectations of what they are allowed. The school puts some restrictions on what they can buy but some parents/carers also have preferences. You can see what your child has been buying through ParentPay.

Every week your child's account will also be charged for any stationery they have had during the week. This will sometimes lead to the account going into debit. We would therefore ask you to keep your eye on the balance as stationery can often take the account over the £2 allowable deficit.

Dining room

Each year group has their own dining room and it is open from 7.30am before school for free breakfast and during the morning and lunch breaks for a variety of snacks and main meals.

Our Catering Manager devises a varied menu that includes vegetarian dishes on a daily basis. All food served at the school meets with the latest guidance from the School Food Trust. Please note that we are not a nut-free school. If your child has any food allergies, please contact the school to ensure we are aware.

Lunchtime meals are very reasonably priced and we currently charge just £3 for a healthy 2 course lunch. This charge is reviewed annually. The school aims to keep food prices as low as possible and no profit is made from our canteen. Drinking water is freely available in the dining hall and at points throughout the school.

Ordering Hot Meals

A £3 meal deal at lunch time will allow your child to have a hot meal, pudding and water. The menu choices can be found on our website and are on a 2-week cycle. Hot meals need to be ordered through ParentPay, even free ones, and this can be done in advance and up to 7.30am on the day the meal is required. A vegetarian option is always available. If you have any other dietary requirements please contact the school. Hot and cold food options are available every break time which do not require pre-ordering.

Financial Support

The value of Free School Meals (FSMs) for 2026-27 is £3. Your child can use this allowance to order a hot meal, as above, or to choose what they want on an ad hoc basis. They will not be allowed to spend over this limit unless additional funds are added to the account.

Financial support is also available for individual music lessons and support with trips or other activities. We ask that the financial assistance form is completed for each request for support as this also acts as acceptance of any charges that you will have to contribute. The form can be found on the Parents section of the website or please contact the Pastoral Team to have one sent home with your child.

Lost Property

We know that students sometimes lose things — it happens! The most helpful thing you can do is make sure every item your child brings to school is clearly named. This makes it much easier for us to return lost belongings quickly.

Any lost property will be stored in reception. If your child has lost anything, please do give us a call or send an email, and we will do our very best to reunite them with it.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We have a second hand uniform shop in Reception. Which has lots of quality uniform and PE kit at a fraction of the price. Please contact our reception should you wish to browse for uniform for your child.

We are also looking for more donations, so if you have old uniform or PE kit your child has grown out of then please ensure it is washed and clean and drop it into reception to be put into the second hand uniform shop.

Mobile Phones

At Torquay Academy, we operate a strict 'never seen, never heard' policy regarding mobile phones and electronic devices such as smart watches, which aligns with national government guidance and the law.

We understand that you may want your child to carry a phone for their journey to and from school, but once they arrive on the school site, the device must be switched off completely and kept inside their school bag. Phones must not be kept in blazers, trousers, or coat pockets at any time during the school day. While our sixth formers are granted the privilege of using their phones in designated sixth form areas, students in Year 7 to 11 must keep theirs away from the moment they step onto the premises until the end of the day.

If a member of staff sees a student's phone, it will be confiscated immediately and stored safely until the end of the school day, at which point your child can collect it. If this happens repeatedly, we will contact you to discuss further steps, which might include your child handing their phone into the office every morning or being banned from bringing it to school altogether. We ask for your full support in reminding your child of these rules before they start in September. Refusing to hand over a device when asked is taken very seriously and will result in a sanction.

We do, of course, make reasonable exceptions for children with specific medical conditions. For example, if your child needs a mobile device to monitor diabetes, they will be permitted to use it strictly for this purpose. In these cases, all notifications and features unrelated to their medical app must be turned off, and the phone must not be used for any other reason. If your child has a medical need that requires them to have access to a phone, please get in touch with us before the start of term so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Home Academy Agreement - Student Responsibilities

As a student at Torquay Academy, I understand that I am responsible for my own success. I will live out our values each day: Hard Work, Integrity, and Pride. Students will be asked to sign the student home academy agreement on the TA Way day at the beginning of September.

Car Parking

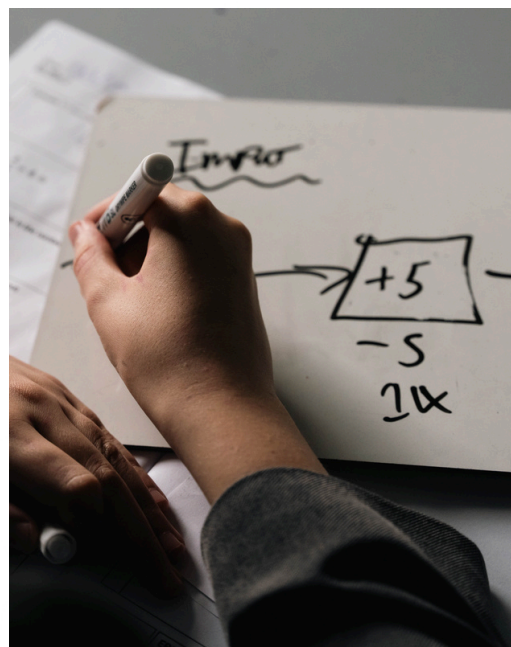
For the safety of all of our students, please do not drive onto the school site or the area in front of the school gates between the hours of 8.00 – 8.45am and 2.15 – 3.30pm. There are spaces available for cars to park or drop off/pick up along Barton Hill Road and Cricketfield Road. The exception to this is if your child has mobility issues where we can give you a car park pass. This can be obtained via the year group's Pastoral Leader.

Personal Money

There is no need for students to bring personal money into school unless for particular events such as a non-uniform (mufti) day or SummerFest (our summer music festival). All activities can be paid for through Parentpay as on the previous page. We cannot accept any responsibility for loss of money, or other valuables, in school.

Sanitary Products

We have a full range of products available in the toilets, student hubs and the safeguarding office. We encourage students to use the supplies we have in school and ensure there is no period poverty.





E: admin@TQacademy.co.uk

T: 01803 329351

**Torquay Academy, Cricketfield Road,
Torquay, Devon TQ2 7NU**

www.TQacademy.co.uk