



# Thank you for Supporting Tonbridge Grammar School Summer 2021

*This year has demonstrated over and over the strength of our community*

As the academic year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community, past and present, for the many ways you support the School. With every gift, whether that's your time, expertise or by making a financial contribution, you are extending the opportunities we can offer every single student who comes to TGS. This year, I am especially grateful that so much has been achieved despite Covid and the challenges we are all adapting to.

Through our support of Tonbridge Grammar School we are joining the generations of students, parents and friends of the School who have come before us, all helping to make Tonbridge Grammar School the School that it is today. Our collective energy and ongoing support will continue to advance education at TGS over the years to come. Thank you for your very important part in this.



I hope you enjoy, as much as I have, this brief spotlight on the transformative impact of your support and giving.

With my best wishes to you all for a happy summer,  
**Sally Dyson**  
Chair of Trustees

So much achieved! – see the stats – click on the signposts

[International connections](#)

[Supporting every child](#)

[School Library](#)

[STEM](#)

[Fitness and Sport](#)

[Community outreach](#)

[Wildflower meadow](#)

[Inspiring careers](#)

[Celebrating milestones](#)

[TGS Music Society](#)



[www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/support-us](http://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/support-us) [Thank you Summer 2020](#) [Spotlight September 2020](#)

[Get Involved](#) [www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/supporting-every-child](http://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/supporting-every-child)

[connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk](http://connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk)

**Please get in touch.**



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## The Stats – Thank you for making an invaluable difference

**£123,000** raised this year. Thank you alumni, parents, carers, staff and students, friends for your gifts to School Fund, Facilities Development, Bursaries, and Joy's Legacy Programme.

### Every gift no matter its size makes an important difference.

- ✓ **£99,000** raised in School Fund has already enriched every student.
- ✓ **£23,000** raised for Facilities Development.
- ✓ 35 new members of TGS Music Society, 2 keyboards, £1400 for music enrichment.
- ✓ 90% of all giving has a Gift Aid Declaration. £16,000 has been claimed and is included in our giving total.
- ✓ 85% of all giving is planned (monthly, quarterly, annually). Hugely helpful for planning School Fund's budget for 21.22.
- ✓ Gifts have ranged between £2 and £20,000.
- ✓ **£50**, £30, £20, and £10, are all popular instalments.

**Payroll giving** £12,000 is coming via corporate payroll giving schemes. Tax beneficial for the donors and school benefits from much appreciated additional employer matched giving. Many corporates also run schemes through their CSR whereby the corporate 'match' is based on an employee's personal involvement at a fundraising event.

**Private Trusts** If successful recent applications will directly benefit STEM, the Fitness Suite, and the Meadow.

**Corporate Sponsors** are £250, £500, £2500 and poa. We raise the profile of sponsors on copy and electronic publicity, TGS Connections corporates page, School webpages. Thank you for [Warners Solicitors](#) screens for music rehearsal bubbles this term.

## This year you have given us more of your voluntary professional expertise than ever before. Thank you so much.

Using virtual platforms ...

- More than 30 Oxbridge alumni supported students in their preparation for their interviews.
- 20 MedSoc alumni, who, themselves, had been supported by MedSoc led by Mr McDaid, gave students intensive MMI practice in December.
- 50 professionals from our alumni and parent communities inspired students across school, during Inspiring Careers Throughout March. See [connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers](http://connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers). Students can ask to listen to the recordings.
- 30 parent carers and alumni gave all Year 12 students an opportunity to practice interview in June.
- All year round Inspiring careers on our TGS Connections pages and visits to the classroom. TGS alumni have a special bond with their school peers, which makes these in class virtual visits so effective and helpful. Saskia re-joined her Biology teacher Mr Fitt to share her PHD research in infectious disease epidemics. [Catch up on School News here](#)

**Thanking our Covid Testers.** We take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers, and alumni who helped us deliver over 3000 tests between January and March. The School received some DfE funding and testers were remunerated modestly. We are extremely grateful for their commitment at such short notice. A great reflection of the supportive community of TGS.

[Please give](#)      [Please get involved](#)

[Please support PTA events](#)

[Shop online to give](#)





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## Connecting all corners of the world



As an IB World School fluent mother tongues are heard daily along the corridors and in the classrooms. The School is committed to giving students this important linguistic life skill, whether they use it in their higher education studies, in work, or simply on holiday!

Lockdown did try to stop some of the conversation practice, but nothing was going to stand in the way of Virtual Languages Schools over the half term holiday – [catch up on news here](#)

When we return to school in September, we will hear from 80 upper school students who are about to take part in three days intensive, cultural fun with LSF Academy in Montpellier and Iria Flavia in Santander.

Also to look forward to in September will be the lunchtime clubs including debating clubs in French and Spanish, and an international film club.

Foreign languages is a popular choice at higher education and our alumni are frequent classroom visitors. Congratulations to a TGS alum who has graduated with First Class honours in Russian this year.

Here is a request from a TGS alum. Can you translate her intricate Russian crochet pattern please?  
[connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/news/alumni-stories/112/112-Russian-Crochet](http://connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/news/alumni-stories/112/112-Russian-Crochet)

## Supporting every child

### Sixth Form Promise

Enabling **all students** to fully benefit from, and participate in, the TGS Sixth Form experience



### Tonbridge Grammar School

supporting **every child** to be the very best that they can be



Our own fundraising enables the School to offer additional support to Wellbeing and Bursaries.

There is a very focussed structure of support working very quietly and diligently, to look after everyone at school. Tonbridge Grammar School is not alone in needing to address a rising trend in mental health and learning needs. This summer, the wellbeing team will be re-locating to a newly formed Wellbeing Hub. There is a small amount of structural work that needs to be done to modify some work spaces and this can happen over the summer holidays.

[www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/supporting-every-child](http://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/supporting-every-child)





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## Reading for pleasure and academic research

Our school library exists entirely thanks to philanthropic giving. The School could not be more grateful for giving to School Fund, to our benefactors and to our legators.

The library has been open throughout the school year. Our Librarian Mrs Maloney has replaced a busy physical library with a delivery books service and a Student Librarian Team has been supporting remotely.

[www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/library](http://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/library)

**TONBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL LIBRARY**

"I read so I can live more than one life in more than one place."  
— Anne Tyler

2681 NON-FICTION, FICTION, WEBSITES AND E-RESOURCES ADDED TO THE COLLECTION THIS YEAR  
WE HAVE ALSO ADDED OVER 450 EBOOKS

RESOURCES LOANED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR 10,000+  
DESPITE LOCKDOWN STUDENT HAVE INCREASED THEIR BORROWING THIS YEAR

This year we have a whole new collection of the OUP's series A Very Short Introduction. A great starting point for our IB Diploma students as well as those lower down the school who want to explore something new.

Our most popular books reflect an increasingly diverse collection including books in translation and books written in verse alongside some old favorites.

Lockdown reads

HOW HAVE WE ADAPTED THIS YEAR

- \* We shared a film about accessing reading, both for pleasure and information, in lockdown
- \* We have run virtual and face to face book clubs for staff and students striving to continue sharing our passion for books.
- \* We have delivered books around school by the careful, box load and trolley full. Deliveries have even been made to homes

WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

SHARE OUR PAGETURNERS VIRTUAL GALA EVENT

The culmination of our annual PageTurners club is live gala event, shared with 15 local secondary schools showcasing students' creative responses, involving author presentations and a number of competitions.

This year, in its place, we have created a virtual event which we will present to all students giving them a glimpse of what PageTurners is about and an opportunity to hear from authors such as Yoko Ogawa, Isabella Allende and Roland Smith.

WELCOME STUDENTS BACK IN TO OUR LIBRARY

A school library is in its least natural state when the students can't visit. While the shelves have remained tidy and the teachers have enjoyed the space the heart has been removed. We exist to share stories and support research and are longing for an opportunity to open our doors once more.

HOW DO WE DO WHAT WE DO ?

We are indebted to our benefactors; Victoria Hislop and Jennifer Leslie and also to all who contribute to School Fund. We would not be here without your continued support

## STEM research



The commitment to STEM at TGS is reflected in the appointment of two staff STEM coordinators for next year, Ms Bisby and Dr Emmanuel.

Ms Bisby reports: We have some new and exciting plans to introduce a STEM project involving all year groups in September. This will include exploring alternative energy sources and other climate related activities to empower students with practical tools and problem-solving skills in a rapidly changing world.

A Molecular Biology Research project led by Dr Emmanuel is already underway

**Research question: What are the similarities and differences in DNA harvest and profiles of three members of the genus *Allium*?**

[Click here to watch the recent STEM Assembly](#)

Molecular Biology provides the clarification we seek in understanding our world in order to banish misconceptions and ensure progress in understanding many of the phenomena we see all around us. The Covid-19 pandemic, and the hope humanity put in Science to offer some relief to human suffering is a clear evidence of this. Molecular Biology provides the three components of enlightenment: reason, science and progress. Thus, simple research works in Molecular Biology will enable our students to develop basic skills in molecular techniques and fundamental knowledge of genetic applications in life sciences especially, genetics, genomics and bioinformatics which are the bedrock of today's science.



We welcome opportunities for students to learn from 'real life' Industry experts. [Please Get Involved.](#)



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## Fitness and Sport for everyone



**New for Autumn 2021!** Thanks to gifts to School Fund, the School is able to invest in a Fitness Suite, which will be for additional curriculum teaching, and for a much needed club activity for Sixth Form. We are grateful to current and past philanthropy that has enabled the School to upgrade all the sport facilities in school over the past 12 years and most recently in 2018, when the sloping grass playing field was converted to three terraces. TGS sport facilities include 2 grass training terraces and a competition hockey multipurpose floodlight all weather pitch, 2 hard courts, a sprint track, 2 long jump pits and 2 cricket nets. Indoors we have a large sports hall and a studio.

The PE staff is an energetic, experienced and highly committed team. Miss D'Almeida reports:

"It has been great to see students taking part in team sports. We have started lunchtime clubs again, focusing on a "come and play" approach and a choice of activities. It has been brilliant to see so many students from year 7 to the majority of year 12 turning up to play sport.

Summer sports have included our annual "Wimbledon" competition on the all weather pitch, a football competition alongside the European Championships, and a day of sport including an interhouse competition in the sports of rounders, cricket and tennis.

## TGS outreach work in the wider community



Our annual School Fund programme supports aspects of our work in the wider community. Mrs Twinam CAS and Internationalism Coordinator reports on two longstanding relationships West Kent College (now part of North Kent College) and the Scotts Project:

West Kent College is a provision for young adults aged 16-24. This provision is catered for students at entry level learning (basic life skills such as cooking, money, time, healthy lifestyle). The students really enjoy coming to TGS once a week to take part in physical activity. Students who initially find it very difficult to communicate, flourish through playing sport with our students. Year 10 and 11 TGS students are usually involved in these sessions, and this depends on the timetabling for these year groups. Our TGS students are brilliant with the West Kent College students, and it is amazing to witness the students together. This gives our students the experience of working with people with disabilities, communication and the opportunity to learn sign language. As our students become more confident, they begin to lead the sessions. The fitness suite will also make the session more accessible for those students who find it really difficult to take part in sports and games.

The Scotts Project was set up by Gill Scott over 25 years ago due to the lack of facilities offered to young people with learning difficulties. The Trust is a day and residential care provider offering enrichment and life skill lessons. TGS students travel to the Trust each week to provide computer skills, art and media sessions. The collaboration has gone on to provide physical activity sessions.

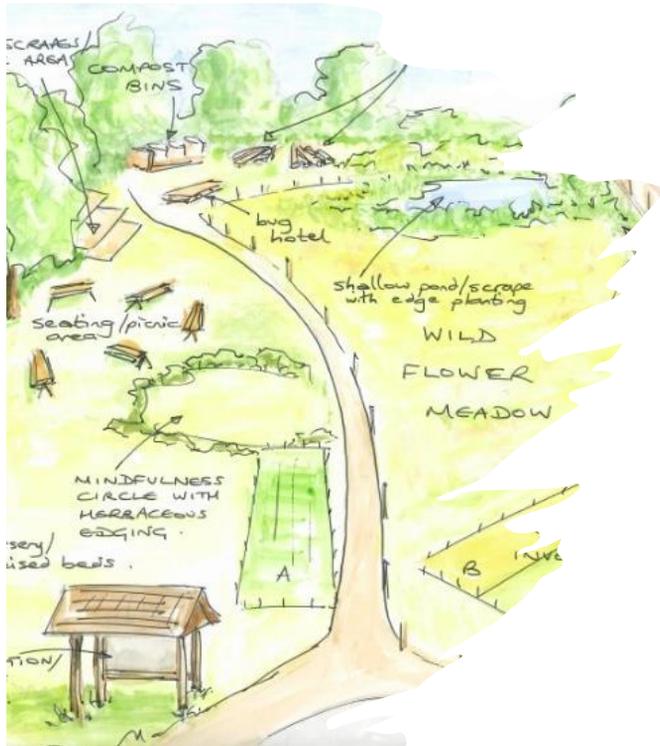
[www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/cas](http://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/cas) [www.westkent.ac.uk](http://www.westkent.ac.uk) [www.scottsproject.org.uk](http://www.scottsproject.org.uk)





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## Wildflower meadow for environmental, mindful research



**New for Autumn 2021!** The area of land at the far end of the car park is about to be transformed.

The meadow was originally inspired by a Year 8 student who is now in Year 11. During this academic year, the student and a group of Sixth Formers have been meeting regularly to develop ideas with staff lead Mr Barker.

Thankyou to Cara, Edie, Katherine, Rosie, and Talia for an informative assembly [click here to watch it.](#)

[Catch up on news here.](#)

Funds to establish the meadow are coming from gifts to Facilities Development. We are also applying to a grant funders and we also want to invite experts to visit and share advice with us. Thank you to parents and staff for giving to Sixth Form's fun run fundraiser this week!

## Inspiring Careers

**Tonbridge Grammar School Careers Programme 2020/2021**  
Developed in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks  
Brought to you by TGS School Fund

*"It is our aim that students leave school with a Careers Education that has supported them to realise their ambitions, achieve their full potential, provide them with the opportunity to explore different career prospects and leave with the knowledge to make informed choices about their future."*

**Year 9 & 10**  
UniFrog Activities: personality, skills & interests quizzes, GCSE Choices.  
Careers focused sessions in Form Time.

**Sixth Form**  
Careers Advice Sessions with CXK.  
Careers / Your Future sessions  
Career Q&A Sessions  
TGS Careers Group - Investigate careers in each subject and produce information booklet.  
UniFrog Activities - Post 18 Choices.  
Leaver's Folder

**Access to External Careers Support**  
UniFrog: One-stop-shop for all post-school destinations and careers guidance.  
CXK: Individual Careers Advice Sessions.  
Pathway CTM has transformed employability training, support and opportunities for schools and students across the UK.

**Year 7 & 8**  
UniFrog Activities: personality, skills & interests quizzes.  
Careers focused sessions in Form Time.

**Year 11**  
UniFrog Activities: personality, skills & interests quizzes, Post-16 Choices.  
Careers Advice Sessions with CXK.  
Career Q&A Sessions  
Leaver's Folder coordination.

**Whole School**  
HE & Careers Bulletin  
Opportunities for all students to investigate their futures.  
Speakers (subject related).  
[Virtual] Work Experience Opportunities  
TGS Connections - offers current students the professional networks of our alumni:  
- Careers Mentoring  
- Interview Practice  
- Talks & Workshops  
Careers Fair  
Feedback from Students & Parents/Carers.  
Open Evenings

**National Careers Week**  
1-6<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Form Time sessions focused on Careers.

**National Apprenticeship Week**  
8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
Giving students more information about apprenticeships.

unifrog | PATHWAY | CXK

*"I'm so grateful for the UCAS support [TGS] gave me earlier this year. I certainly wouldn't have been successful without it and I'm really looking forward to the next step - university and beyond."*

This year Careers Officer Miss Keeling has brought together all the strands of the School's careers support in to one tidy summary and she has also worked to refresh and repurpose each of them.

Our students have a fantastic, comprehensive package of support, and evidentially students are already making greater access to it this year than previously.

This is another important area of school that is enriched by parent and carer and alumni support both professionally and through giving to School Fund.

[connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers](https://connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers)

[www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/introducing-our-careers-programme](https://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/introducing-our-careers-programme)





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## Celebrating education



If ever there was a reason to be grateful for a virtual event, this is it!

It was a terrible disappointment not to be able to meet in person over the last year to congratulate and celebrate the very many achievements of every single student, and the staff for their passion and commitment.

In December we shared the annual celebration and awards of GCSE and IB Diploma students on a virtual stage. It has been watched by many more than the hall would have capacity for.

Alumna speaker Philippa Makepeace OBE has also provided careers inspirations to students interested in a career in the Civil Service.

You can access the celebration event and Philippa's careers Q&A [at connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers](https://connect.tgs.kent.sch.uk/careers)

## We are launching TGS Music Society



- 194 students are regularly taking part in musical enrichment opportunities.
- We have a 70 strong whole school orchestra, with more than 20 instruments. String, wind, brass and percussion players came together to produce and record an arrangement of Delia Derbyshire's 'Theme from Dr Who'
- 7 & 8 Choir worked on a 5 part arrangement of Bruno Mars' popular
- 59 students took part in the House Music competition this year
- Did you see the Christmas Choir performance?
- 118 students are taking part in the Music Bubble Elastic Bands



[Catch up on Music News and Join in here](#)

Save the date Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October for a Tea Concert and our first TGS Society gathering.

