

Campaign for a Sports Hall at Torquay Girls' Grammar School

The Dream



A multi-purpose, 4 badminton court sized Sports Hall with gym, changing rooms, showers and amenities.

The Reality



The original 72 year old single badminton court sized gym is too small, leaks, smells, has no showers and is in a poor state of repair. Please can we have a Sports Hall?



Campaign for a Sports Hall at Torquay Girls'

Dear Parents, girls, supporters, friends, and other readers of this article,

Our current gym is a testament to the builders of the day. Unfortunately that day was in 1939 and the single badminton court sized gym can only be described as small and sad. It was designed to be used by only 120 girls some of whom, on returning after more than half a century, recognise the same wall bars and ropes as either old friends or instruments of torture. The gym cannot cope with the sporting demands of our 860 girls. Parts of it are crumbling, parts of it are mouldy, parts of it are absent (no showers) and all parts are smelly. This is hardly surprising after 72 years of loyal service.

The need for a new Sports Hall is clear; clear to the girls, clear to the staff, clear to our local MP Adrian Saunders, and clear to the Ofsted inspectors who felt strongly enough to add the following comment in their recent report:

'poor facilities for indoor games inhibit the development of work in this area'.

Over the past few years we have made many bids to the Local Authority but whilst they have always been verbally supportive we have always remained their 'next on the list' school. The Department for Education say the need is clear and we should bid again to them this year. The cost of a new Sports Hall will be about £1.8 million. In this climate, we know we are unlikely to be able to raise this amount of money ourselves. What we hope to do is to raise £100,000 to add weight to our bid.

We have the site, the plans and the planning pre-application for a 4 Badminton Court Sports Hall with fitness suite, classroom and amenities. We have formed a fundraising committee led by current Governor and former primary school Headteacher, Bob Cross. We would like to focus our fundraising efforts over the next year on the Sports Hall bid alongside our continuing support of Imprezza School in Kenya.

We have decided to challenge the girls to see if they can each raise **£100** in the 2012 calendar year. This will be entirely voluntary and would raise about £85,000 pounds. The other £15,000 we aim to raise from other institutions and individuals.

The money raised can be through any number of activities including ones that we currently do like the Sponsored Walk. We also hope that the girls will individually generate ideas that they can complete as individuals, as groups and as a school. We have started the process of gathering their opinions.

The girls will be invited to participate in a range of fundraising activities. We really hope that you will support us so that the girls have the chance to participate in sport, to remain healthy and to ensure that in the future the BBC Sports Personality of the year has some female contenders they cannot ignore!

Dr N Smith
January 2012

Some very good reasons why we desperately need a Sports Hall:



The current gym does not provide the appropriate sporting environment that our girls deserve.

Access

- The gym was built in the 1930s for a school of 150 girls; we currently have 860. It is only the size of one badminton court; 171 m² long with a low roof. This means that at peak times 40 students have to do PE elsewhere such as in the Dining Hall or Old School Hall both of which are often set up for alternative purposes and pose Health & Safety risks for PE.
- We have no fitness suite and we have to bus our girls to a local gym. The cost of this excludes some students and the time for transport reduces its effectiveness.

Curriculum

- We are currently unable to deliver indoor hockey, basketball, tennis, netball or cricket and have inadequate provision for badminton, volleyball, gymnastics and trampolining.

Equality

- We are the only secondary school in the South West without a 'fit for purpose' Sports Hall or access to one. All 7 other secondary schools in Torbay have a bespoke Sports Hall - some have several.
- This means there is an inequality in access for girls to appropriate indoor physical activities compared with boys in the Torbay.

Current facilities

- The gym is in a very poor state of repair. Torbay Council Condition Survey lists needs for improvements including roof repairs, lighting, electrical work and external doors.
- Extremely limited space for changing – most pupils change in unheated garages which are not fit for purpose.
- There are **no** showers so students go to their next lesson without washing!

What would a new Sports Hall provide?



It would provide:

- An all-year round, all-weather facility to ensure continuity of physical education.
- 21st Century changing and showering facilities.
- The opportunity for indoor court games; netball, badminton, basketball, volleyball etc as well as for dance. Also the practice of skills and techniques for outdoor activity; athletics, football, cricket etc.
- A Fitness suite which would allow pupils to develop their physical fitness.
- A space large enough for whole school assemblies, evening events etc.
- Equality: Currently the only school in Devon without a Sports Hall – Provision would allow the girls equal access to facilities as the boys in Torbay.

How can you help?

If you think the girls deserve a proper Sports Hall then we would value your support.

Students:

Please try to raise £100 each during the 2012 calendar year. The school will be asking for your ideas and supporting your efforts.

Parents, staff, governors and other interested parties:

Please support the school in anyway you can. This could be a financial contribution, a written message of support, ideas for fund raising, useful contacts or publicity.

For queries, questions or ideas you can contact us on the following e-mail:

sportshall@tggsacademy.org

If you feel you would like to make a contribution directly then you can write a cheque payable to ***Torquay Girls' Grammar School*** or make an electronic transfer to ***Account Number 01113918***
Sort code 30 98 67

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