



Operation Imprezza

Newsletter 98  
3 March 2025

## Message from the Chair of Operation Imprezza

This is a quiet period for the school as until towards mid-February students can come or leave. Catherine thinks that we will end up with 324 pupils this year. I am sure that as the year goes on this may well increase. What we do know is, if anything, this year's intake is poorer than ever, with many turning up with absolutely nothing. As usual there will be around 300 students on the waiting list. Whilst Catherine was here, she talked about some students waiting up to 5 years to get into Imprezza.

Catherine's visit was a real success, not only was it good to see her and for her to re-establish contact with many friends and supporters, by the time she returned, but the money for the fence had also been donated and on return, she was able to instruct a contractor to begin work immediately with a view to completing the work by the end of February. It consists of 9' reinforced concrete posts, 7' heavy-duty chain-link fencing, razor wire and a strand of electric fencing running in the fence near the top and then thorn bushes planted along the base of the fence around the complete site. We are delighted that with the donations gained from her visit together with previous funds raised, the fence will now cover the whole 15 acres of the school site, rather than some now and the rest later.

[For further information and regular updates about the fence installation click here](#)

Shortage of classroom and dormitory space was discussed, and the agreement was that the next priority after the fence is completed is to finish roofing a classroom block. This will allow an additional two classrooms to be brought into use at a cost is about £4,500. Whilst Catherine and Daron were here, they were also able to give an update on the situation at the school and the priorities going forward. Catherine has talked of financial pressures on day to day running. Catherine spoke at three churches, St. James; Teignmouth Baptist; and for the first time at St Michael's (all in Teignmouth). She also spoke at Newton Abbot Rotary who kindly donated £2,500, The Flying Club, a business breakfast at Torquay United which led to a £14k donation. This together with what we had already raised has allowed us to fence the whole site. There was an open night at Coasters in Teignmouth and at Torquay GGS for anyone to drop in and chat to Catherine.

Catherine spent two full days at TGGs. Sarah, the Head surprised Catherine by giving her a snuggle blanket to take back so that students feeling sad etc could sit on this and get some comfort and perhaps think of those thinking of them back in England. The blanket surprise was as nothing compared to the events at the whole school assembly. The Head and Catherine both spoke at the assembly. Sarah then explained that the school was expanding and there would be the need for a Sixth House at TGGs. Sarah explained that the first five Houses had been named after the first five women Headteachers, it was explained that the 6<sup>th</sup> house would be named Omanyo House. She then turned to Catherine to ask for her permission to use her name. Catherine just stood up with

a massive smile and a little voice said yes. It was the first time I have ever seen Catherine speechless!!!

There was also an open night at TGGs as well where people dropped in to chat.

Catherine also renewed her contact with Combe Pafford School where she met the new Headteacher plus the staff and students who are visiting Imprezza in March. Hopefully that link will continue to grow over the years.

The final part of Catherine's visit was to move the agriculture project forward. Catherine visited two dairy farms, How Now Dairy with Ayrshire cattle and South Devon Dairy with Jersey cows – the two breeds being considered suitable for Kenya. Both visits were really informative with the visit to How Now and owner Oliver Lee being especially productive and led to a second visit. The suggestion was to have a water management plan in place to deal with the very heavy rains and then the dry seasons, this will hopefully reduce, significantly, soil erosion. Poultry can be introduced any time, with goats cattle and crops follow, all will be enhanced with water management introduced. He also pointed out that we need a 5–10-year plan to slowly build the agricultural provision we need.

Catherine's visit finished with a couple of days in London courtesy of Mike Lock which they enjoyed very much.

Funds are as tight as ever; we will be arranging some fundraising events in the near future.

Finally, I am sad to report the resignation of Anne and Karen as Trustees, but want to acknowledge and thank them for the support they have given over the past two years. Karen will stay on as the Imprezza link to TGGs as she did before becoming a Trustee, so we are not losing her altogether which is good.

Chris Hulme, Chair of Operation Imprezza

---

## Catherine's visit to the UK in pictures.



Above - Catherine visited Newton Abbott Rotary Club to attend a dinner and to collect a donation. Catherine with Sarah Forster, Headteacher of Torquay Girls Grammar School, Chris Hulme and Daron.

**Below** - Talking to pupils at Combe Pafford School, Visiting South Devon Dairy as a part of investigating keeping cattle at the school.



**Below** - Catherine and Daron end their visit with a day in London



[Click here to see an interview with Catherine while she was visiting Torbay](#)

## Combe Pafford School - 13 Suitcase Project



Combe Pafford School are visiting Imprezza Academy in March - the 10 day trip will include 4 days staying at the school and helping to decorate some classrooms with Imprezza students. They are also filling 13 suitcases, one for each member of the group going, with much needed supplies and resources. A big thank you to everyone who helped fill the cases, with a special mention to Newton Abbot Rotary Club who helped coordinate the donations.

## COTSWOLD WAY SOLO TREK



This summer I shall be walking the Cotswold Way solo to raise money towards new classroom accommodation at Imprezza Academy. I will be setting off early on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July from Chipping Campden and aiming to complete the 102 mile national trail in under 5 days, finishing in the city of Bath around early afternoon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August. For this, as with all my previous charity walks, I will be carrying everything I need with me and sleeping rough in my very small one-man tent. This will be my fourth national trail, having previously walked the Two Moors Way (117 miles), the Beacons Way

(98 miles) and Offa's Dyke path (190 miles), but I'm delighted to say that it will be the first time I have walked to raise money for Operation Imprezza!

My normal 'modus operandus' is to get the train up to the start the day before, get a good night's sleep in an AirBnB, and then get an early start the following morning. I aim to walk at a minimum speed of 2.2 miles per hour with a full pack including rest stops, and as I aim to complete at least 22 miles a day, it generally means walking for at least 10 hours a day, often longer. The challenge is pacing myself to take account of conditions and my progress whilst factoring in where my next food and drink is coming from. With some clever planning I intend to stop in the odd hostelry for a meal and a pint to supplement the food I'm carrying, and at the end of the trek my wife will be waiting to take me off to another AirBnB for a relaxing weekend in Bath.

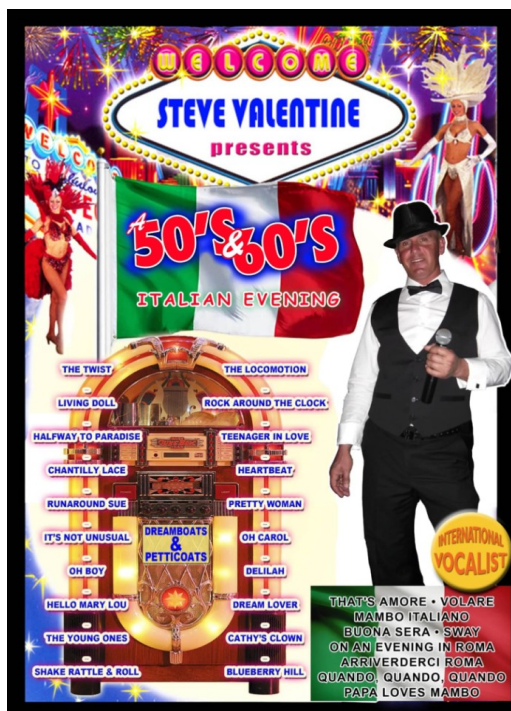
This is, as you know a really important project, so I really do hope you (plus friends and family) will sponsor me if you can - my JustGiving page can be found at

[www.justgiving.com/page/cotswoldwaysolotrek](http://www.justgiving.com/page/cotswoldwaysolotrek)

whilst my adventures can be found on Instagram at [trekkertomo](https://www.instagram.com/trekkertomo). Look out for my specially commissioned walking shirt in the Kenyan national colours and please spread the word. The target is £2000, and if you could help me to reach it, it will have made it all worthwhile. If anyone would like to meet me along the way or join up in the closing stages, please get in touch at [edwardwthompson@outlook.com](mailto:edwardwthompson@outlook.com) and we can coordinate our whereabouts, in fact I'm hoping to be able to share a tracking link nearer the time so you can see where I am at any point during the week.

Wish me luck! Many thanks,  
Edward 'Tomo' Thompson

## Join us in Buddleigh!!! - A night not to be missed!!!



### Operation Imprezza

Invites you to an

## ITALIAN EVENING

At

**Marco's Italian Restaurant**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.00 for 7.30**

**7 High St, Buddleigh  
Salterton, EX96LQ**

**£25 per person, tickets  
from Marco's**

We need to review and refresh our Mailing list of those who receive information about Imprezza Academy, receive newsletters and general information about events. If you no longer wish to receive information, please let us know, similarly, if you know of anyone interested in the work of Operation Imprezza and would like to be added to the mailing list, please let us know.

**CAF Donate**

*Copyright © 2025 Operation Imprezza, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email newsletter because you signed up on our website at [www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org) or gave your contact details to one of our trustees. Our mailing address is: Operation Imprezza, 14 Elm Grove Teignmouth, DEvon TQ14 8SA United Kingdom