

# Headteacher's Update

20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Message from Mr O'Sullivan



This week has been both incredibly stressful and joyous. The start of any formal examinations will always bring high levels of worry for students and staff but for us, due to Covid, these are our first full set of exams, so the stakes are even higher. Our Year 11 students have been simply wonderful with their approach and I continue to wish them the very best. Year 13 begin their first exams next week. We'll have everything crossed for them. Three things stand out as joyous this week: firstly, it was so nice to see so many parents touring the school and in particular, I enjoyed seeing how proud the students were showing them around. I had to chuckle on the Year 8 evening when a student told his parent off for going through a 'staff only' door! Secondly, I was incredibly

moved by the GCSE drama students pre-exam session. Justin gave a motivational talk to his peers and they clapped each other. That kind of support and unity should be bottled. Finally, watching the staff play the sixth form at netball was brilliant to see and a perfect example of why we need a permanent site. I won't mention the result as I am sure there will be a rematch, however it was a hard fought game. Once I had seen Missy in Year 12 take out Mr Quigley, I took my leave.

## From the Chair of our Local Governing Body

Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who took part in our school vision survey in the Autumn term. We very much enjoyed reading your heartwarming responses! If there was one clear theme to pull out of the results, it was that we all want to retain our school's much loved small, community feel in our newer, bigger, better facilities.

Our Local Governing Body works with Mr O'Sullivan and his Senior Leadership Team to ensure clarity of the school's Vision, Ethos and Strategic direction. As part of this work we have been reviewing the text of our Vision, Values and Ethos statement, and have recently published the new text on the school website <a href="here: Please take some time to read this">here: Please take some time to read this. We trust that it reflects your own vision for, and experience of, Turing</a>

#### Dates for the Diary:

Fri 27th May - INSET day - school closed

Half Term - 30th May - 3rd June

School Show – 29th/30th June



House School, as we all have a part to play in helping to create a safe, happy, learning community for our students.

Our smart new school deserves a smart new website and we have been working with RET on a fresh look that showcases the best of Turing House. We'll be launching it next term; watch this space for more news. We look forward to working with the school on the next phase of its exciting journey in its new home!

## **RET Creative Writing Competition**

Below is Jack D's entry (Year 8) that was awarded Highly Commended. Well done, Jack!

The bright neon paint on the bus stop was still wet and glistened as the rain slid down it. The graffitied bus stop was filled with bright letters but wasn't an obvious place for a gang to meet. As the leaves blew widely, the cars sped across the wet surface of the road and the deafening noise of the traffic made it hard for them to hear each other. As the boys breathed in, the smell of damp paint reminded them of the thrill of their plan.

He was on the edge of the meeting point, leaning in, listening but trying not to make eye contact. As he heard the plan to graffiti his school he started to move away and tremble with fear. His face started to crumple with anxiety, and desperation to leave. As he wiped his sweaty hands on his paint splattered trousers, his fingers reached his mouth and he chewed his nails fiercely, still listening to the plan.

This had gone too far, to graffiti his school was just too personal. Just 6 months ago his dad left him and his mum. He just walked out the front door. His school was his safe place, and that was why he had to stay with the gang or leave now. Walking away now would be hard as his gang was like the family he wanted back. Doing the right thing was just as hard as saying goodbye to his Dad, all those months ago.

As he was about to turn and run, he heard his name, he turned, his eyes down, his head dropped, the shaking in his body overpowered him. The words that his mother

said to him when his dad left repeated in his head over and over again.

"Don't be like him, always choose the right path, never look back."

The pressure of this decision felt overwhelming and, as the gang started to make their way to the school, he dug deep in his soul and sprinted in the opposite direction.

"Never look back," he heard his mother's voice.

He knew he had made the right choice.

#### Girls Year 9/10 Rounders v RPA



The year 9/10 girls' rounders team took on Richmond Park Academy last week in their second rounders fixture. Having suffered defeat in their opening game, the Turing team were able to bounce back to produce a stunning win over RPA. In just one week, they managed to build on their strong fielding tactics while showing great improvement among their batting abilities in order to pull off the win.

Their next game is against Teddington. Well done to all involved!

## Turing House 6th Form v Staff Netball Match

A selection of Turing House Sixth Form students took on a team of staff members this week in a netball match. The match brought plenty of action, disappointment for one team and triumph for the other, and sporting history was made on the new school site! Some say Mr Quigley had been in training for this moment for months!

## Bletchley Park Trip

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May we went to Bletchley Park. Bletchley Park is a country house and estate in Bletchley.

During the Second World War it was used as an allied code-breaking centre in Milton Keynes.

It is particularly important to our school as Alan Turing was a code breaker there and with the help of Polish code breakers, Bletchley Park staff cracked the 'impossible to break' Enigma code.

All the members of staff were sworn to secrecy and many of them took to the secret to their grave.



During the trip we were shown around the park in tutor groups. We were shown around the perimeter of Bletchley Park first and were told about the two railways that connected both Oxford and Cambridge universities to Bletchley. The village was small, and the residents were asked to house the translators and codebreakers. We learnt about the different types of codes and saw the Enigma machine in action. We could

see how complicated it must have been to break to code.



We looked inside the cabins, including Hut 8, and took part in interactive code breaking activities. It was great to learn about life behind the scenes of the war.

Written by Alice V.

#### Well Done!

Well done to Ben H (Year 11) and Billy H (Year 8), who took part in a performance at the Royal College of Music last weekend as part of their Percussion Festival.

This was organised by the Richmond Music Trust and was meant to happen in 2020 but was rescheduled due to lockdown. Mia O in Year 9 also took part in the RMT percussion ensemble.

# Congratulations

Alice D. in Year 7 recently entered the Richmond Upon Thames Libraries Cover Story competition. There were almost 900 entries, and, as you can see from Alice's big smile and her certificate here, her book recommendation was judged as 'Highly Commended'.



Alice was invited to the Award Ceremony evening to celebrate, where she received her certificate from the author Lisa Williamson.

This is a wonderful achievement; well done, Alice!



# Boys Year 10 Football v Twickenham

The Year 10 boys football team made the short journey across the road to take on Twickenham last week. The Turing team showed their attacking intent from very early on in the game as chances were being created at a relentless pace.

Several of these chances found the back of the net and the visitors soon had a firm grasp on the game. The home side did manage to capitalise on two chances of their own, but it wasn't enough to have an impact on the final score, with the match finishing in a big Turing win.

Well done to all involved!

# British Basketball League Final Trip

On Sunday night, 40 students travelled to the O2 arena to watch the British Basketball League Play-Off Finals.

Students were treated to two finals - the men's and the women's - as well as a whole host of action-packed entertainment in between games and quarters. Both games featured local team London Lions, making it even more of an occasion.

The London Lions proved too strong in the women's game as they soared to victory in fantastic fashion against their opponents.

The men's team were unable to match the women's league victory, however it proved to be a highly entertaining and closely contested game going down to the wire.

It was a brilliant day enjoyed by all!





#### Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

We have been very pleased to see the return of some extra-curricular sports clubs recently, all starting at 3.15pm and running for an hour.

Basketball is on every Monday; girls' football is on every Tuesday; cricket is on every Thursday. Students involved need to remember to bring their PE kit on these days and should get changed in the PE changing rooms.

Please speak to a member of the PE Department should you have any questions. Please also note that, as with PE lessons, under no circumstances should students be taking part in sports clubs while wearing school shoes.

## Yr 10 Helpers at Primary School Cricket Day

Well done to a number of the Year 10 Sport Studies students who helped to umpire at Bushy Park last week when a number of local primary schools came together for their summer cricket tournament.

This experience fell in line with the Sports Leadership module that these students are currently working through, as they continue to develop their leadership style, communication techniques and motivation strategies, among other traits.



Above all else, the event organiser commented on how helpful these students were and thought that they represented Turing House beautifully - fantastic feedback to receive!

#### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Miss Gumpert who got married last weekend and is now Mrs Johnson.

All at Turing House wish her and her husband every happiness in the future.

## Animal Cruelty by Stephanie

I am stuck in four barred walls

And blood is everywhere

It felt like a tiny stall

No not me I'm just a lovely hare

I am stuck in four bared walls

A needle poked in one eye

Now I'm stuck in a hall

No it's just not fair

I am stuck in four bared walls
It's getting tighter and tighter
The needle poked in the other eye
But I am still a fighter

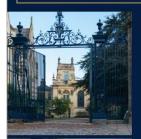
I am stuck in four bared walls
I thought I would lose a limb
But instead all I saw
Is that I lost all my skin

I am stuck in four bared walls
I then just lost my heart
I know it sounds cruel
But that is just the start.

## University of Oxford Access Day

#### University of Oxford Access Day: 22 June 2022

For young women from state schools in years 10-12 with Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage



Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be a student at Oxford?

Oxford at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, followed by halal lunch and visits to Trinity and Jesus Colleges!

Have a discussion with the brightest women in their fields. chat to our current students and potential future mentors informally and over a Q&A!

Hear from Dr Samina Khan, Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach at Oxford about the value of an Oxford degree... and more!

Year 10 - 11 students must be accompanied by a teacher or parent. Teachers: please submit a booking request using <u>THIS FORM</u>.



Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies



- 10:00 Welcome address
- 10:15 Choice of two mini lectures with Q&A
- 11:30 Tours of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

courses and careers

- 14:15 Tea Break
- 14:30 Q&A with current undergraduate students
- 15:00 Trinity and Jesus Colleges tours and end of day









#### School Direct Trainees

Waldegrave Training Alliance are still recruiting for School Direct trainees (tuition fee) to train to teach in the following subjects for September 2022:

Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design & Technology, Drama, English, Geography, Mathematics, Music, Physics.

Applications will close at the End of June.

If you, or someone you know, have a degree related to these subjects, are considering training to teach and would like further information, please wta@waldegravesch.org

# Kingston Music Service - free open day and choir workshop

Join Kingston Music Service for its Summer Open Day at the Hook Centre on Saturday 16 July 2022. Local families with children of any age are welcome to watch wide range of musical instruments demonstrated - drum kit/percussion, piano/keyboard, woodwind/brass, string instruments, guitar and ukulele.

You can meet our expert tutors and find out more about the music tuition on offer locally to adults and children. There is also a free singing workshop for young people aged 7-13.

Please contact <u>musicservice@kingston.gov.uk</u> for more information and book vour place.

Click here to view poster.

## Bushy Park Cricket Club Girls Party Night



## **Knights Basketball Tournament**



**Book here** 

# Support for Parents

