

# Headteacher's Update

14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### Message from Mr O'Sullivan

It was wonderful this week to have had our Year 7 parents in for the annual information evening. Miss Nicholson and Miss Johnson explained the legalities and curriculum content of our PSHE and RSE curriculum, Mrs Collins spoke to parents about our focus on how an understanding cognitive science is helping our students become better learners this year, and I talked about esafety, addressing the potential risks and dangers that can accompany students having unsupervised access to the internet and free use of smart phones.

We would highly recommend, if you haven't already done so, to ensure you set up safety controls on your child's devices. Some initial advice on how to do so can be found here: <a href="https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/mobile-phone-safety/">https://www.uswitch.com/mobiles/guides/mobile-phone-safety/</a>

There is also helpful advice for families on the CEOP website, here: <a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11</a> 18/

We find that regular, open and honest discussions on this topic often help prevent students from making mistakes or finding themselves in difficult situations later on, so we would encourage you to start these discussions right from Year 7, although it's never too late to start!

Please remember that Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October is an INSET day, meaning there is no school for students on that day.

# School Photographs

Kittle Photography will be returning to Turing House on the afternoon of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October to take photos of Year 12 plus all those students from Year 7-11 and Year 13 who were absent on the original date.

School photos ordered by parents from the first school photograph date of 16<sup>th</sup> September have been handed out during tutor time to students over the past couple of days, so if you have ordered any that were being delivered to school, please ask your child for them.

#### Jamaican History Assembly

This October we have been delivering assemblies to mark Black History Month, the annual commemoration of the history, achievements and contributions of black people to the UK.

Whilst we teach Black History every month, we have felt that Black History Month can still be an opportunity for educators to make a conscious decision to go further in diversifying the curriculum for the whole of the academic year and counter-act the previous lack of representation in the history books.

#### Dates for your diary:

19<sup>th</sup> October – Sixth Form Open Evening 6.30pm – 8.00pm

20<sup>th</sup> October – Kittle Photography catch up

29th/30th March - We Will Rock You school show



We would like to give a massive thank you to Kayla and Malakai in Year 8, who helped to deliver powerful assemblies on Jamaican History.

Students learnt about the first settlers to the island, and the story of Roy Hackett in the Bristol Bus Boycott. Well done again, Malakai and Kayla!



# 'Why Mental Health Matters'

Written by Elliott H in Year 11

Mental health: everyone has it. It affects how we think, feel, act. Mental health determines a multitude of things in our lives, from how we handle stress, relate to others, and make everyday choices.

Mental health is invisible, and it goes further than you might think. Everyone has ups and downs with mental health; it is important for everyone to realise that their actions can cause these ups and downs.

Mental health is overlooked. People will expect a multitude of things from you every day and this can

stress you out and stress on your mental health. Not achieving these everyday expectations can have extremely negative effects on mental health, causing stress, and frustration and even leading to depression.

Every single person has their own expectations to be met, every single person is trying to achieve their own goals, and every single one of us is trying to succeed for ourselves and preserve our mental health, whether you realise it or not.

Mental health matters. What you do personally can damage someone's mental health, or what happens to you can do the same; this needs to stop being overlooked. There are people suffering every day from mental health issues, from feeling worthless to being stressed over the tiniest of things. Feeling bad in any way like this is natural and needs to be accepted so helping with these issues can be achieved.

What can you do to help? Check up on people. It doesn't hurt to make sure someone is doing okay. Just the action of your asking can make a difference, and if you are suffering from mental health issues, talk to someone, or do something therapeutic, anything to make yourself feel better.

The worst thing you could do is nothing.

# Congratulations

HUGE congratulations to Stanley J. for signing a Football League Youth Contract (YD4) with professional football club AFC Wimbledon at U13 level.

Absolutely incredible. Well done!

# Food Technology – volunteers need please!

We are delighted that we have managed to reintroduce Food Technology into our curriculum! A huge thank you to Ms Molyneux for helping us make this happen.

However, we are in real need of some additional support to help with preparation that will allow the lessons to run smoothly.

We need the following sessions supported until February, then new timings will be announced. Any parent/carer wishing to help will get the gift of a free DBS check!

Mondays - 12.00-13.00

Tuesdays - 09.00-11.00

Wednesdays - 10.00-13.00

If you feel you could help on one or all of these sessions please contact <a href="mailto:info@turinghouseschool.org.uk">info@turinghouseschool.org.uk</a>

#### Sixth Form Open Evening

Turing House Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 6.30pm - 8.00pm. We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 students and their parents to show them our amazing Sixth Form and the curriculum we offer.



The evening will consist of talk from the Sixth Form Management Team and Student Leadership Team, as well as an opportunity to visit our Key Stage 5 departments.

Applications are open now and will close Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### Jubilee Meadow open afternoon



### Year 9-11 Girls Netball v Waldegrave

Last week the Year 9 and the combined Year 10 and 11 netball teams took on Waldegrave at home in their weekly netball fixture.

With both sides looking to prove a point against the opposition, it was the away team that caused the upset and came away with the double win. Both teams looked strong in attack and fought hard to retain possession but were at the receiving end of some accurate shooting.

Both Turing teams have a chance to bounce back as they then took on Teddington this week. Well done to all involved! Read on to find out how they got on in the next fixture.

# Year 7/8 Girls Football v Teddington

The combined Year 7 and 8 girls' football team played against Teddington last week as part of their borough league fixtures. This was their second fixture so the girls were looking to build on their previous game against Hampton High.

The Turing team suffered two quick goals from an organised Teddington counter-attack but managed to stay in the match showing some grit and determination. The girls weren't able to chase the opposition's lead, but they regroup and go again against Waldegrave in their next match.

Well done to everyone involved! Read on to find out how they did against Waldegrave.

#### Year 9 Boys Rugby v St Richard Reynolds

A delayed start to the term's rugby fixtures for the Year 9 boys meant that they played their first rugby match this week. They had the pleasure of being the first rugby team to play on our new rugby field, as they took on St Richard Reynolds at home.

The visiting team, one of the strongest in the league, put on a great display of some fast-paced, flowing rugby and made use of the space available on the new pitch. The Turing team got stuck in with plenty of attacking play of their own, but weren't able to close the score margin laid down by the opposition.

The boys will have a chance to train at the after-school rugby club this Wednesday before playing their next match against Richmond upon Thames. Well done to everyone involved!

#### Year 9-11 Girls Netball v Teddington

The two senior girls netball teams were back in action at home this week as they faced Teddington in the next round of league fixtures. Both Turing teams set out with the aim of redemption at the forefront of their mind, but it was the away team who proved successful causing a double upset by the time of the final whistle.

Well done to everyone involved! Netball training continues with Miss Johnson every Monday after school where they are training for their next fixture against Richmond upon Thames.

#### Year 7/8 Girls Football v Waldegrave

This week the Year 7/8 girls' football team continued their fixtures, this time travelling to Waldegrave. With the opposition on a run of good form, this match proved to be the toughest challenge yet for the junior girls.

The Turing team didn't manage to pull off a league upset, as the home side continued their winning streak, but they are showing progression in holding their shape and attacking intent which is great to see. Well done to all involved!

The girls are back in action later this week against Twickenham.

# Year 9 Table Tennis Tournament

The Year 9 boys and girls table tennis borough tournament took place this week, again being hosted in our brand new sports hall. With some fantastic table tennis skill being showcased throughout the afternoon, the Turing teams had their work cut out for them, but they put on an excellent display of skill of their own not to mention their determination and drive to succeed.

The girls won their tournament for a second year in a row! The two boys' teams came second and third, with the first place spot being lost by just one point! Well done to all involved!



# U16 Boys Basketball Tournament

An under-16s boys team - made up of Year 11 students and with the help of a Year 9 student - was assembled and attended a borough-wide basketball tournament which was held at Christ's School.



The Turing team had a tough draw but were up for the challenge. The boys finished the tournament by winning one match and losing two, but showed an ability to grow with confidence as the tournament went on and represented the school superbly. Well done to everyone involved!

#### Taster programme for BME students Year 11

Fitzwilliam College will be running a two week taster programme for Black and Minority Ethnic Year 11 students across the UK from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

The programme is designed to develop study skills, introduce pupils to university subjects and provide an opportunity to hear from current students about what studying at the University of Cambridge and other Universities is really like.

The programme will take place via Zoom on evenings and weekends and will include:

- Sessions by students demystifying Cambridge
- Subject Q & As
- Taster sessions and lectures
- Study Skills advice

Advice on A level choices and university applications

This programme will be followed by an in person visit on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Applications for this scheme are now open via <u>this</u> online form,

Applications close on 31st October at 12pm

# Family Engagement Survey

Achieving for Children provides children's services on behalf of Kingston Council and Richmond Council.

We would like to hear from you if you live in Kingston or Richmond and have children aged 0-19, or up to 25 years for those young people with a special need or disability.

We are developing a Family Hub approach to some of our Early Help services. Family Hubs are digital platforms and physical centres which, as part of integrated family services, ensure families with children and young people aged 0-19 receive early help to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships.

Effective early intervention can improve children's wellbeing, educational attainment and life chances, reduce family poverty, improve mental health and lead to lower crime, unemployment and other negative outcomes which carry significant cost to the public purse.

These centres enhance integrated working by enabling easier access to support, better outcomes for families, more effective service delivery and smarter use of budgets.

Please could you help them by completing the following survey <u>here</u>.