



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Message from Mrs Collins

As you will be aware following our communication home earlier this week, unfortunately Mr O'Sullivan was involved in an accident whilst out riding on his bicycle last weekend resulting in serious multiple fractures to his shoulder and upper arm. He is in a great deal of pain and needs to be careful to ensure no further damage is caused. Whilst we're all missing him, we also want him to ensure he takes the time necessary to recover fully and I'm sure you'll join us in sending our best wishes.

As an experienced and sensible rider, Mr O'Sullivan took all possible precautions whilst out cycling and even then, it wasn't enough to prevent an accident. It serves as a stark reminder that as mornings and afternoons are darker, our students who choose to cycle to school really must take care and ensure they are wearing all necessary safety equipment when cycling to and from school. It is alarming that a small number of riders arrive each day still without a cycle helmet; seven students were stopped and spoken to this morning as they arrived without one! From next

week, we will be contacting families of these students to seek your support in ensuring that your child is protected during their journey to and from Turing House.



Christmas hampers



Students are creating and filling Christmas hampers to send to a local foodbank. These are filled with non-perishables items such as tinned food (soups, beans, fish, fruit), jars, crackers, biscuits, crisps etc. Drinks: tea, coffee, hot chocolate etc. And also festive items, such as Christmas pudding, mince pies, chocolates etc. Christmas gifts: gloves, scarf, activity books.

In addition to helping families in a time of need, students will also be able to achieve positive points for contribution towards items and also the decoration of the boxes as a gesture of our thanks. Please donate as generously as you can!

Journalism Club

The Importance of Charity at Christmas by Holly, Year 9

This year, Turing House is upholding their Christmas tradition of creating hampers filled with items to help those in need this Christmas. If you'd like to get involved, please see below of the items we are asking for.

Why is charity especially important at this time of year?

It's important to think of others during the Christmas season as while most are enjoying the holiday, others may be alone or struggling. Devastatingly, there are currently around 271,000 people who are homeless in the UK. These food boxes, with your help, will go to a local charity and directly support those in our community who are in need of basic necessities.

How else can I help?

Students can also help Turing by contributing to designing and decorating your tutor's Christmas box, as well as thinking about other ways in which we can support those in need this Christmas.



Christmas hampers – Monday 11th December

Christmas lunch – Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Fair & Concert – Tuesday 19th December

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 21st December

Careers Fair 2024



Careers Fair

Thursday 18 April 2024
5.30 - 7.30pm
Turing House School, Twickenham



Year 8 Methane Bubbles

Year 8s have been learning about different types of chemical reactions this term and on Friday we explored combustion. Combustion is the scientific term for 'burning' and is an example of an exothermic reaction. Miss Sabharwal and Miss Miesi demonstrated a very exciting experiment called 'methane bubbles' to a Year 8 class. Methane bubbles



involve methane burning in the presence of oxygen to form carbon dioxide and water. It works by bubbling methane gas into soapy water. When the bubbles are set on fire, the

bubbles are already rising and this creates an impressive reaction!

Year 7 Flamenco workshop

On Wednesday all Y7 students took part in a Flamenco Dance Workshop organised by Mr. Kavanagh. In this lesson they learnt some beginner dance moves as well as background knowledge about the history of Flamenco. Pupils were very keen to show off their moves and some were caught doing them in the playground at break and lunch!



Duke of Edinburgh Award update



This year we have an impressive number taking part- 80 students in Year 9 for the Bronze award, and 60 students in Year 10 for our first ever Silver cohort! All students should now have their login details for the DofE website.

A list of usernames can be viewed in the window of classroom 2.21 for those who need a reminder. Over the next two weeks, all participants need to be submitting their activities for each section onto the

DofE website for approval. Any questions, please email the office or speak with Mr Jacks.

To all our Ukrainian Families

Achieving for Children (Richmond Local Authority) are offering a week of enrichment and well-being support activities at St Mary's school from 2nd to 6th January for 5- to 16-year-olds. Young people will be provided with a traditional Ukrainian breakfast and lunch which they and their parents help cook. Students will be encouraged in speaking the English Language through a variety of confidence-building activities. There will be art, sports, history and culture sessions.

Details are here and families can sign up directly on the google form which is in Ukrainian and English. St Mary's will be offering a GCSE booster club in the afternoons throughout the week as part of the activities - sign up through the same form.

Please let us know how you get on if you attend this; it sounds brilliant and helpful!

Teaching Internship Programme

Paid Teaching Internships Summer 2024 - Waldegrave Training Alliance



Teaching

Applications are open for our Teaching Internship programme which will run for three weeks from Monday 24 June to Friday 12 July 2024. This is a three-week, paid internship (£300 per week) and you will gain valuable school experience to help you decide if a career in teaching might be for you.

In order to apply you will need:

- to be interested in teaching one of these subjects:
 - **Chemistry**
 - **Computing**

- **Mathematics**
- **A foreign language**
- **Physics**

- to be studying for an undergraduate degree related to the above subjects
- or to be studying for a masters degree in 2024 related to the above subjects
- to have a right to work in the UK; if you are an international student, check your visa - many people on a student visa, for example, can work for 20 hours per week during term-time and full-time during holidays.

Before you start your application, you'll need to provide:

- Your personal details
- University details
- Provide a short statement on why you're applying for an internship

[Start now >](#)

Raising Aspirations Talk from Oxford University

This week, a small group from our Year 7 and 8 cohorts were given a talk from Arron O'Connor, who works for the University of Oxford's schools outreach programme.

Arron talked to students about what higher education is, how they might wish to choose university courses in the future, what the Russell Group is and what university study might look like. Students carefully considered what might interest them at university, what the application process is like and how important extra-curricular involvement is. The students were so engaged and asked lots of interesting questions!

We hope to invite Arron back to speak with our Sixth Formers too!

Sports fixtures

Year 9 Boys Football v Harris Academy

The Year 9 boys were back in action on the football pitch as their Surrey Cup campaign continued. They were visited by Harris Academy of Wimbledon. This matchup between the two sides turned out to be an eight-goal thriller in these early tournament stages as the Turing team kept their winning form going with a 6-2 win. Big scores make for big statements in this competition, and the boys will be looking to go one further than their promising efforts of last year. They are one step closer and they now wait once again to hear who they have been drawn against in the next round. Well done to all involved!



Year 8/9 Girls Basketball v Richmond Park Academy

The combined Year 9 and 10 girls basketball team have been in action recently as they travelled to Richmond Park Academy. With this fixture being one of the longer required journeys, the girls suffered slightly from "bus legs" in the opening moments of the match where it took a little longer than usual to get into their flow and play how they intended. Around the halfway mark, however, the Turing team not only came to life, but they enjoyed a period of the match where they were in front due to their ability to persevere and target the ball. There was never a moment where either team ran away with a lead as the girls worked hard to maintain the lead they had established, but it was the home team who snuck in two baskets in the final moments to win 10-13. The girls will go again when they take on Richmond Park Academy. Well done to all involved!



Year 8 Boys Rugby Festival

The Year 8 boys rugby team took part in the Middlesex Rugby Festival this week. Having drawn a tough pool for the morning stint of games, the boys qualified for the 'shield' competition in the afternoon. This is where they played another three games against teams who finished the morning league in the same position, so a similar level of ability could be expected. Lunch time conditions perhaps proved to be the greatest challenge of the day as the weather took a turn for the worse - the rain fell, the temperature dropped, and the afternoon matches quickly became a fight to stay warm just as much as it was about scoring tries. The Turing team didn't let it bother them in the slightest however, as they found their groove and ran in some well-worked tries to win two games and draw with the shield winners. Well done to all involved!



Year 9 Boys Basketball v Lampton

The Year 9 boys basketball team travelled to Lampton school for their Dynamik league fixture last Thursday. After a sluggish start, the Turing team dialled in and called upon a team-centred style of play that was more typical of their usual playing capabilities. This got them within 6 points after being down 20 in the 3rd quarter, so all to play for in the last moments of the match. In the end, the boys were proud of their efforts but were edged out by the smallest of margins. They look forward to their next fixture in this competitive league which is in two weeks' time. Well done to all involved!

Year 9 Table Tennis Tournament

It was the turn of the Year 9 boys to get stuck in at the borough table tennis tournament earlier in the week as they faced various other schools. There were two Turing teams among the field of competitors, all aiming to walk away with bragging rights for another year. The THS students involved are table tennis enthusiasts who have been crafting their skills at the table for several years, laying down a high standard in this tournament since Year 7. It is always a joy to see their impressive game play on display, as their competition results would suggest - our two teams finished in first and third place respectively! Well done to all involved!



Uniform/PE Kit in Changing Rooms

Please make sure all school uniform and PE kit is named - there has been a concerning amount of clothing left in the changing rooms recently after PE lessons and/or sports clubs. The changing rooms are busy places with three classes getting changed at the same time on many occasions. Students must be

doing everything they can to keep their kit neat and organised so that it does not get mixed in with someone else's clothing. Please also note that the PE department do not keep lost property; named items of clothing are sent to the student office.

Thursday Fitness Club

Next week will be the last week of the Thursday morning fitness club for this term. All students are still welcome to join in for that last session - just remember to turn up in PE kit ready to start at 7.15am. Fitness club will resume in week two of the new term when we return from the Christmas break.

Student Sporting Success

Well done to Stanley J in Year 9 who has been selected to represent Surrey County Schools for his age category. The U14 football squad is made up on around 25 boys who are selected from all over Surrey County, making this achievement even more impressive! Here he is with his team mates. Well done, Stanley!

