



# HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



## Message from Mr O'Sullivan

This marks the first occasion where I've completed my headteacher's update using the dictate feature on my laptop. While I'm adept at one-handed typing, this method proves to be less exhausting. The year 2023 took an unexpected turn when I was struck by a car during a pleasant 30-mile cycle in the sunshine – certainly not how I envisioned the year ending. Yet, in these moments, maintaining perspective and context is crucial, especially considering our academic year has been exceptionally successful.

We've learned valuable lessons about resilience, reminding us that many people worldwide face even more challenging circumstances. 2023 has been a remarkable year for our school, marked by outstanding achievements in drama, music, and physical education, alongside academic excellence demonstrated in our GCSE and A-level results. A highly positive Ofsted inspection further highlighted this as a brilliant year for us.

During my recovery, I've stayed engaged by exploring the world of artificial intelligence and its potential to enhance teaching and learning. This exploration underscores the importance of preparing our students for future



endeavours, especially in employment sectors where AI is increasingly pivotal.

I anticipate returning in January, eager to support the school throughout 2024. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the senior staff and the Trust for their tremendous support in my absence. Lastly, I wish our students, parents, and all stakeholders a delightful Christmas break and the very best for 2024.

## Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, we held our Christmas Concert - the first whole school music event to take place since we moved to our new site. The students showed their musicality in abundance, and the audience enjoyed an eclectic mix of genres from classical piano recitals to Hard Rock and popular songs. Our Orchestra performed 'I Got Plenty O' Nuttin' from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess whilst our Choir performed 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman. The event was rounded off with some audience participation in singing some popular Christmas songs. We're also thrilled to announce that we raised £299.68 for Shooting Star Children's Hospices. Thank you for your generosity. The students are asking when their next opportunity will be so please keep an eye on future newsletters for future concerts.

Please see the amazing photography skills of Toby, Year 9, who captured moments of the show for us.



### Christmas Festive Wear Day

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our 'Festive Wear' Day. We raised £638.50 which will be donated to the children's mental health charity, Bee-lieve.

### Christmas Fair

The THS Christmas fair was in full flow on Tuesday evening, with our future entrepreneurs selling crafts, games and baked goods. It was a wonderful evening!



Inset Day – 8<sup>th</sup> January

School reopens for students – 9<sup>th</sup> January

### Sixth formers go ice skating

The Sixth Form team headed to Westfield to do some ice skating for their Christmas trip this year. The weather just about held out for us, although that didn't help the students that spent time laying on the

ice! The students behaved very well, and there was some great teamwork displayed as the more experienced skaters helped the beginner skaters around the ice! They certainly displayed the Turing House value of 'perseverance' as they navigated the ice. Following the ice skating, many students warmed up with some hot chocolate, lunch and shopping within the shopping centre. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and a lovely setting for Christmas. We hope students enjoyed themselves.



**Year 8 Talent Show**

On Monday, students participated in the Year 8 Turing's Got Talent Show. We saw a range of acts from dancing, singing, piano playing, a cooking show and

even a music video. Well done to Sandy, Liam, Sophie, Ayo, Stanley S and the whole of 8T for preparing an act for the talent show. You were all amazing! Our special guest judges Mr Quigley, Mrs Lewis, Ms Riglin and Mr Stevens had the tough decision of picking a winner. A massive congratulations to Sophie who won after her beautiful rendition of 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman.



**Mensa Testing**



Our first round of Mensa testing took place last Friday!

Some of our Year 8 and Year 12 cohort were invited to take part in the Mensa IQ Test.

To qualify for membership of Mensa, you must demonstrate an IQ in the top two percent. If students achieve this, they will be invited to join Mensa! Students found this test really fun, interesting and challenging, and we look forward to getting the results next half term.

Well done to those who took part! the next round of testing will take place later this year.

## History Challenge

Well done to many of our Y7-8 students who took part in our first ever History Challenge. A particular congratulations to Ms Woodcock in the office for the highest score! Well done also to Joseph P for leading the Year 7s and Joseph B for leading the Year 8s. We are very proud of all the students who took part.



## Secret Philosophy Club

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the Secret Philosophy Society held a special event with a guest speaker. Students enjoyed some pizza for lunch followed by a fascinating question and answer session with Kenneth Ehrenberg, Professor of Jurisprudence and Philosophy at the University of Surrey. Our

students represented the school perfectly and Professor Ehrenberg remarked on how many excellent questions were asked. Students discussed a wide range of questions which touched on ethical theories, law, epistemology and metaphysics. It was a brilliant way to celebrate the success of this club, which started in September.



## Knitting Club

The last session of the knitting club was filled with Christmas music, chocolates and manic speed knitting and crocheting to get our Christmas projects finished. There was some fast knitting, stitching, and weaving in the ends to get the various decorations and gifts finished and looking perfect. Shamsi and Beatrice knitted lovely Christmas stockings; Aymen, Karolina, Nil and Parihan made knitted yule logs, wreath and

Santa hat decorations while Isadora, Vernica and Kaylie made lovely crochet wreaths and a candy cane stick. I am extremely proud of the creativity and commitment these students have shown this year and already looking forward to more amazing woolly creations we have planned for next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Knitting Club!



Careers Fair 2024



**SAVE THE DATE**

Meet  
Connect  
Engage

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



Sports fixtures

Year 10 Boys Football v Hampton High

The Year 10 boys have been training hard every week preparing for the start of their football league which kicks off after the Christmas break. They took part in a friendly match last week against Hampton High to get them match ready. The match was short and sweet due to the lack of late afternoon light, but the Turing team bounced back from being 1-0 down to emerge victorious in a 3-1 win, boosting confidence and prospects of what is hopefully to come. Well done to all involved!



Year 7 Boys Rugby Interhouse

With so many Year 7 boys looking to take part in school rugby, a friendly match was arranged last week for those interested. This friendly game took the form of an interhouse competition where THS students played against each other. With the help of willing team captains, two even teams were created and a 40-minute match unfolded. Both Turing teams encompassed many of the school and sporting values which was fantastic to see - teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership, to name a few. Despite playing against fellow classmates, the sheer determination and enthusiasm of the boys meant that neither team wanted to let the other away with bragging rights and the close match finished two tries each. Well done to all involved!





### **Year 10/11 Boys Basketball v Grey Court**

The Year 10/11 boys took to the basketball court for the last THS fixture of 2023 as they took on Grey Court at home. This team often comprises of Year 9 boys playing up an age group which makes it even more of a spectacle as they always prove that they can hold their own against older students on the court. This match was no different - the Turing team looked to be in control with long spells of dominating possession throughout much of the game. The opposition did manage to claw back to within touching distance of a lead in the second and third quarters but the boys showed great resilience to see out the game which ended 42-37 to THS. They do have one more rescheduled match to play which will take place in the first week of the new term...can they start 2024 in the same sporting fashion? Well done to all involved!