



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Message from Mr O'Sullivan

Whilst schools must remain impartial when commenting on issues of a political nature, it was fabulous to see Munira Wilson launching the Child Mental Health Bill. In summary Munira would like 'a dedicated qualified mental health practitioner in every school - primary and secondary - giving every child in school access to care and support from the moment they start needing it.' I personally think this would be amazing. Staff at Turing House, particularly the pastoral team and PLUS, do an amazing job supporting our young people but to have this would be fantastic. Children will only be successful if they are healthy and safe; good health (mental and physical) is the ground on which learning is built upon. For more information click [here](#). Politics students, click [here](#) to track the bill's passage.

In other news I have been working closely with Lucy MacArthur from our Local Authority. Ruth has worked tirelessly to launch a new borough-wide day called 'Safe'. Substance Advice For Everyone (SAFE) Day is Monday March 4. This is a local initiative to tackle

substance use by getting ALL secondary schools to deliver the same resources to ALL children - and importantly their families/carers at home- on the same day. More details on this will



follow shortly. However, at its heart is to reduce the number of admissions to Kingston and West Middlesex of Richmond children due to drug related issues. Richmond and Kingston have the highest statistics in London! This has to change.

This coordinated approach is important because all schools are in this together and the impact of every child and every parent/carer receiving this on the same day will be big across two boroughs. The independent schools are also delivering this project.

Moving to more national news, you will have seen the information currently circulating about the drop in MMR vaccines. The Independent recently stated 'Almost 3.5 million under 16s are at risk of catching measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), the Government has warned as parents were urged to book their children in for jabs'. While we have no cases at THS I feel it's important to share this information in order to protect students in the long run. So, if you have a someone in the family under 12 then you can still get vaccinated. Click [here](#) for more information.

Parents' E-Safety Training Event

I would like to draw your attention to an excellent event delivered by Smoothwall that has been put on specifically for the five schools in the Russell Education Trust. Smoothwall are the company that run our monitoring and filtering software. Their service is incredibly robust to the point of recording student keystrokes even before they press enter. This enables us to support if a child is in distress but also allows us to monitor inappropriate use of the network. On **Tuesday 30th January at 7:30pm** there

will be a session for parents giving advice and guidance in order to keep our children safe. Click this [link](#) to access the training.

Following on from this I will shortly be announcing a date to do an online briefing for parents on Artificial Intelligence. National Safer Internet Day also lands on the 6th February.

Jack Petchey Winners Sept-December

Congratulations to the following three legends who won Jack Petchey awards in Terms 1 and 2. Apologies for not celebrating this sooner but I asked the senior staff to wait till I came back in order to properly say well done.

Chloe (Year 13) is an exceptional student whose commitment to community service is truly commendable. Her dedication to the school community goes beyond the classroom as she actively volunteers during evenings, contributing her time and energy to events like the Y7 Disco and Y7 Vulnerable Transition. Chloe's genuine concern for others is evident in her thoughtful interactions with staff members, always taking the time to inquire about their well-being. Her positive attitude and willingness to lend a helping hand make her an invaluable asset to our school, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for both students and staff alike. Chloe's exemplary qualities as a student and a compassionate individual make her truly wonderful, leaving a lasting impact on those around her. Generally, Chloe exhibits empathy, sensitivity and kindness in her interactions with members of the school community, most effectively with younger students who benefit from her caring and warm approach to mentoring. Lastly, Chloe is a hugely talented sportsperson excelling in teams within and outside of school.

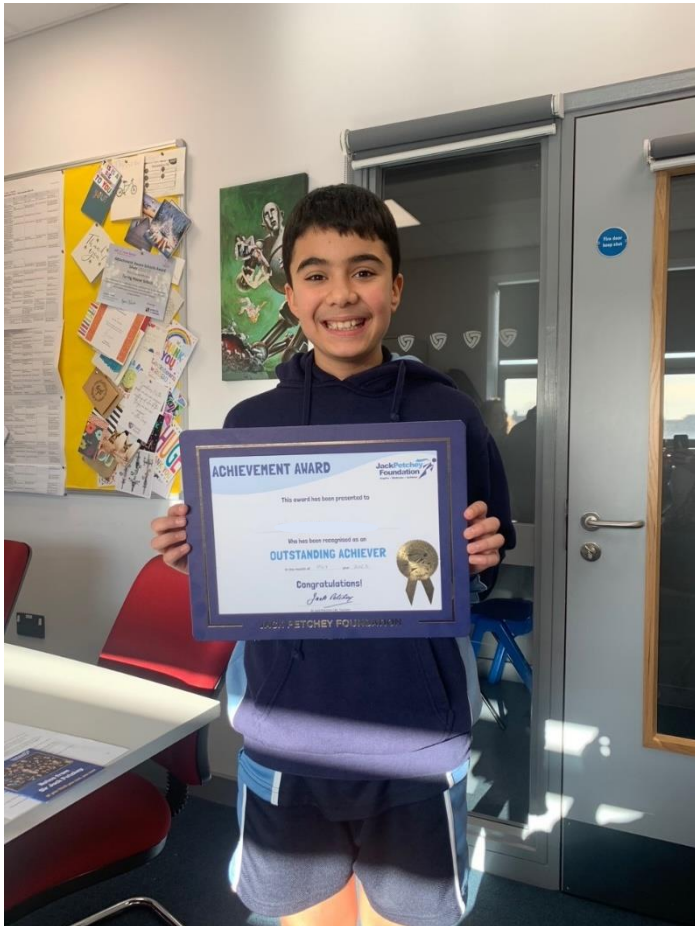
Anton (Year 13) is a determined, wise and mature young person with aspirations to live and work overseas. Anton works consciously and studiously to plug his knowledge gaps and to overcome challenges, the latter a habit which he models to his younger mentor. Regarding work experience, Anton set up an event and had an opportunity to speak to the local MP

receiving feedback that he was a credit to the school and did an amazing job showing transferrable skills including politeness and punctuality. Regarding History, Anton stands out as an exemplary historian, demonstrating a profound commitment to academic excellence and a passion for the study of history that has spanned seven years in the classroom. His dedication to the subject is evident through his consistent hard work and thirst for knowledge. Anton not only excels in his academic pursuits but also actively contributes to the intellectual atmosphere of the classroom, enriching discussions with his insightful perspectives and depth of historical understanding. His seven years of devoted study have transformed him into a highly knowledgeable historian, earning the respect and admiration of both peers and instructors alike. Anton's impressive journey as a student of history is a testament to his unwavering dedication, making him an invaluable asset to our academic community.



Joseph (Year 8) is an exceptional student and is a credit to our school. Joseph consistently models our school values and embodies what it means to be a

Turing House student. Joseph is kind and polite, and is always willing to help others in need. Joseph always has a smile on his face which helps to contribute to our positive school community. He consistently attends Cross Country club showing how he thrives in both academic and sports settings. Joseph's dedication to his studies as well as his kind and compassionate nature makes our school community a brighter place to be.



Year 9 Aspirations Survey

All Year 9 students need to scan the QR code below and complete the aspiration survey. This is the first step towards deciding your GCSE choices. We would like to get a sense of the subjects you are interested in studying for GCSE next year. This also helps the school with planning. The deadline for doing this is February half term.



Oxford University Trip

This week, a lucky group of Year 8 and 9 students were given the opportunity to visit Oxford University. We arrived by coach to a very rainy city - but this didn't dampen our spirits! We started with a walk through the city, seeing some of the main sites. Students particularly enjoyed the Bodleian Libraries and brushed up on some Latin to translate the different departments. We then enjoyed a Q&A session with some current Oxford University students. We got to ask lots of questions, from what societies and sports facilities there are to what the day-to-day life of an Oxford student looks like. This was particularly special for us, as one student was a Turing House alumnus! Sam was great at answering their questions and explaining why she loves studying at Oxford.

We were then given a tour around Oriel College - the students like the turtle mascot and were very interested in learning about the various types of accommodation. We then had a wonderful lunch in a library, followed by a tour of Christs College. Students were brilliant and represented the school well. A shout out to Joseph B and George G who received a Turing Card for their interesting questions and engagement throughout the day.





Shrek Rehearsal Schedule

Shrek rehearsal schedule – Jan-Mar

Date	Time	Required
Thurs 11 th Jan	3:10-4:30	All
Wed 17 th Jan	3:10-4:30	Rats, Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Dragon, Captain of the Guards, Fairytale characters, Dragon Dancers, Knights
Thurs 18 th Jan	3:10-6:30	All
Wed 24 th Jan	3:10-4:30	Rats, Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Dragon, Captain of the Guards, Fairytale characters, Dragon Dancers
Thurs 25 th Jan	3:10-4:30	All
Wed 31 st Jan	3:10-4:30	Rats, Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Dragon, Captain of the Guards, Fairytale characters, Dragon Dancers
Thurs 1 st Feb	3:10-4:30	All
Wed 7 th Feb	3:10-4:30	Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Farquard
Thurs 8 th Feb	3:10-4:30	All
Half Term		
MONDAY 19 th (inset day)	9:30-2:30	All
Wed 21 st Feb	3:10-4:30	All
Thurs 22 nd Feb	3:10-4:30	All
Wed 28 th Feb	3:10-4:30	Shrek, Fiona and Donkey
Thurs 29 th Feb	3:10-6:30	All
Wed 6 th Mar	3:10-4:30	All
Thurs 7 th Mar	3:10-4:30	All
Wed 13 th Mar	3:10-4:30	All
Thurs 14 th Mar	3:10-6:30	All
Wed 20 th Mar	3:10-4:30	All
Thurs 21 st Mar	3:10-4:30	All
SUNDAY 24 th Mar	9:30-4:30	All

SHOW – Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March
 You will be required to be back at school by 5pm. The show will start at 7pm and finish at around 8pm.

Note the late rehearsals in **RED** and Sunday/inset day rehearsals in **GREEN** – these are compulsory for all cast members, crew and band so please put them in your diaries now and save the dates. **Blue** – added Wednesdays for all cast members – please try your best to be there!

We were delighted to welcome Dr Alex Gormley last Friday to speak to some Year 11 and 12 students about careers in the NHS and dentistry. In addition to some exposure about possible careers in the industry, routes into the profession and how to stand out from the crowd on application, the students practised their descriptive and analytical skills, took part in some role-play, and even had the opportunity to practise filling cavities in teeth using composite material!



KEY DATES

Year 8 Spanish Tapas Trip – Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January

Year 9 Online Parents’ Evening – Thursday 1st February

Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams – 5th February until 9th February then 20th February until 27th February

Year 13 Mock A-Level Exams – 8th February until 9th February then 20th February until 23rd February

Ski Trip – Thursday 8th February – Thursday 15th February

Half Term Week – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

INSET Day - (school closed for students) – Monday 19th February



Careers in Dentistry Talk

Year 7 Visit from Richmond Libraries

This week, Year 7 students enjoyed a visit from Richmond Libraries where they heard about their annual Cover Story Competition, and heard about some brilliant books, as well as all the things on offer in the local library.

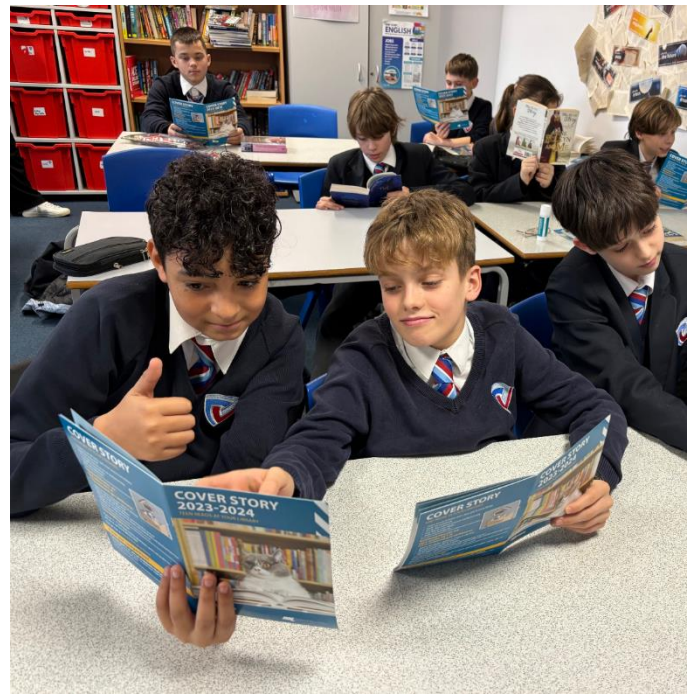
The students were read extracts from two fantastic books: 'Steady For This' by Nathaniel Lassoire and 'The Last Whale' by Chris Vick. Students loved the funny descriptions and characters in 'Steady for This' and the vivid descriptions of stormy seas in 'The Last Whale'. Students were also given the cover story brochure which is a collection of their favourite books for 11-14 year olds, and students were buzzing to hear about all the great reads available through the library for free. These leaflets are available in any Richmond borough Library for anyone else who would like one, and there is more information available here: [Cover Story 2023-2024 - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

Services available at your local library:

- books, ebooks, audiobooks
- free to use computers
- free to use workspaces and wifi
- comfy seats to read in
- you can even borrow a ukelele!

Our visitors also had advice for reluctant readers or those who just can't find the right book to get into - start with audiobooks and graphic novels as these are engaging and easy to read. Lastly, they also promoted their teen reading club which takes place in 4 libraries across the borough (Whitton, Twickenham, Teddington and Richmond) once a month, where they gather to talk about books, play games and eat biscuits. It's free to attend and you can find out more here: [Young people's reading groups - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

We would encourage all students to submit entries to the cover stories competition, which runs until Friday 23rd February. Winners receive a £20 shopping voucher and are invited to an event where an author, this year is Nathaniel Lassoire, will be speaking about his writing and reading from his new book.



Y13 History Trip

Year 13 History students enjoyed an informative visit to Portsmouth Harbour this Wednesday. Students were lucky enough to visit the HMS Victory and HMS Warrior. They represented the sixth form excellently and consolidated their knowledge of the British Navy ahead of their A-Level examinations.





Year 7 Holocaust Talk

In recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 7 were given a talk by Vivienne Cato from Generation 2 Generation.

Vivienne is the daughter of Eva Cato, who was born in Czechoslovakia 1926. Growing up, Eva witnessed the growth of antisemitism towards her small Jewish community. After her aunt was transported to Auschwitz, Eva and her mother illegally escaped to Budapest, living under false identities. They survived the siege of Budapest by sheltering in a basement for weeks with no food.

After the war, Eva returned to Slovakia to study medicine, but was forced to leave by the Communist Regime, and immigrated to the UK.

Vivienne was an excellent speaker and engaged students with the important story of her mother. Our Year 7s asked interesting questions and learnt a lot from the talk.



Learning concern from home

If you are concerned about the learning needs of your child, please complete this brief survey using this QR Code or link. These can also be found on our website under 'contact us'. When you have completed the form, a member of the Learning Support Team will investigate and contact you within five working days.



Sports Fixtures

U13 & U15 Girls Volleyball Tournament

Two Year 7/8 teams and one Year 9/10 team travelled to Orleans Park this week to take part in the borough volleyball tournament. This proved to be a particularly popular opportunity among the Year 7 and 8 girls so well done to all those who attended the trial beforehand! The three Turning teams grew in confidence and skill development throughout the tournament with each game played. By the end of the round robin competition, the U15 team and one U13 team finished in fourth place and the other U13 finished in third place! Well done to all involved!

Year 7 Boys 6-a-side Football Tournament

It was the turn of the Year 7 boys to attend the 6-a-side football tournament hosted by Hampton High. With some of them coming off the back of a successful friendly match last week in an 11-a-side game,

confidence and enthusiasm were as high as ever. The end result was one win against Teddington, one draw against Orleans Park and two losses to Grey Court and Christs. The boys then faced the hosts in a fourth place play off. Determined to secure one more win under their belt, they fought hard to pull off a 2-0 win to see out the afternoon on a high. Well done to all involved!

Year 9 Boys 6-a-side Football Tournament

As with the Year 7 team, the Year 9 boys took part in the 6-a-side tournament at Hampton High. Being the previous winners of the same competition a year ago meant that THS were the team to beat. Orleans Park managed just that in the group stages, only to come up against the Turing team in the final. The boys in blue made no mistake a second time and redemption was served as they battled their way to a deserving win, securing first place overall once again. Well done to all involved!



Remembrance Day Appeal

Turing House School collected £86.05 for the 2023 Poppy Appeal in November 2023. The local Royal British Legion appeal organiser has thanked the school for its support which is much appreciated.

Achieving for Children - National Saturday Club Programme

Achieving for Children have shared the following opportunity with us which we think looks great! Please read the information here that they have provided and share with your child; if they decide to go, please feed back to us as we would love to hear how they get on.

The National Saturday Club programme is open to 13–16-year-olds of all abilities and in particular works to engage those who may face additional barriers to



success. It's a unique model and taking part can be a transformational opportunity for young people: you can hear from past members in this [film](#). Please use this [link](#) to sign up.

Turing House Friends

You can help Turing House Friends WIN one of four £250 donation prizes Refer to Win giveaway! Turing House Friends will get a FREE entry each time a new supporter signs up before the 31st January! It only takes a moment and it's completely free, so please get involved if you haven't already - this would really kickstart our 2024 fundraising!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=151344%26invite%3D25NTVM%26referral-campaign%3Ds2s&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=social&utm_content=r2w-wa1



External clubs & Adverts

RICHMOND JUDO CUP

Thursday 29th
February
2024
16.00hrs



ENTRY FEE £25

Venue:
CHRISTS SCHOOL
QUEEN'S ROAD
RICHMOND
TW10 6HW

Contact Frazer:
07733313278
fc.judoacademy@gmail.com

EVERY CHILD WINS A MEDAL!!!!

FOOTBALLERS WANTED



Twickenham Saints are a successful, competitive club, playing in the East Berkshire League on Saturday mornings, with our home games at King George's Fields, Ham.

We're looking for some new players to strengthen our U16 team for the second half of the 23/24 season.

If you're a current year 10, and think this could be you, please ask your parent or guardian to contact:

Riz (U16) - 07958 497 380 / riz1_alle@hotmail.com
Indy (U16) - Indysaha@hotmail.com

and come down to one of our trial sessions on Fridays at 1830 - 1930.

www.twickenhamsaintsfc.org





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14TH, 15TH, 16TH FEBRUARY

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TW10 7HN

9.00AM - 12NOON


SCHOOL YEARS 3-10
(SPLIT AGE GROUPS)

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 www.netballcoachuk.com/camps







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Suitable for	Topic	Date	QR Code
GCSE	Energy, Electricity, Moments	Saturday 3 February; 10am-1pm	
GCSE	Nuclear Physics	Weekly for 4 weeks, from Monday 4 March, 10.00 - Friday 19 April 2024, 17.00	
A Level	Nuclear Physics	Weekly for 4 weeks, from Monday 4 March, 10.00 - Friday 19 April 2024, 17.00	
Year 12*	Electricity: Circuits	Saturday 9 March; 10.30am-1.15pm	

* Year 12 Masterclasses are in-person University Taster Days for Physical Natural Sciences with a university-style lecture and an admissions talk


- All other masterclasses will be webinars with Q&A
- FREE** workbooks: order after you book on the masterclass



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