



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Message from Mr O'Sullivan

It is hard to believe that we have only been back one week. It was a pleasure to witness the richness of the school offer which has, in a single week, felt so encompassing. Since Monday...

We have seen a gold Duke of Edinburgh trip take place. Huge thanks to Mr Hunter and Mr Jacks for making this possible; Mr Hunter even braved the elements in Yorkshire with the students. Year 7 and 8 took part in our first ever Bake Off competition, and it was amazing to see so many students and staff supporting this event until quite late on Thursday. Mrs Gould ran her second amazing careers event on Thursday evening. She deserves huge praise for her hard work on making this event possible. KS3 students have begun their first venture into our new Sparx Reader system, which will hopefully encourage more students to develop their reading which is ultimately the gateway to success in everything.

Year 10 have started their 'Half Way' examinations! Several home languages GCSEs have taken place and the GCSE Spanish Speaking tests have begun. Year 12 volunteers started reading clubs with Year 7 and Year 8s in form time. Kingston and Richmond Youth Council elections saw Lily F, Jameson B, Kaysan Cl, Evie S and Taran V appointed. A delicious Year 9 Cake Sale took place to raise

money for charity. Sam B (Y13) got two offers to study Medicine at Liverpool and Hull. The Year 7 Rugby team won the Borough semi-finals and are through to play in the final in the coming weeks. This leaves me feeling



proud and once again underscores the 'extra mile' attitude that staff at THS have and for all of this to have occurred in just one week is incredibly impressive. I continue to be made incredibly proud by our students in all these adventures. Of special note this week, Emily S in Year 13 accepted a place at Italia Conti drama school. For those of you not in the know (and I wasn't) it's harder to get a place at Italia Conti than it is to get to Oxbridge!

And on the last page of our newsletter are some photos taken by Toby R in Year 9, to remind you of our wonderful school production of Shrek last term.



GCSE Spanish speaking exams start wc 22nd April

Year 9 Bronze D of E training starts wc 22nd April

Year 12 Geography fieldwork trip 24th – 26th April

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations – Thursday 25th April

Year 9 & 10 Bake Off – Thursday 25th April

Unicef donations



Thank you to all those who made a donation on our non-uniform day last term, to raise money for Unicef. We made a total of £379.47.

Year 10s trip to Barcelona

During the Easter holidays, I and other year 10 Spanish students went on a trip to Barcelona. We went to lots of places, learnt about the history and witnessed the



beautiful natural landscapes but most importantly, had fun.

We saw beautiful structures such as La Sagrada Familia, a skyscraper-esque cathedral that reached the heavens, the Barcelona football museum immersing us in their rich history, and an ancient monastery in the mountains with an everlasting view into the horizon and much more.

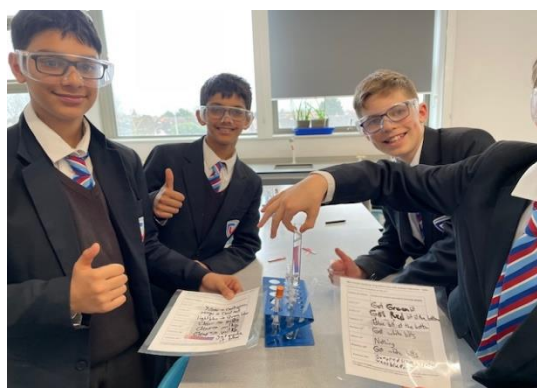
The food in Barcelona was sublime and we enjoyed an immersive tapas experience, learning about its history and trying it all out.

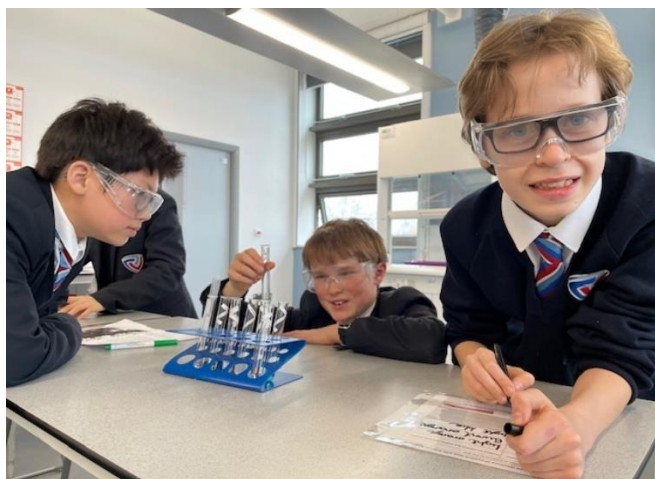
A brilliant trip! ¡Qué divertido! By Arthur C



Stem Club experiments

Students investigated the colourful precipitates formed when transition metals react with sodium hydroxide! Did you know that they are the reason why gems like rubies and emeralds are so vibrant? Transition metals are used in a wide variety of applications. From the construction of buildings (iron, for instance) to jewellery (gold, silver), to gadgets and electronics (copper), these metals form a fundamental part of our daily lives! Students from years 7 and 8 took part. With a little extra motivation for mini prizes for any group with all 7 results accurate, I am happy to say that all groups presented amazing results! Bear in mind this is experiment is also completed in Y13 A level chemistry. Well done students! Great scientific work!





Year 7 Energy experiments

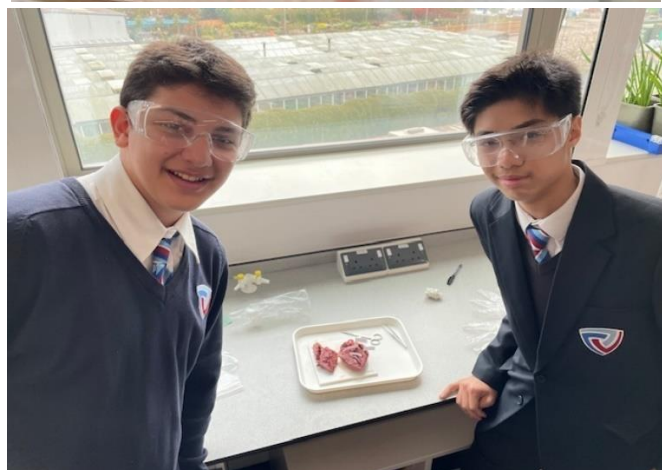
Year 7s investigated the amount of energy in food. They successfully completed an experiment where they burn a cheesy Wotsit (yummy) to find the amount of energy it contains (per gram) using a method called calorimetry. They all enjoyed the experiment (no Wotsits were eaten) and all calculated the amount of energy per gram. The values ranged from 11-20 KJ/g which is pretty close the value on nutritional label of a 22.77 KJ/g! Well done, Year 7s!

Did you know that of the total energy your body uses each day, about 70% is used to carry out the basic functions of your organs, including your heart, lungs, and kidneys. This is known as your resting metabolic rate or base.



Investigating the heart

In Year 9, students were learning about the heart - the perfect opportunity for a heart dissection! As you can see, they successfully dissected and labelled the four main chambers of the heart! Well done, Year 9s! The human heart is about the size of your two hands clasped together. The size can vary depending on the individual's physical condition, age and size. Did you also know that a woman's heart typically beats faster than a man's? The average adult male heart rate is between 70 and 72 beats per minute, while there is an average of 78 to 82 beats per minute for adult women.



Year 9 Fundraising activities

Over the six weeks leading up to the Easter Break, Year 9 have been engaging in a charity initiative through the First Give programme. Each tutor group decided on a local charity to try and raise awareness of and, in the first week back, will potentially win a £1000 grant from First Give. Each Year 9 group had the chance to meet with a representative from their chosen charity and devise social action to take part in. 9U decided on the Twickenham charity Together As One which aims to provide support to those affected by mental health issues and those feeling isolated. Erin and Paola organised a fundraising 'throw the wet sponge at Year 9 tutors' which was extremely successful.

Over £50 was raised for Together As One on the day and Erin and Paola proudly demonstrated their organisational skills and passion for the charity initiative.

9A chose the charity Skylark, which is a charity helping with youth neurodiversity. The class have been doing activities to raise awareness, including creating a poster which is displayed in classrooms and communal areas. As well as some fund raising which included a cake sale.



Gold D of E

Ten Year 12s went to the Peak District this week, as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh, putting their orienteering and survival skills to the test. Well done!



Sparx Reader Journey

This week students in years 7, 8 & 9 have begun their Sparx Reader journey. They have logged on to the system and taken the initial reading test before exploring the books that they can dive into. Sparx Reader is a web-based programme that we are using to support our students with their reading; it will build our students' ability and confidence in becoming regular independent readers. As teachers, we can monitor how well the students are doing individually and which books they are choosing to read. The books available to them are matched to their reading ages and are carefully selected from a variety of publishers and many are award-winning books. As students read on the platform, it learns more about how they read and uses this when deciding what books to offer them in the future. This means any book recommendations are based on the

latest estimate of their reading level as well as their interests.



Homework will be set each week for reading on Sparx Reader and tasks are personalised so that students can experience regular individual reading success. While they are reading, the system will regularly ask comprehension questions and set quizzes to encourage students to read carefully and ensure that progress in comprehension is being made. Students have the ability to check meanings on words they are unsure of. With this reading success comes the added bonus of earning Sparx Reader Points (SRPs) and climbing the league table, adding that element of competition and fun. Sparx books are read online and there are accessibility options such as coloured background, dyslexia friendly font and even a reading guide ruler. We can't wait to see the books the students choose and see how much they enjoy them. Parents, please give little reminders to your children to remember to do their Sparx Reading. Thank you!

Hong Kong Focus Groups

On 27th March 2024, Richard Cheung (a Hong Konger with experience of educational leadership) led two focus groups in school: the first with 10 Hong Kong students; the second with parents/carers of some of our Hong Kongers. The focus groups' purpose was to bring the Hong Konger members of our school community together, giving them an opportunity to share their experiences both of studying at school and living in the local community.

The students communicated their enjoyment of their school subjects and of the school's diverse, multicultural student population. Richard praised the students' positivity and highlighted this as a way they can continue to support one another through their educational journeys. Richard also promoted reading as a way for the

students to improve their English proficiency and suggested that watching British television, documentaries and films would be a good way to deepen cultural capital.

Later, the students' parents and carers also spoke candidly and passionately about their experiences, referring specifically to the reality that multilingual learners can improve their competence of an additional language by reading texts in their first language then discussing them in English. We reassured the parents and carers that students could use translation apps and that teachers would be willing to provide terminology lists and exemplary responses both as ways to support students' learning.

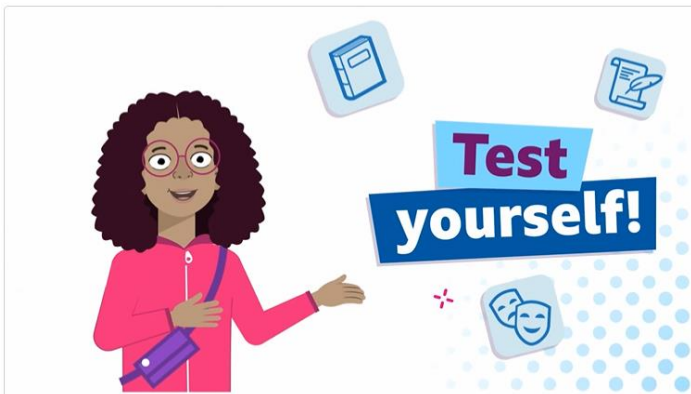
I speak on behalf of Richard when I say that we both thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to speak with our Hong Kongers and their families, and we will endeavour to continue to ensure that they feel a sense of belonging in our community. 多謝

If you are the parent or carer of a multilingual student in our community and you would like to speak with me about relevant issues, please do contact me (Mr. Wood) via the school's reception email address: info@turinghouseschool.org.uk



BBC Bitesize – Boys Don't Cry

BBC Bitesize have just published a brand-new text guide to 'Boys Don't Cry' by Malorie Blackman, which many of our Year 10 and 11 students study for their English Literature GCSE. Our very own Ms Andrews worked with the BBC to put the guide together. If your child is in Years 10 or 11 and they study the text, please encourage them to use it for revision: [Boys Don't Cry - GCSE English Literature - BBC Bitesize](#)



Gender roles in *Boy's Don't Cry*.

Kingston and Richmond Youth Council

ALL Turing House student candidates who were up for nomination have been elected to the council! This is brilliant news and will be an amazing opportunity for them. They have been given some lovely red rosettes. Congratulations to the following students: Lily in Yr 7, Jameson in Yr 8, Kaysan C in Year 9, Evie S in Yr 9, and Taran in Yr 12.



Turing House Bake Off

Turing House Bake off

Have the chance to represent your tutor group!

Win positive points for your tutor

YEAR 7 + 8 • APRIL 18 • 3PM TO 5PM

YEAR 9 + 10 • APRIL 25 • 3PM TO 5PM



A quick reminder for our Year 9 and 10s to get baking for the THS Bake Off next Thursday, 25th April.

Sports fixtures

Year 7 Boys Rugby v Richmond upon Thames

The Year 7 boys continued their league fixtures this week with a play-off match against Richmond upon Thames away from home. The winner of the match would claim a place in the league final. The home side got off to a flying start as they bagged two tries and were beginning to look like they were taking control of the game early on. However, the Turing team refused to let that be the case and they dug deep to make a comeback through some fantastic vision and safe hands on the ball. By the final whistle it was five tries each so the game entered an intense golden score period. THS regained possession after their kick off and made their way up to the opposition 5 metre line where they relentlessly bombarded the defence phase after phase. RTS held strong and looked set to turn the ball over until the boys eventually crossed the line to score and take their place in the final - an amazing achievement. Well done to all involved!



Year 7 Girls Netball v St Richard Reynolds

The Year 7 girls netball team took part in one final fixture from their netball league which mostly took place last term. The Turing team were looking to finish on a high with a win as they hosted St Richard Reynolds. Playing with no substitutes, the seven girls had to work tirelessly throughout all four quarters and did a brilliant job at pressurising the opposition defence and attacking with intent. Some tired legs, understandably, hit home in the final moments of the match and so it was the visitors who were able to capitalise in this area by converting a fitness edge into points on the scoreboard and winning the match. The THS girls could still be very proud of the performance they gave and their efforts, as always, were nothing short of impressive. Well done to all involved!



Year 7 and 8 Girls NFL Flag Football v Cranford School

The Year 7 and 8 girls took part in a friendly flag football match earlier this week against Cranford - the first ever flag football game in THS history! The game is part of a series of matches before the girls get to test their game skills in a tournament, run by the Jets and Bears League which is a community branch of the New York Jets and the Chicago Bears NFL teams. The girls are kitted out with their own Nike uniform and jackets and take to the field to showcase their capabilities, which have been super impressive so far. Specifically, it was fantastic to see some excellent teamwork as older students helped younger students during the game and the level of creativity when coming up with plays was great too. The girls have been working hard at the flag football after school club and it has been amazing to see so many students in attendance with this very popular activity. Well done to all involved!



Year 8 Girls Netball v St Richard Reynolds

As with the Year 7 team, the Year 8 girls also took on St Richard Reynolds in what was their final league match too. Playing with the home advantage, the girls were determined to see out the netball season in victorious style. The visitors gave as good as they got, however, and the Turing team found themselves chasing the lead from inside the later quarters. Refusing to give up and never out of the fight, THS continued to up the pace when in possession of the ball, closing the score gap slightly. The opposition were just too organised in defence on this occasion and took a deserving win over the girls. Despite the loss, they still finished the league in a manner to be proud of. Well done to everyone involved!





SHREK THE MUSICAL JR

