



# HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



## Headteacher's message

You may or may not be aware that there is now a growing initiative for the banning of mobile phones in schools. The French government currently has a trial in which 200 schools have banned mobile phones for students under that age of 15. One trust of around 44 schools has also taken the decision to ban mobile phones. At the start of each academic year, Mrs Collins and I hold an information evening for Year 7 parents in which we look at the impact of mobile phones on the progression of our young people and for the first year before the summer, we held a similar and well-received session to parents of Year 6 students about to embark on their journey with us.

Tom Bennett, an adviser to the DfE on behaviour policy, said: "Culture has now finally caught up with technology, and the evidence base has now confirmed what many people suspected for a long time – that mobile phones are a serious detriment to children's learning and probably their mental health and wellbeing, and even their safety when they are unsupervised."



For now, our policy remains the same: mobile phones should be switched off when in school and will be confiscated if they are seen or heard. Most of our students

adhere to this, which again reflects the high standards that our students have and their focus on learning.

We understand that having a mobile phone when moving from home to school is a good safety measure particularly considering the absence of red phone boxes that were used when we were children. I am sure some parents reading this remember the 'can I reverse the charges?' conversation.



I personally do not think that mobile phones are the problem. Social media is the issue. Most of us (adults included) will check our phones on a regular basis; this is exacerbated at an early age when the desire to be popular, get likes, be involved, get the gossip is heightened.

The facts remain, social media has a detrimental impact on our young people. As parents and carers, we must be vigilant, monitoring and enforcing expectations to protect our children from harm. In the same way we pull a toddler back from oncoming cars, we must also pull our children back from social media.

If you wish to find out more about the government legislation on mobile phones please click [here](#)

## School Notices

Parents - please ensure your child's uniform is labelled. We have had a large number of students losing their blazers and jumpers with no names this

week which has made it difficult to reunite students with their belongings.

Can we also please remind parents not to park/drop off on the neighbouring roads; we have recently had a few complaints from neighbours and we work hard to remain on good terms with our local community.



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 2025 Ski trip information evening

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Open Evening

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September – THS Macmillan Cake Sale

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Sixth Form Open Evening

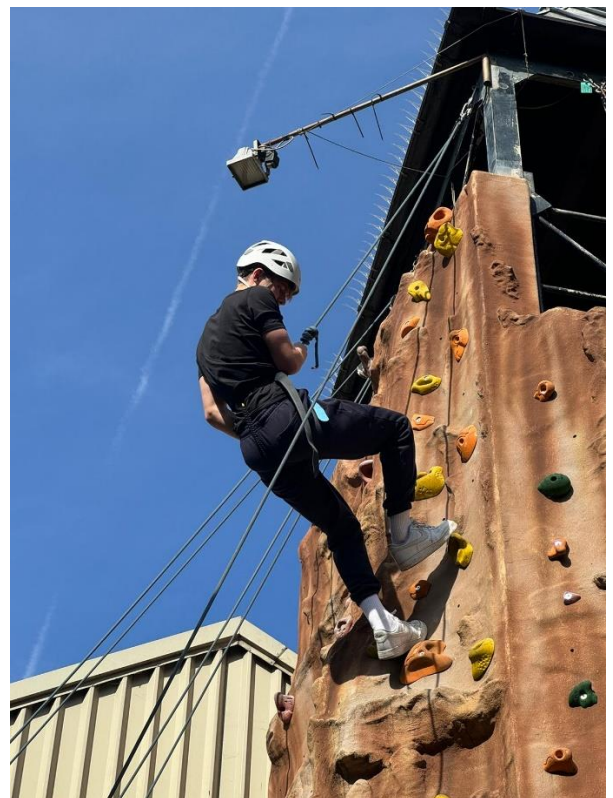
### Sixth Form Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming prospective Turing House Sixth Form students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024**, from **6pm**. We invite you to take a tour with our current Sixth Form students around our amazing departments to see what we offer at Post-16 study. The Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form will be hosting talks at 30-minute intervals from 6.30pm. Should you like to join us for this event, please scan the QR code below.



### Year 11 Sports Studies Climbing trip

Earlier this week the Year 11 Sports Studies students took to the climbing wall at Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre in London. This day formed the practical assessment phase of their Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit, the final piece of coursework before getting stuck into the exam content, and was enjoyed by all with the help of some lovely outdoor activity weather. Plenty of technical ability on the wall was on show as well as an excellent demonstration of safety awareness and belaying from the ground.



### 2025 Ski Trip Parents Meeting

A meeting is being held in the main school hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September for all parents of students who are going on the 2025 Val Di Fiemme Ski Trip. This will begin at 5pm and last around an hour. Some vital information and planning updates will be provided, as well as a chance for parents to ask any questions they may have. If you are unable to attend but would like to receive the information, then please contact the school for the attention of trip leaders Mr Berrett and Mr Parkin.

## More from the Craft Club

This week in Craft Club we have been creating bookmarks with either cross stitch or bargello stitches. The students have come up with so many different designs, including hearts, stripes, stars and names! We have lots more crafts planned for the rest of term - all students are welcome to join us on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in 2.22.



## School show



110 students joined the Drama and Music team on Tuesday for the first rehearsal of this year's whole school show, Buggy Malone. Every single year group was represented and the talent was outstanding. Those who missed out and would like to be involved can come along next Tuesday. This will be the last chance to join before we cast the show. We don't hold auditions at Turing House. Everyone who wants to be

involved will get a part. It's a great chance to make friends in different year groups. As one Y11 student remarked on entering the rehearsal, "it's great to be back with my school show family". We agree!

## England v New Zealand Women's Rugby

Last Saturday a group of THS students went to Twickenham Stadium to watch the friendly match between the Red Roses and the Black Ferns. Having lost to New Zealand by the smallest of margins in the last two World Cup finals, this match-up has become the most hotly contested game in women's rugby and the anticipation did not disappoint. The visitors - six-time World Cup winners - came up short against an in-form England as they won 24-12 in a brilliant game enjoyed by all. England are quickly becoming favourites to win the next Women's Rugby World Cup which they are hosting in 2025.

## Oxford University talk

This week, we had an exciting opportunity for our pupils to meet a second-year student from Oxford University. Emily is currently reading English and History and was keen to share her experience at the university. Students from Y11, 12 and 13 attended the talk and asked lots of insightful questions during the Q&A session. This has certainly helped to raise the aspiration of some of our students as they are now looking to potentially apply to Oxbridge!



## Macmillan Cake Sale

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Turing House School will be holding a cake sale for two events at lunch time.

**European Languages Day Cake competition and Macmillan Cancer Support World's Biggest Coffee Morning cake sale.** The cake sale will be held outside of the Sixth Form area. All cakes will be sold together and any cake that is a part of the European Languages Day will be judged by Ms Shilton.

Below we have some examples of cakes that have been designed and made in the past for European Day of Languages! The best designed cake and the tastiest cakes will win a prize.



Bakers needed! We would really appreciate as many cake donations as possible from all years. **Please label all donations with any allergy information.**

These need to be brought to the Sixth Form on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September when you arrive to school.

All years please make sure you bring some change to buy cakes and raise money for a good cause!

Macmillan Cancer Support Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning cake sale

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, lunch time outside the 6<sup>th</sup> form area.

# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES BAKE SALE COMPETITION!



Bring in European themed cakes. The cakes will be judged by Miss Shilton. Don't forget to bring in some money to buy cakes too!

**MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

## After-school Sports Clubs

Multiple after-school clubs are now underway, and the PE Department wanted to draw particular attention to the sports clubs for Term 1. These include rugby, football, netball, basketball, fitness and cross-country. Students need to remember their PE kit if they are attending a sports club (and anything else required for that sport, such as a gumshield, boots etc.). Students simply get changed in the changing rooms after their last lesson and then go to the required club location (e.g. school field). Regular school expectations surrounding behaviour and engagement still apply to these clubs. Students must also not walk through the school building wearing boots.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please see below for the two additions for the Extra-Curricular Clubs.

**KS3 BOARD game CLUB**  
 MONDAY LUNCHTIMES - ENIGMA ROOM 2.22

**French Club**

Come to learn, practice or speak French with Monsieur Kavanagh

Interactively learn more about French culture and the language

All year groups and abilities welcome

EVERY THURSDAY LUNCH IN ROOM 2.05

Sporting fixtures

**Year 8 Boys Rugby v Richmond upon Thames**

The Year 8 boys kicked off this academic year's action-packed fixture schedule with a rugby match against Richmond upon Thames, playing at home in some glorious late summer sunshine. The match also marked the beginning of this team's title defence, having been crowned Borough Champions last year. Two tries each at the break made for an exhilarating second half. The Away team muscled their way over the line twice to take the lead but then a late comeback was on from the Turing team after a fantastic cross-field kick catch in goal. Sadly, the final whistle blew and THS lost 4 tries to 3... but if we recall correctly, this time last year the boys lost their opening match by a much bigger margin, so no cause for despair just yet. Well done to all involved!

External Clubs and Notices

**Teddington Rugby Football Club**

YOUR CLUB

NEEDS YOU

Teddington RFC are recruiting new players for our **Boys Under 15** (Year 10) section for this season!

We run 2 teams playing in the Surrey league, playing each Sunday at Bushy Park, and training midweek.

Experienced or no experience – we welcome all!  
 Free taster sessions before signing up

For info contact:  
 Paul on 07876 141 262 / p\_shiels@yahoo.com  
 Keith on 07818 061 825 / keith.r.bush@icloud.com



Lyrics by Tim Rice

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**

ARE YOU 11 TO 18? LOVE THEATRE? SING? ACT? COME AND AUDITION FOR THIS EXCITING APRIL 2025 PRODUCTION WITH US! FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.THAMESMT.ORG



**Young Carers Support Line 020 8867 2383**

The Richmond Carers Centre - Young Carers Service supports young carers aged 5-18 living or caring in the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames with advice, information and emotional support. For those young carers registering with us we can also offer:

- mentoring programme in schools or at the centre
- holiday activity programme
- after school groups
- careers guidance and advice
- peer support
- bespoke projects and events
- signposting and referrals to other organisations
- regular service and information updates

[youngcarers@richmondcarers.org](mailto:youngcarers@richmondcarers.org)  
[www.richmondcarers.org](http://www.richmondcarers.org)

- @young\_carers\_service\_richmond
- @Richmond\_YC
- @RichmondCarersCentre



## Who is a young carer?

A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who provides help and support, both physical and emotional to a parent, sibling or family member who could not manage without their help. This could be due to physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

**As a result of accessing support through Richmond Carers Centre - Young Carers Service, young carers strongly agreed or agreed that:**

- 90% feel more confident about being a young carer
- 90% feel more positive and happy
- 96% feel safe and listened to when attending young carers activities
- 97% have had fun and enjoy attending young carers activities

**Of those asked, 100% of young carers would recommend our service to other young carers and their families**

*Source: Richmond Carers Centre: Young Carers Impact Report 2023*



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