



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Headteacher's message

Did you know that Thursday had two important foci? Firstly, World Mental Health Day, with this year's focus being on mental health in the workplace. I am sure you will all acknowledge that working with teenagers can be a rollercoaster of emotions and, at times, incredibly stressful for staff who work in this field. I am once again thankful for the incredible work that the staff at Turing House put into supporting students and getting the best outcomes every day. I think it is important for everyone to be aware that people who work in schools, like a number of other professions, find work-life balance difficult. If you do have the time to thank someone who works with your child, it always goes a long way. I am particularly grateful for the nice package of goodies we receive from parents and carers at the end of every year.

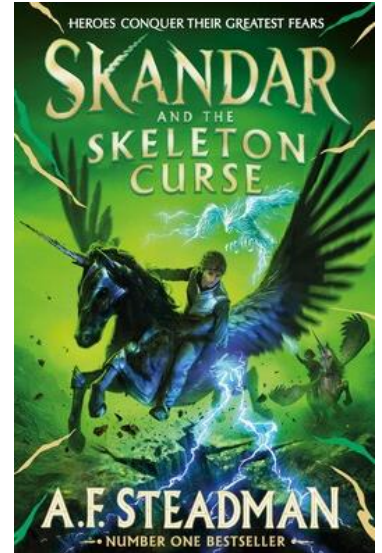
The other day is called Super Thursday in which the volume of new books released is at its highest in the year (in preparation for Christmas). Books are the most important tool in increasing vocabulary, raising attainment, inspiring the imagination and leading to

future success. They are also excellent for escapism, improving mental health and decreasing stress. On Thursday 1900 new books were published ranging from authors such as



Mosse, Rankin and the expected best seller from Boris Johnson. There is also the new Bunny versus Monkey which I am sure some students will head for.

In this technological age, please don't forget about the value of a book.



"A B.O.O.K. (Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge) is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even a child can operate it. Just open the cover! Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere—even sitting in an armchair by the fire—yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM. Here's how it works: Each B.O.O.K. is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binding, which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence. Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, B.O.O.K.s with more information simply use more pages. This makes them thicker and harder to carry, but they are still easier to use than a computer. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly

into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. B.O.O.K. may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it. B.O.O.K. never crashes or requires rebooting, though like other display devices, it can become unusable if dropped overboard. The 'browse' feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an 'index' feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval. An optional 'B.O.O.K.mark' accessory allows you to open the B.O.O.K. to the exact place you left it in a previous session—even if the B.O.O.K. has been closed. B.O.O.K.marks fit universal design standards; thus, a single B.O.O.K.mark can be used in B.O.O.K.s by various manufacturers. Portable, durable, and affordable, the B.O.O.K. is being hailed as a precursor of a new entertainment wave. Also, B.O.O.K.s' appeal seems so certain that thousands of content creators have committed to the platform and investors are reportedly flocking to the medium."

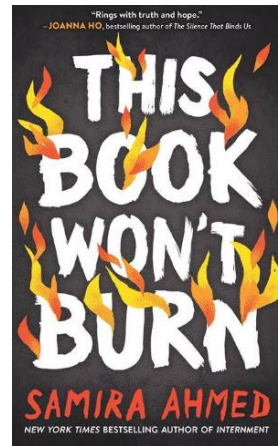
Recently a group of students from THS took part in a book event at Wimbledon Theatre; here is the account of their day:

"The freedom to read is a fundamental human right," says Samira Ahmed, New York Times bestselling author of This Book Won't Burn

You can burn a book, but you can neither ban an idea nor eradicate human curiosity.

Although far-right riots plagued British towns and cities over the summer of 2024, the fervent and passionate counterprotests should provide hope, opined Samira Ahmed in a wide-ranging discussion at the New Wimbledon Theatre on Thursday 26th September. Ahmed - a former secondary school teacher and activist based in Chicago, Illinois - discussed the central theme of her new book (titled 'This Book Won't Burn') in front of an audience comprised of secondary school students, teachers and entrants to a creative writing competition.

Amongst this audience were 32 Turing House School students, mostly from Year 7 but accompanied by English and Sparx Reader Ambassadors, who led the



questioning in terms of willingness and enthusiasm. Tykhon B elicited from Ahmed a response about countries past and present who have actively banned books, citing Nazi Germany and Cork County in the Republic of Ireland. 'The two Summers' (J and S), a pair of especially enthusiastic attendees, asked insightful questions about the metaphorical meaning of the book's title and about Ahmed's personal reading preferences, the latter (coincidentally) responded to with a mention of one of my favourite authors: Agatha Christie. Jane T implored Ahmed to elaborate upon other examples of banned books to which Ahmed responded by citing Malala's autobiography (leading to a discussion about the role of Islamophobia and, more generally, prejudice in removing a book from a curriculum, library or reading list), The Diary of Anne Frank, and books authored by LGBTQ+ and minority writers. Perhaps the most poignant moment of the event was when Ahmed shared an anecdote about requiring security during the launch of her previous book, 'Internment', set in a dystopian future in which Muslims are incarcerated because of their faith.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ahmed challenged the audience to show courage and tenacity to fight injustices, a topic given emotional depth through her reference to examples of students who witnessed school shootings and who are now running for office in America motivated by a desire to prevent future tragedies. Ahmed also advised students to seek inspiration for creative writing in

characters and questions, and that students begin their stories with an end in mind. THS students received a copy of Ahmed's latest novel, which many asked the author to sign, a story which I hope instils within our students a love of reading and a recognition of fiction's power as a form of activism in an increasingly divided world.



Year 13 Biology

Over the last two weeks, Mr Evans' Y13 Biology class have been completing a number of investigations, improving their scientific skills. They had to write an experiment that looked at the rate of respiration of brewers' yeast, they have investigated the change of pH in milk using Data Loggers, and have used Thin Layer Chromatography to separate different pigments in leaves.



Why attendance matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

When you're in school you...

Have fun

Make new friends

Gain qualifications

Achieve

Develop new skills

Experience new things

Build your confidence & self esteem

Develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences

Have the best possible start in life!

We aim for every student's attendance to be at 96% or above!

KEY DATES

- Thursday 17th October – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Thursday 7th November – Years 7-9 Flu Vaccinations
- Friday 8th November – Years 10 & 11 Flu Vaccinations

Year 8 Geography

The recent inclement weather is a stark reminder of the record-breaking rainfall we have seen so far this autumn. In Geography, Year 8 students have been looking into the causes, effects and potential solutions to extreme weather in the UK. Within every

topic taught in geography we aim to ground powerful knowledge in real-world application, and nowhere can this be seen more appropriately than examining how climate change is impacting our weather systems. Taking on the social responsibility of understanding how our atmosphere is impacted by our actions can be a crucial way of shifting attitudes towards more sustainable practices. The geography department has been so impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm shown at all ages concerning climate change! This photo taken by Mr Tse-Laurence goes to show these great things at the end of every rainbow.



Spooky Lake Month Quiz

During the month of October, you may find some spooky happenings in the Geography Department!

Inspired by the Spooky Lake Month series by @geodesaurus on TikTok and YouTube, you will find spooky facts about different bodies of water including lakes, rivers, and oceans. These facts will be displayed on Geography doors or in Miss Smith's room on her Spooky Lake board display (room 1.03).

To win a Turing Card, please see Miss Smith to pick up a Spooky Lake quiz sheet. Answer all questions correctly (using the information on the displays) to win – there's a new question every day! Any answers that occur on a weekend or during the October break will be available before we go on holiday.

Hand in any completed quizzes to Miss Smith by Wednesday the 6th of November to be in with the chance of winning your Turing Card – good luck!



Year 12 Art, Craft & Design

This week, the Year 12 Art, Craft & Design students started to work on their still life oil paintings. Most of them have never used this media before but they started to produce excellent outcomes, showing great enthusiasm and effort. This term they will be trying lots of different media and building skills in all areas of art, craft and design and we are excited to see what they will produce.



Year 7 cake entrepreneur

Maria H (Year 7) was the recent winner of our cake competition, with many students and staff enjoying

her red velvet creation. However, she has been making cakes for a while. Inspired by reactions to her language dictionary cake she has created her own custom cake website outside of school. Many of our staff have enjoyed looking through and seeing the amazing birthday and celebration cakes that Maria has made and even sold.

9th Birthday Climbing Cake



This is a cake made for my personal friend, Leyla, on her 9th birthday. She decided to have a rock climbing party and knowing me for a long time, she knew I would make her a rocking cake. Her mother payed for ingredients and a little extra for the effort and time put into the cake and off I went to design it.



Plea for expertise – Staff INSET Day

On Friday 25th October, staff will participate in a dedicated INSET day focused on professional development and enhancing their teaching and student support strategies. Throughout the day, they will engage in reflective practice and explore ways to further improve their impact in the classroom.

In addition to these core training sessions, we value the opportunity to offer staff enriching experiences that support their well-being. In the past, we've had a parent volunteer lead an optional session on "Nutrition for Teachers," which was very well received. This year, we'd like to invite members of our community who may have expertise in areas such as sleep, mental health, or other relevant topics, to contribute by offering a short, optional session for our staff. If you have a skill or knowledge that would benefit our team, please do get in touch – we would love to hear from you! Please send a message to Ms Riglin via the main office if you think you might be able to help out!

Craft Club

In Craft Club, we started making Autumn wreaths from scrap paper, including the covers from old exercise books! It's so nice to have a couple of lunchtimes each week to get creative and let conversations flow with friends. We have lots of plans for the next two weeks, including paper boxes and pumpkin crafts - anyone is welcome to join us on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes.



Year 7 Bingo Night



TURING HOUSE FRIENDS (PTA)

THF welcomes Y7 families to:

Y7 Bingo Night

Tuesday 15th October, 6.30pm for 7pm start
Turing House School
 Tickets: £3 per adult; £2 per child (under-6s free)
 soft drinks and snacks will be on sale
 Book Tickets [Here](#)



Sporting fixtures

Year 8 Boys Rugby v Christ's School

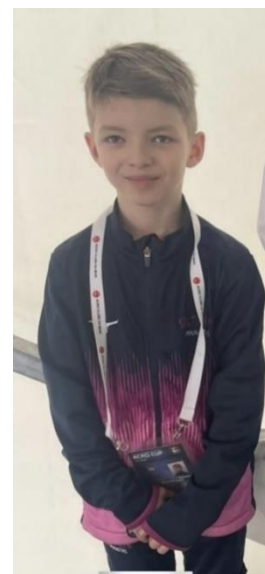
The Year 8 boys travelled to Christ's School to take on the winners of the other league pool. This was a repeat of last year's league final, won by THS, so the hosts were hungry for redemption. As is always the case with these two teams, a close but hugely entertaining and physical game played out with the Turing team emerging victorious by one try once again. The boys now eagerly await their next opponent with the opportunity to defend their title back on the cards. Well done to all involved!

**Year 7 Boys Football v Hampton High**

The first of the fixtures for the Year 7 students got underway earlier this week as a determined group travelled to Hampton High to play them in their first football match of the borough league. The game was a very close encounter in all parts of the pitch as both teams had their fair share of one-on-ones with the keeper. As well as opportunities up front, the battle in defence also seemed to be an even contest. Unfortunately, it was the home side who managed to find the edge with a winning goal to claim a narrow victory, but the Turing team left the field rightly feeling proud of their first THS performance. Their next game is against Teddington away. Well done to all involved!

Student Sporting Success

A massive congratulations to Stanley J in Year 9 who, after attending the 3rd round of trials, was successfully selected for the U15 Surrey Schools FA County Squad for the 2024/25 season. 185 boys trialled originally and the final trial involved a shortlist of 35 boys, and then the final squad comprised of just 18 players so this is a huge achievement and a great opportunity to represent the school! Good luck for the first game, Stanley, on 19th October against Hertfordshire FA in Southampton.

More Student Sporting Success

A huge well done goes to Tommy W in Year 7 who is part of an elite acrobatics gymnastics squad at Spelthorne Gymnastics, training five days a week.

Competing regularly all over the country, Tommy recently had international success as he competed in Turin, Italy where he won a gold medal in his men's pair partnership! This matched his previous international competition result as he also won gold

last year in his men's pair partnership in Portugal. Keep up the great work, Tommy!

Year 9 & 10 Boys Football v Isleworth and Syon

The THS football pitches saw their first use of the year - the respective Year 9 and 10 football teams hosted a friendly match mid-week against Isleworth and Syon. It's safe to say that both teams showed just how enthusiastic they are for their upcoming football fixtures as their performances reflected exactly that, with both teams going on to record convincing wins over the opposition. We can't wait to see how these teams compete on the pitch this year! Well done to all involved!



U16 Borough Table Tennis Tournament

This week saw the Year 10 and 11 students take part in the annual borough table tennis tournament, with the fortune of hosting the tournament in the THS sports hall. These year groups have shown excellent organisation and passion among the after-school table tennis club and they were keen to put their skills to the test and compete against a number of other local schools. After a number of close games, and some not-so-close games, the two Turing teams did exceptionally well - their efforts paid off in the end

as the first team finished in second place and the second team managed to win the whole tournament! Well done to all involved!

