



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Message from Mr O'Sullivan

This week we held our first Unity in Diversity event. A huge thank you to Mr Wood for all his work on this and every student that either took part by wearing clothing, presenting language lessons or baking items from their culture. This weekend will also see various events celebrating St George's day which took place on the April 23rd. Think of St George and you probably imagine a fearless knight in shining armour, charging in to defeat a terrifying dragon. As England's patron saint, he's the symbol of bravery, honour and national pride – his red cross on a white background is instantly recognisable on our flag.

But how much do we really know about him? As with many figures from history and legend, the real story of St George is a mix of fact and myth. St George wasn't English... Although he's England's patron saint, St George was actually born over 2,000 miles away in Cappadocia – now part of modern-day Turkey – in the 3rd century AD. He died in Lydda (modern-day Israel) around AD 303, and his tomb became a place of Christian pilgrimage. He wasn't a knight either. Forget the shining armour and sword! While he's often shown as a knight, St George was more likely a Roman army officer. The image of him as a chivalrous

warrior didn't appear until centuries later.

He was a martyr for his faith. St George refused to renounce his Christian beliefs during a time of fierce persecution by the Roman Emperor

Diocletian. For this, he was executed – and later recognised as a martyr and saint.

St George never set foot in England. Despite his popularity here, St George never visited England. His reputation for courage and piety spread across Europe, and by the 9th century, his feast day (23 April) was celebrated in England. He became especially admired by English kings – Edward I flew banners with his cross, and Edward III even owned a relic of his blood.

The dragon story came later. The famous tale of St George and the dragon didn't appear until several hundred years after his death. The earliest images of George fighting a dragon date from the 9th century, but the story became popular in the Middle Ages through a book called The Golden Legend. Many historians believe the dragon simply symbolised evil being defeated by good. Even today the Enderdragon is the final boss in Minecraft.



He was a saint for 1,000 years before St George's Day became a big event. St George was declared a saint in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius, who said he was one of those "whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known only to God." It wasn't until after the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 that St George's Day became a major celebration in England.





He's not just England's saint. St George's reputation stretches far beyond our borders. He's also the patron saint of countries and regions including Portugal, Venice, Genoa, Ethiopia and Catalonia. Many of these places have their own special festivals and traditions to honour him.

People looked to St George for protection. During the Middle Ages, St George was considered one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers" – saints believed to offer protection against diseases like the plague and leprosy. English soldiers called on him for help in battle, and even Shakespeare gave him a mention in Henry V with the famous cry: "God for Harry, England, and St George!"

He still represents courage and honour today. St George continues to be a symbol of bravery and sacrifice. The Order of the Garter, founded in 1348, is the highest order of chivalry in England and bears his cross. During World War II, King George VI created the George Cross – awarded for acts of extreme courage – and it features St George slaying the dragon. You'll also find his image on many war memorials across the country.

St George's Day is a great chance to reflect not just on a legendary dragon-slayer, but on the values he's come to represent: bravery, selflessness, and standing up for what's right.



KEY DATES

Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8 th May	Year 6 Meet the Teachers evening

Hay fever medication

As the weather is improving, we would kindly request that hayfever sufferers take appropriate medication prior to arriving at school.

Stay Connected – Follow us on Instagram



We would love for all our families to stay updated and celebrate student life with us. Follow all four of our official Instagram accounts for news, achievements and everyday moments at Turing House:

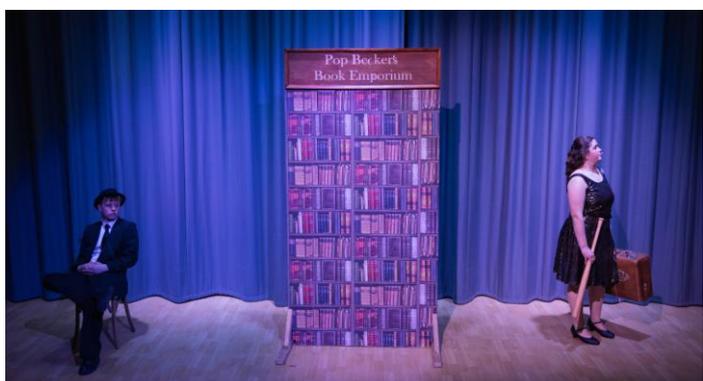
- @turinghouse
- @humanities_ths
- @performing_ths
- @sport_ths

Bugsy Malone performance

A big thank you to all families who came to see yet another amazing successful show at the end of last term. We'd also like to thank all 120 students, Ms Scott, Mr Hopkins and Mr Hunter for all their time and effort into putting on such a great performance. We couldn't be prouder!

And finally, a big thank you to Toby R in Year 9 for the amazing photos.





Why attendance matters

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

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!

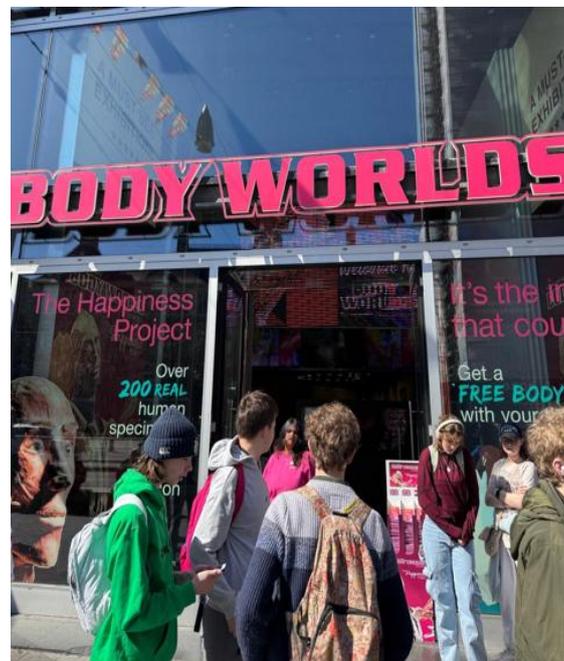
If your child has a minor illness and there are no immediate appointments at your GP surgery, there is a free NHS service where you can get access to healthcare advice at your local pharmacy. Please click on the link below for more details:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first>

Year 9 Amsterdam trip

Between 4th and 8th April, 45 students from Year 9 embarked on an unforgettable trip to Amsterdam, immersing themselves in science, history, and culture of the Netherlands. The packed itinerary included visits to the renowned NEMO Science Museum, Natural History Museum, Bodyworlds Museum and Space Centre. At these museums, the students engaged in hands-on experiments, uncovering the secrets of physics, chemistry, and technology. The year 9s also had the chance to dive into the past at the Anne Frank House Museum, and students left with a deeper appreciation of the city's rich heritage. The

trip concluded with a day spend at Efteling theme park, where everyone braved roller coasters and high-speed rides. The students had a fantastic time! A big thank you to Mrs Harper, Ms Sabharwal, Mr Long, Mr Newman and Mr Jacks for organising and taking part in the trip.



Spanish trip to Seville and Malaga

From the 10th to the 13th of April, Year 10 students studying Spanish had the incredible opportunity to



visit Seville and Malaga. The trip was packed with cultural experiences, culinary delights, and plenty of sunshine!

One of the highlights was a hands-on paella workshop, where students prepared and enjoyed delicious gazpacho and traditional paella for dinner. In Seville, students climbed to the top of the iconic cathedral and were rewarded with breathtaking 360° views of the city.

Students also explored the stunning gardens of the Real Alcázar—though Ms Shilton may have regretted letting students loose in the maze! Another unforgettable moment was their visit to the Seville Museum of Flamenco, followed by a captivating live performance that brought the spirit of Andalusia to life.

Students were incredibly lucky to enjoy perfect weather throughout the trip, which made every experience even more special.

The Spanish department is already excited for next year's adventure! Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks if you're in Year 9 and hoping to study Spanish next year.



Support Turing House

Every contribution helps enhance opportunities and resources for our students.

If you would like to support us, donations can be made at: justgiving.com/turing-house

Thank you for your support!

Brit School visit

Ms Nicholson and Ms Scott enjoyed a trip to the Brit School on Tuesday evening to watch ex-Turing student, Saku perform in the title role in Amelie the Musical. The Brit School is a highly competitive and selective specialist performing arts school where Saku has been studying Musical Theatre in Y12 and 13. It's always lovely to see our students' successes after they leave Turing and it was made even more special by running into Ms Grosvenor, head of performing arts from our sister school in Hove who was there to watch an ex-Kings School student in the show. Great to see RET students going on to achieve amazing things!



Lead student update



Hello Turing House! My name is Hermione and I am delighted to be one of your new Lead Students. I haven't been here as long as many of you have as I was new to the school in Year 12 in September having completed my GCSEs at Twickenham School. I have felt so welcomed upon joining the school and very involved in all the opportunities presented to me since then. Some of you may recognise me from my assemblies during Holocaust Memorial Week, and my volunteering around school. I am studying History, Physics, Maths and Further Maths and hope to go on to read Astrophysics at university. I am looking forward to working with Darcey and the wider prefect team to help mental health initiatives within the school. I believe that our mental health is really important. School is a place that you have to visit

everyday so it is vital that students feel supported. Outside of school, I enjoy playing the piano, reading and travelling. Please say hello if you see me and I look forward to the positive impact I can have on our school.



Hi! My name is Darcey and I'm currently in year 12 studying history, maths, and politics. Since beginning here in year 7, I have worked extremely hard to never take my education, or the opportunities our school gives me, for granted (hence why I applied for this role). I am a very opinionated person and have a real passion for helping others, so I am very excited to be able to give back to our school that has given me so much. Moreover, I am eager to work closely with a wider range of teachers, and my fellow head student Hermione, to represent our school's student body. Representation and inclusivity are a huge priority of mine; therefore, I plan to ensure that all pupils of Turing House feel welcomed and heard. Though I have already begun working to achieve this through my help in edit club, and my

delivery of assemblies on issues I am passionate about (such as women's history) I would like to take it further. I am very grateful for this position, and extremely excited to begin my responsibilities. Finally, if you have any questions about me or any of our ideas, now or in the future, please feel free to stop me and ask!

Sports fixtures

Year 7 Boys Rugby v Teddington

The Year 7 boys resumed their borough league on the rugby pitch at the start of this week. The Turing team travelled to Teddington to play their semi-final match, with a place in the league final up for grabs. Getting off to a flying start, the boys ran in a try that started back from their own half. Just when things were looking promising, the home team ran in a flurry of tries to take a comfortable lead in the game. THS began to make a comeback in the second half as they found their form again in defence, but the damage was already done at full time and the boys had to settle for second best on this occasion. Well done to all involved!



Student Sporting Success in Golf

A big shout out goes to Henry C in Year 7 who took part in the English Schools Golf Association Middlesex Championship over the Easter holiday. The competition was held at Fulwell Golf Club and Henry performed brilliantly to win the nett prize with a very impressive 67. This was made even more impressive by the fact that he was one of the youngest competitors in the field! Well done Henry!



Girls NFL Flag Football

The girls continued their NFL flag football league this week against a different opponent. Having won all their games so far that took place before the Easter break, the girls find themselves near the top of the league table with it being a matter of points difference currently standing in their way. With that in mind, the Turing team looked to run in a number of touch downs to rack up their points difference and come away with another win. They achieved both those aims in yet another convincing performance that bodes well for their league winning chances. Onto the next game! Well done to all involved





Sports Clubs this Term

A new term brings new sports clubs! As we say goodbye to clubs such as rugby, netball and football until September, we now look to summer sports clubs, including cricket, rounders and athletics. These clubs are always open to all abilities, students just need to bring their PE kit and get changed in the changing rooms. Speak to the PE department if you would like any more information.

Richmond Athletics Trial



LYG Richmond Athletic Trials 2025

Monday 12th May
Monday 19 May
From 6pm till 8pm
St Mary's University - Sir Mo Farah Track

100m - 200m - 800m - 1500m - High Jump - Long Jump - Shot
Putt - Javelin - Relay

Athletes need to meet these criteria :
Live or go school in Richmond
Be in Year 7 or Year 8






Can you please fill out the form - www.lvg.org.uk/atl-trials-2025 or scan QR code

For more information please get in touch:
hnhsportscoaching@gmail.com



Richmond Furniture Scheme

Richmond Furniture Scheme is a local charity selling good quality donated furniture and refurbished appliances at affordable prices.

Have furniture you no longer need? We'll collect it for free (<https://www.rfsonline.co.uk/supporting-us-donating-furniture/>)

Need furniture? Whether you're on a low budget or love a vintage bargain, visit our online shop (<https://www.rfsonline.co.uk/shop/>) or come to our Twickenham warehouse (<https://www.rfsonline.co.uk/shop-in-person/>)

Want to make a difference in your community? Check out our volunteering opportunities (<https://www.rfsonline.co.uk/volunteering/>)

We also offer discounts and can give you information on grants to spend with us!

School Space



Hire spaces at
Turing House!

SCHOOL
SPACE

We're open for bookings in the evenings, weekends and school holidays, welcoming a wide range of community activities.




Book via School Space today!

Visit www.school-space.org or contact info@school-space.org | 0203 369 3269

With excellent communication and a desire to help, the team at School Space helps us provide reliable and consistent venues for our classes.

Dan McAteer, Matt Fiddes
Martial Arts & Dance

