



Message from Mr O'Sullivan 14th November 2025

We are now a term and a bit into the launch of our phone-free school, and with both Anti-Bullying Week and Remembrance falling within this period, it has been a time for reflection. One thing has become very clear: students are more focused on their learning and living in the present.

While students at THS were generally compliant from the start, with only a small minority testing the boundaries, it has been fantastic to hear anecdotal feedback about how this decision has enhanced concentration in lessons and reduced distractions and conflicts outside of them.

I'm sure this analogy won't be lost on the adults reading: phones—and social media—are a lot like driving. Cars give us a sense of shelter and sometimes a false sense of bravery. From behind the wheel, we might shout an expletive or act in ways we wouldn't face-to-face, protected by our metal box. Phones work the same way for children. They provide a layer of distance that can lead to mistakes—such as not understanding the implications of misogynistic, homophobic, or racist language, or even jokes.

By removing phones between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., we've significantly reduced situations where students fall out over comments made online during breaks or lunch. This means disagreements

remain between individuals rather than escalating across the school—or even the borough—via social media.

With half of the secondary schools in the borough now adopting phone-free expectations, this is a positive step toward supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our young people. As always, all information about Yondr and our phone-free policy can be found [here](#).

Keeping Our Children Safe Online

We would like to share a valuable resource: Home - eSafety Training, run by two former police officers known as 'The Two Johns.' Their website offers a wealth of information to help us all keep children safe online.

Cycling reminder

At Turing House School, the safety and wellbeing of our students and the wider community are our highest priorities. We want to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents of the importance of safe and considerate cycling practises:

- Pavements are designated for pedestrians only. Cycling on pavements is not only inconsiderate but also illegal in most cases and can put pedestrians, especially younger children and parents, at risk of injury.
- Students who cycle to school must use the road responsibly, adhering to traffic laws and prioritising the safety of all road users. This includes riding at safe speeds and being mindful of pedestrians and other cyclists.
- We encourage all parents to discuss safe cycling habits with their children and to model responsible behaviour.
- The school is actively working to raise awareness of road safety and respectful conduct through assemblies, tutor time discussions, and communications with students.

We appreciate the community's vigilance and support in keeping our school environment safe and welcoming for everyone. Together, we can ensure that walking and cycling to school remain safe, healthy, and enjoyable options for all our students.

Thank you for your continued partnership in promoting a safe and respectful school community.

A Reflection on Remembrance Day

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Remembrance Day has always provided a moment of solemn reflection for my family. My Great Great Uncle Max died on the 22nd August 1918 in Northern France.

Maximillian Cecil Victor Gumpert was born in 1897, the second eldest of five siblings. We believe his mother died in labour when Max was 12, which must have been a devastating loss for the family. The Gumperts lived at 15 Heathfield South in Twickenham. On the 1911 census, Max is listed as a 'child actor', and we have photographs of him in various roles as he was growing up. His name is on the Drury Lane Theatre roll of honour.



At the outbreak of World War One, Max signed up to fight and was placed in the East Surrey Regiment (the same as playwright R.C. Sheriff). The family story goes that he was underage when he enlisted but lied about his age and was accepted. We also have his height as being 5ft2, which seems very small for a soldier but that was more common back then!

The East Surrey Regiment is believed to have been involved in the Christmas Day Truce football game, but we will never know if Max took part. We always liked thinking perhaps he did, and was given a day of respite in an otherwise traumatic and terrifying war. Due to the nature of his death, his body was not intact enough to bury, therefore we do not have a grave to visit, but his name is inscribed on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial in France, which we have visited a few times.

Max's name is also engraved on the War Memorial at St Mary's Church in Twickenham. Unfortunately, it he was incorrectly named 'Mark Gumbert'. Max's younger brother, Eric, angry and grief-stricken by the death of his big brother, attempted to correct his name one evening using a chisel. He was caught doing this by police. More recently, we have tried to correct this error on the honour roll in the church, but it has sadly not been possible.



Each year, my family and I remember our Great Uncle Max, the sacrifice he made and the hole that was left in the Gumpert family by his death. My Grandad, who passed away in 2012, was named after him. He told me about these stories, showed me photos and took me around the Imperial War Museum as a child, teaching me about the history of the wars. I believe this is why I became a History teacher. My parents helped to run the Poppy Appeal in Teddington for many years also in Max's memory, and this will be their final year doing so due to them moving out of the area.

If your family has a story to share about either war, and if you are able to provide us with any display items (copies of photos, paperwork, photos of medals, letters, stories) we would love to do a display in the History Department! We remember those who have gone by passing on the story to the next generation, and as we move further in time away from the war, the importance of remembering these tales is ever-important.

By Mrs Johnson

Head of History



Ski trip Hoodies Feb 2026

Last chance to purchase the Ski Trip Hoodie from Snow Union (www.snowunion.co.uk). Get your order in by Sunday at the latest!



Turing House Friends Book Drive!

This term, **Turing House Friends** are running a **Festive Book Drive** to help fill our school with wonderful new books!

While you're doing your online shopping, why not drop a gift for the school into your basket? Each book donated will help inspire our students, spark their curiosity, and keep our classrooms filled with exciting stories and ideas.

Choose a title from our **Amazon Wish**

list: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3OHZ1M6U9CLY0> and it will be delivered straight to the school. Good-quality second-hand books are just as welcome!

Reading is the **number one skill** that helps children thrive. Research shows that students who read regularly not only achieve more in school but also **enjoy learning more**. A great selection of books helps build a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for helping keep Turing House School so special **#loveyourschool**



Thank you from Turing House Friends!

A huge **thank you to all our Year 7 families** who braved the awful weather and joined us for the Bingo evening on Tuesday night! It was a fabulous evening, and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

We're thrilled to share that we **raised £350**, which will go towards **resources for the Art Department**, a fantastic result!

A special shout-out to the amazing **students who ran the Bingo calling and tuck shop** – it was wonderful to see the event so confidently and successfully **led by students**. Their enthusiasm and teamwork made the evening truly special.

Thank you all for your support – we can't wait for the next event!





I Wish I'd Known Workshop for Parents and Carers



We would like to invite you to a drug and alcohol awareness workshop for parents and caregivers led by the drug education charity the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. This will be

held on **Thursday 20th November at 6pm** and has been made possible thanks to funding from The Richmond Voluntary Fund.

This session provides an opportunity for you to become more aware of what issues face your children, and what you can do to help them stay safe. You can ask questions before the workshop via the online survey link you will receive, and during the workshop itself.

The event will cover:

- levels of young people's exposure to drugs and alcohol – what, where, when and how
- what parents and caregivers need to know about the risks faced by young people when it comes to drugs and alcohol, and the factors that affect the decisions they make
- how to have effective conversations with your child about drugs and alcohol, and practical suggestions for what you can do to support them to stay safe
- how to know and what to do if you have concerns about drug use
- where to go for more information and support.

The DSM Foundation is a drugs and alcohol education charity set up in 2014 by Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs after the tragic death of their 16-year-old son Daniel as a result of an accidental overdose of ecstasy. The aim of the charity is to support young people to make safer choices about drugs, which it does through a broad range of workstreams. Find out more at <https://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do/>.

Please click the link below to register for the event:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_43aOlG4lRNiQkvchd0Kp8g

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from the Foundation containing information about joining the webinar.

University Campus of Football Business Visit

The UK-based higher education institution that specialises in degree programs related to the business industry behind football and many other sports spent half a day with our sixth form and Y11 students earlier this week. The UCFB offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in areas like sports management, marketing, journalism, broadcasting, finance, coaching, and event management. Both our A Level Sports students and A Level Media students were lucky to

experience insightful sessions that supported their understanding of the courses and careers options the UCFB can facilitate.

With campuses located at iconic sporting venues such as **Wembley Stadium in London** and sites across **Manchester**, it also has a global presence through hubs in places like Miami, New York, and Melbourne with an exciting array of international work experience opportunities. We've had some really great feedback from our students who are excited to find out more and engage in their upcoming open days.



Deltatre visit

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Shaun Parrott, Technical Account Manager at Deltatre, for joining our sixth form students on Tuesday 11th November. Shaun's insights into the sports technology industry and the role of innovation in shaping fan experiences were incredibly valuable. The discussion not only highlighted exciting career pathways but also inspired our students to think critically about the intersection of media, technology, and sport.



Sports fixtures

Year 10 Boys Rugby League Tournament

The Year 10 boys hosted Teddington in the rugby league borough tournament at the beginning of this week, with the winning team earning a place in the regional competition as Richmond representatives. Sadly, a clash with a separate U15 fixture happening elsewhere meant that only two teams were in attendance for the tournament, but it made for a fantastic winner-takes-all game that did not disappoint on flare or drama. The Turing team were two tries up before a resurgent Teddington came bouncing back and stole a two try lead late on in the match. A third THS try meant that victory was once again within reaching distance for the home side, but a last minute try for the opposition sunk Turing hopes once and for all. The game finished 20-12 but what a game it was - not once did the Year 10 boys shy away from the challenge presented by the opposition or the weather. Well done to all involved!



Year 7/8 Girls Football v Hampton High

The combined Year 7 and 8 team of girls visited Hampton High to face them on the football pitch as part of their Richmond league matches. The Turing team have been building momentum slowly but steadily, hoping to clinch their first league win. Things were looking hopeful for THS as they held onto a 1-0 lead for much of the game. The opposition always looked capable of coming back however, until a second goal from the girls sealed a 2-0 win...and away from home too! Their next fixture will be against Richmond upon Thames where the girls will look to make it two wins in a row. Well done to all involved!



Year 11 Boys Football v Epsom College

The Year 11 boys were back in the Surrey Cup competition this week - a straight knockout football tournament that has teams playing against one another within Surrey. This time, the Turing team made the long journey to Epsom College to face them in the second round. The Turing team were hoping that trying to navigate the generously sized school car park and pitches upon arrival would be the hardest part of the day, but they found themselves up against a strong opponent who didn't step off the quick pace from kick-off. However, THS met the challenge head on and took an early lead. Epsom came back with two goals and the match remained 2-1 until the final stages, which was a credit to the efforts of the boys for staying in the match. Two final runaway goals in the last five minutes were conceded by the away side, but the boys remained physical in all areas of the pitch for the entire game and could begin the journey home feeling proud of their performance. Well done to all involved!

Year 9-11 Girls Football v ACS International School

A combined Year 9, 10 and 11 team of girls hosted ACS International School from Cobham at the start of this week as the two sides met in the football Surrey Cup. The Turing team suffered an early blow as they went 1-0 down in the initial stages of the first half, but were then quick to react to defensive holes they identified among the back line. Much of the remaining time in that half saw an even battle for territory play out but the girls conceded again to go 2-0 down at the break. A wonder goal from THS meant they were right back in the race in the second half and comeback hopes were high once more. Unfortunately, and despite linking up with some very positive play up front, the girls weren't able to stop one last offensive effort from the away side who scored to make it 3-1 at the final whistle. Well done to all involved!



Year 11 Boys Rugby Tournament

The Year 11 boys - and some helpful Year 10s - got stuck into the annual Middlesex Rugby Tournament this week at Grasshoppers RFC, playing three pool games in the morning. The Turing team lost against London Oratory, beat Isleworth and drew against Fulham Boys. That then qualified them for the 'plate' in the afternoon, having narrowly missed out on the 'shield' group by a matter of points difference. There, they came up against familiar rivals Teddington and Richmond upon Thames, losing to one and beating the latter. As always, the boys did brilliantly as they oozed enthusiasm throughout the day. Well done to all involved!



Year 7/8 Boys Basketball Tournament

The Year 7 and 8 boys recently took part in the annual borough basketball tournament at Christ's School, coming up against various other schools from the Richmond area. The boys were well beaten on this occasion by the hosts, which was always going to be a difficult opening game. THS made a fantastic turnaround for their next game against Teddington, despite the final moments of the fourth quarter not going their way. The boys also lost narrowly to Twickenham but showed what they were made of in a testing but enjoyable afternoon on the court. Well done to all involved!

Year 7 Boys Football v Richmond upon Thames

The Year 7 boys resumed their Richmond league on the football pitch this week as they took on Richmond upon Thames. Playing away from home, the Turing team were hoping to make up for the previous defeat and find form early on in the game with one or two changes to strategy being put to the test. The boys dealt with the pressure well as they appeared to set the tempo and took control from the start. The well-earned lead at half time was momentarily thwarted by an RTS goal to bring it back within one score in the second half, but then another two THS goals were more than enough to secure a win as the game finished 4-1. Well done to all involved!



Year 8/9 Boys Basketball v Ark Putney Academy

The combined Year 8 and 9 boys, as well as the help of a Year 7 student, took to the basketball court this week as they faced Ark Putney Academy in their Dynamik league. Playing away from home, the Turing team looked as comfortable in south-west London as if they were on their own court, showing confidence and composure in all areas of the game. The boys didn't ease off at any point and, if anything, ramped up the pressure from quarter to quarter, converting ball possession into accurate baskets. The high-scoring match ended 63-41 to THS as efforts from everyone paid off with a big win. Their next match will be against Harris Academy where they will look to keep the positive form going. Well done to all involved!



Year 8 Boys Rugby v St James

The Year 8 boys travelled to St James School at the end of last week to take on their A team in a friendly rugby match. On a typically damp November afternoon, the Turing team got stuck in from the off and focused on protecting the greasy ball in the wet conditions. Efforts soon paid off as they found themselves ahead by three tries to one going into the break. In the second half the boys really turned it up a notch as some ferocious crash balls troubled the defence. The home team looked like they were capable of turning things around on a couple of occasions, but THS managed to score one last try in the last minute to take a 25-10 win. One of their best team performances yet; well done to all involved!



Free webinar – Exam stress

FREE Live Webinar

EXAM PRESSURE
Tools & Tips for **Success**

Thursday 20th November
12.30 - 1.30pm GMT

Can't make it?
Sign up for the recording

**Natalie Costa**
Coach, Author
& Speaker

**Louise Moore**
Clinical
Hypnotherapist

**Louise Treherne**
Ex-Deputy Head
& Coach

the Happy Confident Club

You'll learn:

- ✓ The psychology behind exam stress & anxiety
- ✓ Tools & techniques to help manage exam stress
- ✓ Ways to build emotional resilience & a growth mindset
- ✓ How parents & educators can create supportive environments

Register Now (FREE!)

Date: Thursday 20th November 12.30-1.30pm UK time 📅

South Thames College Group Open Events



South Thames Colleges Group

OPEN EVENTS 2025/26

Discover Your Direction

stcg.ac.uk/events

Carshalton College	Kingston College	Merton College	South Thames College
Wednesday 15 October 17:00–19:00	Saturday 4 October 10:00–13:00	Saturday 18 October 10:00–13:00	Wednesday 8 October 16:30–18:30
Saturday 15 November 10:00–13:00	Wednesday 19 November 16:30–19:00	Wednesday 26 November 17:00–19:00	Saturday 8 November 10:00–13:00
Wednesday 25 February 17:00–19:00	Saturday 24 January 10:00–13:00	Wednesday 11 March 17:00–19:00	Wednesday 4 March 16:30–18:30
Wednesday 24 June 17:00–19:00	Wednesday 18 March 16:30–18:30	Thursday 25 June 17:00–19:00	Wednesday 17 June 16:30–18:30
Friday 19 June 11:00–13:00			
Carshalton College Nightingale Road, Carshalton SM5 2EJ	Kingston College Kingston Hall Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2AQ	Merton College London Road, Morden SM4 5QX	South Thames College Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PP