



Think Aloud

Think aloud met again on Thursday with cloning the topic open for debate. Students gave articulate and interesting views on the topic of human cloning, particularly on the idea behind cloning a human so that the original had spare organs when they were needed (a concept explored in the film 'The Island'). If families can continue these kinds of debates it would really help our students develop their ability to analyse an area and come up with an argument.



Reminder – Absence Reporting

If your son or daughter is unwell and cannot attend school please do let us know as soon as possible – ideally using Sickly. You can use the App or go their website. www.sickly.org

The office is very busy in the morning and taking calls or listening to messages can take some time. We aim to contact parents of absent students as soon as possible so that we can be sure of their whereabouts.

If your message is at the end of a long queue of voicemails it may take some time to get to.

Please also remember to notify us on later days of absence.

Forthcoming Events

- 8 Feb:** Chinese New Year Activities
- 22 Feb:** *War Horse* Theatre Trip
- 24 Feb:** *Turing House Friends* social event for parents, 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed

Literacy Fact –

The Difference Between 'Skimming and Scanning'

Skimming is a method of rapid reading to absorb the overall meaning or general theme of a text.

Scanning is the ability to locate specific information such as a key idea, word, date, time etc. in a piece of text.

We do not read a text in detail if skimming or scanning but the two types of reading are for different purposes.

Both skills are vital for school, work and home. Where might we use such skills?

Gym Equipment

Our Friday Fitness club has had its second session with 14 students coming in to take part. Pleasingly, several staff are taking advantage of the opportunity and taking part as well, reflecting the community spirit we have here at the school. As mentioned previously, if any parents have any unused equipment, please let Mr Day know so that we can vary the morning sessions. In particular we would love to have:

- Some weights
- Sit up facility
- Standing punch bag
- Resistance Bands
- Medicine Ball
- Balance Board

Fixtures

- 2 Feb:** Boys' Basketball – AWAY v Twickenham Academy
- 4 Feb:** Boy's Basketball – AWAY v Teddington
- 4 Feb:** Mixed Sports Hall activities at Grey Court (TBC)
- 5 Feb:** Boys' Indoor Cricket at St Mary's University College

Mensa

For each of the following place the two words together and rearrange the letters to give one word.

BASH + LACK = ?

MUST + RANT = ?

NOSY + SHIP = ?

What are the words?

Last week's answer: *Chocolate, biscuits and cakes.*

Equipped for School

Please help us to keep learning focussed in lessons by ensuring that your son or daughter has all the right equipment each day:

- Blue/black pen
- A spare pen
- Pencil case
- 2 Pencils and a sharpener
- Eraser
- 30cm ruler
- A pair of compasses
- A protractor
- A set of coloured pencils
- A glue stick
- Calculator (preferably Casio fx-85GT PLUS)

A reading book is also something each student should have; we have plenty in the library they are welcome to borrow.



Meccanoid G15 Robot for Turing House

Congratulations and thank you to Jake Sanders who entered the First News Competition to win a Robot for Turing House. His entry was chosen as one of the winners and we are looking forward to the arrival of our first robotic year 7 student!

Mensa Testing

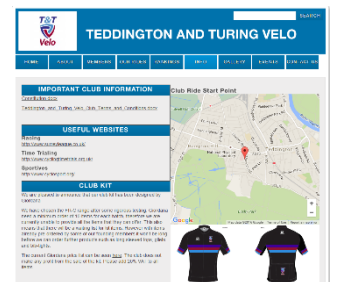
Our 10 guinea pigs have been given some additional questions to answer over the weekend. The Mensa tests have arrived with a proposed testing day of Friday 5th February. We would like to wish the 10 pilot students the best with the testing. However, please reinforce that this is not something that should cause them any additional stress.



Cycle Survey

In the summer term (once the evenings get lighter) we will start our cycling club for students; this club will link into our British Cycling affiliated club Teddington and Turing Velo. In order to gauge interest, Mr O'Sullivan has recently posted a survey to be completed on the school's VLE.

This can be accessed via show my homework as well. We would appreciate it if all students, regardless of their interest, complete this questionnaire in order to ascertain key information to allow the club to succeed. We are currently working on a bid to support our founding students in the purchase of club kit and club membership.



Inter –Borough Cross Country

Well done to Billy Bramhall who represented the borough in the inter-borough cross country championship. Billy finished 23rd out of 90 runners and, impressively, he was the 6th finisher from the borough team.

Basketball

Turing House vs Hampton Academy

On 21 January, Michael (c), Jake S., Jake W., George, Albie and Keowan played an away game against Hampton Academy.

At the start of the match, Hampton won an early jump ball, resulting in an early lead; we were down 0-2. Jake passed the ball to Michael, who got past two defenders and drew the foul. He missed the first free throw but made the second. After a period of strong play from the opposition though, the score was 1-10 to Hampton. Albie passed the ball to Michael, then he shot for a three and made it – we were catching up: 4-10. After a deft steal from George, who scored the layup, it was 6-10 going into half time. The second half started strongly when Michael passed the ball to Jake and he scored the jump shot, making it 8-10. Michael then stole the ball and shot a three and made it so we had the lead! But somehow Hampton passed the ball to the other side and they scored. After a nail biting conclusion, where each side kept edging in front, we were close to victory but the final score ended up being 17-22 to Hampton. Congratulations to both sides for such a close contest!

Girls' Netball Match V Waldegrave

On Friday 22 January the girls' netball team: Mimi, Yasmine, Maria, Phoebe H, Mia, Lauren, Harriet, Lucy and Nina, all went to Waldegrave School to play a netball tournament. This time we came away with a win against Grey Court School. We beat them 3-1. We also only lost to two other teams by very close scores.

Unfortunately this was the only win; however there was some good play on the court. Yasmin was great in centre and helped a lot to get the ball down the court. Mimi had a great shot as Goal Attack from the edge of the D going straight in, and Lucy did very well in defence.

I would like to thank all the players for giving it their all.

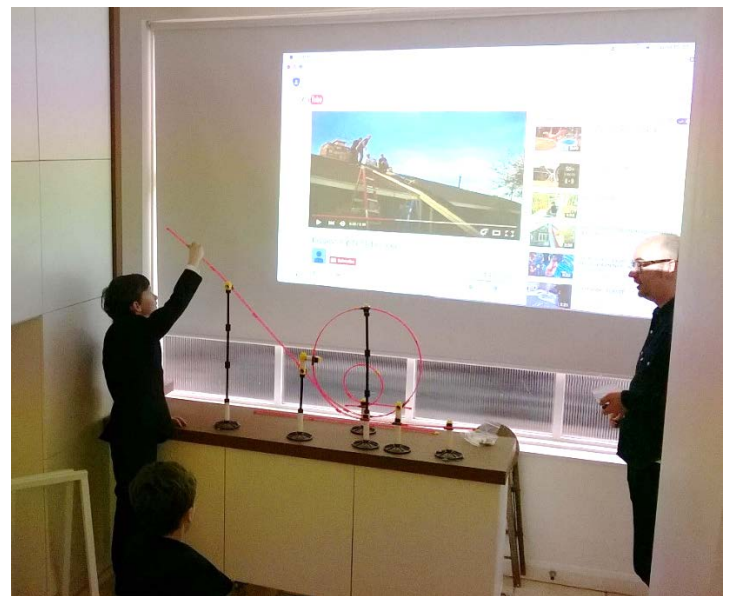
School Council

The school council have met recently to discuss the types of events students would like to take part in this term. As with Children in Need and Christmas Jumper Day, it is hoped that we will raised another sum of money for a charity that the students decide upon. Please support them in coming up with ideas for both events and charity options.

The council have also looked at 'Student Voice' opportunities and the possibility of a Games Club. The school plans to buy either a Play Station or an X-Box with some suitable games. We hope this will then ensure that students are working effectively in homework club and during lunch time.

Thrill Engineering

This week 8 students from Turing House visited Professor Brendan Walker! They visited his studio where they investigated the physics of roller-coasters and learned about how he became the world's first thrill engineer.



Professor Walker has worked with a wide range of organisations including: London Dungeon; Middlesex University; Mixed Reality Laboratory; Royal College of Art; The Science Museum and Thorpe Park.

More information can be found at www.aerial.fm

English Update - Frankenstein

<http://www.roh.org.uk/productions/frankenstein-by-liam-scarlett>

In English this term, we are reading a play adaptation of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' alongside excerpts from the original text. It has allowed us to explore the concept of nature verses nurture, looking at whether evil is something inherent or a result of the way we are treated and the life we live.

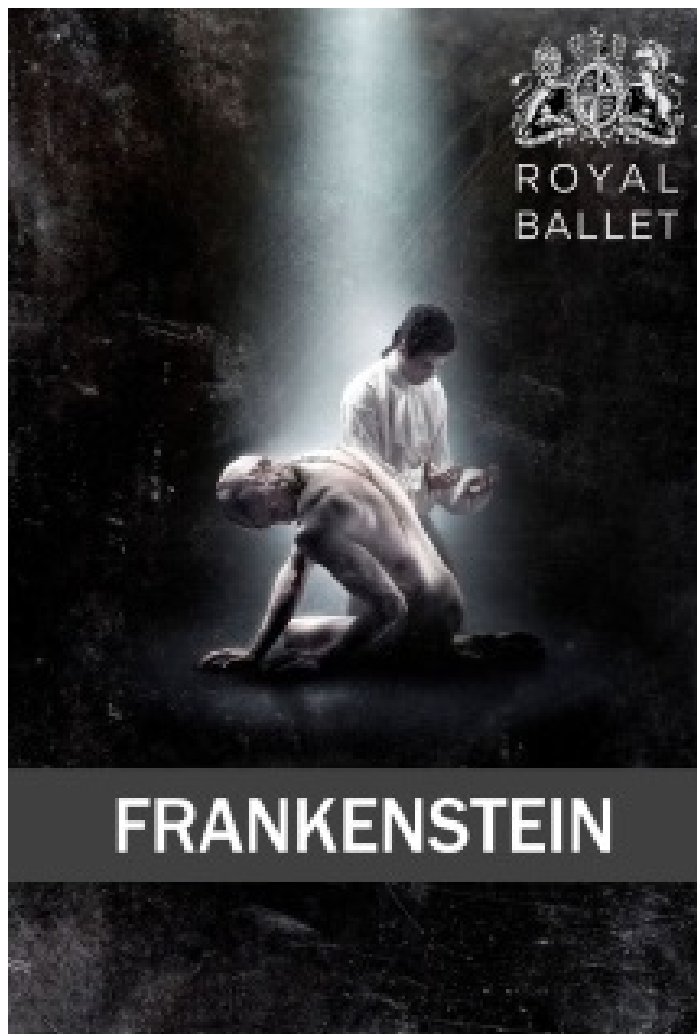
Students have also been working together to construct discursive arguments, weighing up whether Frankenstein should create a 'wife' for his creation. Below is a section from Federico and Antonia's piece:

"Frankenstein's promise to make the monster a companion can raise many contrasting views.

On one hand Victor gave himself the opportunity to be rid of his despised creation he longed to forget about. Although he has been physically and mentally forced to make the monster satisfied, this could be a ticket out of the dark world he so desperately strives in. He struggles to end what he has started and will try to finish it by giving in and finally pleasing his 'son'.

On the other hand, the monster might take advantage of finally having power over Frankenstein; if the monster isn't satisfied, could Frankenstein really be able to emotionally afford the loss of another important, loved one? Possibly, the monster could even destroy Frankenstein himself."

Mary Shelley's story is one that has inspired countless other art forms since its publication in 1818. Even today, it continues to serve as a basis of inspiration; a new film version of the story, starring Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy, was released before Christmas (I'm sceptical about this one – it veers too far from the original story, as the students will be able to explain!). However, excitingly, the Royal Ballet Company are debuting the world premiere of Liam Scarlett's new full-length ballet, inspired by the Gothic masterpiece, in May 2016. Tickets are selling out fast (Miss Sherry, Miss Monk and Mrs Winch already have theirs booked!) but it might be something that you'd be interested in attending. If so, please see the link below.



As the tale draws to its climax, it will be interesting to see what conclusion the students draw about what makes someone truly a 'monster'.

