

Headteacher's Update

16th July 2021

A message from Mr O'Sullivan

In July 2020 I wrote a piece in the newsletter reflecting on the year we had been through. I did not think we could have ever imagined the issues with covid still continuing a year later, yet the pandemic has been an ever-present issue in society. Last year I spoke of 'utter mental and physical exhaustion' and yet the challenges remained, the directives from central government continued and we awarded Teacher Assessed Grades to our Year 11 students. Throughout this, we have kept all lessons running and tried to offer the best possible educational experiences for our young people. I am sure you will agree it has been a strange year. To have not had the opportunity to collectively gather with our current Year 7 in an assembly, where we are all in the same room, reflects how odd it has been. We have found it incredibly frustrating this year not being able to do the things that make us special as a school; a year without trips, extra-curricular, the school show, Christmas, and summer concerts, plus all the ad-hoc adventures seems unbelievably alien to us, and it is one of the things we are most looking forward to restarting next year.

I am so grateful for all the words of encouragement sent though this year, without which we would have found it hard to keep going in the most challenging moments. It is your messages of support, encouragement and gratitude (like the one below) that have really helped us survive.

'We just wanted to say a huge thank you to all that staff that make Turing House the wonderful school that it is. We can only imagine how hard things have been for you all over the past year, with all the challenges covid has presented, but you have done an amazing job!'

Hopefully working in partnership, we can get back to all the things that we previously did to ensure our children get the best possible experience at secondary school. All of the staff are keen to get back to all of these things, so much so that we have already decided on the school show performance next year, which will be 'Matilda Jnr'.

And finally, as we all go on our well-deserved summer breaks, I conclude by reminding you that our year groups will switch site from their first day back in September. Therefore, years 7 and 8 will be taught at our Teddington site with years 9, 10 and 11 being based at Teddington. Sixth form students will continue to move across sites. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing all our students in September.

Dates for your Diary Lateral Flow Testing In-School:

Y7 – 1st test on 31st Aug (am) Hampton

Y8 – 1st test on 6th Sep (pm) Teddington

Y9 – 1st test on 3rd Sep (pm) Teddington

Y10 – 1st test on 3rd Sep (am) Hampton

Y11 – 1st test on 3rd Sep (am) Teddington

Y12 – 1st test on 31st Aug (pm) Hampton

Y13 – 1st test on 3rd Sep (pm) Hampton

Please take the opportunity over the summer break to check that your child's PE kit all fits correctly. If not, remember to contact Stevenson's before returning in September, or contacting the school to see if we have secondhand items that may be suitable for your child.

Visit by Munira Wilson MP

On Friday 9th we were delighted to welcome Munira and her Constituency Assistant, Michael, to our school for an update on all things Turing House but with a specific agenda item relating to children's mental health and post covid. wellbeing Munira is the party's spokesperson for health, wellbeing and social care so it was incredibly important for Mrs Collins and Mr O'Sullivan to be able to share some of the experiences of the last year and its impact on young people. It was clearly evident in the meeting that Munira is deeply invested in supporting these aspects of young people's lives. After this meeting, the AS politics group with Ms Gumpert each asked Munira a question that was either driven by their own political curiosity or to help support aspects of the course. It was lovely to hear how impressed our visitors were by the quality of the questioning.



Here are the questions asked which I am sure you will agree are incredibly impressive:

- 1) What do you think about the Black Lives Matter movement, and do you agree that the statue of Edward Colston should have been pulled down by protestors?
- 2) LGBTQ+ have a significantly higher chance of being bullied in school as a result of their identity. What is being done to tackle this issue?

- 3) What do you think about the current situation of the Liberal Democrat Party? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the party?
- 4) If you were Prime Minister, what would your priorities be? What three key issues would you tackle first?
- 5) Mental health for young people has become a huge challenge after the Covid pandemic. What is being done to support students coming out of Covid pandemic?
- 6) Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, the topic of women's safety has become an important point of discussion. What is being done within our constituency to keep women safe?
- 7) With the significant disruption that has happened to our education over the last two years, how are students being supported in the transition to university, both academically and financially?

Sir Jack Petchey

On the 19th July, Sir Jack Petchey will be turning 96 years old! Not only is this an achievement in itself, but Sir Jack has inspired and recognised so many young people over the years through his philanthropic work. From the Achievement Award scheme to our partnership programmes such as the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, schools, youth organisations and leaders like yourself have been a part of his vision to motivate young people.

To help us celebrate his birthday, we would like to invite you to send him a birthday message in the week of his birthday, 19th July.

You can send your message on social media by tagging us @jpfoundation and using the hashtag #HappyBirthdaySirJack.

We would love for you to use your message to tell him what you find inspiring about his work with young people as well as to wish Sir Jack a happy 96th birthday. If you have any photos or videos you would like to share

of the difference our grants have made or pictures of your Achievement Award winners, please include them!

We will be reposting all birthday wishes on social media during the week 19th -23rd July, and will incorporate your messages into a special video for Sir Jack to watch on his birthday.

In order to celebrate this momentous milestone, we asked Siana in Year 10 (one of our Jack Petchey Award winners) to write our formal best wishes from Turing House School:

Jack Petchey. There are not enough words to describe this man. Sir Jack Petchey is a hero and a true inspiration.

The Jack Petchey award makes winning mean you are doing better than you have ever done before. He makes winning a state of mind that embraces everything you do.

I cannot begin to describe the honour placed on me. Winning Jack Petchey was an unforgettable experience that delivered me with ecstasy for the future. I am earnestly grateful for the recognition I have received for my work. It has been a tough year for everyone but the blessing to win was incredible and that is an honour. Never mind having overwhelmingly positive love form my fellow peers and teachers, each day I am congratulated for my success which lifts my spirits and elucidates joy within my heart, this especially warms me after the year we have faced.

So, from us all at Turing House School, Happy Birthday Jack Petchey. Thank you for all you do; you change lives for the better. Because of you, I stand a little taller and speak a little louder each day. Because of you this world is a better place. We are better people and because of you I truly believe anything, and everything is possible!

Siana, Year 10

Music Success

We are really proud to announce that of one of our students, Tom D, has been awarded the Rose Eley Memorial Prize for a String Player which he will receive at the Junior Trinity Prizegiving and Graduation ceremony. Tom is a dedicated and talented musician who gives up his Saturdays to develop his composition and performance skills at Trinity Laban - one of the top London colleges for Music. The award was given after nominations from the instrumental teachers and then discussed at a panel. The prize giving ceremony led by Tabby Estell will also include a concert although sadly digital with no audience! This is a real accolade, and we look forward to hearing him perform again (live!) when our usual busy programme starts again in the Autumn term. Really well done, Tom!

Athletics Weekly

In addition to our piece a few weeks ago, we are delighted to say that Kaiden G did really well in the English schools competition last weekend in Manchester. He also got PB! Kaiden is now 4th best Javelin thrower for his age in England! He lost out to 3rd place by 7cm and 2nd place by 60cm! Well done, Kaiden!

And in other positive sporting news, a massive congratulations to Mr Evans who went sub-30 minutes for 10k on Friday evening (yes, after a long week at work and a rather long term)! I'm sure everyone can appreciate how rapid this is but for context, this is just 15s slower than Olympian Jonny Brownlee's PB time! Well done. Mr Evans.

Goodbye, Good Luck and Welcome

We are sad to say goodbye to three amazing staff at the end of this year, all of whom have been invaluable in this incredibly challenging year. Ms Bass and Ms Stables have not been put off by working in a school and will now embark on gaining their teaching qualifications. Mr Medwyn-Smith is moving onto a role in Physical Education – his real passion. I am sure you will all join us in wishing them the very best.

Joining us in September will be the following staff:

- Ms Winstanley (maths and Mr Winstanley's sister!)
- Mr Johns (Head of Tech and Art)
- Mr Stevens (English Joining us from our sister school in Bristol)
- Miss Jarvis SEN Practitioner

We would also like to wish the following staff congratulations and best wishes with their upcoming nuptials over the summer break: Ms Lundie, Ms Whittick, Mr Jones, Mr Coombes and Mr Quigley.

Sporting Headline of the Week

Team GB will take more women athletes than men to a summer Olympic Games for the first time in 125 years. Of the 376 athletes selected to represent Great Britain in Tokyo, 201 are female while 175 are male. A further 22 reserve athletes have also been chosen in what is Team GB's largest-ever delegation for an overseas Olympics. The delayed Games take place from 23 July until 8 August. UK Sport says it hopes Team GB will bring home between 45 and 70 medals.

Sporting Fact of the Week

Did you know.....?

Only two sports have been played on the moon — golf and the javelin throw.

Forensics

In Science this week, Y7 and Y8 were learning about Forensic Science. They had to use clues from the 'Crime Scene' to solve who had committed the murder. They found a letter, murder weapon, soil footprints from the scene and a hair sample. There were nine suspect teachers. Using hair samples, fingerprints, pens and soil from teachers' shoes, students used microscopes, pH testing, fingerprint analysis and chromatography to solve the mystery. Well done to Meg, Hermione and James in Y8 who solved the crime the quickest.



Tortilla española – Spanish cooking lesson

7N were very busy on Thursday 8th July cooking Spanish omelettes whilst isolating at home.

Below are some tasty photos of the food they cooked and sent in to Miss Shilton, ¡Qué delicioso!



Year 8 Oobleck Investigation

This Year 8 science class ended the year looking at the concept of pressure in fluids (gases and liquids). One of those fluids investigated on our last day was Oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid. Students found that it did not behave as expected and thoroughly enjoyed the investigation. The Oobleck for this experiment can be safely made at home. The ingredients are 2 parts corn flour and 1 part water.

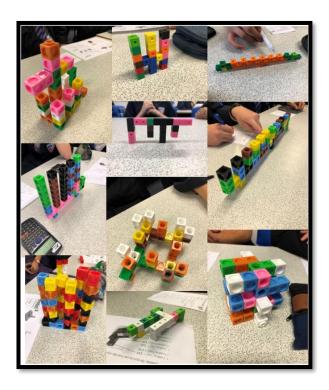




Optimising cube hotels

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 spent the last week of term building cube-based hotels and competing to reach the highest net income. The rules were simple: build a hotel from cubes (where each cube is a room, and each type of room generates a different income), account for

tower tax and land tax and come out with the greatest profit. Students were modifying and improving their designs, calculating their windows and roofs, testing their design for stability and room constraints. In the end, aspiring architects and hotel managers built profitable cube hotels; see the pictures below!



Last week on Chemistry



Last week Y12 Biologists did an onsite investigation on how the light intensity affects the grass coverage in Bushy Park. Can you guess the relationship between the two variables? Why not ask the Y12 Biologists? We had a bit of an adventure on our way back to school - we thought we'd take a shortcut, so we ended up with soaking wet socks and shoes. Such fun!

Last week, Year 9 students investigated the percentage of salt in sea water. They measured the mass of sea water on a balance, evaporated the water and measured the mass of the salt remained. All students were excited with this practical and managed to get accurate results. Well done, Year 9s!



Last week, Year 8 students investigated the effect of the length of string on the number of swings in a pendulum. Can you guess the relationship between the two variables? Or you can just ask the Year 8s 😊.



July 12th - On This Day: William Ramsay and Morris Travers discovered the element xenon on this day in 1898. The British chemists used a powerful machine that cooled and liquefied air to obtain krypton (Kr). They then repeatedly distilled the krypton until an even denser substance separated out, which they named xenon (Xe). Xenon is colourless, odourless gas. It is very unreactive, like all the noble gases. Xenon is used in certain specialised light sources. It produces a beautiful blue glow when excited by an electrical discharge. Xenon lamps have applications as high-speed electronic flash bulbs used by photographers, sunbed lamps and bactericidal lamps used in food preparation and processing. Xenon lamps are also used in ruby lasers.

Xenon is also used by several satellites to keep them in orbit, and in some other spacecraft. Xenon difluoride is used to etch silicon microprocessors. lt is also used in the

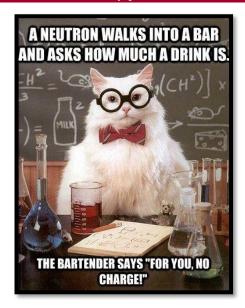


manufacture of 5-fluorouracil, a drug used to treat certain types of cancer. Interested to know more? Watch this video about Xenon

July 16th - On This Day: The first test nuclear bomb was detonated on this day in 1945. The test took place at Alamogordo, New Mexico. The explosion produced the power equivalent to approximately 20,000 tons of trinitro-toulene (TNT), and left a crater of radioactive glass in the desert 330 m wide. Want to know more? Check out his short news clip from that time. Atomic bomb test 1945 Mexico



This week's chemistry joke



THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported Turing House Friends during the year. Your help, participation, and donations provide vital equipment and opportunities for the students. You are all superstars!

HELP RAISE FUNDS: 87 of our parents have raised over £2,200 for the school by signing up to Easy Fundraising. Just imagine if everyone signed-up how much could be raised! More details of how you can help at Easy **Fundraising**

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/turinghou <u>sefriends/</u> It's really easy and doesn't cost you a penny. If you're an Amazon shopper you can support us via Amazon Smile, just search for Turing House Friends: smile.amazon.co.uk

UNIFORM: If you're having a clear-out over the summer please hold on to good quality, branded, uniform items that you no longer need. You can drop them off at the school when term starts. We sell second-hand uniform on https://oldschooluniform.co.uk/ and we hope we'll be able to hold a real-life in-person sale in the Autumn term.

FOLLOW US: Did you know you can support Turing House Friends by following us online? You can find us @TuringHsFriends Twitter on and Facebook https://www.facebook.com/TuringHouseFri ends/

Please give us a follow or a like, we'd love to have more friends (iii).

Long live the King of the Common Room: Ethan H 12A

'I'm a Sixth Former' continued this week with competitors taking part in the elimination rounds. Challenges this week included 'It's a Bug's Life' and downing 'grot shots' - the students certainly had strong stomachs this week! Our final two competitors, Mikey and Ethan, took part in the final round of 'Into the Darkness', which saw Ethan reign supreme. Well done, Ethan!



Louis W - Year 10

We were delighted to hear that Louis has been accepted by the British Racing School on a Summer programme. He had to get through 3 application rounds and made it through several hundred applicants for only 15 places. He gets to spend a week training at the BRS in Newmarket and working on the yard to look after the racehorses. It will be a huge step for him and we are immensely proud of him!