

Headteacher's Update

24th June 2022

Message from Mrs Collins

This week has given us much cause for celebration: Year 11, who have been absolutely outstanding, completed their final GCSE examination on Thursday. Many Year 13s (who have also conducted themselves faultlessly, with such admirable determination, calmness and focus) are also finished with exams, with their final examination being held on Monday. We are so incredibly proud of what they have achieved, all the more so given the considerable adversity they've faced over the past few years.

And whilst Covid is not necessarily 'gone', it does feel that society has moved into a new phase where the disruption faced by younger years will hopefully be less that what our current Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts had to endure. However, our students still face adversity and challenges of a different kind which may impact their productivity, focus and capacity to achieve. In particular, one seemingly innocuous, and sometimes useful, object actually poses a potentially enormous threat to our young people: the mobile phone.

Unfortunately, the potential risks posed by these devices stretch far beyond distraction and potential impact on academic achievement. In the most extreme cases, mobile phones are directly responsible for the death of young people. This week, a chilling episode of Panorama aired; I recommend it to every parent. It's titled: "A Social Media Murder". The opening lines and

Dates for the Diary:

29th/30th June - Matilda School Show

4th July – INSET Day (Transition Day for New Year 7 Sep 2022)

images are compelling: scenes of a street that could be anywhere in Teddington, Whitton or Twickenham and a parent couple are speaking: "It is very social in this road. Everybody knows each other. It is a lovely place to live." The presenter explains that they live in the outskirts of Reading and have lived there for 19 years. They have two children. One Sunday afternoon, their 13-year-old son Olly left the house, grabbing his phone and saying he was going to meet a friend nearby. He said, "Don't worry I have my location on."



The last images of Olly were caught on a neighbour's doorbell camera. The evidence of what happened to him next was all found in the secret world of his (and other young people's) phones. Olly's mother says: "It is a world where you can do and say what you want. It is a world that we had no idea existed. And that he was being attacked in it." The father says, "They hunted him. Tracked him through social media."

He then says: "It did nothing to protect him. And without it he'd still be here."

Congratulations to Years 11 and 13 who have finally finished their public exams! We are very proud of them all!

This horrendous case (which I appeal to you to watch on <u>iPlayer</u>) is a stark warning of the dark world that so many of our students have daily access to. For many parents, this warning may be coming too late, but for those who can still do something about it, we suggest in the strongest of terms that you do not to allow your child to have SnapChat. I would also be extremely cautious about WhatsApp (age limit 16), Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and Twitter. If you do allow these things, please have strict limits on them and regularly sit with your child to see what is coming up on their feed. What a 13-year-old sees on their TikTok and Instagram is completely different to what adults are shown.

The Panorama documentary includes a fascinating experiment where the presenter/journalist creates several fake accounts in the style of a 13-year-old to see what content is shown to the through the algorithms these platforms employ. The content will be shocking to many parents. So many of the problems that students suffer from, and we must deal with, seem to come from the mobile phone.

Many parents may be reading this thinking that this article is for other families. I am quite sure that is what Olly's parents would have thought too. And whilst we know that there are benefits to the connectivity phones allow, and the world of information that is readily accessible through them, mobile phones can be a hugely distracting; at worst, they are vehicles for unkindness and threats, presenting an unmonitored forum for hate and violence.

However, we must also accept that mobile phones are an inextricable part of our society, and it is the responsibility of parents, with support from the school, to help our young people learn how to use this technology safely and responsibly. For those of you not already doing so, it is possible to allow your child to have a smart phone and to use parental controls to limit what they can see and do on it. There are plenty of articles and videos about how to do this on-line. Like this help sheet from Apple and this video from TechBoomers.

As always, if you have any concerns or would like advice and to speak to someone about your child's use

of their mobile device, please don't hesitate to contact us.

STEM & Engineering Day



On Wednesday 22nd June, 11 students from Year 8 and Year 9 took part in the STEM and Engineering Day at Richmond Upon Thames College. Students took part in 4 different workshops about medicine, engineering, robotics and forensics.

They learnt about how to diagnose a patient, how to build an aerodynamic vehicle, how to programme a robot and how to make e-fit images for suspects of a crime. Leon G and Joe M both won a prize, which was presented by the Mayor of Richmond!

As you can see from the photos, the students really enjoyed the activities!



Prep Room Critters

Once again, the prep room is playing host to critters! At present we have quail chicks that hatched on Monday.

They are still very small but grow at an incredible rate, reaching full maturity in around 4 weeks. In this time, they will increase their size almost by 10 times!

Here is a picture to show the difference in size:



Year 9 GCSE Food Tech Trial lesson

24 Year 9 students who have opted to take GCSE Food Tech were lucky enough to be chosen to take part in a trial lesson on Tuesday.

Evie and Lyla in 9A have written a report of their experience.

"Trying out the new facilities was an amazing experience. Learning new skills and a new love for cooking was lots of fun.

We used the equipment to make a delicious vegetable soup and we carried out a product analysis of some scones. As well as that, we learnt about Nutrition and Food Safety. It was a very enjoyable experience and a good look into what GCSE Food Technology will be like next year."

Year 12 Enrichment Week

To provide a bit of well-earned respite from their usual curriculum learning, we hosted Year 12 Enrichment Week next week (Monday 20th June – Friday 24th June).

The planned events covered some of the statutory guidance for Religious Education and RSE, support for their UCAS applications and activities like University Challenge to test the wider knowledge of the students.

"As part of our higher education day, groups of students listened to our amazing teachers deliver extremely useful information and personal knowledge regarding their universities they went to in the past. Examples of universities being talked about on this day were The University of Cambridge, The University of Southampton. The University of Birmingham, The University of Reading and more.

We also received the best possible advice for our futures.



I found this time extremely beneficial, and it has helped me develop a vivid understanding of not only the university life and convenient information with reference to universities and courses that lead to certain careers, but also the possible challenges that we could be faced with. I really appreciate the time and effort from the teachers for putting this day together".

by Narmeen

"During higher education day, we were asked to get into groups of 5 and compete against each other to win a general knowledge quiz. The competitive spirit between each team, especially during the final where tensions were high, was entertaining to watch. The difficult questions helped to challenge our knowledge and further our team spirit. It was an extremely enjoyable and amusing day, which became a great break after the many exams that we had sat the previous week". By Zoe

Sixth Form Sexual Safety Talk from LVA



On Tuesday, a speaker delivered a talk on sexual safety and how to identify toxic relationships. The speaker gave us an insight into the types of danger in relationships and how to identify and protect ourselves from toxic relationships. It was very informative, and it touched the hearts of many students in attendance.

By Adam

Sixth Form Debate!

During the religious education day, we learnt about capital punishment around the world.

We then watched the movie "Let him Have it" about the true story of Derek Bentley, who was only 19 when he was sentenced to death. After the movie, we were split into two groups to debate For or Against whether to legalise capital punishment in the UK.

To end the debate, Governor, Robin Jowitt decided that Capital Punishment should not be legalised. Overall, it was a great experience, and many valid arguments were stated on both sides of the debate!





Year 13 Leavers' Event

On Friday 17th June we held our first Leavers' Event for Year 13. This cohort missed out on a farewell in Year 11 due to the first lockdown. The students were treated to an Afternoon Tea style buffet followed by an assembly. Thoughtful reflections, wise words and many positive messages were shared by Mr O'Sullivan, Mrs Collins, Mrs Skinnard and Mrs Kaur.



Students and staff voted for the year group's 'Most Likely To' competition, with categories including - Most Likely to Start a Band (Mia C), Most Likely to Develop their own Text Language (Hazel X) and Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize (Daniel W).

By Ryan



All students were presented with cards and a pin representing the Class of 2022.



We look forward to celebrating the end of the Year 13 exams on Monday 27th June with an evening Leavers' Event.

As the founding cohort for the sixth form, most of whom were also a part of the founding cohort for the school, the students will always have a special place in our memories and hearts. We will miss them all.

Year 7/8 Boys Cricket v Twickenham

A combined year 7 and 8 cricket team took on Twickenham in their first of two cricket fixtures this term.

With the Turing team opting to bat first, they were able to lay down the marker for a high number of runs for Twickenham to chase when it came to their turn to bat. Twickenham, however, did just that as they made a close comeback to narrow the score.

The Turing boys came away with the win in a brilliant match which was closely contested throughout. Well done to everyone involved! Read on to find out how they got on in their second fixture against Teddington.



Y7/8 Boys Cricket v Teddington

Well done to the boys from years 7 and 8 who took part in their second cricket fixture last week. Having beaten Twickenham in their initial cricket fixture in the previous week, the Turing team took on Teddington this time round. The match proved to be a very close encounter which saw Teddington come away as victors, however the result came down to the very last play!

All those involved were able to come away feeling proud of their performance and, as always, represented the school in an exemplary manner.

Turing House Sports Day

The PE Department are excited to launch the Turing House Sports Day later this term. As an alternative to a traditional Sports Day, we have organised a day of sport for each year group to participate in, where year groups will compete in tutor forms against one another.

Students have a choice of the following sports: football; netball; tug of war; dodgeball.

All students (years 7-10 & 12) are required to take part in at least one sport but may sign up to multiple sports if they wish. Students can sign up to their chosen sport(s) on Monday during tutor time.

Sports Day will commence from Monday 11th July and the order of the week is as follows: Monday Y7; Tuesday Y8; Wednesday Y9; Thursday Y10; Friday Y12.

Y9/10 Boys Cricket v Christ's

The Year 9/10 cricket team travelled to Christ's School to play their first cricket match of the term. With the Turing team brimming with enthusiasm and experience, the students involved put on a brilliant performance to emerge victorious in a well-deserved win.

Well done to all and special mention must go to Year 8 student, Conal A., for playing in a higher age category and still managing to stop batters in their tracks with some superb bowling! After a quick turnaround, the team took on St Richard Reynolds in their second cricket fixture shortly after the Christ's game - keep an eye out for the result in next week's newsletter.



Y9/10 Football v Teddington

The Year 9/10 girls football team visited Teddington recently to play their fixture. After a hard-fought game, it was Teddington who came away with the win but the Turing team were able to come away feeling proud of their performance as a team as well as the way in which they represented the school.

Well done to all involved and a special mention must go to Year 8 students Hope W. and Courtney-Marie S. who played brilliantly while competing against older students!

Sporting Succes for Woody V.



Congratulations to Woody V. who has recently been selected to join the Middlesex cricket team at regional level. Being selected to play at regional level puts Woody in the top 50 cricket players in his age group in the county - something to be very proud of.

This means that this opportunity allows Woody the chance to work towards the next stages of performance which would entail being selected to play at county level.

Well done again, Woody, on a brilliant achievement!

Borough Sports Championships



After a two-year absence, this week saw the return of Borough Sports which took place at Kingsmeadow in Kingston. The event entailed students from boroughwide schools going head-to-head in a range of competitive athletics events.

The Turing team was not short of numbers, nor was it short of enthusiasm, grit and determination on the day. Some students were looking to hit PB scores or improve on past performances, while others were trying some disciplines for the very first time and did amazingly well considering!

Turing House finished in 6th position out of 12 schools - again, an amazing achievement especially when we



consider the circumstances of not being able to practice athletics in PE just yet; the only way is up!



With some fantastic individual results being claimed in various events, the effort, attitude and conduct of all students was brilliant and students should be proud of the way in which they represented the school.

Well done to all involved!

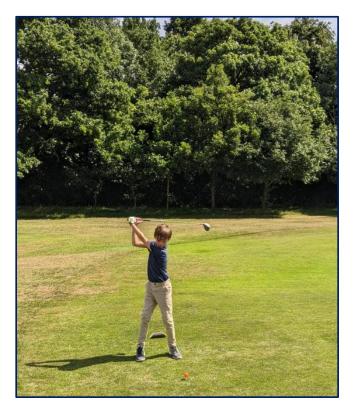
Y7/8 Boys Borough Golf Tournament

Well done to the year 7 and 8 boys who took part in the borough golf tournament this week at Fulwell Golf Club.



The weather conditions made for a perfect day for a round of golf, made more enjoyable by the attitude and concentration from the Turing team.

The boys did themselves and the school proud through their conduct, keeping their sportsmanship and competitive nature in line with golfing etiquette. Well done to: Kit E., Elliott E-B., Felix S., William B., Ted M., Omar T., Jacob O., Arthur C., and Ned B.





Sporting Success for Freddie - Year 7

Congratulations to Freddie in Year 7 who represented the London Region Team in the All-Stars Tournament final this week, having beaten Central and Southern Regions over the weekend. Freddie's team lost very narrowly to North Team in an incredibly fast paced and competitive final.

With the U13 standard of play exceptional, the tournament formed the selection process for the England Team, making it even more of a special occasion.

Well done again, Freddie, on a performance to be proud of!



Congratulations

Kaiden G. in Year 10 won the javelin event in Barnet with a PB of 52.85, which qualifies him for the English Schools championships in Manchester from Thursday 7th July until Sunday 10th July.

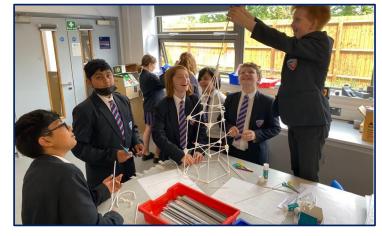
Well done, Kaiden!





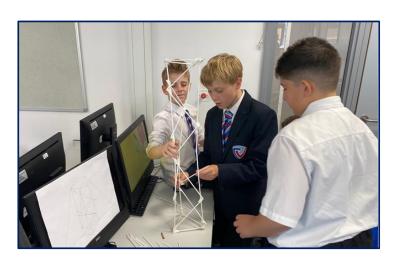
Year 7 Stem Day

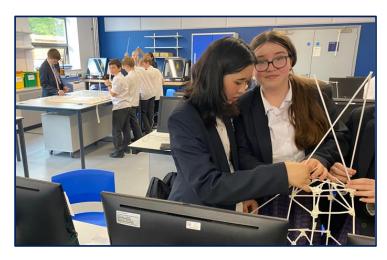
As part of celebrating Alan Turing's birthday on the 23rd of June, Year 7 undertook a fantastic day of STEM activities aiming to build on skills in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths areas within school. Students were busy solving challenges in Maths, programming robots in Computer Science and building structures as part of an Engineering challenge in D&T.



Some of our teams in D&T were challenged with making the 'tallest' tower, supporting a weight and built from a range of materials.

Students were working in teams, electing a project manager, architect, structural engineer and labourer. Students were also working with a tight budget, completing challenges to earn extra money to spend on more materials to build their towers. Students completed the challenge with fantastic resilience and came up with some amazing innovative designs.





CWGC Tours 2022 - East Sheen Cemetery

Starting this summer, join the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for a tour of the War Graves in **East Sheen Cemetery**

Join us in a celebration of the remarkable everyday men and women who faced extraordinary times during the world wars and gave their lives for their communities.

MEETING POINT: at the cemetery offices, which is at the far end of Kings Ride Gate off Sheen Road.

There are 33 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 38 of the 1939-1945 war here. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial.

The is parking available on-site and nearby; toilet facilities available; Wheelchair accessible to most graves. Please dress appropriately for the weather and suitable footwear,

Sign up for free here.

Heatham House Summer Programme

We have lots going on this summer at Heatham House with a plethora of free activities available to young people aged 9-19 years old over 6 weeks.

Young people are welcome to spend the day with us throughout our opening times; drop in or stay beyond their booked activities and be a part of the youth club experience and have a meal as part of the day.

They are also invited to book activities for free via our Eventbrite page, <u>HeathamHouse.Eventbrite.Com</u> with bookings for weeks 1-2 going on general release on Monday 27th June 2022.

Friends of Bushy Park Talks

Saturday July 9th 2022 11am

Invertebrates Who Live on Trees, a walk with Greg Packman

Visitor Centre, Bushy Park

Book <u>here</u>.

Saturday July 9th 2022 1.30pm

Invertebrates Who Live on Trees, a walk with Greg Packman

Visitor Centre, Bushy Park

Book <u>here</u>.

Thursday September 15th 2022 6.30pm

Evening Bat Walk, with Philip Briggs

Bushy Park - Clapperstile Car Park TBC

Book here.

Friday 21st October 2022 - doors open 7.15pm

Operation Centaur – the Shire Horses, a talk by Dr Andreas Liefooghe

Normansfield Theatre, Teddington

Book here.