



# HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



## Headteacher's message

Over recent weeks I have reflected on my own parenting style of my boys, who are now 13 and 11 years old. As some will be aware, I have not allowed either child to have any form of social media, including WhatsApp; that brings with it challenges that need to be addressed. Like any parent experienced in the teenage years may know, it's a rocky journey. With both my parent and Headteacher hat on, I stumbled across this article [Helicopter Parenting: The Consequences - International School Parent](#) about helicopter and lawnmower parenting - two phrases that I was previously unaware of. It's an interesting read and it made me think and reflect. I have briefly summarised the ideas for you here.

The document emphasises the importance of allowing children to grow through independent experiences rather than through excessive parental control. It critiques "helicopter" and "lawnmower" parenting styles, where parents either hover or clear every obstacle from their child's path. These approaches are said to stifle children's ability to

develop independence, self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and emotional resilience.

Instead of supporting, these styles can lead to negative long-term effects,

including underdeveloped brains, emotional and mental health issues, low self-esteem, and an inability to cope with life's challenges.

The author argues that overparenting results from a mix of fears (for children's safety, success, and well-being), social pressures, and personal insecurities. Socioeconomic status and the influence of social media have escalated parental involvement to extreme levels, contributing to unrealistic standards of "perfect" parenting.

To counter these tendencies, the author suggests that parents should focus on fostering independence by acting as a safety net rather than a guide for every step. Parents should encourage children to tackle challenges independently, refrain from solving their problems, and minimise involvement in daily tasks like homework or peer conflicts. This "safety net" approach gives children the chance to "fall" but also learn how to get up on their own, fostering confidence and resilience.

The overarching message is for parents to guide children toward self-sufficiency, ultimately preparing them to thrive independently.

Having read the article, I would add that the aim must always be to keep them safe. So, still no social media for me!





## Christmas Card Competition 2024

*Merry Christmas*  
From all of us at  
Turing House  
School

**Turing House Christmas Card Competition 2024**

Your task is to design an original Christmas Card.

- The winning design will be digital, so the entries can be any size
- They **must** be a flat design (please nothing shiny and no glitter, beads, origami etc).
- You can also design it on a computer/iPad if you are tech savvy!
- Lots of positive points and prizes to be won

All designs must be submitted to Miss MacDouall, Mr Baker or emailed to [art@turinghouseschool.org.uk](mailto:art@turinghouseschool.org.uk) by Friday 22nd November.

### KEY DATES

w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> November	GCSE & A Level mocks continue
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 12 Parents' Evening (online)
27 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET day

## 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!

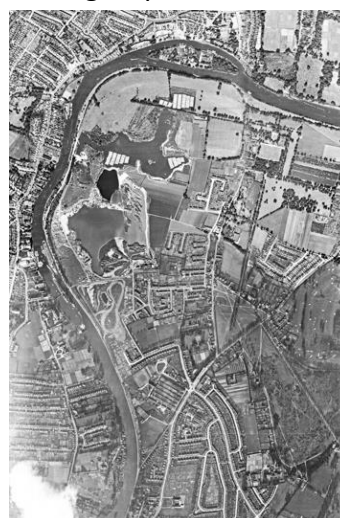
## Dramatic Success Stories

Congratulations to Amelia S in Y13 who was given a place on the Rose Theatre Collective programme for young people to gain experience in working in the

arts. Well done to Joseph M in Y11 who is taking part in his second show with the British Theatre Academy. We also have a number of students who have been cast in shows with local theatre companies Dramacube and Step on Stage who are currently rehearsing productions of Beauty and the Beast and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory respectively. Please let the performing arts team know if you're taking part in a show outside of school - we love to try to come to see as many of you on stage as we can!

## Kings Trust Group

As part of their Community Impact project The Kings Trust group have been working in Ham Lands to help



clear invasive species to expose and then repair more of the BMX track. They are working with Friends of Ham Lands to identify which plants need removing and once removed help rebuild and repair the sections of track. The BMX track has been in operation unofficially for

a really long time and the group were shown a photo taken in 1944 from an RAF plane that shows the BMX track clearly. Friends of Ham Lands really value the track and know the importance of having these facilities for young people. What we didn't realise is that the track actually helps reduce the invasive species of bramble and provides the right habitat for solitary bees.





## Music

It's great to see so many students entering and succeeding in their practical musical instrument exams in recent weeks. Some notable achievements have come from Raffi P (Y10) who gained Grade 1 Acoustic Guitar with Merit, Mya S (Y8) who gained Grade 1 Rock and Pop Drum Kit with Merit and Jacob O'C who achieved Grade 1 Electric Guitar with Merit. Well done to you all!

Our Year 11 GCSE Music students are hard at work preparing to perform their solo and ensemble pieces for their coursework submissions and their work will be performed on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm in the Main Hall. They have been preparing one solo and one ensemble performance each with music from a plethora of genres, from classical piano duets to heavy rock groups. There will be something for everyone and we hope to see many of you there.



A number of students have taken the opportunity to complete their Grade 5 Theory assessments with us in order to progress to the higher grades on their instruments. This is open to all students in every year group, and we meet every Wednesday morning at 7:40am to cover the content required to pass the exam. If your child needs to sit Grade 5 Theory, then please encourage them to join us. Sessions are free

of charge as part of our extra-curricular offer with a view to sit the exam in February or March.

## Unilever Apprenticeship Parent Open Evening event

14<sup>th</sup> November 4-7pm at Kingston College (opposite the Unilever building)

### What does the event entail?

This event will be made up of many activities in order to cover all aspects which we think could be of interest to students and parents. The activities will be the following:

- 1) A 'How to write a great CV' by Katie Sudds our Future Careers Manager (5:00-5:20pm)
- 2) A 'How to boss an interview' by Ellen White our Future Careers Specialist (5:30-5:50pm)
- 3) A Senior Leader talk by Jo Croft, National HR Director (6:00-6:30pm)

There will also be a continuous opportunity to speak to current apprentices who will be on programme stands ready to answer all your questions about their individual programmes and how they are finding it. They will be there for the whole duration of the event so you can pop in and speak to them at any time, even if you do not want to attend the workshops!

To apply please complete the attached form:

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Aq5v9jZdW0m\\_4Him\\_5-ObtjHUjwY8XFEglHO7XeU1rFUNFVGSEhRRDM1OFBCNEYyVVlwV0NESFFSQS4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Aq5v9jZdW0m_4Him_5-ObtjHUjwY8XFEglHO7XeU1rFUNFVGSEhRRDM1OFBCNEYyVVlwV0NESFFSQS4u&route=shorturl)

## St Mary's Parents evening



21st November 2024, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

St Mary's are excited to be hosting their first ever Parents' Evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. This event is aimed at parents and carers, but students applying to

university for September 2025 or 2026 entry are more than welcome to come along too.

This event will cover the benefits of university study and outline the student finance application and repayment process. Academics from different programme areas will be in attendance and this is a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to ask any questions they have about entry requirements, course content and career destinations.

### [Register now](#)

6pm – Arrival & refreshments

6.15pm Introduction

6.30pm 'Why consider University?' talk

7pm – Student Finance talk

7.30pm – Drop-Session with academics

If parents or carers have questions about this event, they can reach out to

Mariam at [Schools.colleges@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:Schools.colleges@stmarys.ac.uk)

## THS Friends Notices

### Easyfundraising

Christmas is the biggest fundraising opportunity for us through online shopping. Please remember to use #easyfundraising when you do your Christmas shopping. Over



8,000 retailers will donate to Turing House Friends at no extra cost to you - so you can raise donations when you buy gifts, decorations, your

festive food shopping or anything else! Please sign up and help us raise more. #loveyourschool

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/turinghousefriends/>

## Movement for Good Awards



There is still time to nominate Turing House Friends for the chance to win £1,000 in the Movement for Good Awards. So don't miss out, nominate us today!

It's one nomination per person, per charity so you can support all your favourites.

### [Movement for food](#)

## Sporting fixtures

### Year 8 Boys Rugby League Tournament

The Year 8 boys took part in the borough rugby league tournament last week. With just one other team entering this year, the boys were up against Teddington who always provide a very close game when the two sides are on the pitch. In the absence of rucks and scrums, the Turing team could concentrate on gaining ground within their 6-tackle limit and strategically kicking when required, as well as remaining disciplined in defence. Their efforts paid off as the boys came away victorious, scoring four tries to the opposition's three. This team wait to find out a date for their league final match in the union version of the game and, despite playing the other code of rugby on this occasion, they certainly showed why they are league finalists once again through their cohesion and determination. Well done to all involved!



### Year 7 Boys Basketball v Ark Academy

The Year 7 boys got their basketball league underway last week. With the borough league still to come, this



was the Junior NBA league which provides the boys with wider opportunities to compete against other participating schools. In this round the Turing Team were up against Ark Academy from Putney and they certainly showed their enthusiasm on the court. Not only did the boys enjoy a scoring spree with some sharp counter-attack play, they also managed to keep a clean sheet which is a rarity in basketball and tells you everything you need to know about their defence... solid. It was great to see the Year 10 boys help out with the fixture too! Well done to all involved!



### Year 7&8 Girls Football v Hampton High

The combined Year 7 and 8 girls football team resumed their league last week when they hosted Hampton High. Hoping to start the second leg of this term with a win under their belts, the girls pushed hard in the opening minutes of the game to test their opposition. It wasn't long before they were rewarded with a goal to take a 1-0 lead, however Hampton High came straight back in the race with an equaliser. With both teams chasing down a winning goal, a close game continued to play out in the second half but unfortunately it was the away team who managed to exploit some space down the wing and finish off a slick move to take a 2-1 win. Despite the narrow loss, the girls put in a brilliant effort from start to finish, not to mention looking the part in their new kit. Well done to all involved!



### Year 9 Boys Football v The Cedar School

With all the Surrey Cup action taking place last week for other year groups, the Year 9 boys were excited to play in their first round. They were up against The Cedar School, playing away from home in the straight knockout competition and hoping to build on the cup success of some of the other Turing teams. Despite a strong performance all game, THS were 2-1 down with just two minutes to play. Somehow, somewhere, the boys regathered themselves and scored not one but two goals in the sliver of game time that remained. This was not the work of the football gods, but rather it was the sheer refusal to accept defeat that made the difference in the end and a dramatic comeback win was the end result. The boys in blue also had the help of a couple of Year 8 students who stepped in last minute to replace some absent students and showed that they were more than capable of playing up a year. Well done to all involved!





### Year 8 Boys Football v Wimbledon College

The Year 8 boys finally got their turn to compete in the Surrey Cup earlier this week, playing at home against Wimbledon College. A tough team to face in the opening round, the opposition showcased their structural organisation early on as they refused to give the THS attack the space they were searching for. The Turing team found themselves two goals down at the start of the second half before scoring a goal of their own to begin a hopeful comeback. However, Wimbledon College netted again not long before the final whistle and so 3-1 was the end result, but the boys played well and represented the school in an exemplary manner as always. Well done to all involved!



### Year 10 Boys Football v ACS International School

Year 10 boys A and B teams took on ACS International School in a friendly match this week. The A team looked comfortable from the start, making use of the space and stretching play from side-to-side. The THS students had a high percentage of possession, but struggled to find the back of the net for most of the first half until the ball was bundled over the line in a group effort with a high press a few minutes before half time. The boys managed to find the back of the net straight after half time to ensure a comfortable second half. It was a good practice match before their 2nd round Surrey Cup game on Tuesday next week against Ashcombe school. The B team recorded their own positive result too with a 3-2 win over the same school. They worked tirelessly for the duration of the match to chase down an equaliser to make it two each. Having battled for possession, the boys then scored a winner late in the second half and scenes of rejoice unfolded. Well done to all involved!

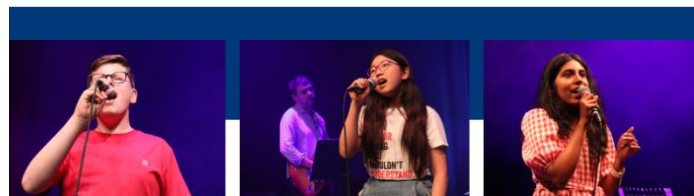


### Live at the Exchange



### LIVE AT THE EXCHANGE 2025

### PERFORMANCE & AUDITION DATES



Live at The Exchange is back on **Friday 11th July 2025!**

Auditions will be on **Tuesday 11th March.**

- Song Choices - start getting ideas together
- Groups - start planning & collaborating
- Songwriters - get writing, we look forward to hearing what you create!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the auditions.

More information coming soon!

### BACKING VOCALISTS

*Do you want to be a part of LaTE but not audition to sing a solo? Let us know!*

*We feature backing vocals in many of the songs performed - it's a great way to be involved without being centre-stage.*



If you have any queries or would like to stop receiving emails from us, please email [events@richmondmusictrust.org.uk](mailto:events@richmondmusictrust.org.uk)

[www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk](http://www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk)

