



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



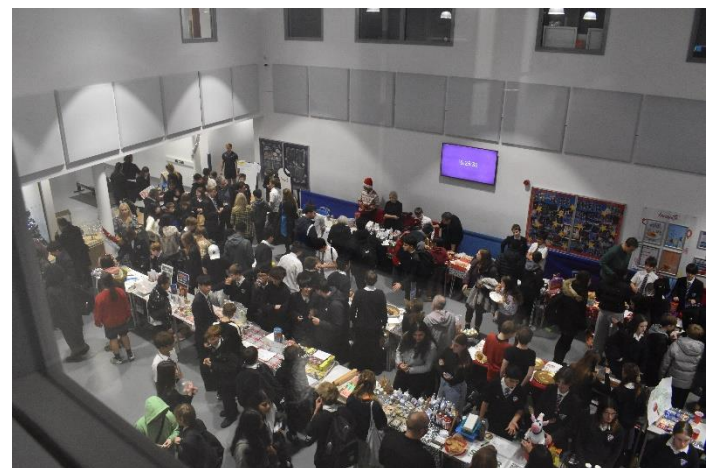
A Message from Mr O'Sullivan

What an incredible week to end the term! While most workplaces wind down before Christmas, Turing House was buzzing with activity. Our packed schedule included celebration assemblies, ice skating, and a festive Christmas lunch. The highlight was undoubtedly Tuesday night, when we hosted our second Christmas fair and musical concert. It was wonderful to see so many stalls showcasing students' creativity and business acumen. Note to self: bring more cash next year!



Christmas lunch, always a logistical challenge, was once again a huge success, creating a positive atmosphere throughout the school. I was particularly impressed by the three students who saved their 'skip the queue' passes all year to ensure they weren't held up for Christmas lunch.

As the term ends, we also have to say our goodbyes. This year, we bid farewell to Ms. Emery, Mr Roper, Mrs. Tosi, and a temporary goodbye and good luck to Ms. Winstanley (she'll be back). Our saddest farewell is to Mrs. Turner, the longest-serving member of staff to leave us. Mrs. Turner has been a cornerstone of the Turing House family, not only leading in Geography but also playing a crucial role in setting up our second temporary site in Hampton. She moves on to new adventures, but we hope she'll visit us to share updates on her new role.



The music concert was a true testament to the talent we have across all year groups. The performances were outstanding, culminating in a roof-raising finale by the choir. The

On behalf of the entire Turing team, we wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful and happy 2025.



KEY DATES



6 th January	INSET day
7 th January	Students return to school

Christmas lunch

On Thursday we hosted our yearly Christmas lunch with lots of our students enjoying their turkey dinner with all the trimmings!



Christmas Carol Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert took place on Tuesday with an incredible variety of genres, solo instrumentalists and vocalists as well as GCSE ensembles and clubs on stage. The audience was treated to our Band Club bands "6Dust" and "Subtraction" as well as some returning GCSE

ensembles with songs including Jet: Are you Gonna Be My Girl and AC/DC's Back in Black. Turing Singers performed a medley of Disney showtunes and our Orchestra performed an arrangement of 'Walking in the Air'. Congratulations to all of instrumental soloists and singers who showed off their talents as well as their hard work and dedication.



Year 10's Macbeth Adaptions

Inspired by their recent trip to see Macbeth at the Orange Tree Theatre, 10EN1 converted the classroom into a stage and performed re-imaginings of key scenes of the play. Working in groups, students had artistic license to adapt their scripts as they saw fit, considering positioning on the stage and of the audience. The groups worked well together and produced some excellent pieces of drama. A big thank you also to Raffi and Alice who led up in the class warm-up!



Aoibheann L (Y7) the Music Department has received a new set of V Drums. We're grateful to Aoibheann for choosing to support the department and here she is showing them off. Our drummers now have some additional instruments on which to practise. Thank you!



Amazing Leaders Host Inspiring Age UK Visit

Why attendance matters

We aim for every student's attendance to be at 96% or above!

On Friday, 13th December, our Year 8 Amazing Leaders group welcomed special guests from Age UK Richmond for a heartwarming morning of intergenerational connection. The event included a guided tour of the school, led by our enthusiastic students, followed by tea, mince pies, and captivating conversations.

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!

One of the highlights was learning more about the experiences our guests from Age UK had when they were at school. Their incredible stories and experiences (including writing lines and corporal punishment at school!) shocked the Year 8s! Together, students and guests also enjoyed a card-writing activity, learning about the art of letter-writing and creating heartfelt messages to share with loved ones.

New drums

We're delighted to share that thanks to the grant awarded by the Jack Petchey Foundation to

This meaningful event not only allowed our students to develop their leadership skills but also created lasting bonds and memorable moments with our visitors. We are proud of our Amazing Leaders for their warmth and enthusiasm and look forward to more opportunities to connect with Age UK.



Turing Writers Club

Turing Writer's club is a safe space for students to join together and creatively engage in writing for pleasure on Wednesday lunchtimes. Otilie S's (7R) description in this piece is powerful and immersive:

I stare around the blank void of nothingness surrounding me and shed a singular wet blue tear. Just one. But still, that is too much. I start to feel my

body changing, morphing, moving. I am pulled into a position of great agony, and I cry out in pain. Still more tears creep down my fear ridden face and slash into my dry skin and pierce the many wounds trying without much luck to disappear into the nothingness of my core. I feel my body crumple to resemble the one small tear that I could not keep in. just one. Only once. I feel myself moving away from my circle of shivering misery, and my hopes rise, just a fraction. Just enough to make the corners of my chipped and pierced lips point up to the crimson abyss above me. The circle of despair follows me like a hawk swooping down on its prey.

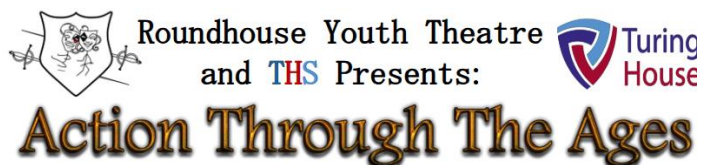
As I am pulled through the ever-deepening darkness, the whispers of sorrow swirl around me, making clear of the haunting silence that surrounds me. Each breath feels a painful stab in the back, a reminder of the weight of the despair that I am unable to be rid of. The void around me seems to hear me and I can almost hear it laugh in triumph as I shed yet another wet blue tear drenched with the essence of my despair. My limbs, heavy with the burden of unspoken grief, tremble under the unyielding pressure. In the depths of this abyss, hope is but a fleeting mirage, elusive and tantalizing, only to be crushed by the relentless tide of despair that drags me back into its suffocating embrace. I feel hands gripping my face, clawing at my paws, falling on top of me and encircling me in fear and anger.

And then, all the movement stops I fall to the cold hard ground and scream in despair. I know that I have to get up, but I don't want to leave the barren corridor

that I find myself in, knowing that, though it is cold bare and empty of all warmth and life, I fear that the place that I will soon be forced to explore will be worse. As I stumble through the choking darkness, the darkness grows colder, and a chill runs into my bones. The shadows around me thicken, their whispers growing louder and more insistent. My heart pounds with a mixture of fear and anticipation as an unseen magical force drags me helplessly through the dense fog. The eerie silence is broken only by the occasional distant howl, amplifying my terror. Each magical tug

feels like a descent into madness, as the oppressive gloom tightens its grip on my soul. The hope that once flickered dimly now seems to be swallowed by the darkness, leaving me with the unsettling realization that I am truly alone in this abyss.

Roundhouse Youth Theatre



Co-Curricular Music

Is your child's new year resolution to learn a musical instrument? Richmond Music Trust offer instrumental and vocal tuition during school hours on a number of instruments including Voice, Electric & Acoustic Guitar, Drum Kit, Piano/Keyboard, Voice as well orchestral instruments including Strings, Brass and Winds. Please visit their website below to sign up for the new term: [Apply Now - Richmond Music Trust](#)



Year 11 English Literature

In the (ghost of) Christmas spirit, students in 11X1 continued their termly tradition of turning their English Literature texts into an interpretive dance. Here, you can see Ellis and Joseph defying gravity in their embodiment of the supernatural. A panel of judges with a fine eye for detail unanimously agreed that this group (with Zachary and Oscar) were the winners of 11X1 2024 Term 1 interpretive dance championships.



Richmond Music Trust

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Year 7 Castle making

This week some of our Year 7s were busy making castles in History – there were some amazing creations. Well done!!



Action Breaks Silence

We were delighted to welcome the educational charity 'Action Breaks Silence' to Turing House on Monday of this week, where they led workshops for our 6th form students, looking at 'Empowerment Through Self-Defence' for the girls, and 'Undefining Masculinity' with the Year 12 boys. We were lucky

enough to have Debi Stevens - founder and CEO of the charity - leading the girls' workshop and sharing her inspirational, powerful story. As a charity, their programmes aim to tackle sexual harassment and sexual violence, with targeted strategies to address issues such as gender inequality and toxic masculinity,

which underpin harmful sexual behaviour. You can learn more about the work they do here: [Action Breaks Silence UK | Educational Charity - London](https://www.actionbreaksilence.org.uk/) We're already looking forward to welcoming them back in the new year to run sessions with our KS4 and Year 9 students.

Stage Combat

Our students enjoyed a Stage Combat performance which took place during Monday tutor time.



Calling Exam Invigilators

We are seeking to appoint reliable **Exam Invigilators** to join our Exam Invigilation team in the new year. This is a casual contract to oversee our examinations throughout the year and the attendance of on-site training and team meetings. Good time management, organisational skills and punctuality are required.

If you or anyone you know is interested in this role, please contact the school at:

vacancies@turinghouseschool.org.uk

Lost property

We have endeavoured to return all named lost property items to their owners.



We have several more unnamed items, especially winter coats and blazers. If your child has lost theirs, please would you ask them to come to Student Services in January.

One item we have that we are particularly keen

to return to its owner is this cute, personalised coffee mug. If it is yours, please contact Student Services.

Year 12 & 13 Poems of the Decade

6th form trip to the 'Poems of the Decade' conference

By Casper W.

On Thursday the 5th of December, students of the Turing House Sixth Form taking English Literature as an A-Level had the unique opportunity to attend a conference held at the English and Media Centre in London, surrounding the 'Poems of the Decade' anthology being studied as a part of the qualification. The event featured four poets featured in the anthology and two leading members from the EMC. Each poet presented their own poem, giving background to why and how they wrote them. Poets included were, in order of presenting: Patience Agbabi with 'Eat Me', Sinéad Morrissey with a talk about form in poems as well as 'Genetics', Ian Duhig with 'The Lammas Hireling' and Simon Armitage with 'Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass' as well as a quick analysis of Leontia Flynn's 'The Furthest Distances I've Travelled'.

At the end of each talk, the poets started a Q&A, where students were able to ask the poet anything regarding their poem. After Agbabi finished her presentation, one of the editors (Barbara Bleiman) at the EMC allowed the students to take part in a poetry-

writing exercise based on the theme of childhood. Students were then allowed to present their poems on the podium to the rest of the audience, including a couple of the featured poets.

Morrissey's presentation on form was based around white space, which, whilst some considered it to be overanalytical, offered a new perspective on form in poems and what the lack of text can imply.

The conference opened at 10:30am and ended at 3:05pm, both given by leading EMC member Emma Barker, with a break and lunch in between where the audience could have their books signed at the bookstall by the various poets present.

One of our students, at the end of the conference, successfully handed Poet Laureate Simon Armitage his own poem that he had written prior to the conference. He is still waiting for a response to this day (19/12).



Social Media Posts: Promoting Applications



Applications are open for 13–16 year-olds across the UK to join the National Saturday Club in 2024-25.

Joining a Saturday Club is a unique opportunity to build skills, discover talents, grow in confidence, and find out more about further study and career pathways. The National Saturday Club is free and open to 13–16-year-olds of all abilities.

Saturday Clubs are held at universities, colleges and cultural institutions and are currently offered in eight subjects: Art & Design, Craft & Making, Fashion & Business, Film & Screen, Performance & Theatre, Society & Change, Science & Engineering and Writing & Talking.

View the National Saturday Club map [HERE](#)

Suggested posts:

Across the country, applications are open for 13–16 year olds to join their local [@natsatclub](#). This is a free opportunity to build skills, grow in confidence and find out more about future study and careers. Apply to join: saturday-club.org/join

Applications are now open for our clubs starting in January:

- [Craft Making](#) at Trinity Buoy Wharf
- [Film & Screen](#) at East London Arts and Music (ELAM)
- [Performance Theatre](#) at East London Arts and Music (ELAM)
- [Art & Design](#) at Kingswood Arts
- [Film & Screen](#) at London Screen Academy
- [Science & Engineering](#) at St Mary's University
- [Society & Change](#) at London Metropolitan University
- [Science & Engineering](#) at Kingston University London
- [Art & Design](#) at Kingston University London

National Work Experience Week 13th-17th January

Gain Virtual work experience with the NHS Tuesday 14th January at 4.30pm

(virtual session hosted on MS Teams)

Student year groups 7-9 England & Wales, S1-S3 Scotland, 8-10 Northern Ireland

“Quick with the facts, help the NHS be swift to react!”

- A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
[Register now!](#)

Gain Virtual work experience with the NHS Wednesday 15th January at 5pm

(virtual session hosted on MS Teams)

Student year groups 10-13 England & Wales, S4-S6 Scotland, 11-14 Northern Ireland

After a sudden bump and fall, should they visit A&E or is first aid enough for all?

- A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
[Register now!](#)

Careers Fair 2026



Calling all Volunteers: The Turing House Careers Fair 2025 will be on Thursday 13th March 5.30 - 7.30pm.



We are excited to launch our THS Careers Fair for 2025. We are hoping to build on the wide array of careers represented last year, where we had over 40 stands and speakers with approximately 400 attendees. We are therefore looking for representatives from a **variety of careers**, and this year we are particularly interested to hear from anyone working in trades. However, all volunteers are welcome.

Are you able to help us in any way? Do you run a company or have an appealing job that our students may be interested in? Are you willing spend some time telling them about your experience in the workplace/your career path? Feedback from last year's volunteers was overwhelmingly positive. If you would like to volunteer again this year, please do get in touch.

You can email the Careers team via info@turinghouseschool.org.uk preferably by the **6th January 2025**. Please include a brief overview of your role/company and include your contact details. We will then contact you with further details.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Rex Nettleford Prize

Calling All Year 12 Students: Enter the Rex Nettleford Prize!

Are you a creative thinker with a passion for exploring important issues? The Rex Nettleford Prize, run by Oriel College, Oxford, is a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 students to showcase their ideas and win an exciting award!

This competition invites students to submit a 1,000-word essay or a piece of creative writing on the theme of "*Belonging*." Whether you explore cultural, social, or personal interpretations of the theme, the competition encourages thought-provoking and original work.

Why Enter?

- **Prestige:** Stand out on future university or job applications.
- **Recognition:** The winner will receive £250 and an invitation to an awards day at Oriel College, Oxford.
- **Creativity:** It's a chance to explore a fascinating topic and develop your writing skills.

The competition is free to enter and open to all Year 12 students at UK state schools. The deadline for entries is **Friday 21 February 2025**.

For more details on how to apply, visit the Rex Nettleford Prize page on the Oriel College website. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to make your voice heard! [Rex Nettleford Essay Prizes: Colonialism and its Legacies - Oriel College](#).

UNIQ: A Life-Changing Opportunity – Apply Now

Year 12s - are you curious about life at the University of Oxford? Do you want to explore your educational options and receive support with your university application? Then UNIQ could be the perfect opportunity for you!

What is UNIQ?

UNIQ is the University of Oxford's free access programme for UK state school students in their first year of further education. It's designed to help you decide if Oxford is right for you and guide you in making a strong university application.

The programme prioritises students with good grades from backgrounds under-represented at Oxford and other universities. Each year, more students from diverse backgrounds successfully secure places at Oxford thanks to UNIQ.

Why Apply?

- Gain insight into what it's like to study at Oxford.
- Attend subject sessions led by Oxford's world-class academics.



- Get advice on how to make your university application stand out.
- Meet other students from across the UK and be part of a supportive network.

Established in 2010, UNIQ has helped thousands of students take their first step toward studying at Oxford. Applications for this prestigious programme are now open – don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible opportunity!

For more information and to apply, visit [What is UNIQ? - UNIQ](#). The deadline is in January, so act fast!

Music Clubs

A reminder of Music's extra-curricular offer in the new year:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School		Y11 Composition	Grade 5 Music Theory		
Lunchtime				Music Tech	
After School	Band Club		Bugsy Malone Band	Turing Singers	Orchestra

Sporting fixtures

Year 13 Sport Studies Students in Action

Over the past few weeks, the Year 13 Sport Studies students have been delivering a number of sporting events in the form of football and basketball tournaments. This has been part of their coursework where they are required to plan, organise and run a sports event of their choice. As a result, the Year 7 and 9 students were given the chance to compete in a 5-side football competition, while the Year 8 and 10 students had the option of a basketball tournament. Well done to all those who signed up and took part and well done to the Year 13 students for your excellent organisation and delivery!



Year 9 Boys Football v Grey Court

The Year 9 football team faced Grey Court earlier this week on the football pitch in their last borough league match of the year. Hoping to see out 2024 in style, the Turing team denied the visitors their scoring moments for much of the first half, proving strong amid their back line. Just before the break however, Grey Court managed to find the space they needed to get on the scoreboard. This started a run-in of goals for the opposition as the THS defence was tested further but the boys did managed to score a well-worked consolation goal before full time. Well done to all involved!

Year 10 Boys Football v Grey Court

The Year 10 boys also came up against Grey Court in their borough league game this week. Possibly one of the closest games we've seen this year, the score at half time stood 2 goals each. The Turing team looked to claim the win in the second half when they scored for a third time and aimed to hold on for the remainder of the game. To their disappointment, the opposition levelled once again and the match was heading for a draw. Or so it seemed until THS pushed

ahead with one last offensive attempt. The ball was swung into the box and found the back of the net right in the last second of the game to take a 4-3 victory. Another dramatic last-gasp win, another formal letter of apology owed to the Drama Department for moving the school show outside and off script. Well done to all involved!



Y7/8 Rugby Session

The Year 7 and 8 boys were treated to a special coaching session led by former THS student Finn Bulkeley. Having been a very keen and promising rugby player throughout Year 7-11 at THS, Finn is now at Eastbourne College playing in the first IX rugby team. He attended the last training session of the year and put the students through their paces, delivering an engaging session that was enjoyed by all. Great to see you back, Finn!

