



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



A Message from Mr O'Sullivan

On Tuesday Mrs Collins and I were invited to take part in the St Mary's College Education event in Westminster: Insights from Practice for Policy. This poster (below) was on display at the conference in the House of Lords which enabled people practising in education to put forward policies for consideration.

We presented three policy proposals that were in keeping with our unofficial vision of students being safe, happy and learning.

Policy Proposal 3 – Funding from the government to reduce the impact of social media and smart phones on student mental health and well being.



Turing House

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, 485 children were seriously harmed or killed due to neglect or abuse.

Working in the state secondary education sector, we have witnessed a steady and alarming decline in the mental health and wellbeing of our young people over the past decade. At the same time, it has grown increasingly difficult to access support from local services.

Mental Health Issues

- 2023: 3
- 2022: 4
- 2021: 5

Issue 1 Youth Mental Health

- The NHS supported 700,000+ children with their mental health in 2023.
- 20.2% of 8-16-year-olds had a probable mental disorder.
- Eating disorders rose from 0.8% (2017) to 12.5% (2023).
- 60% of children have been unable to access mental health services due to high referral rejection rates.
- Over 2 million people are on waiting lists for NHS mental health support in England.
- 1% of 8-16-year-olds with mental health issues missed 15+ school days in one term.

Issue 2 Inconsistent Social Care

In the 2023 BASW Annual Survey of Social Workers:

- 46% felt that excessive workload was their biggest pressure.
- 46.9% identified adequacy of staffing levels as one of the biggest challenges in their workplaces.
- 67.4% identified cuts to local services as one of the biggest challenges facing the profession in the immediate future.
- 64.6% of respondents report not being able to complete all their work during their contracted hours.

Issue 3 Impact of Social Media on Teens

- The average child (5-15 years old) spends 5 hours, 24 minutes a day on social media.
- Effects of excessive social media include stress, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, sleep deprivation, poor school progress, reduced social skills.
- Smartphones have rewired the child brain, reducing social interactions crucial for brain development.
- Increased social media use predicts lower life satisfaction.
- Almost three-quarters of teenagers between age 13 and 17 have encountered one or more potential harms online.

POLICY PROPOSAL 1

All schools should be funded by the Government to employ an in-house, full-time counsellor.

POLICY PROPOSAL 2

Local Children's Services should allocate a named social worker to clusters of local schools.

POLICY PROPOSAL 3

Government should fund school strategies to reduce the impact of smart phones on students' mental health and wellbeing.



Policy Proposal 1 – All schools to have a fully funded counsellor.

Policy Proposal 2 – A named social worker for clusters of schools

KEY DATES

Wed 29 Jan	Chinese New Year lunch - Canteen
Thurs 30 Jan	Y9 DTP/Meningitis ACWY vaccinations
6 Feb	Y9 online Parents evening

Jack Petchey

It is that time of the year again when we award another four Jack Petchey awards. Please click here to nominate or scan the QR code. For more information on Jack Petchey and the achievement award please click here:



School Show update



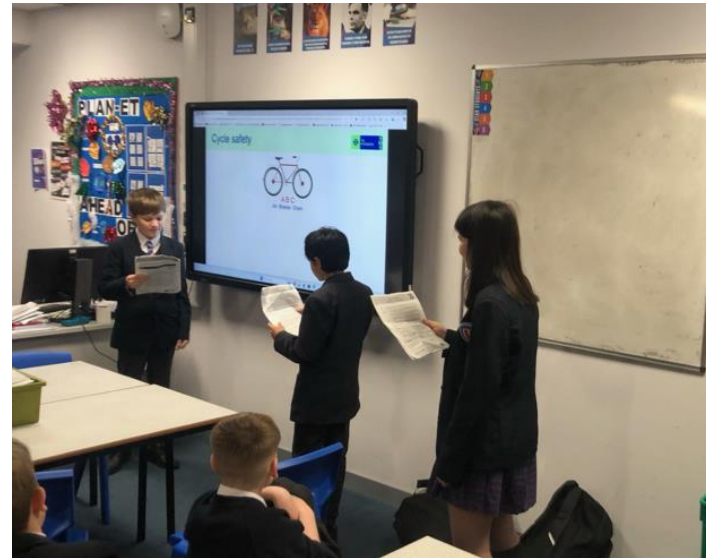
The cast, band and crew are working hard on Buggy Malone. Next Tuesday (28th) is a long rehearsal which finishes at 6:30pm. It is important that all members attend this as it's a great chance for us to run everything we've rehearsed so far, make changes and improve the show.

If you are a parent/friend of the school who owns or has access to scaffolding, we could borrow for the week of the show (w/c 31st March) please do let us know via the school office.

Tickets will be on sale on ParentPay from after half term.

Year 8 TFL pioneer ambassadors

On Wednesday last week, a group of Year 8 students who are our Tfl pioneer ambassadors presented an assembly to the Year 7 tutor groups on top travel tips, which aligned with road safety week. They have been working with Tfl over the last two terms to discuss the potential difficulties students may have with improving their journeys to school, as well as being informed about cycle safety.



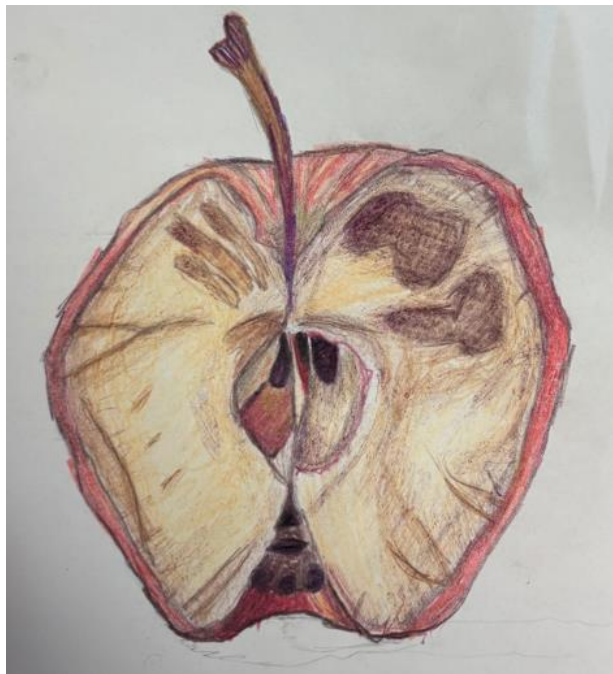
Positive Behaviour Points Rewards

Last week we had our second round of rewards which celebrated the top 10 students with the most positive behaviour points for Term 2 in each year group. They received a pizza lunch, early finish to lesson, a skip the queue card, and a movie in the hall. Well done!



Art of the week – Year 9

Year 9 have been exploring natural forms in pencil and watercolour and these students produced some excellent homework. Well done to Lyla B, Curtis R and Jasper J.

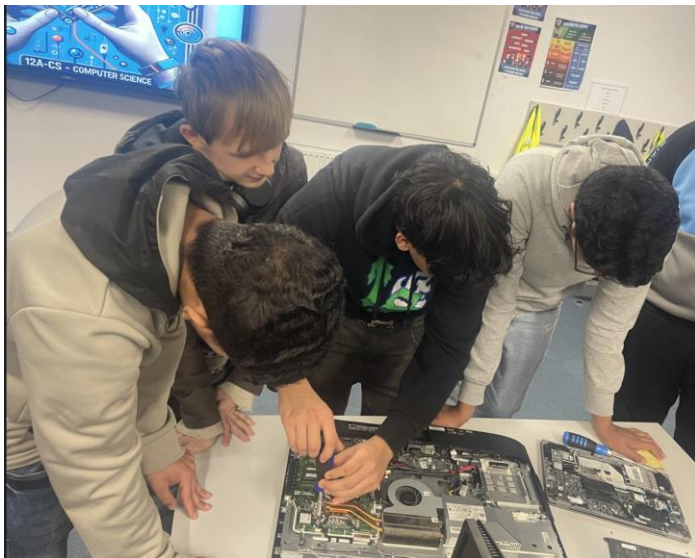


Daisy S in year 9 has drawn an amazing illustration of the Mandalorian.

**Computer Science Hands-On Session**

The Year 12 Computer Science students recently participated in an exciting Physical Computing Hands-On Session in collaboration with the school's IT Support team. They explored circuits, processors, and

microcontrollers, but the highlight was disassembling computer systems and laptops. Students opened up the devices, carefully deconstructed different components, and analysed how they connect to the motherboard. This hands-on exploration allowed them to understand the inner workings of computer systems, from hardware integration to overall functionality. The session sparked curiosity, deepened technical expertise, and offered a blend of creativity and learning that left everyone inspired and more confident in their computing skills.

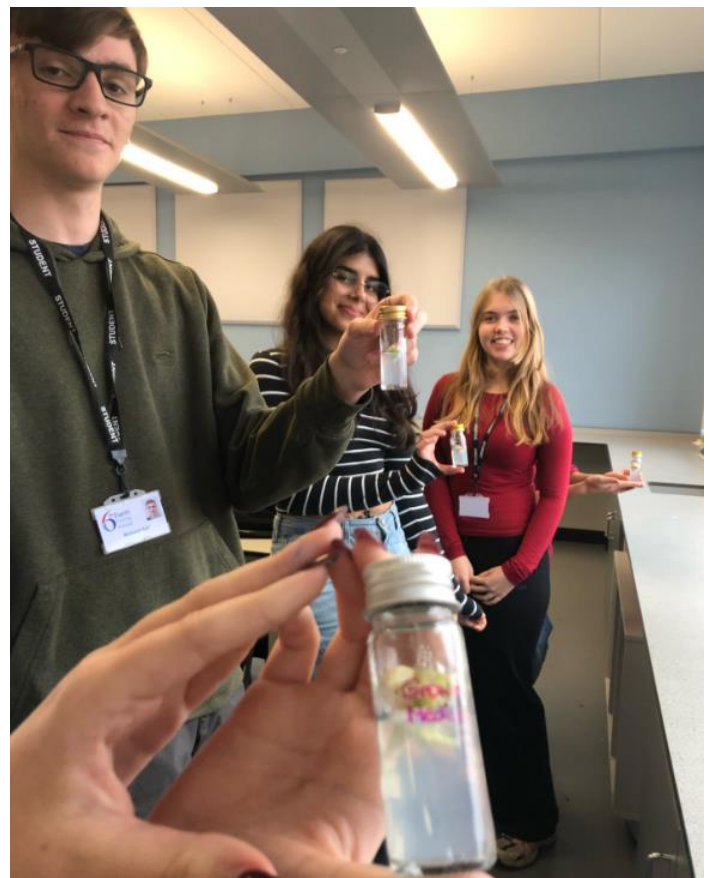


Biology lessons

In Y11 Biology with Mr Evans, students have been preparing for their next mock exam. Last week, students were using microscopes to view the cells from the underside of a leaf, developing their understanding of microscopes, magnification, leaf structure, cells, methodology, and photosynthesis.



In A level Biology, Mr Evans' class have recently been learning about Cloning and Biotechnology. At the start of the unit, they were introduced to the idea of micropropagation and its food production and conservation. Last fortnight, students used their previous knowledge of aseptic technique to successfully micro propagate cauliflower.



Craft Club

During Craft Club this week we painted mini canvases and mounted them on cardboard, which we will trim once they are dry. Also, we did some mindful colouring using the very popular CocoWyo illustrations!



6th Form Update

Last weekend, 15 Sixth Formers went to Barcelona to learn about the city's history and culture. Highlights included a cable car trip up Montjuïc, a tour of the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, the Picasso Museum, a

visit to Parc Güell, as well as incredible food throughout. ¡Qué fantástico! A big thank you to the Spanish department for organising the trip and taking us!



Back at school, the Year 12s have recently completed their Mid-Year Assessments and begun receiving feedback, helping them to see how they have progressed so far and enable them to identify areas for improvement. Everyone is so proud of their achievements and effort so far.

At the same time, the Year 13s have been busy preparing for their upcoming mocks, whilst also completing and sending off their applications for universities and apprenticeships. Over 100 offers have already been received, showing the hard-working nature of this cohort.

Why attendance matters

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



If your child has a minor illness and no immediate appointments at your GP surgery, there is a free NHS service where you can get access to healthcare advice at your local pharmacy. Please click on the link below for more details:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/>

Homework Club

As part of our Extra Curricular offer, we have a number of different homework club opportunities. This is

ideal for students who want to get their work done before they go home or who would like some support with their work. There are computers available and teachers and/or support teachers at the clubs to help with the work. We run a general supported homework group open to all year groups, Monday - Thursdays in room 0.17 and there is also a maths Dr Frost homework support club on Mondays and Thursdays. Please check our extra-curricular offer on our website for full details of all clubs available: Extra-curricular activities.

Please do encourage your child to attend one of these groups; they can come and go when they have finished their work. The clubs finish at 4pm.

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 **31st 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.

FOCUS TOYS

A small reminder about focus toys for parents and students. These are only allowed to be used in lessons in school as part of a student's Special Education Needs plan and can only be used if agreed with the SEN department. The focus toys/objects are limited to those we allow in school and students should not use their own toys without permission. If you feel your child requires use of a focus toy, and they don't already have permission, please complete the concerns form here:



The only permitted focus toys are those that do not cause any disruption to learning and can be discreetly and silently used. We do not allow stress balls at all in any class. Unfortunately, we would need to confiscate any toys used in class that had not been agreed (to be returned at the end of the school day). Example of the types of focus toys we do allow are as follows



Parents of children with SEND

The local parent & carer forum have asked that we circulate a link to a questionnaire they have created and are inviting you to complete. The questions relate to two current government consultations which close next week: the [Solving the SEND Crisis Inquiry](#) (closes Thursday 30th January); and the Law Commission's [Review of Disabled Children's Social Care](#) (closes Friday 31st January). They are proposing to collate evidence collected through their questionnaire and answer accurately on behalf of local parents and carers as they recognise it is quite a challenge for families to respond to every government consultation. They are also asking a small number of questions about the local area SEND system to inform the annual 'check in' meeting with OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

If you would like to contribute to this, the survey can be accessed here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPCF2025> or via the QR code:





Sixth Form University Offers So far...

Our Sixth Formers have been very busy in recent weeks completing their UCAS applications, as the deadline fast approaches.

It's been really lovely for the Sixth Form Team to have increased one-to-one time with the students, discussing their future aspirations and seeing the hard work that they have been putting into their Personal Statements. So far, we have had an incredible 71 offers made to students! A special congratulations to Bella C who has also received two Unconditional offers.

We look forward to even more coming in across the next few weeks.

Student name	Provider name	Course name
Rhiya S	University of Birmingham	Economics
	Cardiff University	Economics
	Queen Mary University of London	Economics
	University of Southampton	Economics
Maria A	University of Warwick	Biomedical Science
Joe T	University of Bristol	Mathematics with Study Abroad in a Modern Language
	The University of Edinburgh	Mathematics
	University of Glasgow	Spanish/Mathematics
	University of Sheffield	Mathematics with Spanish
Alexander G	UCL (University College London)	Law
	University of Warwick	Law
	University of York	Law
Taran V	Cardiff University	Law
	University of Surrey	Law
Michael H	University of Exeter	Mechanical Engineering
	University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering
Richard H	University of Bristol	Physics
	King's College London, University of London	Physics
	University of Southampton	Physics
Elliot H	University of Glasgow	International Relations (SocSci)
	Lancaster University	International Relations
	Newcastle University	International Relations
	University of Reading	War, Peace and International Relations
Zac R	City, University of London	Actuarial Science (with Professional Placement)
Chloe C	Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management

Chloe C	University of Reading	Business and Management
	University of York	Business and Management
Lukas Y	University of Birmingham	Economics
	University of Exeter	Economics and Finance with Industrial Experience
	Loughborough University	Economics and Finance (with placement year)
	University of Southampton	Economics and Finance
Lucy F	Manchester Metropolitan University	Sport and Exercise Science
George E	City, University of London	Aerospace Engineering with Foundation
	University of Surrey	Mechanical Engineering with Foundation Year
	Brunel University of London	History
Hanna Q	Queen Mary University of London	History
	Royal Holloway, University of London	History
	SOAS University of London	History
Zach P	Queen Mary University of London	Mechanical Engineering
	University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering
	University of Surrey	Mechanical Engineering
	University of Exeter	Geography with Professional Placement
Zechariah V	Loughborough University	Geography (with placement year)
	Royal Holloway, University of London	Geography
	University of Southampton	Geography

Isaac M	University of Derby	Accounting and Finance
	Kingston University	Accounting and Finance
	University of Reading	Accounting and Finance
	University of Reading	Finance with Foundation
Giacomo F	University of West London	Accounting and Finance with Foundation Year
	University for the Creative Arts	Film Production
Arun L	University of Portsmouth	Film Production
	University of Leicester	General Engineering (with Industry)
	University of Sheffield	General Engineering with an Industrial Placement Year
Joseph JD	City, University of London	Computer Science
	Kingston University	Computer Science
Joshua H	Royal Holloway, University of London	Computer Science
	University of York	Computer Science
	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
	Hartpury University	Sports Coaching
Stanley B	Leeds Beckett University	Sport Coaching
	Nottingham Trent University	Sport Science and Coaching (with foundation year)
	St Mary's University, Twickenham	Sports Coaching Science
	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching
	Leeds Beckett University	Sport Coaching
Stanley B	Manchester City Community Football Coaching	Manchester City Community Football Coaching
	Manchester Metropolitan University	Sport Coaching and Development
	UCFB	Football Coaching and Talent Development



Isabella CC	Aberystwyth University	Criminology and Criminal Psychology
	University of Brighton	Criminology
	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Criminology
	University of Northampton	Criminology
	University of Roehampton	Criminology and Criminal Justice
Abigail P	University of Kent	Sport and Exercise Science
	Nottingham Trent University	Sport Science, Health and Nutrition
	Southampton, Solent University	Health, Nutrition and Exercise Science
Amelia S	Royal Holloway, University of London	Drama with Acting
	Royal Holloway, University of London	Drama with Film
	St Mary's University, Twickenham	Acting
Samuel W	Lancaster University	Geography
	University of Liverpool	Geography
	Newcastle University	Geography
Jason B	University of Essex	International Relations (Including Placement Year)
	Lancaster University	International Relations (Placement Year)
	Queen Mary University of London	International Relations
	University of Reading	Politics and International Relations with Placement Year
	Royal Holloway, University of London	International Relations
Nicole G	University of Exeter	Neuroscience
	University of Nottingham	Neuroscience
	Queen Mary University of London	Neuroscience
	University of Southampton	Neuroscience



U15 Boys Volleyball Tournament

As with the Year 8s, the Year 10s also took part in the borough volleyball tournament at the start of this week. With some last minute unforeseen drop-outs from other schools, the Turing team were left with just the hosts, Richmond upon Thames, to face for first place. The two sides engaged in a best-of-3 battle where THS won the first game and RTS won the second, leaving all to play for in the third game. It was very close up until the last few points but some sharp serving and quick reactions at the net ensured victory for Turing in the end. Well done to all involved!



Sports Fixture

U13 Boys Volleyball Tournament

Two teams of Year 8 boys entered this year's borough volleyball tournament. With wins in previous years at this competition, the Turing teams were eager to etch their names among the list of winners. Turing House A team came up against Turing House B team and Richmond upon Thames, beating both in a composed manner to take first place. The B team also impressed on the court as they beat RTS to take second place and gave THS A team a run for their money. Well done to all involved!

Year 7 Boys Basketball v Hampton High

The Year 7 boys basketball borough league continued this week. The Turing team travelled to Hampton High where they got stuck into four quarters of turning possession over and countering through fast breaks aplenty. The opposition, however, were sharp in defence and kept the THS score relatively low, but it wasn't enough of an effort to stop some formidable attacking of the space in and around the key. The boys came home with a well-earned win and they next face Twickenham away next week. Well done to all involved!



Year 10 Boys Football v Christ's School

The Year 10 boys took to the field at home this week when they came up against Teddington in a league football match. Looking to keep their winning form intact, the Turing team were a goal up at half time. Not content with the current outcome, they netted again to take a 2-0 lead before the opposition came back with a well-worked goal of their own. The boys knew not to underestimate the threat of a comeback and so they worked hard to create a few more chances in the dying minutes of the game to secure a 3-1 victory. Their next match is against Richmond on Thames next week. Well done to all involved!



U16 Boys Basketball v Ark Blake Academy

The Year 10 boys took part in another Dynamic league fixture this week. They made their way to Croydon to take on Ark Blake Academy, playing with just 5 players. This didn't phase the Turing team in the slightest, as they approached the match in the same way as if they were a complete team with subs. With no rest for the wicked, the boys relentlessly opened up their opponents and applied defensive pressure that proved costly for the home side. Despite some understandable tired lungs and heavy legs becoming apparent in the latter part of the game, THS held strong to come away with a very convincing win, earning their rest on the bus journey home. Their next game in the league is against St Andrews in two weeks' time. Well done to all involved!

Year 9 Boys Football v Richmond Park Academy

The Year 9 boys, and some additional Year 8 boys, made the long journey across Richmond to play Richmond Park Academy earlier in the week when their league fixtures resumed. The match proved to

be quite the spectacle as both sides gave their all throughout the duration of the game, with the score not reflecting how close a match it was. The Turing team were trailing by just one goal right up until the final ten minutes where they pressed hard in search for an equaliser. To their dismay, the opposition counter attacked the THS offensive play and were able to score two goals to deliver a 5-2 loss to the men in blue. Despite their disappointment, it was a fantastic effort from all players and the boys will get another chance next week when they take on Richmond upon Thames. Well done to all involved!



Song writing mentoring sessions

SONG WRITING AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS MENTORING SESSIONS

with **Janette Mason**, Artist In Residence, composer, producer and arranger.
 & **Juliet Roberts**, songwriter, vocalist and soul music Diva.

1st & 2nd March
2-5pm
 The Exchange,
 Twickenham




Join these two outstanding industry professionals for a weekend of mentoring sessions exploring song writing, story-telling, song structure, melody and harmony plus performance skills including vocal and mic technique.

Followed by an informal concert at:
The Exchange Cabaret Room
2nd March, 7-9pm.

Bring along an original song for constructive feedback plus the tools to develop your music and artistry **or** if you prefer, bring along a cover song to perform and get help with your performance skills.

Everyone is welcome.

There will also be an opportunity to perform live with **AYRA** – Janette and Juliet's original nu-soul project at their headline Concert for **International Women's Day on March 8th.**

Limited number of spaces so please book in advance.

- Workshop dates 1st & 2nd March, 2-5pm
- Informal concert open to friends and family 2nd March, 7-9pm
- Open to all ages and standards
- Fee £95 for two days (see QR Code above)

For more info please contact:
janette@janettemason.com