



# Headteacher's Update

21st December 2018

## Happy Holidays

We would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and restful break.

Thank you so much for all the book gifts we have received; we have been overwhelmed by your generosity.

We look forward to seeing you all back in school at 8.30am on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



## MENSA Puzzle

Rearrange the following letters to give two words. All 10 letters must be used in each word. What are the words?

**A A G I L L M N R Y**

**Last week's answer:** Stable & Shepherds

### Forthcoming Events

- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> January - INSET day
- Tues 8<sup>th</sup> January - Students return to school
- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> January - Yr 9 DTP/Meningococcal ACWY Vaccinations
- Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> January - Yr8 Parents' Evening

## Comedy Night – Save the Date!

The Friends of Turing House are pleased to announce the next Comedy Night on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, at The Exchange (opposite Twickenham Station). Save the date in your diary – further information will follow in January!

## Linguists of the Term

Congratulations to our first round of Linguists of the Term! The following students were nominated for their consistent hard work since September in Spanish:

Year 7- Arun Lal

Year 8- Caiden Palmer

Year 9- Tom Phillpot

Year 10- Alicia Carroll

## GCSE Spanish Club

From next term, GCSE Spanish club will be after school on Tuesdays with Mrs Harman and Wednesday with Mr Torres.



### Santa Fun Run – Well done Casper & Henry!

Congratulations to Casper and Henry who took part in the 2018 Santa Fun Run in support of the Princess Alice Hospice last Sunday. Not only did they complete the 5k



course in elf hats and Christmassy attire, ahead of their parents and Casper's dog Bo, but they raised over £1,000 to help ensure that vital Princess Alice services remain free to families in our community. Well done boys!

### Well Done Freddie !

Freddie Wood took his grade 1 Guitar exam last week and passed with a Merit scoring 85/100! Well done!



### Language Courses

"Last summer I travelled to Spain to Vejer de la Frontera to stay with a Spanish family and another girl from Texas. I completed Spanish classes in the morning with

two other students and in the afternoon we did activities like surfing. I stayed for two weeks and it really improved my Spanish speaking skills. I would highly recommend something like this to anyone who feels they would benefit from extra practice with their Spanish." Jess Holmes (Year 10)

If you are interested in your son/daughter going on a full immersion trip to Spain this summer, there are many companies that organise it. Jess travelled with Apple Languages. If you would like other recommendations or advice on these courses, please do contact Mrs Harman.

### Year 9 Drama



Y9s have been performing the pieces of theatre they've created in Drama lessons last week. The pieces look at the issues of gang crime and why people join gangs.

### Sussical the Musical Visit

Our Seussical the Musical 2019 cast at [@seussicallondon](https://www.instagram.com/seussicallondon) Wednesday night. Thanks to the cast members who stopped for a chat with us after the show.



## RET Creative Writing Competition 2018

The awards ceremony for RET's inaugural Creative Writing Competition was held at the Poetry Café in London. We were delighted that Jennie Rooney agreed to join us.

Jennie proves that if you really want to write, it doesn't matter how busy you are, you can do it! In addition to being a lawyer and the mother of two very young children, Jennie has also published three novels to date. Her first, *The Opposite of Falling*, was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award; this was soon followed by *Inside the Whale*, described as "an absolute tour de force". Her third novel, *Red Joan*, has recently been turned into a film, directed by Trevor Nunn and starring Dame Judi Dench.

Jennie spoke about the importance of reading in her life and described her own approach to writing: she spends a long time planning her work, writes with a pen and then revises the text as she then word-processes the first draft. She encouraged the students to find time for their writing and told them just how impressed she had been with their short stories.

The theme of the Creative Writing Competition was *70 Years of the NHS*. Students had to stick to strict word limits, but could explore the theme in any way they wished. Entries ranged from the supernatural to war, but all managed to convey something of the key qualities of the NHS: care, compassion, courage, communication, commitment and competence.

Each school held its own, internal competition and the winning entries were then judged anonymously. The results were:

**KS3 Joint Winners:** Molly Lambert (King's) and Sam Barnes (Turing House).

**KS3 Runners-up:** Isabel Keefe (Becket Keys); Lena Radzins (Turing House); Isabella Hawkins (Bristol Free School), Luciano Spiers (St Andrew's)

**KS4 Joint Winners:** Lena Richards (Bristol Free School) and Caleb Golding (King's)

**KS4 Runners-up:** Abigail Carey (Becket Keys); Jess Holmes (Turing House); Candice Li (King's); Lena Richards (Bristol Free School); Matthew Timmis (Bristol Free School); Stas Avraam (St Andrew's); Ethan Hope (Turing House)

**KS5 Winner:** Madeleine Williams (Bristol Free School)

A book of all the shortlisted entries will become available in the New Year.

The English teachers were delighted with the amount of brilliant entries to the writing competition.

Miss Andrews took our winners, Sam B, Lena R, Ethan H and Jess H to The Poetry Café in London to the award ceremony. They heard author Jenny Rooney talk about her journey into writing novels, and what inspires her. She judged the stories across all the entries from the RET schools, and said she was incredibly impressed by the compassion conveyed in the stories, and the willingness of students to live from someone else's perspective in their writing.

Ms Rooney said Sam's story was well structured, mature, and conveyed the devastating effects of injury in war. See below for Sam's winning entry!



**Just another casualty by Sam Barnes**

It was my third year on the front line. Like any other day, the sounds of war were piercing my ears, but I had to fight on; the innocent were dying, and I was one of the few soldiers who could aid them. The sulphurous smell of the air was poisoning my insides. Without warning, a scream rocketed towards me. Seconds after impact, I was bolting forward to save the endangered soul. However, I had made it half way when a shot rang through the air. I knew what was coming next... the bullet found its target, sinking into my thigh and ripping my skin apart with ease, sending my body spiraling into the uncontrollable world of pain. I swiftly fell in agony, scared for my life and suddenly I didn't feel like the heroic figure I was only a minute ago, but just another casualty.

I felt the overwhelming volcano of torment inside me for what seemed like years but was truthfully a couple of minutes. The malevolent scene of war sat in front of my immobile body showing the hazardous, harsh and inhumane place it truly was. The sea of carcasses that lay in the pain-inflicting area named 'no man's land' was all I could see.

However, I was only capable to contemplate the philosophy of War for a couple of seconds, as out of the blue shouts blasted me back to reality. I was just able to whimper pathetically for the assistance I desperately needed.

After an agonizing wait, a team of highly trained field medics arrived and subsequently concluded that I had shattered my left femur and ruptured my thigh muscles.

I was rolled gradually and meticulously onto the stretcher that would be used to transport me to the nearest field hospital in the muddy land that had been my home for the past three years. This could be my final day of active duty and my final mission for my country, consequently changing my life forever.

Eventually a cluster of immense shelters came into view. I was carried through the door with new found energy. Whispering anxiously to herself, a surgeon

burst through the door, alerting me to the fact my injury was severe and must be treated immediately.

Returning home was the most traumatic moment of my life. My independence had been stolen away by the injury, no longer able to move un-aided meant my service with the armed forces of Britain was over. Worst of all, my wife had abandoned the family home and taken my child with her.

After reaching rock bottom, I discovered an inner strength that I knew not of before. My physical and emotional rehabilitation has been an intense period, but with the incredible support of 'Help for Heroes' I know now that I will get through this seemingly insurmountable mission. My first delight has been getting to see my wonderful daughter regularly, who is my inspiration to continue this up-hill trek.

**RP Mock Results Day**

Students will receive their first GCSE mock result in a special event on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The next assignment (Christian Beliefs) on Seneca will be available over the Christmas break, so please encourage students to complete this when it becomes available.

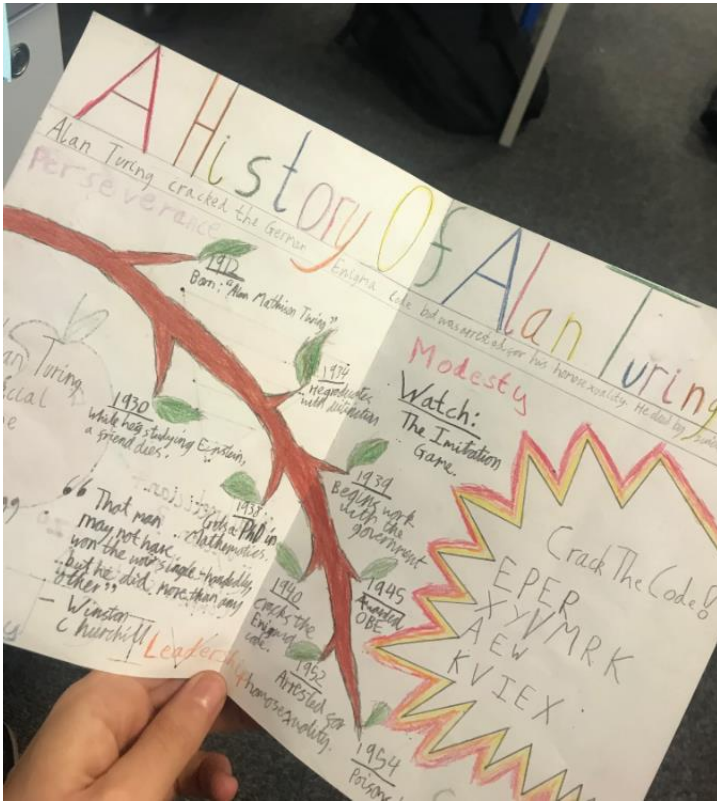
Several students did not fully complete the Islam Beliefs and the Religion, Relationships and Families section. Please encourage this.

For those that will be sitting down for a Christmas dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to ask your son/daughter what 'Incarnation' means. If they mention anything about coming back as another animal please give one of their gifts to charity. Happy Christmas!



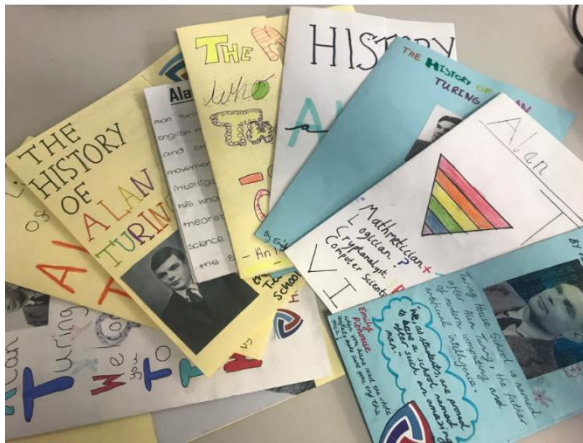
Alan Turing Year 8 Project

We have had some amazing entries for our Year 8 History Project!



STEM CLUB

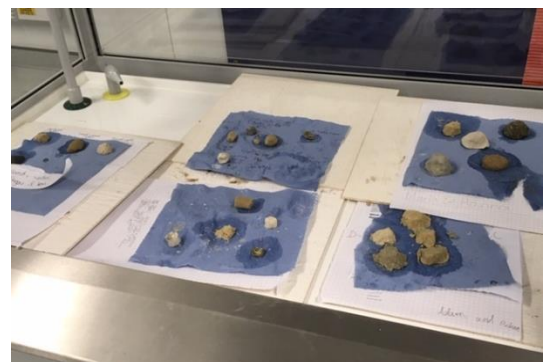
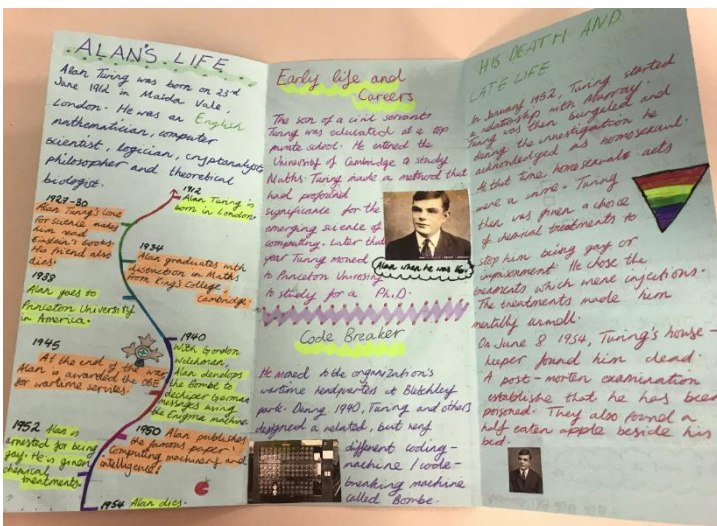
In STEM club this week students made their own sedimentary rocks using different combinations and proportions of: wet sand, sugar, plaster of Paris and iron fillings. Sedimentary rocks are often quite soft and are susceptible to erosion and may contain fossils of animals and plants trapped in the sediments as the rock was formed. Congratulations to Maria and Hannah for making some impressive sedimentary rocks!



Year 7 Science

This week in science year 7 students made their own fossils which they could take home, colour if wanted, and keep as a souvenir! They used plaster of Paris which they poured into plasticine that has taken the shape of various sea shells.

In reality fossils are the preserved remains of a dead organisms from millions of years ago. By studying fossils, scientists can learn how much organisms have changed as life has developed on Earth. The fossils record also supports Darwin's theory of evolution.



## BBC Young Reporter Competition



## Christmas Visit to Elleray Hall

Yesterday students and staff visited Elleray Hall to celebrate Christmas with some of their visitors. They



joined in with their singing of classic songs and Christmas Carols, and had a very enjoyable lunch time chatting with the visitors. We hope to visit more frequently in the new year.