

As we reach the end of the first week of remote learning, I'd like to formally thank all of the staff at THS for the work that they have done this week. Our wider community may not be aware that during our INSET day on Monday, we started the week completing all of the NHS online training for lateral flow testing. By 8pm the certificates we all downloaded felt somewhat superfluous. It's a testament to the ethos at THS that no one complained, we simply moved to the next phase and prepared for lockdown.

Whilst I have written to certain year groups and Mrs Collins has also communicated various important pieces of information, it's important to remind you all that in some areas we are still very much in the dark.

One thing that has come to my attention this week impacts on both staff and students and that is to do with the screen time that remote learning is generating. Having been slumped over my desk without a break on Tuesday for 6 hours without moving, it suddenly dawned on me the impact that this new way of learning is having.

For some students, they are (very commendably) completing all tasks set in live lessons in break and lunch times and therefore not getting up and moving between lessons. For this reason, we have communicated to all of our staff today and asked them

to give students five minutes at the end of each live lesson to get up, stretch, go to the toilet, get a drink etc. We have also asked staff to remind students to take their break and lunch times. If your child is working at home and they don't complete all tasks set by the end of a lesson, please do remind them that these tasks can be either done after school in homework time or left to the following lesson (depending upon the teacher's advice in the lesson). We are keen to promote physical health in lockdown as well as educational progress and recommend that students walk/run/cycle/exercise for 30 minutes each day either before school, at lunch or when lessons have ended. We would also be grateful if you could remind your child to stretch or move in some way between lessons.

Learning is vital but remembering to smell the flowers will also allow the learning to be effective.



Thursday 14th January – Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening

Friday 15th January – closing date for 6th Form applications

Wishing our Turing House family a happy and healthy 2021.



Year 11 Parents' Evening - Don't forget to book

The Year 11 Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday 14th January and will enable parents/carers to see subject teachers. In order to provide the opportunity for all parents/carers to see some staff, the appointments are limited to 6 per student and each will last 5 minutes.

The booking system has now gone live for parents to make bookings.

<https://turinghouseschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Vaccination update – Year 9 - Delay

Please be advised that the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (combined) and Meningococcal ACWY booster was to be given to all Year 9 students in January 2021.

However, as our current climate changes frequently, it has been decided to delay the immunisation for a short period.

We will let you know the new dates as and when they have been agreed with the borough's immunisation team.

Turing House Friends

Christmas Laptop Appeal – YOU DID IT!

A massive thank you to everyone who donated to the laptop appeal. We smashed our target and raised over £2,500! What an **AMAZING** response!

The devices are crucial to ensure that all of our students can access online learning and will be used in school when things return to some sort of normality.

Successful schools are those supported by their community and we are so very grateful for your support. **THANK YOU!**



Amazing Artwork by Maya Mensah Gibbs

"Portrait of Alan Turing in the style of Luke Dixon.



I think this was the first bit of art I did since I joined the school and I really liked reading about Luke Dixon and looking at his work on the internet.

He's only young (about 30) and he's already the owner of his own design company. I think he's really fresh and inspiring and I hope that showed in my picture. "

Sixth Form Applications – Closing Date



Don't forget applications to join our Sixth Form will close on 15th January. Apply today using the online application form on our website.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form team on

info@turinghouseschool.org.uk



Congratulations

Well done to Luca Hollywood in Year 11 who received a distinction in his Grade 7 guitar exam, just before Christmas.



Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Year 12

Teachers

Parents/ carers

Please follow the link below to access the form to submit your scores.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bCkKhyVdnEuSUFIfzQ18U7THdvUpxBLoF7ekv5KbhUMFNrvkxSVFRYRzdXT05BUFhaV1NVTVRBSC4u>

Good luck competing!

Richmond MIND FREE Parental Courses

Life during this pandemic keeps on changing. We are now back in full lockdown with all the adverse effects to mental health that this can bring. To help parents be prepared for any negative mental health effects that their children may suffer, Richmond Borough Mind have been successfully running Zoom workshops with parents across the borough and will be running the last two next week:

Parents Workshop 1 – Mental Health Awareness for Parents

Taking place on Monday 11th January at 7pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-workshop-1-mental-health-awareness-for-parents-tickets-126807766443>

As a parent we often find ourselves ill-equipped when it comes to dealing with our child's or young person's mental wellbeing. In order to help them, we first need an understanding ourselves of what we mean by mental health. Second, the tools to help our young person with any emotional difficulties. The first of these two workshops are designed with this in mind and will help you to support your child or young person. In this first workshop you will learn more about mental

Message from the PE Department

The PE Department thought it would be fun to set up a little competition between each individual year group, the staff and the parents/ carers.



The competition is to see what group can complete the distance of 1083 miles the quickest. This is the distance of crossing Great Britain at its furthest points (John O'Groats to Lands' End).

You can complete this task using the following methods:

- Walking
- Running
- Cycling

Please upload evidence with your submissions. This can be in the form of a screen shot of a fitness app (such as strava) or of your step count on your phone. You can complete the form multiple times.

At the end of each week I will post the totals of each group to keep everyone updated.

There will be 8 groups competing:

Year 7

Year 8

health and recognise the symptoms of mental health issues in children.

Parents Workshop 2 - Managing mental health difficulties in children

Wednesday 13th January at 7pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-workshop-2-supporting-mental-health-difficulties-in-children-tickets-126811497603>

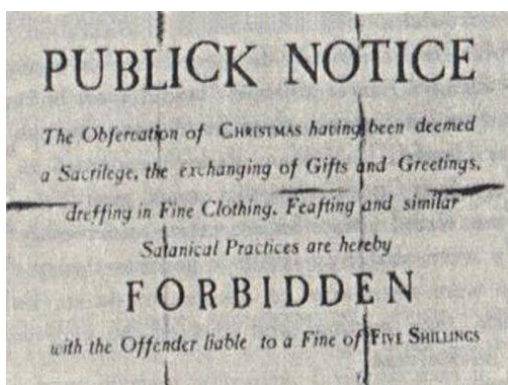
In this second workshop we look in more depth at the types of mental health difficulties that can affect your child or teenager.

We also look at the available tools to help our young person with any emotional difficulties. This second workshop will also help you improve communication with your child and support them to build their own mental health resilience.

Historical Story of the Week: When Christmas was banned!

Many of you will have heard of Oliver Cromwell who fought a long and brutal Civil War which split the country. In 1647 Cromwell and his Puritan movement used their power to ban Christmas.

The Puritans felt that Christmas had become too immoral, fun and a festival of "carnal and sensual delights". Festival days, including Christmas, were ordered to not be celebrated even with family, but instead to be spent in respectful contemplation. Shops were forced to remain open, decorations banned, and all nativities and feasts abolished. Guards would patrol the streets and confiscate any food that looked like it might be for a feast.



Banning Christmas did not go down well with many people, and Christmassy riots broke out. In Ipswich, in one riot, a man got killed on Christmas Day. It later transpired that his name was also Christmas.

Holocaust Memorial Day Project

Turing House students are taking part in a Holocaust Memorial Day project where they are completing a creative writing piece based on fact.

They are focusing on the story of the Jewish boys who were forced to flee from Nazism and came to Twickenham before the Second World War. These pieces will then be put together in a book in time for Holocaust Memorial Day in late January 2021. A copy of the book will be put online and sent to lots of people in our borough and around the country too.

Below is Meg Delaney's piece:

Ralph's Story

This is called Ralph's story, but really my name is Rolf, Rolf Metzger. I changed my name after I arrived in England, just so that I could fit in better. You may wonder why I was here, and why I want to tell you my story, and for that we need to go back in time to 1939 when I sailed here on a ship named 'The Prague.'

I'm Jewish. And that fact alone put my life in danger in my home county of Germany. I lived with my mum and dad near Frankfurt but our community came under terrible attack. Our synagogue was burnt to the ground as part of Hitler's horrific Kristallnacht pogrom in November 1938; it was with huge sadness that my parents decided to send me alone all the way to England. I could have the chance of a free life. I was only eleven.

I became one of the Kindertransport children. The British government accepted children who were in danger to come and live here – it saved our lives. But my parents were not allowed to come with me. I remember looking at my mother, Betti, and seeing her sadness. Saying goodbye to her was dreadful, I couldn't

bear it, but I thought about England and how much safer I'd be in this yet unknown country.

I travelled by boat, it was a long journey and my voyage wasn't over once I reached dry land. I was to be sent to a part of London called Twickenham. I'd heard of London but had little idea of what awaited me.

My new home was to be number 52 Lebanon Park - a large house, grander than my home, but I saw why: there were going to be ten of us boys living here. There were already a few boys here when I arrived and I became friends with them very quickly. We needed to get along, we were all each other had.

I also met Gitte, she was German, like me, a teenager, and was here to help look after us all.

We settled into our new lives. It became our normal. And I accepted that this was my family now, as I knew that I didn't have a choice. I still thought about my parents and my community back in Germany, and I hoped that they were safe. We went to school, we played football, we were lucky enough to have bicycles. And when one of us felt sad the rest of us did our very best to turn those thoughts around.

I can look back now, and I can see that I was fortunate. Being separated from my parents at the age of eleven was so incredibly hard, but it gave me the chance of a life, and a future.

Below is an image of the real Rolf Metzger.



Water Cycle Poem by Maya Mensah Gibbs in 7N

What a magnificent thing! What a glorious idea!

The new wave of personal transport is here!

A bike you can ride on a stream or a lake

The faster you pedal, the more waves you make.

There's no road tax to pay and no charge for congestion

What an utterly brilliant commuting invention!

It's safer than road travel too- if you fall off

You'll only get wet, because water's quite soft.

It's cheap and it's green and will really deliver

Once climate change turns every road to a river.

Wait, what do you mean, Miss? Um...precipitation...?

Please excuse my embarrassing misinterpretation.

Covid 19 Vaccinations – NHS UK

The NHS are looking for volunteers and paid workers to join the vaccine teams currently being set up. Please see the link below if you are interested in applying.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/join-the-nhs-covid-19-vaccine-team/>

Christmas Quiz - answers

What is the name of the girl who befriends the Grinch? – **Cindy-Lou**

What four main food groups does Buddy the Elf eat? - **Candy, Candy Canes, Candy Corns and Syrup**

How many brothers and sisters does Kevin McCallister have in Home Alone? **4 – Buzz, Megan, Linnie and Jeff.**

Which actor plays Jeronimus in Jingle Jangle? - **Forest Whitaker**

What does Bernard the elf give Charlie so that he can call his dad in The Santa Clause? - **A Snow Globe**

Which Hollywood couple star in The Christmas Chronicles?- **Kurt Russell & Goldie Hawn**

