

Further Background Information for Applicants



Outline of the school

Turing House School opened in September 2015 and joined the largest group of Free Schools in the country. Russell Education Trust (RET) has set up four other secondary schools previously: in Bristol, Brentwood, Barnett and Hove. All four have already been inspected and were found by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.

RET is a trust sponsored by Education London, in partnership with outstanding schools and academies and education leaders, to establish academies and to work with parent and other groups to set up free schools. A new inclusive secondary school for Richmond was envisioned by a small group of parents who care deeply about their local area and its people. Faced with shrinking catchment areas and increased demand for local secondary schools, they saw their community breaking up as families moved away or chose non-local schools. Knowing that many other local people agreed that another excellent secondary school was needed they decided to try and do something about it.

Turing House School was approved by the DfE after a very popular and well supported local campaign: more than 1500 children were subscribed as potential students by families that supported the vision and ethos of the proposed school. More than 300 applied for admission in September 2015 and the school opened full with 100 students. In our second year we were oversubscribed for our intake of 125 and continue to have a waiting lists for both school years. The intake will eventually be 150 per year once we have moved to our permanent site. In broad terms, the school is comprehensive, inclusive and welcoming of all.

Turing House School's distinct strength will be the quality and range of student outcomes, from an expertly delivered curriculum, drawing on the tried and tested best practice found in RET and its schools. The curriculum 'backbone' of English, maths, science, ICT, humanities and at least one foreign language, will be supported by a range of pathways and extension studies, which put the pleasure of learning at the heart of school life. Early assessment identifies which students may benefit from accelerated accreditation, and which would benefit from additional intensive literacy and numeracy development. We aim to equip every student by age 16 for continuing education and a balanced, healthy adult life. Most will choose to stay on in our sixth form to continue their education and prepare for university and wider employment choices.

As a comprehensive co-educational school, we are committed to the highest possible standards in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, and to valuing the achievements and aspirations of every student. As an additional dimension we emphasise two areas of specialism: science & engineering and music. We do this through our curriculum, through extra-curricular and enrichment activities, and also through local partnerships.

Our aim is to equip all of our students to live a balanced, healthy adult life. Physical education in a broad range of sports and fitness activities is a critical part of achieving this goal, and all of our students have the opportunity to participate and are actively encouraged to do so. Our curriculum includes a wide range of winter and summer physical education, including individual and team sports. Sport also features prominently in our extensive range of extra-curricular activities with teams competing in local leagues.

Turing House School exists because of the hard work, dedication and commitment of local parents and a fundamental part of their vision for the school is built on the school being of its community and being involved in its community. Once in our permanent home we will develop an extended school model where the school and its facilities act as the hub for developing community cohesion and delivering services to its community – we have already formed links with the community around our temporary home in Teddington. The school is an expensive resource and we would wish it to be used extensively outside the normal school day – to be a natural focus in the community.

We aim to involve parents in every way possible with the life of the school, as we recognise that parental involvement is key to the success of both individual students and to the school as a whole. In addition to having parent governors, parents' association, musical, cultural and sporting events to which parents are invited, parents will be partners, working with the school to ensure the best outcomes for their children. Parents have already contributed to club activities, given assemblies and organised the creation of our library.

We involve parents, for example –

- as part of our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), we have a well-developed parent portal, enabling parents to access assessment and monitoring information about their children, to see what homework has been set, as well as outline lesson plans and generally to be able to tap into the school's resources
- we organise shared learning opportunities for the community, parents and students – for example, we have run workshops for parents on eSafety, target setting and supporting literacy and homework
- we actively seek opportunities to have parents working voluntarily in the school alongside the staff for example with STEM club and in assemblies
- we expect parents to be part of the regular student review and target setting processes.

Education vision and values

We will create an outstanding and inclusive school, with a clear focus on high performance for children from 11 to 18. We will instil good behaviour and attitudes towards others as the basis for excellence at every stage of school life. Our school will enable children from all backgrounds to make exceptional progress. It will attract and retain outstanding staff and support them to inspire our students.

Our school will:

- Support all students to achieve their academic and social potential
- Provide a special focus on science, engineering, and music
- Provide a caring environment where staff know each of the children by name
- Encourage parental engagement
- Encourage Responsibility for Self and Others
- Be a resource for the local community

For further information please visit our website: www.turinghouseschool.org.uk