

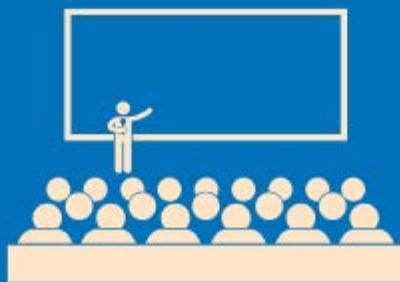


Hall Park  
Academy

**This week's assembly**

**Alan Turing  
& Pride  
Month**

Led by Mr Lowe



**Today I'm going to talk to you about this man here. He is often called 'the unsung hero of WWII' – why do you think that might be?**



## The early years

Alan Turing was born 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1912 to his parents Julius and Ethel.

He had a very **comfortable childhood**, and for all accounts was a very **happy little boy**.

He was also **INCREDIBLY smart** – the headteacher of his primary school said she ‘had clever boys and hardworking boys, but **Alan is a genius.**’



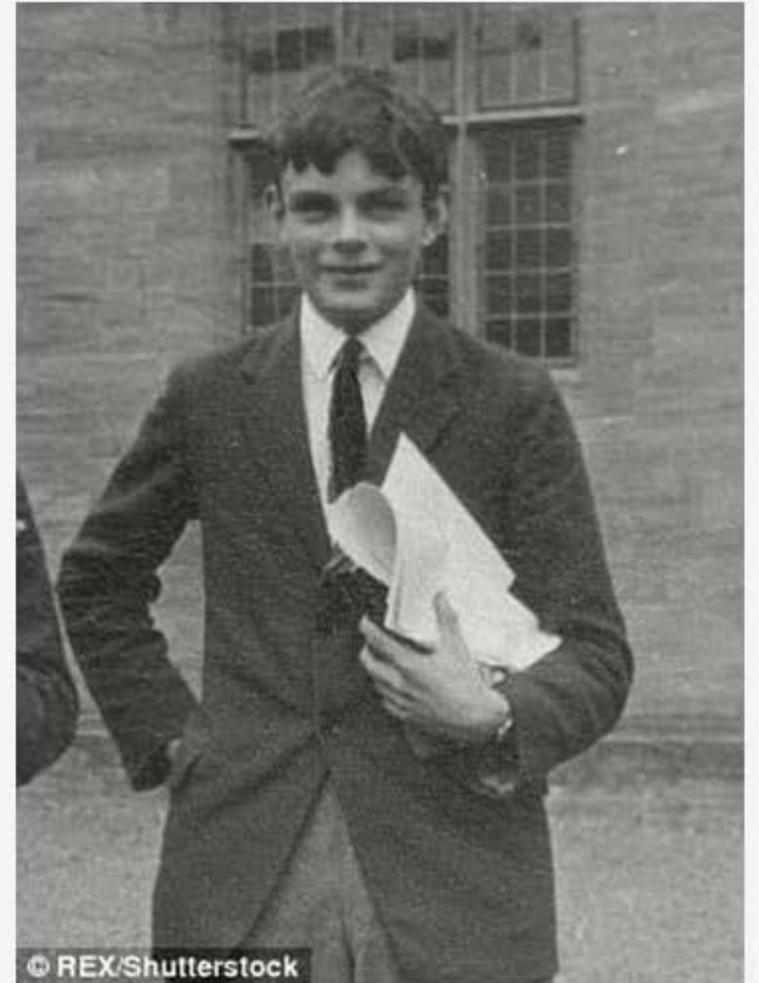


## The teenage years

Unfortunately, his **genius wasn't always respected** by his teachers. Alan became very good in all things maths and science, which at the time wasn't as respected as English and history.

In fact, in 1927 his headmaster wrote a letter to his parents saying 'If he is to be **solely a Scientific Specialist, he is wasting his time**'!

That didn't discourage him though. When he left school, he went on to **study mathematics at Kings College, Cambridge**, gaining a first class degree, and later became a lecturer.



## Turing and WWII

Even before the outbreak of WWII, **Britain and the Allies became suspicious of the actions of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.**

The Nazis were using a **secret code** called the **Enigma code** to communicate their **attack plans and tactics**. Polish cryptographers had already started working on trying to crack this and give the Allies an advantage, but this work was continued by **Turing and a team at Bletchley Park** in Milton Keynes in **1939**.

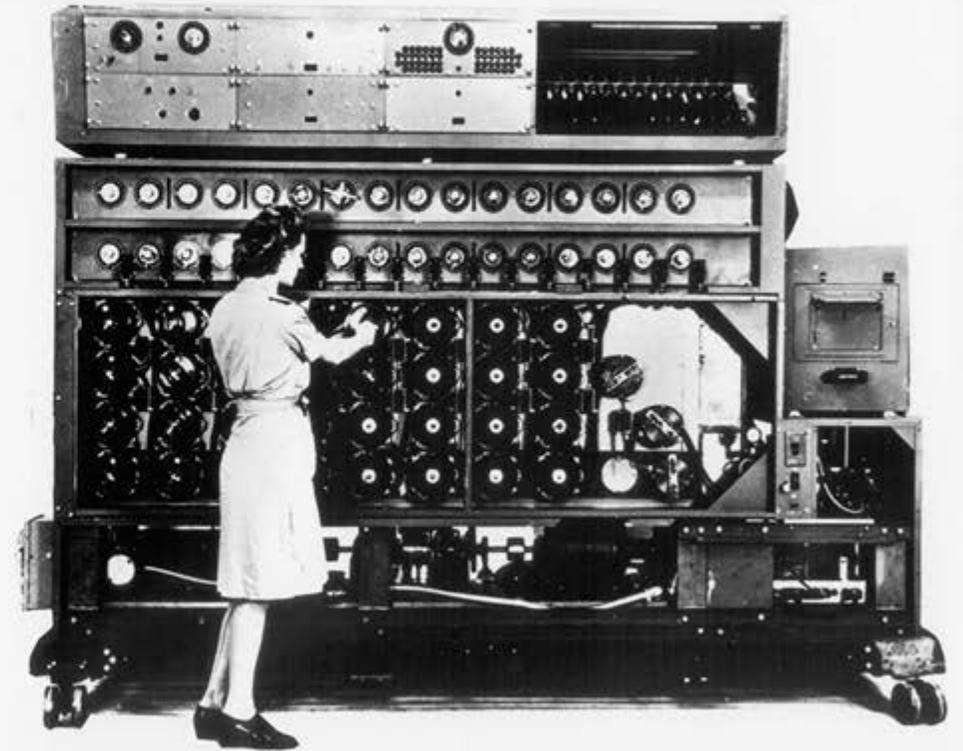
They knew they needed to crack the code – and FAST.



## Turing and WWII

Turing already had a design for a machine called '**The Bombe**' in **1939**, and the first working one was installed in Bletchley Park in **March 1940**. **Tensions were extremely high** at this point as although war had been declared in September 1939, there **had been little activity**.

The Bombe machine worked! It was **able to crack the Enigma code** and figure out what the Nazis were secretly planning. By the end of the war, there were around **211 Bombe machines** constantly working on deciphering Nazi messages.



## What was the impact of Turing's invention?

Having **insight into the plans of the Nazis** was invaluable for Britain and the Allies. In particular, it allowed them to **counter U-Boat attacks** which meant supply shipments weren't being sunk.

It is estimated that Turing's invention of the Bombe machine **ended the war 2-4 years earlier** than it would have done if he hadn't invented it, and **MILLIONS of soldier and civilian lives were saved.**

*How do you think he was honoured at the time for his amazing work?*



# UNIVERSITY READER PUT ON PROBATION To Have Organo-Therapic Treatment

AT Cheshire Quarter Sessions at Knutsford on Monday, Alan Mathison Turing (39), F.R.S., O.B.E., single, university reader, of Adlington Road, Wilmslow, described as "one of the most profound and original mathematical minds of his generation,"

He wasn't – in fact, he was **arrested in 1952**. He was unapologetic for his crime and publicly expressed his disgust over his arrest.

Whilst he **avoided a life sentence** for his crime, he was **banned from any further intelligence work on the emerging Cold War**. This was terrible, as his intelligence would have **been extremely helpful** during this dangerous time when **nuclear weapons were being developed**.

*A potential life sentence is serious... does anyone want to guess what his crime was?*

His 'crime'?

Being **gay**.

Being gay was **illegal**  
in Britain until **1967**.



## So why have I told you about Alan today?

As some of you may know, **June is Pride Month.**

It is a month to **celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community**, their **achievements** and their **continued fight for equality.**

It is also to **remember significant figures who have been 'lost' to history**, often deliberately, just because of their identity.





## Key takeaways

Whilst there has been **significant progress** since Alan's lifetime, there is **still a lot of prejudice towards LGBTQIA+ people**, even though **that's all they are – people**. And most of them are **fantastic people** that can **make a great difference to our world, just like Alan did**.

Moving forward, we all need to make sure **we contribute to an accepting and inclusive society where ALL people are accepted for who they are** so **we don't have more Alan Turings in the future**.

“We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done.”

~ Alan Turing

the father of modern computer science

