computing

Who was Alan Turing?

BBC Teach > Secondary resources > KS3 Computing > GCSE Computing

Alan Turing was not a well known figure during his lifetime.

played a crucial part in the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in WW2.

Alan Turing: Creator of mod

But today he is famous for being an eccentric yet passionate British mathematician, who conceived me

He was also a victim of mid-20th Century attitudes to homosexuality – he was chemically castrated b€

1936

THOSE WHO CAN IMAGINE ANYTHING, CAN CREATE THE IMPOSSIBLE."

Turing analysed what it meant for a human to follow a definite method

Alan Turing, aged 15, at Westcott House, Sherborne

foundation of computer science.

or procedure to perform a task. For this purpose, he invented the idea of a 'Universal Machine' that could decode and perform any set of instructions. Ten years later he would turn this revolutionary idea into a practical plan for an electronic computer, capable of running any

Founder of modern computing

In 1936, Turing published a paper that is now recognised as the

Jim Al-Khalili explains how Turing invented the idea of feeding one machine different instructions. Clip from

Order and Disorder (BBC Four).

## 1926 Discouraged at school

Alan Turing spent much of his early life separated from his parents, as

his father worked in the British administration of India. At 13 years old, he was sent to Sherborne School, a large boarding

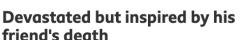
school in Dorset. The rigid education system gave his free-ranging scientific mind little encouragement, so Turing studied advanced

modern scientific ideas, such as relativity, on his own, running far ahead of the school syllabus.

1930

The situation changed when Alan Turing became intensely attracted to







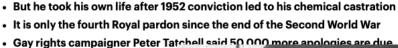






## Queen gives royal pardon to Alan Turing, the WWII codebreaking hero who was convicted for being gay then

- sterilised by the state
- Alan Turing led the way in cracking the Enigma codes at Bletchley Park









— ALAN TURING





https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/alan-turing-creator-of-modern-computing/zhwp7nb