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News release

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The new £20 note unveiled

Today, Governor Mark Carney unveiled the design of the new £20 note featuring the artist JMW Turner. It will be issued for the first time on 20 February 2020.

The polymer £20 note contains sophisticated security features making it the most secure Bank of England banknote yet. For the first time, the note incorporates two windows and a two-colour foil, making it very difficult to counterfeit.

Polymer notes last longer than paper notes and they stay in better condition during day-to-day use. This note, like the polymer £10, will contain a tactile feature to help vision impaired people identify the denomination.

The polymer £20 note will join the Churchill £5 and the Austen £10. A new £50 note, featuring Alan Turing, will follow in 2021. The public will begin to see the new £20 from 20 February next year as the notes leave cash centres around the country and enter general circulation. The public can continue to spend paper £20 notes as usual and these will be gradually withdrawn as they are banked by retailers and the public. Notice will be given six months ahead of legal tender status of the paper £20 being withdrawn.

Commenting on the new note, the Governor said: “Our banknotes celebrate the UK’s heritage, salute its culture, and testify to the achievements of its most notable individuals. And so it is with the new £20 banknote, featuring JMW Turner, launched today at Turner Contemporary in Margate. Turner’s contribution to art extends well beyond his favourite stretch of shoreline. Turner’s painting was transformative, his influence spanned lifetimes, and his legacy endures today. The new £20 note celebrates Turner, his art and his legacy in all their radiant, colourful, evocative glory.”

The new £20 note will be the first to feature the signature of Sarah John, the Bank’s Chief Cashier. She said: “The new £20 is an important part of our commitment to providing banknotes that people can use with confidence. Our polymer notes are much harder to counterfeit and, with the £20 being our most common note, this marks a big step forward in our fight against counterfeiting. I hope the public will look forward to spending their new Turner £20s from February next year.”



Features on the new £20 note include:

- A large see-through window with a blue and gold foil on the front depicting Margate lighthouse and Turner Contemporary. The foil is silver on the back. The shape of the large window is based on the shape of the fountains in Trafalgar Square.
- A smaller see-through window in the bottom corner of the note, inspired by Tintern Abbey.
- JMW Turner's self-portrait, painted c. 1799 and currently on display in Tate Britain.
- One of Turner's most eminent paintings *The Fighting Temeraire*; a tribute to the ship HMS Temeraire which played a distinguished role in Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The painting is currently on display in the National Gallery and was voted the nation's favourite painting in a 2005 poll run by BBC Radio 4.
- A metallic hologram which changes between the word 'Twenty' and 'Pounds' when the note is tilted.
- The Queen's portrait in the see-through window with '£20 Bank of England' printed twice around the edge.
- A silver foil patch with a 3D image of the coronation crown.
- A purple foil patch containing the letter 'T' and based on the staircase at the Tate Britain.
- A quote "*Light is therefore colour*" from an 1818 lecture by Turner referring to the innovative use of light, shade, colour and tone in his pictures.
- Turner's signature from his Will, the document with which he bequeathed many of his paintings to the nation.

Further details about the new £20 note are available at www.thenew20.co.uk

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Footnotes

1. Visual assets and images of the new £20 note can be downloaded here: <https://b-o-e.uk/20>
2. The unveil film and additional educational film, which explains the security features of the new £20 note, are both available to watch on the Bank's Youtube [channel](#)
3. Downloadable copies of both films as well as B-roll footage of the new £20 note being printed are available from <https://vimeopro.com/bankofengland/banknotes>
4. JMW Turner was [revealed](#) as the character for the £20 note in April 2016. This was the first time the new [Banknote Character Advisory Committee](#) were involved in the character selection process.
5. Sarah John, the Bank's Chief Cashier, is available for interview on the new note. To request an interview, please contact the Bank's Press Office on press@bankofengland.co.uk
6. The KINEGRAM COLOURS® foil stripe on the new £20 note encompassing the Margate Lighthouse, Turner Contemporary, the coronation crown and the hologram which changes from 'Twenty' to 'Pounds' is supplied by KURZ Group.
7. The Bank [announced](#) in September 2015 that the next £20 note would be printed on polymer. The £20 polymer is [supplied](#) by CCL Secure and De La Rue in a dual supply arrangement.
8. De La Rue are the sole printers of Bank of England banknotes at the Bank's facility in Debden, having entered into a 10 year contract commencing April 2015.
9. In July 2015, the Bank [announced](#) that all future Bank of England banknotes would include symbols representing all four of the home nations. The imagery is taken from the Royal Coat of Arms and the Royal Badge of Wales.
10. Turner Contemporary in Margate is one of the most distinctive galleries in the UK; its impact stretches beyond culture-led regeneration and the showcasing of world-class exhibitions, to pioneering change by making the arts more vital and connected to daily life. Since opening in 2011, Turner Contemporary has generated over £70million for the local economy, led to the opening of over 150 new businesses, safeguarded 155 jobs and attracted over 3.3 million visits.