

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Date 10th January 2020

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

The Value for this half term is LOVE: 'Do everything in love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14. The values will be shared in daily worship sessions and students will have the opportunity to reflect on their meanings with a particular reference to how we lead our everyday lives.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Monday January 13th – GCSE Computer Science Trip

Thursday January 16th – Sixth Form Consultation Evening 5-8pm

Tuesday January 21st – Year 8 Geography fieldwork day

Wednesday January 29th –Year 9 Immunisations 9am

Thursday January 30th – Year 11 Study support evening 7-8.30pm

Thursday February 13th - Year 7 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening 5-8pm

PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING

The next Parent/Carer Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 14th January at 10am.

We do welcome any parent/carer to this event. We set it up last year for parent/carers of students with additional needs but we also hope it provides a support network for any parent/carer who wants to join us to share strategies for caring for parenting and supporting our young people. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday. Penny Baker (Inclusion Manager)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING

We are pleased to inform you that our local Police Community Support Officer Adriano Russo and our local Police Constable Sally Milligan have offered to come and visit the school on a regular basis. They are going to try to come in every fortnight although we are appreciative there will be occasions where if an emergency occurs in the local vicinity this may not be possible. We have spoken to both officers about how we think they could support us. These areas include; walking around the school talking to young people; talking with individuals or small groups where intervention or education may be required to address any behaviour concerns; drop ins for the children who may have questions or queries about crime and the law; talks in assemblies or form times on specific age related issues and meetings with any parents/carers who may be seeking information or further support.

Your child may have told you about these police officers visiting the school this week. We had our first visit on Thursday lunch time and both PCSO Russo and PC Milligan were able to spend the whole of the lunch time walking around the school and talking to students. As parents/carers if you should wish to talk to either officer please contact Miss Lingwood so she can liaise and arrange a mutually convenient time. Going forward we are hoping that we can add the date and time of their visit to parentmail and to our school bulletin so you will know when they are in school.

MOBILE PHONE USE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We would be grateful for your support in helping us to manage a safer and more appropriate use of mobile phones and social media for some of our young people. We are still being asked to deal with after school hours, holiday and weekend issues with social media and mobile phones. There are still far too many instances of

children using phones to send unkind and hurtful messages following 'fall outs' with friends. There are far too many instances of children arriving at school exhausted having been using phones or computers through the night. We know that in many cases phones and technology are removed or turned off after a certain time. We are also aware of many parents / carers who monitor the use of their children's phones by doing spot checks. We would ask that ALL our parents and carers try to take a greater involvement with this growing issue so that you can support our extensive work in school. All year groups receive teaching and information about safe use of phones, the dangers of the internet. At some point through most years we also invite in external organisations to talk to the young people about safe phone and internet use. The Police also provide talks and websites are regularly shared that offer support for parents/carers over a range of topics.

BOOK AND CARDBOARD DONATIONS

If anyone would like to donate any old unwanted books and large cardboard boxes which we could use to create sets for the school show, please drop them off at the school reception with a note attached to say they are for the Drama department. Any donations would be very much appreciated.

Mrs Coates, Head of Drama

INSPIRING WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

Please get in touch with Mrs Bailey (email admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk) if you know of any inspiring women in any industry or walks of life who would be willing to deliver a talk to students and/or staff on week beginning 2nd March 2020 as part of our celebrations of International Women's Day and local women.

Mrs Bailey, Assistant Head Teacher

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - BEAUTY & THE BEAST

The auditions for the show are on Monday 13th January 2020 at 3:30-5:00pm in the Hall. Audition packs have been given out during the sign up session for students to practice over Christmas. Auditions are open to students in years 7-10 & 12-13 and if they haven't got an audition pack they can still come and collect one from the Drama department. Please ensure that your child has signed up to attend the audition as the show is a wonderful opportunity for your child to be creative and show dedication to a production including on stage, backstage and technical roles. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday 16th January in the Discovery Centre for a full cast read through of the play. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs Coates.

YEAR 7 & 8

PE FIXTURES

Monday 13th January - Year 8 netball match Vs Sandringham, at Sandringham school 3.30 - 5/5.15pm.

Wednesday 15th January - Year 7 netball match vs Roundwood Park School at Roundwood 3.30 - 5/5.15pm.

Miss Pennifold, Head of Physical Education

YEAR 7 DRAMA HOME LEARNING PROJECT

Year 7 have just started their scheme of work on Macbeth and have been set their Shakespeare research home learning project. The project is 5 weeks long and has 4 tasks to complete. Students have been given a copy in class and it is also on Show

My Homework. If a spare copy is needed students can come and request one from Mrs Coates.

Mrs Coates Head of Drama

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY TRIP - 21ST JANUARY 2020

The deadline for reply slips for the trip was Tuesday 7th Jan, however we only have about a quarter of the year group who have replied. Please see the letter for details of the trip and return the reply slips by Monday 13th Jan at the very latest please. Spare letters are available from the school receptionist. This is a compulsory trip for all of year 8, there is no cost and we will walk to town and back. There are 2 sessions - morning and afternoon - the letter outlines which session your child will attend. The morning session will leave at 9am be back to school at 12.10 for normal lessons for the remainder of the day and lunch. The afternoon group will have normal lessons in the morning, leave school at 12.10 and be back at school for buses at 3.25pm, the afternoon session will require a packed lunch. The students should be in full uniform, but may wear comfortable shoes for walking, they will also need to have an outdoor coat if it is cold/wet.

Please see the table below to see which session your child is in and ensure reply slips are returned to the school office. If no reply slip is returned your child will not be able to take part on the trip and will remain supervised in school.

Date	Time	Group
21 st Jan	8.50am – 12.10pm (Students will be back for normal lessons P4 & P5 including lunchtime)	8C, 8E and half of 8N (surnames starting A-M)
21 st Jan	12.10pm – 3.25pm (Students attend normal lessons P1-3 and will require a packed lunch, will be back to school for school transport)	8D, 8Y and half of 8N (surnames starting N-Z)

Many thanks

Mrs Buckland, Head of Geography

YEAR 8 DRAMA AND HISTORY WORKSHOP

The History and Drama department are happy to offer a workshop opportunity to all Year 8 pupils hosted by the Trestle Theatre company on Wednesday 12th February 2020. Students will explore the impacts of the slave trade in the 18th century in a practical drama session. We accept £5 donations to cover the costs of the workshop and letters will be issued to your child next week. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Bailey, Head of History & Mrs Coates, Head of Drama

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

YEAR 9 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING

Many thanks for attending the Year 9 Consultation Evening. It was a really positive evening for those who attended. We hope that you found discussing your child's

progress and finding out how you can further support your child with their studies valuable. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teachers. On behalf of all of us in the Year 9 team we would like to thank those parents and carers who attended for your continued support.

Miss Scott, Director of Learning for Year 9

YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS

Letters were issued with information at the Parent/Carer Consultation Evening. Please do read this or the letter attached and go on line to decline or accept. Thank you

YEAR 10 HISTORY ELIZABETHAN TRIP AND WORKSHOP

We are still accepting consent slips and payment for the trip planned on Tuesday 11th February to see the play 'The Inquisition of Queen Elizabeth I' followed by a morning workshop booked in school on Friday 14th February. Letters have already been issued to pupils. Please return the reply slip and contribution and payment schedule to the school office by Monday 20th January. If you have any queries, please contact your child's History teacher. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

2020 has arrived and it is time to check that your son or daughter is making progress with Work Experience. Some students have submitted no choices yet, and need to do so before the most suitable job offers are all taken. There are some new offers on the database but unlikely to be many more now. Those intending to arrange a private placement (forms available from the office) should get completed forms returned to school during January to be sure they will be processed.

Once students bring home a job offer, the consent and medical forms must be completed and returned to school before the placement can be confirmed, otherwise it may be offered to another candidate.

Margaret Wood

Work Experience Co-ordinator

ENGLISH & MATHEMATICS WORKSHOPS

In addition to the intervention sessions that are running in school, Hertfordshire County are also offering GCSE Revision Workshops starting on the 18th January for English and Mathematics. If you feel your child would benefit from these sessions to supplement their study, a flyer is attached where you can follow the link and book.

Mr Richardson (Director of Learning Mathematics) and Mrs Harris (Director of Learning English)

YEAR 11 SCIENCE

There will be specific Science revision sessions for Year 11 running every week. This week the sessions will be on Monday on Balancing Equations in SC1 with Ms Guijarro and Tuesday on Ionic Formulae in SC2 with Miss Prakash. Both sessions will start at 1.25pm.

Ms Guijarro, Director of Learning for Science

MATHEMATICS REVISION GUIDES

The Mathematics department recommend and supply the CGP revision resources at about half the recommended retail price. If you wish to take part in this special offer, please indicate on the attached form which resources you require with a tick and hand in the completed form to school Reception accompanied by the total amount payable by cash or cheque. The deadline for this is **Friday 17th January, 2020**.

Mr Richardson, Director of learning for Maths. If you would like your child to have a guide but you perhaps are struggling financially at this time, please do speak to Mr Armitage as Head of Year in confidence so that we can support you with these resources.

SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM PARENTS EVENING - THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 5-8PM

This is a crucial evening to discuss the progress of their A Level studies. Students should have made appointments with their teachers. Year 13 have received grade sheets this week to bring home and share with you before parents evening. We look forward to seeing you.

Miss Gibbons, Head of Sixth Form

STUDENT WELLBEING

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Our value of the half term is 'Love' and this month during tutor time, all year groups are following the Action For Happiness Happy New Year calendar in order to promote student well-being and this half term's value. Please support us with this over evenings and weekends where possible, a copy of this is attached.

STUDENT POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Five Townsend pupils took part in the conference with eight other local schools on Monday 16th December 2019. See link for full story:

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/st-albans-positive-mental-health-conference-1-6448229>

IMMUNISATIONS REQUIRING ACTION

Dear Parents,

We appreciate this is an early email for you but we have been asked to contact you with regards to HPV immunisations. All the information you need is included in the attached letter or on the hard copy your child will give you tonight

- **Year 9 DTP & Men ACWY Immunisations** on Wednesday 29th January 2020^h
- All Year 9 boys and girls will be offered the HPV vaccinations
- In order for your child to be vaccinated you MUST give consent. This should ideally be online or if you would rather the Nursing team will accept hard copiers from the forms we have sent out.
- By clicking the link included in the letter attached you will be able to give consent on line using the code number EE117555

The electronic consent form closes 10pm Tuesday 28th January 2020

Thank you for your support.