

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th May 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Don't chase people. Be yourself, do your own thing and work hard. The right people – the ones who really belong in your life – will come to you. And stay. – Will Smith

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For May our value focus is Compassion. 'Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour' 1 Corinthians 10:24. Our values for each month will be shared in daily worship sessions. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their meanings with a particular reference to how we lead our everyday lives.

EXAMINATIONS - YEAR 11 AND 13

In preparation for the external public examinations please find attached two documents with information covering 'Information for candidates' and 'Notes for candidates' to help them understand instructions and regulations for examinations. It would be helpful if you could read the sheets with your child so they are absolutely clear about what is expected. **Students must ensure that they have a black pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and all the other required equipment including compasses - with a sharp pencil that fits, protractor, ruler and calculator (where necessary).**

It is the student's responsibility to bring their own equipment for examinations.

All the very best of luck to all students!

Mrs Kovacevic, Examination officer

YEAR 11 GCSE INFORMATION AND ARRANGEMENTS

All year 11 have been given a sheet, detailing information and arrangements from May 13th to the end of June. A copy of this sheet is attached for you in case your child forgets to share it with you. We do thank you for your support with this.

Can we again remind you and your children there are a variety of support agencies that are available through this stressful time

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- <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Chat Health 07480635050
- Youth Talk <http://www.youthtalk.org.uk/> 01727 868684

ENGLISH INFORMATION

As many of you will be aware Mrs Bunyan has now been absent for a considerable time. Sadly she has been very ill which currently has left her with some disability and a lot of pain. She is optimistic that in time she will recover but it will be a slow process and require significant changes to her work arrangements. Mrs Bunyan has continued to support the English department in every way she can and has been particularly anxious about letting colleagues and students down. It is sadly a situation out of her control and we have reassured her that our thoughts and prayers go out to her during this difficult time. Mrs Bunyan has taken the decision to resign from her position at Townsend and we wish her and her family well for the future. We are hoping that after half term she may be well enough to return to school for a few hours to say her goodbyes to staff and students.

We have been supported through this difficult time by several teachers, including specialist English teachers. Up until now these teachers either haven't been available full time or not matched our requirements.

With the commencement of public examinations, there will be some extra capacity within the English team and they have kindly agreed to take on extra classes (from Mrs Bunyan) as they lose year 11 and 13. Mrs Mrs Kleynhans will be working alongside Mrs Cannas to look after year 8. Miss Scott will take on year 10 Media Studies, Mrs Kleynhans will also work with Mrs Bunyan's Year 9 group and Ms Probyn had agreed to work with Year 10. Sadly, since these arrangements were agreed Ms Probyn has become unwell and is unlikely to return to school until the earliest June 11th. As a result of this additional pressure, Mrs Harris will pick up Mrs Bunyan's Year 10 group. The English team will be supported by Mr Posner who is an experienced English specialist and who will help with Ms Probyn's classes in her absence. Staff will try to cover as much marking as possible but clearly with these additional pressures we apologise that marking may not be as up to-date as it should be. We do thank you for your patience and understanding through this difficult time and are working hard to try to ensure that for September we return to a strong and fully staffed English team.

ENRICHMENT DAYS 26-28TH JUNE 2019

The 2nd instalment of Friday activities money is now due, either a further £10 or the full amount needs to be given to the office, in a sealed envelope with your child's name, form and trip clearly labelled on the front.

Please can parents ensure they have paid for the 2 day enrichment programme (£5 for year 7 and £10 for years 8-10) either via schoolcoms, or by giving cash/cheque to the school office, again clearly labelled in an envelope with your child's name and form visible.

Thanks, Miss Gibbons & Mr Armitage

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

It is vital that students attend all rehearsals they are needed for to help make the show a success and support the other students who are involved in their scenes. As we progress closer to the show date lack of attendance to rehearsals may result in the loss of role or cancellation of the performance due to a lack of commitment. From now on all rehearsals on Monday's and Thursday's are full cast rehearsals and all students involved on stage must be there, principle and chorus roles included.

A copy of the rehearsal schedule has been given to your child, if you need another copy please see Miss Kirk or Mrs Coates. All permission slips for image use need to be returned to Mrs Coates ASAP as we are still waiting for these and would love to start recording images from the rehearsal process for this year's show. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates urgently.

Tickets will be on sale at reception after the May half term, £5 adult and £3 concession.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT TOWNSEND

A reminder to add us @TownsendCommunity if you hold an Instagram account or would like to see what we have been up to. We would also like to remind you that we run a school Twitter account which you can check out @Townsend_School.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP

Thank you to all parents/carers who came to the Support Group on Tuesday. It is great to see the Group grow in confidence as well as developing a safe space to share issues with each other. Marianne Burrows from the St Albans Inclusion Advocacy Service came to introduce herself and what she can offer and will also be coming to the next two groups for

the second half of the meeting. This gives parents/carers the opportunity to speak to her about what their difficulties are.

Anxiety still remains the main topic of conversation and the many different ways it presents with our children. Sweets, drinks and diet were also discussed, whether they affect behaviour or medication or mood. Hope to see you all again on 4th June.

Penny Baker

Inclusion Manager and ASD Lead

SUBJECT INFORMATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE YEAR 8 HOMEWORK PROJECT UPDATE

Each week we have been going through some puzzles and I have been responding regularly to queries regarding the homework project so far. All students have been informed in lessons to bring in their project work (completed to-date) in Computer Science.

Please can you remind your child that this request is for the forthcoming week - May 13th to May the 17th. Students can be creative in their approach, an image emailed, a document printed or saved.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE YEAR 11 UPDATE

We have been working through revision and past papers in order to prepare for the GCSE Computer Science exams. Students have their first exam on Monday the 13th of May and I will be available for support before the exam in the small canteen. Please do encourage the students to review their revision guides and workbooks and of course, the general exam advice:

Read the question

Breakdown what the key terms are BEFORE applying the answer in the context of the question. (Always good to add notes!)

Check through your answers carefully.

Good luck Computer Science students!

DRAMA

NEW VIEWS

Final scripts have now been entered for the competition, and one of our students has been chosen to be on the long list which will now go to the National Theatre panel for short list and winner. Congratulations to Stacy (10D) for her script 'Jazz's Tiny Feet'! We are currently organising a reading of the scripts with our competition partner school, we will let you know when we have more details about this.

Year 7 - Are continuing an anti bullying scheme of work which is focused around the script 'The terrible fate of humpty dumpty' teaching skills such as role play and looking at how we can tackle bullying together.

Year 8 - Are continuing their 'Romeo and Juliet' scheme of work for this half term.

Year 9 - Have now started studying a play DNA by Dennis Kelly, they will be performing extracts of this before the summer holidays to practise Component 3 of the GCSE. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 10 - Are now preparing for their Component 2 and have all settled on their ideas for their pieces, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters have been sent home for parents, please return the reply slips ASAP for the performance date on Friday 24th May. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 11 - Are preparing for their written examination on Friday 17th May, all revision material has been provided and if students would like extra support they can come ask me for extra materials. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

GEOGRAPHY

I am delighted to say that we will be taking part in the St Albans Sustainability Festival which runs from 11th May to 1st June across St Albans, Harpenden and the villages. Over the next few weeks Geo-Club will reflect on the work we have started this year and the collaborations with other departments, such as the joint venture with Art and the recycled Ocean model we have been making to highlight the issues about ocean plastics, the Plants in the Classroom campaign, which has been very successful across the school and also the future work we plan to do with Science and the Townsend Sustainable Schools award. As well as the schools taking part, SustFest will have over 130 public events that you and your families can enjoy. Please visit <https://sustainablestalbans.org/>. for further information about how you can get involved. We plan to go to the Town Hall in July to present our sustainable school work to the other schools and groups involved in the festival.

Mrs Buckland

HISTORY

Year 7

Students are studying Islamic Civilisations and the Crusades. They are encouraged to do further reading by visiting the BBC Bitesize website <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx9xsbk/revision/1> to extend and consolidate their knowledge in the subject as we get on with the unit.

Year 9

Advance notice that students will sit the GCSE Paper 1 trial exam the week beginning 1st July. Crime and Punishment revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Students can also purchase a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2. Please speak to Ms Reynolds if there are financial implications.

Year 10

Advance notice that students will sit the GCSE Paper 2 trial exam the week beginning 17th June. Early Elizabethan England revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Students can also purchase a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2. 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.

Year 11

There is a scheduled revision session in HU8 with Mrs Bailey for Paper 1 on **Friday 24th May from 12.15 to about 15.15** (Paper 1 exam is on Monday 3rd June AM) and a revision session for Paper 2 and 3 on **Tuesday 4th June from 12.15 to 15.00**. A reminder that students have been provided with a free red revision guide produced by the department which has useful information about revision sessions, exam dates, examination technique, key notes, timelines, glossary, exam question banks and practice papers. Please encourage your child to use this as part of their regular history revision. A final reminder that students can purchase a revision guide for each unit (there are four) at the cost of £4 and/or a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2 from the History office. 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

LANGUAGES

Year 11 GCSE French information

Students have now completed their speaking exams and will complete the reading/ listening papers on **Tuesday 14th May** and the writing paper on **Friday 17th May**. Please encourage students to use their revision materials and the online resources listed below to practise and prepare this weekend.

Please also remind students that there will be an extra revision session **after school on Monday 13th May in LA1**.

Online Revision Resources

- **Activelearn** - this is the online version of the Edexcel French GCSE textbook. Students have individual login and password details and exercises have been set to allow students to access at home and revise. The particular advantage of using this package to revise is that it is created by the same exam we use for GCSE French to support their GCSE textbook and should reflect the topics, vocabulary and structures which will come up in the exams. There are grammar, reading and listening activities.
- **Thisislanguage** – students are very familiar with this package as we use it in school. They have individual login and password details and exercises have been set to allow students to access at home and revise. Students revise by completing exercises and play interactive games.
- **GCSE Pod** – some relevant French GCSE revision exercises have been set covering topics we are currently revising in class. More will be added as we move on to the new topic areas.
- **Linguascope** - another package familiar to students from KS3 but the intermediate section is suitable for KS4 revision. User ID townsend, password language19.

Mrs Livesey

MATHEMATICS

Year 8 Maths Challenge

Well done to 2 teams of our Year 8s who participated in the regional qualifier of the Hertfordshire Mathematics Competition earlier this month at Astley Cooper School. Over 40 pupils took part from 8 different schools in the district. There were 4 different rounds of questions including problem solving, estimations and mathematical calculations. It was a lot of fun and one of our teams did well enough to get through to the Finals day in June! Well done to all that took part!

Mr Still

YEAR 11 SCIENCE

Good luck to students who will be sitting their first examination next week! . A reminder that pupils will need a scientific calculator for all of their GCSE Science exams.

Mrs McNeillis

COMMUNITY

Please note that although we are very happy to pass on information these are not Townsend sponsored or organised events.

LOTS FOR TOTS BABY & TODDLER TABLE TOP SALE

(See attachment)

Many good items for sale or if you would like a table to sell your own, email naomi@lotsfortotssale.co.uk

St Albans Saturday 8th June, Townsend School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £13, and business tables £16 10am – 12pm