

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 11th January 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will – Stephen King

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For January our value focus is Thankfulness 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' 1 Thessalonians 5:18. 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.

GOOD NEWS!

We have recently been notified that two applications for external accreditations have been successful. Our work around Careers Information Education and Guidance led initially by Mrs Maguire and then by Mr Armitage has been rewarded with the Investors Quality in Careers Award, and our work establishing links with other countries and diversity led by Mrs Bailey has been rewarded with the Foundation International School Award Certificate. We are delighted and proud to have achieved both these nationally recognised awards.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP

This group will take place on Tuesday 15th January 10.00am -11.00am. It is a group that has been set up to support parents/carers of students with additional needs. These needs may be around learning or they may be around anxiety. All parents/carers of students in all years are welcome. It provides an opportunity to share practice and share stresses!

YEAR 9 CONSULTATION EVENING

It is Year 9 consultation evening on Wednesday 16th January from 5-8pm. We are expecting full attendance to this important evening where you will be able to discuss progress, set targets and get tips on how to support your child's learning at home. We look forward to seeing you on the evening. Students should be in full school uniform.

Miss Reynolds

YEAR 10: WORK EXPERIENCE

I would like to remind you that all completed private placement request forms (spare copies available from the school office) should be handed in by the end of January. We cannot guarantee that forms received later will be processed, and if they are, they may incur a further charge.

Thank you. M. Wood (Work Experience Coordinator)

YEAR 11 - IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

This is a short term in comparison to the first term, but it is still extremely busy so I thought that I would draw your attention to a few dates;

- 18th January - 6th form application deadline
- 31st January - Year 11 study support evening
- 15th March – Final Trial Examinations in Mathematics English and Science

More details on the above will follow shortly. Revision clubs are going on at lunchtimes and afterschool and all of our pupils are encouraged to attend these, especially in their weaker areas. From next week there will only be 14 teaching weeks until the GCSE exams start (W/C 13th May), attendance and punctuality are more important now than they ever were with the final approach to the summer exams. Please support us in ensuring that the pupils are in school as much as they can be and are also here on time every day. If you have any queries then please contact me or your child's form tutor at school. Thank you Mr Still

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock' audition sign up was a great success with many students wanting to take part in the show, we have changed the audition date and it will now take place on Thursday 17th January 3:30-4:30 due to parents/carers consultation evening on the Wednesday. All students from all years are welcome to come and get involved, we need good performers, musicians and stage crew to create a fantastic show. If you missed sign up then see Mrs Coates or Miss Kirk for an audition pack. The rehearsal schedule is attached for you to look at and a copy will be given to your child on audition day also.

CAREERS

This week students had the opportunity to attend a talk on Women in Business aimed at empowering women in businesses. Next week we have an engineer coming to speak to pupils. Those who have expressed an interest in a future in this field of work will receive an invite to the talk next week. However, the talk is open to all pupils so if your child does not receive an invite but would like to attend please ask them to speak to Mr Armitage for information as they will be more than welcome to attend.

CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY OF 'STEAM'

A parent within the school who specialises in internet security has brought to the school's attention a concern with a product called 'steam'. This product has multiple applications but can be used to support and drive PC games amongst other things. It is thought that the product may have been compromised and that there is a risk that the hack may be used to access and control home computers. The school simply bring this to your attention and we would be unable to assist you if you are experiencing problems. Please speak to your internet security provider if you are concerned.

IN CASE OF SNOW OR OTHER EMERGENCY CLOSURE

As we fall into January and approach February, we felt it was time to remind you of procedures for school closure because of inclement weather or indeed closure for any other emergency.

- Look at our school website www.townsend.herts.sch.uk — please remember to refresh the page regularly.
- Look at the Herts Direct website www.hertsdirect.org — please remember to refresh the page regularly.
- Check your email for a "Parentmail" message from the school (NB It might occasionally go to your "spam" box so check that as well)

- Tune your radio to BBC 3 Counties (103.8 FM / 95.5FM / 630MV / 1161MV), to Heart FM/Mercury (97.6FM / 828AM) or to Verulam Radio (92.6FM) as we have an agreement that they will make announcements at regular intervals.
- Telephone the school 01727 853047. If sufficient staff are able to travel to school we will answer calls personally. If this is not possible a pre-recorded message might be available. Please remember that large numbers of parents/carers will be accessing our limited number of telephone lines at the same time and you may have to be patient.

Signs will be fixed to the school entrances/gates.

If we do close the school, it is likely that the school buses will be cancelled. Please ensure that your son/daughter knows that they should return home if the bus does not arrive after they have waited a reasonable time to allow for traffic congestion. To help other parents/carer(s), it would be useful if you would pass on any information that you have personally confirmed to other parents/carer(s). This would reduce the overloading of our telephone and computer networks.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 11 GCSE Update

Students are finishing off their controlled assessments before embarking on a revision run through. Please support your child by checking they are using the revision guides and workbooks to complete their revision.

Revision workshop for the year 11 students this term will be on a Monday lunchtime and afternoon registration. Students can also use the homework club based in IT4 on a Tuesday or Thursday after school to complete revision.

One to one sessions can also be arranged with me directly.

Year 7

All students in year 7 should have received their homework project booklet this week on the topic of binary. Please look at the schedule posted on SMHW.

This week, students should be completing the task to research what is binary and convert denary/decimal numbers into binary.

Mrs King

DRAMA

Year 7 - Have just started Macbeth and have had their Home Learning project set. The project is available on Show My Homework and students have been given a copy of the task sheet in their lessons. If there are any concerns or questions about the homework please send your child to see me and I can offer support. There will be weekly checks in their Drama lessons to monitor progress and offer support.

Year 8 - Are now working on spontaneous improvisation on a story called Warden X, each week they will discover more of the story and the emphasis is on independent learning through storytelling.

Year 9 - Are developing ideas for their 'devising' module and are settled in their groups. 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 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 will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. 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 live theatre trip on Tuesday 15/01/19. They have been given the script to read and tasks to complete so they are prepared. If students would like any additional revision material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

NEW VIEWS

Students have been nice and busy over Christmas getting some writing completed. National Theatre has contacted us and offered free theatre tickets to the students involved, we are currently organising a date and time to see a production. Letters will be sent home when a date is set.

ENGLISH

YEARS 9 10 AND 11

Revision Year 11

On Monday the 14th January the English Literature lectures start at lunch time in the lecture theatre -1.30 till 1.50. The lectures are on the key Literature texts and are aimed at students who want to develop better understanding of key themes, key characters and context. While all year 11 students are welcome the lectures are designed for those students who are aiming to achieve a level 6 or better and cover some of the complex issues in the texts.

Herts for Learning are offering GCSE workshops for English through January to April at weekends and in the Easter. There is a cost to both half day and full day courses but if you are interested in these please email Mrs Harris:

pharris936@townsend.herts.sch.uk

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Reading

It is essential that students are doing a minimum of 40 minutes reading per night in order to ensure their reading age continues to improve in line with their chronological age; this is not just important for English but all subjects. If parents can become involved in the reading – asking questions to check understanding – this ensures students are getting the best from their reading.

Year 11

Year 11 are currently studying the poems in the anthology – all of the revision websites cover these in great detail so there are plenty of resources available for independent learning and to consolidate the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Year 10

Year 10 are currently working on Speaking and Listening – although this no longer counts as part of their overall G.C.S.E. grade their exam grade will not be awarded without a successful completion of the task. Some students get nervous about talking in front of the class but it is a requirement of the task that their presentations are done in front of an audience while being filmed. So perhaps parents can support by getting their sons/daughters to practice at home so they are well prepared and have experience of talking in front of an audience – thank you in anticipation of your support.

Years 7 & 8

A reminder about the AR book finder website.

Students can only sit the reading quizzes on books that are in the AR system but the system contains thousands of books – not just the ones in our library. If you have books at home then use the AR website to check if the books are 'testable'. Please

remember students need to be reading at the top end of their ZPD levels (your child is given an updated ZPD level after every reading age test – usually once every half term.) the web site is www.arbookfind.com
Mrs Bunyan

GEOGRAPHY

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK TRIP

On Tuesday 22nd January all year 8 pupils will be partaking in some field work looking at the 'Quality of Life in St Albans'. Pupils will be walking into St Albans for half a day in order to gather this information supervised by a number of staff. The school start time and end time will stay the same and all pupils will be back by 3:25pm to use the school transport. Pupils attending the afternoon session will need to bring a packed lunch as we will be off site during the school lunch period. Your child has received a letter outlining details of the trip and an OV7 consent form which needs to be completed and handed back into the school office by Tuesday 15th January. We cannot allow pupils to attend this trip without the OV7 Consent Form. Thank you for your support

HISTORY

Year 10 History Study Mornings: Wednesday 27th February and Friday 1st March 2019.

As part of the Year 10 GCSE History course students learn about the reign of Elizabeth I for their Paper 2: British depth study. To consolidate learning and support achievement, we are pleased to offer pupils the opportunity to participate in two activities provided by School History Scene.

Pupils have been given the information letters in their history lessons this week and should have passed these on to you. A copy of the letter is attached should you need it.

Please be aware that the deadline for pupils to submit their consent forms and contributions is Friday 1st February 2019. Contributions can be paid via School Gateway. Should you require support in making this contribution, please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year, (Mr Armitage) in confidence.
History department

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy TIP

Children often question when will they need certain parts of Mathematics in real life. Point out that maths is in everyday life or how you need certain parts of maths to perform tasks in your job or how certain parts of maths is needed to carry out careers that your child may aspire to do in later life.

For more information on how you can help with your child's numeracy skills please visit

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>

National Numeracy | for everyone, for life

www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk

Save the date! The next National Numeracy Day takes place on Wednesday 15th May 2019 The UK's first National Numeracy Day took place on 16th May 2018.

Thousands of you helped us to celebrate

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

SCIENCE

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2019

Science week is happening at Townsend from the 11th to the 15th of March. In the next few weeks I will be announcing more activities associated with the event but to start off with we have a poster competition. The theme for science week is 'Journeys' and we are asking you to imagine all the amazing journeys that take place around the world. Here are some to get you started:

What sort of journeys have you made? E.g. holidays.

Research famous journeys; e.g. Amy Johnson's flight alone from Britain to Australia or Charles Darwin's journey on the HMS Beagle.

Think about journeys that might be made in the future or travels through time.

Other than travel, what other journeys can you think of? E.g. life cycles, or the life cycles of materials such as plastics.

There will be prizes for best entries in school and we will be sending some entries onto the national competition. For more information about the rules of entry please see your science teacher. Good luck!

Mr Morgan

Revision

Please be advised that revisions class after school on Wednesday 16th for years 10 and 11 will be finishing early at 4.30pm NOT 5PM due to Year 9 Consultation evening.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

For our first #WakeUpWednesday in 2019 we've created a free online safety guide for schools to share with parents, carers, staff and children about 'Fake News'; the epidemic plaguing our social media timelines and influencing behaviours across the globe! Please see attached poster.

HERTS YOUNG HOMELESS

We are organising a Children's Holistic Wellbeing Event to introduce parents and children to alternative methods of health and wellbeing. There will be gifts, activities, workshops, taster sessions, book readings and talks to entertain and help empower children: emotionally, personally, spiritually, socially and educationally.

We are also raising funds for the Herts Young Homeless charity which tries to prevent children becoming homeless. Please see attached leaflet.

DSPL7 DELIVERING SPECIAL PROVISION LOCALLY NEWSLETTER

Please find the latest newsletter with a lot of information about support for parents/carers regarding children with additional needs.