

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 12th October 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts – Sir Winston Churchill

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For October our value focus is Inclusiveness 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus - Galatians 3:28. 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.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12/13 - Sixth Form students should not be booking appointments or driving lessons during lesson times. It is vital that students attendance in lessons is a priority so that no one is missing vital information for A' Level examinations. Students should be completing additional work and reading at home to consolidate and apply their knowledge. Miss Gibbons

Year 13 UCAS personal statements - students wishing to apply for university should be researching and visiting universities over the coming weeks. Students need to be writing their personal statements so that there is time for them to be checked. All students have been given the relevant information to be able to do this. For further help please see. Miss Gibbons.

**YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING THURSDAY
OCTOBER 18TH 2018 5-8pm**

We are expecting a full attendance at this important event and hope that you will find it both useful and beneficial. Students will be receiving both current assessment data as well as revised GCSE predictions so it is a well-timed occasion to look at what needs to happen with regards to next steps and preparation for trial examination in November.

Students should now have made the majority of their appointments but last minute ones can still be added from Monday to Thursday next week. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday. Mr Still Director of Learning Year 11

YEAR 10 PARENT/CARERS EVENING

A reminder that Year 10 parents evening is on Wednesday 24th October from 5pm to 8pm. Your child has received a letter with a reply slip that must be returned confirming you attendance by Friday 19th October. This is a vital opportunity for you to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress in individual subjects. If you have any questions regarding this evening please contact your child's Form Tutor. I look forward to seeing you all there. Mr Armitage

YEAR 7

On 25th October after school students have invited teachers and Headteachers from their primary school to visit Townsend. We are collecting responses and will let students know if their teachers are able to come. We do know that sadly Luton primary schools are on half term this week but in light of this we will be organising

an alternative visit date after half term. Once the date is confirmed we will let you know. We are grateful for your help in organising alternative transport arrangements home for those children whose teachers will be visiting. Thank you

DIVERSITY DAY – FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2018

Townsend students are currently planning and preparing their stalls for our annual event celebrating diversity in conjunction with the First World War centenary on Friday 26th October at lunchtime in the school hall. We are excited to be able to provide Brazilian Capoeira martial arts dancing workshops to our Year 7 students on the day. Please make sure your child brings in their PE kit and trainers to be adequately prepared for the workshop.

Mrs Bailey, Assistant Head Teacher

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA) AGM

Our **AGM is on Wednesday the 17th of October** in the school hall at 7pm. Please come along and support. New ideas and help with our activities are much appreciated. There will be light refreshment available.

Other news

If you have a wood burner/open fire - we still have **logs available** on site, mainly oak. If anyone is interested please contact Ian Graham via reception. There will be a small charge to go towards PTA funds.

We are about to start preparing for **Christmas Hamper Raffle** and are looking for hamper fillers. Any items such as tins or boxes of chocolates, bottles of drink, festive items, in date seasonal foods, crackers, gift vouchers, etc would be much appreciated. Please send in to reception for the attention of Ian Graham.

Many thanks for your support.

Friends of Townsend

STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) COMPETITION

Students have been given the following information

Do you want the chance to win a £25 Amazon Voucher, with the potential to increase it to £100?

EDUFUND UK are a charity looking to improve knowledge and understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and PE subjects across all ages.

They are running a competition to design a poster or information sheet about a PE or STEM subject, or skill or about a method of learning effectively.

- You need to include the following in your poster:

- who your poster is aimed at
- explain its purpose
- include excellent content – detailed information about the subject/skill,
- giving links for people to find out more. Making it interesting and useful for your target audience, using diagrams, tables etc to get your message across
- make it eye-catching with a clear layout and check that your spelling and grammar are correct.

The top poster from each Key Stage (as voted for by Townsend Staff) will receive a £25 Amazon gift voucher and be put forward to the county stage competition where they can win £100 Amazon gift voucher if selected as the county winner.

Please hand all entries in to Miss Pennifold

Deadline for entries: Friday 26th October

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

We are aware that several parents/carers are concerned about high levels of anxiety their children are suffering from. In response to this and to offer some guidance we would like to remind you about the Health for Teens website that provides support and advice on a number of issues including anxiety <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/>. Please do have a look at this website with your child. We would also recommend Kooth <https://kooth.com/> and Healthy Young Minds in Herts <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/> This last website offers advice to young people and parents/carers.

We have also taken this from the Healthy Young Minds in Herts Website

Need help now?

What to do if you need help now

If you, a friend or relative are experiencing mental health problems now you can:

Phone: 0300 777 0707 between 8am and 7pm or 01438 843322 between 5pm and 8am (Hertfordshire mental health helpline)

Minicom: 0300 777 0909

If it is an emergency, dial 999 and ask for an Ambulance

Alternatively you can:

Contact your GP - to search for a GP in your area or to find the contact details for your practice, please see the GP section on [NHS Choices](#)

Go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department

Phone the NHS 111 service free of charge from any phone

Phone The Samaritans on 116 123

Call Childline on 0800 1111

If it's not urgent but you're struggling with how you're feeling, there are lots of organisations to help you [listed here](#). If you'd rather not talk, why not visit [Kooth.com](#) and get online support instead?

SUBJECT INFORMATION

ENGLISH

Mrs Kleynhans runs Film/Journalist Club Friday lunchtime in EN3. Please do encourage your child to join in if they have an interest in films and writing about them

HALF TERM ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH

All year groups are approaching their half term scheme of work assessments.

Year 7 will be doing a Creative Writing assessment – so any extra work or support on this area of their writing would be wonderful. They are doing descriptive writing rather than a story so the success criteria focus is on skills – figurative language and grammar and punctuation.

Year 8 will be doing an essay on 'Of Mice and Men' which will be a character based essay. I know that many of the parents/carers will remember doing this book for their GCSE!

Year 9 will be doing an essay on 'Animal Farm' which again will be a character based essay. All of the websites have very good revision sites for this book – BBC bitesize, Sam Learning etc.

Year 10 will be doing an essay on 'An Inspector Calls' one of their literature exam texts. All of the major revision sites cover the play in depth.

Year 11 are working towards their trial examinations and in lessons we are focused on Paper 1 – all questions. However students should also be revising their literature texts – also Paper 1 and there are a series of lectures and revision sessions running till Christmas. For Year 11 there are already several support and intervention sessions running. If students are working with Ms Probyn they already know who they are. Mrs Kleynhans is running a Tuesday lunchtime revision class focused on literature to which all students are welcome. Mrs Harris and Mrs Bunyan will be running revision sessions after half term during lunchtime – dates to be announced soon.

HISTORY

This October marks the 31st annual **Black History Month** in the UK. The History Department is once again encouraging students to take part in Townsend's Black History Month competition, researching some fascinating but often forgotten individuals in history. Students are asked to produce an A4 or A3 poster on their individual, explaining how they have influenced society and why more people should know about them. **Deadline for entries is Monday 5th November** and are to be given Mrs Bailey, Head of History, in HU8.

History club is at lunchtimes on Wednesdays at 1.30 in room HU8 for all years.

Year 7

Students are currently being prepared for a causation assessment on the Battle of Hastings. Students can find the BBC bitesize link

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1> on SMHW which will help them consolidate their learning and secure understanding of the unit.

Year 8

Students are currently studying the British Empire and are considering the changes and continuities to present day. Students can find the BBC bitesize link

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

Year 9 GCSE

Students are currently studying a non-examined unit this term on the topic of the First World War. This is to help them prepare and develop examination skills. The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Students will study Paper 1 (Crime and Punishment) from January and it is suggested they procure themselves with a copy at the cost of £4 in order to embed revision skills early in the course. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 10 GCSE

Students are currently studying Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 for the term. We encourage students to purchase the American West revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you.

History revision is being held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students can refer to the revision programme to find about the skill and content covered every week.

Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Year 11 GCSE

We kindly and urgently remind parents to complete permission slips and payment by the latest **Monday 15th October** for the Whitechapel trip on Wednesday 7th November 2018 otherwise your child may not be able to attend the trip. If your

family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Still in confidence so that we can support you. Students are studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 and this will be the paper which they will sit during trial examination week in November 2018. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. History revision is being held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students can refer to the revision programme to find about the skill and content covered every week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Congratulations to Gianni in year 7 for winning the final district cross country race this week, who is now unbeaten in every race this year!

Fixtures:

- Wednesday 17th October – year 8 and 9 netball – home vs Nicholas Breakspear School 3.30 – 5pm

- Wednesday 17th October – year 7 girls basketball tournament at Oaklands College – 3.30 – 6pm

GCSE PE STUDY CLUB

Revision sessions are on a Wednesday and Friday lunch time in LA3 from 1.25.

All year 11 students have been informed by Mr Still if they should attend – and must attend at least one of the sessions per week. The focus up to half term will be on the muscular system, skeletal system, cardiovascular system and respiratory system

Year 11 GCSE PE

This week we are studying about Health, Fitness and well-being, more specifically the benefits and consequences of an active and sedentary lifestyle. Pupils are also continuing with their controlled assessment, 2 sessions to go before the deadline date of Monday 22nd October. I have also found a great revision resource which is totally free called Seneca Learning, here pupils can revise every part of the syllabus in a series of short slides and snippets of information with quizzes that go alongside. Pupils need to access the following link:

<https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/join-class/OqP0WsDnr>

Learn GCSEs 2x Faster with Seneca app.senecalearning.com

World's First Accelerated Learning Platform

Year 10 GCSE PE

Year 10 have been looking at participation levels in physical activity, commercialism in sport, and ethics in sport including sportsmanship, gamesmanship, violence and drugs in sport. They have a test on Tuesday 16th covering all of these topics. Please encourage revision of these. Many thanks, Mr Armitage

Year 9 GCSE PE

Year 9 have an end of topic test on Thursday 25th October based on the skeletal system, muscular system and movement analysis, they have been given information and practice questions on SMHW to complete for revision over the next 2 weeks.

DRAMA

Year 8

The Drama Home learning project is currently on week 3 of 5. The full project is due in during the week of 22nd October to be marked over half term.

Year 9

An excellent start to GCSE Drama by the year 9's with their introduction to Drama skills, postcards will be speeding their way home for students who have made

excellent effort. Students have been given their mini script projects and should be learning their lines for performances next term.

Year 10

Year 10 are studying design elements in theatre, if anyone has any old shoe and egg boxes for our set design module please could you donate them and send them in with your child, we will be starting this week after next.

Year 11

GCSE open house revision is available every Tuesday lunch in IT1 for students to complete home learning or revision. Theory lesson homework is set every Friday and is on SMHW. All students should be keeping their books neat and have homework set every Friday after our theory lesson. Please check SMHW for these tasks.

Drama Club

Please can all permission slips for the Drama club photo consent forms be returned to Mrs Coates as soon as possible. Also please can you make sure that your child is checking their rehearsal schedule so they attend all rehearsals.

TECHNOLOGY

Young Chef Competition - The St Albans Rotary Young Chef Competition will take place at Oaklands College on Wednesday 14th November from 5pm. We would like to invite students from across all years to enter this exciting competition that will require students to prepare in 90 minutes a two course healthy meal comprising starter and main course for two people costing less than £12. If any students are interested then please speak to Mrs Woodward or Mr Hill (DT).

Textiles club takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in TE3 at 1.25 - 1.55pm with Mrs Woodward. Students have the opportunity to complete many exciting projects such as phone cases, lanterns and later in the term will make Christmas decorations. All students are welcome to attend. If you happen to have any old fabrics or fashion magazines that you would like to get rid of, the Technology department would be most grateful to make use of them in Textiles club and some lessons. Thank you.

Engineering Club - On Friday lunchtimes in Technology, Mr Hill runs engineering club. There will soon be a real shortage of engineers in this country as many are retiring! This could be the start of an exciting path to engineering. All students are welcome to attend. Mr Hill

Year 7 Food Technology

If your child is cooking macaroni cheese next week in their food technology lessons please can they bring their pasta in already cooked as some students are struggling to cope with the time element of the lesson. This preparation should help the children. If there are any issues please contact Mrs Coates or Mrs Riley-Patterson.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography in the News

This week in the news we have had relevant topics such as Hurricane Michael, the UK fracking laws enabling fracking for shale gas to take place in the UK despite the environmental and social issues linked to it and the situation with Brexit deepening as No 10 announces that the UK may not enter a permanent customs union with the EU - what does all this mean for people being affected by these topics? Please discuss these topics with your children to help them develop opinions on issues that affect many people in places far and wide - this helps develop geographical literacy and understanding of their place in the world.

Year7

Year 7 have been studying mapskills this half term, perhaps you could go for a walk with them this weekend and they could follow their route on a map, or even create a map of their journey!

If you have any cardboard boxes at home, please feel free to donate them to the geography department as we are going to be making contour island models in geography lessons.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE YEARS 9-11

As half term approaches it will be assessment time in geography lessons on the topics they have been studying this half term. The students should be using their class books and GCSE pod to revise the topics.

Mrs Buckland

SCIENCE

The winners for the **"Space Junk" model competition** are:

First place = Edward in 7N

Second place = Laura 7Y

Third Place = Sam 11C

Well done everyone who entered!

A LEVEL BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP 2018

The A level biologists have recently returned from their very successful 3 day field trip to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire. The three days were packed with activities that are vital for their A level studies as well as being a great deal of fun! After leaving Townsend at 6.30 am and a four hour journey we were greeted by our tutor for the day and after quickly putting our bags in our rooms we were straight to work travelling to Filey Brig to study the growth of plants on the seashore. After an enjoyable afternoon at the seashore we returned to the field centre, unpacked and had our evening meal. The evening activity was investigating the ethical treatment of living organisms. We donned our head torches and set off into the countryside to set some humane traps for insects and small mammals. We were joined by some bats which took pleasure in swooping over our heads. At 8.30 we finally got some free time to have a cup of chocolate and rest up for the next day. The second day started with our inspection of our 'humane traps'. The highlight was seeing the two wood mice caught by Leo and Mrs Sibley. The mice were released carefully and went back into the woods. The morning and afternoon were taken up studying how the environment affects plant growth and involved many tests and measurements out on the moors. The evening session was in our classroom planning for the third and final investigation on our last day. The free time in the evening was used by our students doing some extra revision for a test they had on the following Monday! Suddenly it was the last day and we spent our time knee deep in two streams comparing the effect of invading crayfish on the habitat. It ended with a competition to catch the largest crayfish and the results are still being discussed. Finally some classroom work to finish and we climbed back into the minibus for the long journey home.

Mr Morgan and Mrs Sibley would like to thank and praise our students for their enthusiasm and behaviour over the three days. Mr Morgan

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

KEYSTONE WORKSHOPS

Monday 5th November 2018 19.30-21.15

Understanding Adolescence – Positive Strategies for Children- Talk.

This event will look at

- an understanding of the biological, psychological and social changes in adolescence
- an understanding of how these developmental changes can have an impact on, and be impacted by, the developmental demands of being a parent.
- knowledge of the current successful strategies for managing teenage behaviour
- Knowledge of positive communication approaches and five simple steps used as part of a person centred communication style

See attached