

## **TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**

**Date 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

### **WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

The Value for this half term is WISDOM: 'Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.' Proverbs 4:6-7 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**

16<sup>th</sup> December – Senior Prize Giving 7pm  
18<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Cathedral Service 2pm  
19<sup>th</sup> December – Term Ends 12.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – School Returns 8.45am  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Year 9 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening 5-8pm  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Sixth Form Consultation Evening 5-8pm

### **CHRISTINGLE CATHEDRAL SERVICE**

We would like to invite all parents/carers to attend our special Christingle Cathedral Service on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm. Please be aware that space may be limited so you do need to arrive early if you want a seat! We would also like to extend a warm welcome to you to join us for light refreshments in the Crypt of the Cathedral after the service. Wednesday is also market day in St Albans so parking may be limited and traffic is likely to be particularly heavy on this occasion. Do allow enough time to pick up your child at 3pm from the Cathedral. Students enter and leave through the West Gate. Romeland is the road that runs alongside this entrance.

Ms Sheppard Head of Religious Education and Worship

### **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 12 GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS**

We will be continuing to take donations for the reverse advent calendar up until Tuesday afternoon registration. Students can bring donations such as clothing, toiletries, non-perishable food items etc to the sixth form block during afternoon registrations on Monday and Tuesday.

Thanks. Miss Gibbons – Director of learning for Sixth Form

### **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - YEAR 9 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING 5.00-8.00pm**

Year 9 students are now making appointments with their teachers. Please ensure that you have discussed an appropriate time slot with your child so that they can make appointments at your convenience. This Parent/Carer Consultation Evening is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress in their GCSE subject areas - identifying strengths and setting targets to address gaps or areas to develop. We are expecting all our parents/carers to attend. If it is impossible for you to attend as parent/carers please can you arrange for another family member or close family friend to accompany your child to the evening.

Thank you. Miss Scott. Director of Learning for Year 9

## **CHRISTMAS STALL**

As with previous years' members of the 'Friends of Townsend' have arranged for a small gift shop selling beautiful Christmas gifts for all budgets. The sale will again take place on Monday 16th December and, if there is any stock left over, there may be a further stall on Tuesday 17th December. For anything between £1-£6 students will be able to purchase beautifully presented gifts for loved ones, or even themselves. Please consider allowing students to bring in a small amount of money to spend that will be used to help support the school and benefit all students attending. As ever, the 'Friends' are always looking for new volunteers to help us to continue to raise much needed and very much appreciated funds and hopefully have some fun along the way! If you're are interested in joining our group or being added to our new mailing list please contact the school via [PTAfriends@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:PTAfriends@townsend.herts.sch.uk)

## **PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING**

The next Parent/Carer Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 14th January at 10am. This will give us a chance to catch up after the Christmas holidays and look forward to the year ahead. All Parents/Carers are welcome and it is always lovely to see so many 'regulars'. Merry Christmas! Penny Baker Inclusion Manager

## **SCHOOL PRODUCTION**

This year's school production will be 'Beauty and the Beast' and performances will take place on July 9th & 10th at 7pm in the Hall. Audition sign up will held this Monday 16th December at 1:25-1:55pm lunch time in the Drama Studio, students can sign up for parts and will be added to the audition list. The auditions for the show are on Monday 13th January 2020 at 3:30-5:00pm in the Hall, audition packs will be given out on the sign up day for students to practise over Christmas. Auditions are open to students in years 7-10 & 12-13 and we hope they will be a big turn out like last year. The show is a wonderful opportunity for your child to be creative and show dedication to a production with roles including on stage, backstage and technical. 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.

## **SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

We have been given advice from the National Association of Head Teachers as part of the 'Switched On Parents' campaign that we are sharing with you below.

*These guidelines have been drafted in cooperation with Childnet International, a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. We recognise that some adults lack confidence or knowledge when it comes to technology. Along with other organisations, NAHT recommends that parents and children have open and constructive conversations about the use of technology.*

*We have suggested five tips for families considering an internet-enabled gift, so that they are as 'switched on' as possible when they talk to their children:*

- *Make sure your children feel confident they can come to you if they need help or are unsure about anything that happens online.*

- *Have open and open regular conversations with your children about technology and their use of it. Agree a set of family rules, including around screen time.*
- *Check the capabilities of the devices your child uses including toys. Does it have internet access? Can it be used to communicate with others?*
- *Be aware of and follow the age requirements of many social media apps and services, as well as games.*
- *Help your child get started. Find out what safety tools or parental controls are available, and how they work and set them up as appropriate. For younger children, supervise their use.*

*With internet-enabled toys and online devices being popular gifts for children and young people this time of year, NAHT general secretary, Paul Whiteman said "We would never suggest that parents completely avoid buying smartphones, tablets or games consoles but we would urge them to think carefully about the right gift for their child and to talk to them about what boundaries and permissions will be set."*

## **IN CASE OF SNOW OR OTHER EMERGENCY CLOSURE**

As move through December and 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. The decision to close a school is never taken lightly and many factors have to be taken into consideration. The key factor is the safety of the school community on site or travelling to and from school. You are aware that because Townsend students come from so many areas out of St Albans and the travel arrangements are complex, this an important consideration. Our site on the edge of town and surrounded by open countryside is also very vulnerable to worse weather than other local schools that are not so exposed and we can be affected more badly than other Hertfordshire schools.

Should school closure be necessary please:

- Look at our school website [www.townsend.herts.sch.uk](http://www.townsend.herts.sch.uk) — please remember to refresh the page regularly to get the most recent information.
- Look at the Herts Direct website [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) — again, 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.

If school is closed we would also remind you that students have a number of websites they can access for work from home or a local library.

### **YEAR 7 & 8**

The Year 7 **Basketball** team played against Samuel Ryder Academy on Monday 9th December and won 20-18. All 8 players were outstanding and demonstrated excellent team work. Well done to all!

Mr Brooks – PE teacher

### **YEAR 7 HISTORY PROJECT**

Students are due to submit their half termly project for History on Medieval castles from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December according to the deadline on Show My Homework. Could you remind your child that if they belong to the following form and would like to drop off their project then they must do so in the following classroom: 7Y in HU6, 7E & 7D in HU8, 7N & 7C in LA3.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

### **YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY**

Please note year 8 students have a trip planned on Tuesday 21st January (it is on the school calendar). Letters about this trip have been sent already. Please return the reply slip as soon as possible to the school office. If you have any queries, please contact your child's Geography teacher.

Many thanks, Mrs Buckland, Head of Geography

### **YEAR 9, 10 & 11**

#### **NEW VIEWS**

Students should now use the Christmas Holidays to write their first drafts. Submission date for first drafts is **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**. For all other dates see the original letter with date timeline, if you need another letter one can be obtained from Mrs Coates.

#### **YEAR 10 HISTORY**

Please note year 10 students have a trip planned on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February to see the play 'The Inquisition of Queen Elizabeth I' followed by a morning workshop booked in school on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Letters about this opportunity will be issued early this week. Please return the reply slip and contribution as per the deadlines and payment schedule to the school office. If you have any queries, please contact your child's History teacher.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

#### **YEAR 11 TRIAL EXAMINATIONS**

Following the completion of the Art examination on Tuesday the Year 11 trial exams are now complete. Staff have been feeding back results to pupils in lessons and going through papers looking at what pupils did well and how they can improve overall. It is important that pupils use the feedback given by teachers in order to start preparing now for their GCSE's in the summer. Pupils will be bringing home a grade sheet next week that highlights their trial examination grade and the teachers predicted grade. Please spend time going through these with your child. For some pupils there will be some homework set over the holidays. This homework is there to support pupils in areas where they struggled in their trial examinations. Please encourage your child to complete the homework over the two-and-a-half-week holiday.

Thank you for your support over the first term of this incredibly stressful year for your child. The next seven months will be a particularly challenging time for all of the pupils but hard work will pay dividends when the results are issued! Excellent attendance and a positive attitude in class will play a critical part in helping your child succeed. It is vital that pupils are in school ready equipped and prepared to work hard from the very first day of the January term.

Finally, congratulations to all pupils for completing their trial exams with such a positive attitude. I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable festive period. Rest up ready for that final push.

Season's greetings,

Mr Armitage – Director of Learning Year 11

## **SIXTH FORM**

### **Sixth Form Parents/Carers Consultation Evening**

Students have been given a letter for the sixth form evening on Thursday 16th January 2020. Please can you confirm your attendance at this important event. It is an evening where we are expecting a full parent/carer attendance so do please make a note of it in your diary. Thank you, Miss Gibbons, Director of Learning for Sixth Form

## **STUDENT WELLBEING**

### **Attendance top tips**

- 1) Try to establish a good bedtime routine so your child forms good habits such as getting plenty of rest and sleep
- 2) If appointments are needed for health reasons, try to make them after school hours or out of term time where possible
- 3) Offer support with homework and take an interest in your child's learning
- 4) Attend parents/carers evenings to discuss your child's progress and personal development
- 5) Take trips during school holidays rather than during term time
- 6) Don't allow your child to stay off school for a minor ailment - help your child build resilience
- 7) Ensure your child has a good understanding of why attendance is important and that if there is a reluctance to attend you discuss with them what the issue is so you can support. Contact your child's form tutor if you need help or advice.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

DSPL7 (Developing Specialist Provision Locally) are offering two free courses starting next year; **'A Day in the Life of a Child with SEND at School'** on Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7 - 8.30 at Fleetville Junior School and **Zones of Regulation Course** on Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7-8.30 at Fleetville Junior School Please see DSPL7 website for further information and to book on these courses <http://dspl7.org.uk/>