

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The one who falls and gets up is so much stronger than the one who never fell -  
Unknown

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For December our value focus is Joy 'Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds' James 1:2 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.

**DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS**

Tonight at 7pm is our Christmas show! Students involved in the show must return to school by 6pm at the latest and have their stage blacks with them (black trousers and T-Shirt/Shirt). Tickets are on sale on the door tonight, Adults £5 and Concession £3, please come and support our Drama Club and Choir students who have worked so hard.

**CHRISTINGLES SERVICE AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2PM**

Our school Christingle Christmas Service takes place at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>. Students will be transported to the Cathedral from school but will need to make alternative travel arrangements home from the Cathedral at approximately 3.00pm. We do ask that you are clear with your child about a meeting point after the service (the West Gate is where students leave the Cathedral at the end of the service). Parents/carers are most welcome to join us for this service but please be aware that there is limited seating available as this is a popular service. Wednesday is also Market Day in St Albans so the traffic is likely to be heavier than normal. As well as this there will also be a Christmas Market taking place in the Vintry Gardens in the Cathedral grounds. **Please do allow extra time for travelling!**

**YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

It was lovely to see so many parents/carers at this important evening. We will be feeding back from Parent/Carer surveys next week.

**YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS**

Well done to our Year 11 students for their efforts and results with their trial examinations. We do realise what a stressful time this was for students and we are proud of the way in which they have shown great resilience in coping with the many examinations they sat. Individual grade sheets detailing the examination grade and GCSE prediction will be given to the students next week so do look out for them. Do discuss the grades with your child so that they are able to talk to you about what it is that they now need to do over the last few months of GCSE preparations. The trial examinations help teachers identify any gaps or areas of need as well as providing further examination practice for students. Those students who did not perform well in examinations compared to target grades will be provided with intervention work over the holidays.

If once you have seen the Grade sheet you want to contact any particular teacher to discuss any issue - please feel free to leave a message in the school office for the teacher concerned. Many thanks for your ongoing support. Mr A Still

### **SIXTH FORM**

**Year 13 Friday 21st December** - all year 13s who have completed their UCAS applications will not be expected in school on Friday 21st December. Students who have not completed applications will be expected in to finish their applications with Miss Gibbons 9-11am. Students who are not applying to University will be spoken to separately this week by Miss Gibbons about their arrangements. Well done to those students who have completed their applications - we are very pleased and proud of students who have so far received offers for their chosen universities. Miss Gibbons

Sixth Form - well done to all years 12 & 13 this term, your commitment to school and your studies has been excellent. I wish you a restful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019. Miss Gibbons

### **HOMEWORK CLUB**

There will be no homework club on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. It will restart on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

### **LOST PROPERTY & WINTER COATS**

Lost property will be on display at lunchtime on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December in the area outside the large canteen. If your child has lost something this term, please encourage them to have a look there. Anything not collected and not named will be donated to charity.

We also have numerous black coats that are available for students who do not have the right coloured coat or who are without a coat .These have either been donated or have been in Lost Property for several years! As a parent/carer if you would like to look for a coat please do contact reception and we will arrange a convenient time. Thank you.

### **AUTUMN TERM 2018**

A reminder that this term ends on Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 12.30. The Spring Term begins for students on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> although staff are in school Monday January 7<sup>th</sup> for staff training.

### **YEAR 9 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

A reminder that consultation evening for year 9 is on **Wednesday 16th January 2019** from 5pm-8pm. Students will bring letters home after the Christmas holiday and be given an appointment card to make appointments with their teachers. Please discuss with your child what time you will be able to attend between. This is a vital evening to get details of how your child is progressing at the start of their GCSE courses. I look forward to seeing you on the evening.  
Miss Reynolds

### **CAREERS TALKS**

Another reminder that we are running regular career talks in school and would welcome any offers of talks about different jobs and pathways for students of all ages. If you would like to volunteer please contact the office and leave a message for Mr Armitage our Careers Leader.

## **SUMMER PRODUCTION**

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock' auditions will take place in the first week back from the Christmas holidays, we will be advertising the production in assemblies and through posters next week. 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.

## **YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS**

In line with the national immunisation programme all children in year 9 are offered immunisation boosters against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal ACWY. All the details you need regarding these immunisations are in the letter attached to the bulletin. There is also a link to the electronic consent within the letter. Can we remind you the electronic consent form will close at 10pm February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Year 9 immunisations will take place in school **Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>**. Your child cannot be immunised unless you have provided your consent.

## **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)**

The Friends of Townsend continue to work tirelessly for the good of the school and for the students. We do thank all those who are supporting in any way but would ask for one final push for the 2018 GRAND CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND HAMPER RAFFLE The draw will take place next week but it is not too late to buy tickets!

All counterfoils and monies must be in by Tuesday 18th. If you have any unsold raffle tickets, please return to the school reception.

Prizes now include 7 hampers, £50 M&S voucher, 2 cuddly toys, boxes of chocolates, a tower of treats, festive biscuits, a favourite Christmas game, and more!

We also have our small gift sale taking place again on Monday lunchtime by the large canteen. It has proved really popular this week and we hope more students will buy gifts on Monday.

The money raised so far is £600. Our target is £1500!

Many thanks

Friends of Townsend (PTA)

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **DRAMA**

#### **NEW VIEWS**

Students involved in the New Views National Theatre project will have a last workshop of the year next week and then will do the bulk of their writing over the Christmas period with their first drafts due in for February.

**Year 7** - have just completed their Pantomime assessments and will be working on Macbeth next term.

**Year 8** - have completed their masked assessments and will be working on spontaneous improvisation next term.

**Year 9** - have performed their mini GCSE plays and have moved on to devising. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 10** - are now preparing for their Component 2 and have been given their groups and stimuli, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 11** - have completed their trial examination seen their results and will be preparing for their Live theatre trip in January. 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.

## **HISTORY**

### **Year 7**

Year 7 students are submitting their half termly project for History the week beginning Monday 17th December. Students will also be issued with a bank of resources to extend their knowledge for the Middle Ages unit (also published on SMHW).

### **Year 9 & 10 GCSE**

The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Year 9 need 'Crime and Punishment' and Year 10 'American West' at the cost of £4. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds (Year 9) or Mr Armitage (Year 10) in confidence so that we can support you.

### **Year 11 GCSE**

Students will be receiving their trial examination feedback and set targets on the week beginning Monday 17th December.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Numeracy Tip**

Christmas Holidays are nearly upon us and some of us may still have some shopping to do. Discuss saving money for presents or something your child may want to buy for Christmas. Work out how long it will take to save this much if they get a small amount of money each week. Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or money they received for Christmas and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week?

Mr Timpson Lead in Numeracy

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

On Thursday 13th December our year 7 Boys had their first basketball fixture against Marlborough Science Academy. Unfortunately we lost 10-16, however there were many positives to take from the game, all students performed exceptionally well and should be proud of themselves. Players of the match were Favour and Calvin.

Mr Brooks

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December we held our Townsend Christmas Cracker Swimming Meet for year 7 and year 8 students. There was a fantastic turn out from both year groups with a great standard of swimming by all. The results are as follows;

Year 7;

1<sup>st</sup> – Exeter

2<sup>nd</sup> – Durham

3<sup>rd</sup> – Norwich

4<sup>th</sup> – Canterbury

5<sup>th</sup> – York

Year 8

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Norwich
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Durham
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Canterbury
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Exeter