

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th February 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world – Dalai Lama

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For February our value focus is Love 'This is my commandment; that you love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12 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.

YEAR 9 TRIP TO YPRES, BELGIUM, 8TH-10TH MARCH

This week all students taking part in this trip have been issued with a kit list of essential items which they need to bring with them. Please ask your child for this list. A reminder that students have been asked to bring their full school uniform, including school shoes, as we will be taking part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin gate on the Saturday evening. This will include the students laying a wreath as part of this ceremony. Students have been asked to bring separate wellingtons or waterproof boots as well as the shoes or boots they will be wearing during the day because some of the sites we will be visiting will be muddy so students will be asked to change their footwear to shoes which are not muddy before getting back on the coach. Finally, a reminder that students will not be able to participate in this trip without a full valid five year passport and a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND

The next committee meeting is on Monday 25th February 2019 at 7pm in the committee room. Do please try to attend as many things are discussed about forthcoming events. We welcome any parent/carers who are willing to help in any way and/or have ideas on fund raising. So far this year we have raised £3000 for school. Well done!

Many thanks for your support

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 10

GCSE POD OF THE WEEK

This week there are two sections to pod of the week. The first is to notify all year 11 students that there is an assignment waiting for all students. They can access the assignment via their homepage or via this link:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/pupils/assignments/assignment/298374>

For year 10 students studying 'Power and Conflict' the following series of pods is a great place to find out more about 'Poppies' by Jane Weir:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10566>

After watching the pods a brief assignment can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/pupils/assignments/assignment/298386>

WRITING COMPETITION

All year 7 and 8 pupils are being given the opportunity to enter the BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' short story competition.

The English Department kindly agreed to give up some of their lesson time to set up the work this week and English holiday homework for both year groups is to write the short story. A booklet for guidance is available on Show My Homework. As all entries need to be submitted online, this will happen during AR sessions after half term.

The website states:

It's super simple. All entrants must pen an original story, no more than 500 words in length, and submit it online. It can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, microwaves. The list is endless!

Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling. The competition culminates in a broadcast extravaganza of live music and sensational story-telling every summer, at a special venue. Past venues have included The Globe and The Tower of London. 2018 saw a magnificent extravaganza come live from Hampton Court Palace. From the 134,790 entries - that's 67.5 million words, the 6 winning wordsmiths were announced on-air by celebrity narrators including Jason Isaacs, Jim Broadbent, Amanda Abbington and Shobna Gulati. Also there were enchanting performances from sensational superstar John Newman, X-Factor alumni Alexandra Burke, and the amazing Bastille.

There's a lot more information online - see link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

Good luck everyone!

READING

We're all aware of the value of reading. Numerous studies show that improving the reading ability of your son/daughter will lead to more successful outcomes in all subjects at GCSE and A level. To help with choosing an appropriate book, Love Reading has recently relaunched their website and it's full of useful information. You can browse by key stage, year group or topic. There's a selection for 'reluctant readers' - lists of books specially recommended by parents and teachers for less keen readers. There are also 'super readable' books that have been selected as being written to help dyslexic readers. You don't need to sign up to access the lists on the website. However, if you do log in (it's free) once a book has been selected you can read the first chapter online to make sure it's the correct choice for your son/daughter. More information at: www.lovereadings4schools.co.uk.

Recommended Reading Lists For Schools, Book Extracts and Book Reviews |

LoveReading4Schools

www.lovereadings4schools.co.uk

LoveReading4Schools supports time-strapped teachers and librarians in schools to help engender a life-long love of reading in their students. Featuring regularly updated recommendation lists for every year group from Early Years to Year 11.

Ms Probyn

YEAR 9 - ONLINE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Hertfordshire School Nursing Service has implemented a new way to assess health needs of children. In March a school nurse is going to visit year 9 in collective worship time to explain the process and why they are doing it, in the days following students will log onto the questionnaire and complete it online. The assessment asks about several aspects of your

child's life that can impact on their health such as lifestyle and behaviour. This enables the skilled school nurse team to offer support and advice in areas identified as a concern. The assessment is confidential between your child and the school nurse team. Information about how your child's information is stored can be found here:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing>

A letter with further details will be sent out to year 9 parents straight after half term, via students. If you do not wish for your child to be included then you will have the ability to complete a form to opt out. Miss Reynolds

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2019

The school will be collecting donations for the St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge for International Women's Day this year starting on Monday 25th February until Friday 8th March. We would like to encourage as many students to contribute to such an important cause. Donations can take the form of:

- Good quality washed and ironed clothes for boys and girls aged 0-14 and for women of all sizes.
- Baby equipment, except for prams pushchairs and cots.
- Children's toys, that are in good working order and complete.
- Tea, Coffee, Sugar, bottles of squash
- Toilet rolls
- Non-perishable foods such as pasta, sauce, tinned fish, fruit and veg

Please visit the SAHWR webpage for further information.

<http://stalbandsandhertsmere womensrefuge.org.uk/>

DUKE OF EDINBURGH FIRE SKILLS AWARD REMINDER

The first meeting for the course is Monday 25th February. All Year 10 students who have signed up for the course should meet Mrs Liddington at St Albans Fire Station at 6.30pm, with the course ending at 8pm.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

ENGLISH

Year 11

The final trial examination will soon be here and it is important that Year 11 use half term to revise and recap on their learning. Students will be sitting Paper 2 Language and Literature. Paper 2 Language is 'Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives' and Paper 2 Literature is 'Modern texts and Poetry'. SMHW has lots of resources and links to GCSE pod and Sam Learning. All students have been given a revision booklet for 'An Inspector Calls' and a revision booklet of all the Anthology Poems – which are fully annotated. It is important that students practice doing questions under timed conditions so they are confident they can complete all the paper in the time allowed.

YEARS 7 & 8

World Book Day

Following on from last year's amazing entries Mrs Kleynhans is again running an English Department competition to celebrate World Book Day. Students need to produce a representation of their favourite character from their favourite book. This could include:

- A drawing
- A photograph
- An artefact
- A poem

- A cake

The competition is open to years 7,8 and 9 so get creative! The representations will be displayed in the Discovery Centre on Friday 7th March and prizes will be awarded for the best ones. Good Luck!

A reminder about the ACCELERATED READER book finder website. 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.

KS3 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

GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 field trip to Swanage - Just a reminder to parents that the field trip to Swanage is in the first week back after the EASTER holidays from Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April. Final payments (as per the original letter and payment schedule) will be due in April. Students will begin preparing for the work they will carry out 3 weeks prior to the trip in lessons. The parents information evening for the trip will take place on Wednesday 6th April at 6pm - it is important that a parent/carer for each child going on the trip attends this meeting as it is a residential trip - please put these dates in your diary.

Year 7 - Students will be studying Population and Urbanisation after half term - this will include looking at issues of ageing, young and over population, migration and impact all this has on rural and urban areas.

Year 8 - Students will be learning about Natural Resources after half term - this will focus on issues related to using fossil fuels and the conflicts which arise from our global reliance on natural resources, it will also look at alternatives strategies to cope with the growing demand for resources and how we can reduce our impact on the Earth.

Year 9 - Students will continue to learn about urban issues and challenges after half term.

Year 10 - Students will finish looking at hot desert environments and then begin preparation for their Swanage fieldwork

Year 11 - Students have now finished learning the course and we are revisiting the topics and revising, including exam technique and preparation for paper 3.

All GCSE students can use GCSEpod, Seneca Learning and GCSE Bitesize to help them with extra reading, learning and revision.

Geoclub - this term students have been working on developing their green classroom campaign, but providing recycling opportunities and encouraging staff and students to bring green plants into classrooms to help to freshen the classroom environments and offset our carbon emissions - this is still work in progress - but we are getting there! After half term we will begin our preparation for our involvement in the Sustainable St Albans Festival - students will be creating an assembly to give in school and we will be creating a recycled materials piece of art work in collaboration with Miss Bailey in the Art Department. Any students are welcome to help us - whether they are interested in sustainability, arts and crafts or just having a bit of fun at lunchtime on Mondays.

Mrs Marion Buckland

HISTORY

Year 8

Students have been set their History extended learning project titled 'Who do you think you are?' for this half term. Students are expected to work and complete this in their own time. History teachers will regularly check the progress students are making throughout the term. Please refer to project sheet received in lesson and SMHW for instructions and deadlines. It is important to note that students should be bringing in original and official documentation such as passports in school. All personal information put into this project will be treated in full confidentiality and locked up in our Humanities office.

Year 10

Students are currently studying section B of Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588. This ties in well with the Elizabethan theatre trip planned for students on Wednesday 27th followed by a morning workshop in the school hall on Friday 1st March. Revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Please speak to Mr Armitage if there are financial implications.

Year 11 GCSE

History revision sessions are held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students have also 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.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7 Sportshall athletics – a number of year 7 girls and boys will be competing in the district level of the sportshall athletics on Monday 25th February from 12.30 – 4/4.30pm. Students involved have received letters this week. They will need to bring in their full PE kit, as well as a packed lunch for the afternoon, or be prepared to buy food from the canteen at break time to take with them. Students will be taken to Hertfordshire University Sports Village by Mr Armitage in the minibus and can either be picked up from there at 4pm, or taken back to school and collected or make their way home at 4.30.

Year 9 GCSE PE

Year 9s have now completed their studies on the body systems and are moving on to the topics on physical training. Over half term they have a daily revision challenge to complete to recap what they have learnt this year so far.

Year 11 GCSE PE

Year 11s completed their practical moderation and controlled assessment this week, so the focus for every lesson from after half term is revising the theory and preparing for examinations. Any students who wanted to be assessed in a sport we cannot perform in school e.g. equestrian / rock climbing must have their videos to Mr Still by Monday 25th February, or they will not be able to be used for assessment as these videos have to be sent off to the external examiner.

Revision activities have been put onto Show My HomeWork for students to be completing each week to support with their revision.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 9th March, Townsend School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £13, and business tables £16 10am – 12pm

PILOT CAREERS LIVE

Looking for a career in aviation?

Europe's largest independent flight training and aerospace exhibition, guaranteed to inform, inspire and advise anyone who's interested in this rewarding career.

Saturday 6th April 2019 between 10am – 4.30pm at Sifitel London Heathrow, Terminal 5, Heathrow Airport

Students can view a video about the event at <http://bit.ly/pilotcareerslive18>

For full event details and discounted student tickets, visit

www.pilotcareernews.com/live/london/

KEYSTONE WORKSHOP

A Parent's Guide to Eating Disorders in Children and Teens

What parents will gain from the event:

- An understanding of the types of eating disorder and knowledge of how they differ from 'normal' concern about eating, weight and shape
- Recognition of the early signs of disordered eating behaviour and how to respond
- An understanding of some of the factors that may keep an eating disorder going once it has developed
- Knowledge about the types of effective psychological treatment that are available
- Knowledge of who to contact and where to turn if you need more help
- See attached flyer

ARE WOMEN THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY?

Thursday 7 March 7:30pm The Sandpit Theatre, The Ridgeway, St Albans AL4 9NX
St Albans Soroptimists and sponsors, The Talent Keeper Specialists invite you to a lively debate with an expert panel. The event will also be broadcast live on 92.6FM Radio Verulam 92.6FM.

The panel and audience will discuss the question: Are Women their own worst enemy? Discussions will cover themes such as: women and employability, women's domestic labour, societal and media pressure on women and how women experience the criminal justice system.

This event will be chaired by The Thinking Woman's Coach, Dr Jessica Chivers (The Talent Keeper Specialists) and the panel will feature Dr Pragya Agarwal – creative Strategist and social entrepreneur, Min Rodruiguez – head of inclusion and diversity at the The Law Society, Ann Graiger Voice of Hope, Claire Harvey – Director of Culture and Inclusion at EDIT Development, Dr Laura Abbott – Senior Lecturer and Fellow of The Royal College of Midwives

Dr Kathy Weston - Speaker, Author, Researcher

Price £6 please book online via Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/are-women-their-own-worst-enemy-lets-debate-tickets-54916307153?fbclid=IwAR3-ESupxNXiXJ_NT1ZY64PdH5esbz7a5CQvSTJtMDyI1Hm2TD2J7XBWvaE

Catherine Firmin

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