

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right – Rosa Parks

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For June our value focus is Wisdom 'And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills' Exodus 35:31 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.

**SAFEGUARDING**

We would like to draw your attention to an email communication we received from a local school this week

*An incident occurred this morning with one of our Year 12 girls which I would like to make you all aware of. Whilst walking on Colney Heath Lane near Alban Way, a man of Eastern European appearance, with a beard and moustache in his 20's pulled up alongside her in a light grey Nissan car and started trying to converse with her. She ignored him and proceeded to cross the road by the bridge. He then drove up past her again and parked his car across the pavement to block her path. He asked her if she wanted a lift but she told him she did not talk to strangers. After trying to cajole her into his car, he eventually drove off in the direction from which he came. This incident has been reported to the police.*

**FORTNITE**

We have become aware recently of considerable press around the video game known as Fortnite. Some of the publicity around this refers to concerns about children becoming addicted, other information surrounds the content of the games and the cost that be incurred at higher levels. We would ask you as parents/carers to be mindful about the pros and cons of this game and make your own assessments of the risks involved. The Guardian newspaper has produced a report about it which includes some advice for parents/carers. The link is as follows;  
<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>

**FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND - THEATRE TRIP**

The Friends of Townsend have a theatre visit coming up for 'Everyone's Talking About Jamie' on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. **We have a few tickets left** which are £45 inclusive of coach. The theatre trip leaves school at 5pm and back to school around 11.30pm. Nothing could be easier for an enjoyable evening out! For anyone wishing to join the database or come off database please let me know. For tickets or enquiries please contact Heather Sharpley 07871607841 or Jackie Brunt 07921084787 or email [heatherandjackietheatreclub@gmail.com](mailto:heatherandjackietheatreclub@gmail.com) Jackie & Heather

**NEW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ON GCSE REFORMS**

The DfE has launched a new website with more details about the further 20 reformed GCSEs. It includes information for students, parents, employers and anyone working in education. The homepage directs users to factsheets for parents, employers, further and higher education institutions, which provide explanations of

the new grading system and other information about the reforms. A short video to explain the changes is also included. We have attached the link for your information <https://newgcse.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **YEAR 13 EURODISNEY**

Monday 2nd July @ 6pm there will be a parent/carers meeting for all students and their parent/ carer going on the Eurodisney trip. Letters were given out with details on during the last day. Full attendance is required please. Thanks, Miss Gibbons

### **YEAR 12 EXAMINATIONS**

These start on Monday 18th June and run until Tuesday 26th June. Students should know when all of their exams are, and need to be prompt in order to be fully prepared for their Year 12 exams. Students must be predicted at least a D grade after their Year 12 exams to progress onto the course in Year 13. There will be an opportunity for re-sit exams before the end of term. Thank you. Miss Gibbons & Mrs Buckland.

### **YEAR 11 EVENTS:**

**Sixth Form Induction** - Tuesday 26th June: Year 11 who have applied to the sixth form are invited in on this day and have received a letter explaining the details. We will be using the sixth form block and discovery centre all day, students should dress according to the sixth form dress code. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 to the sixth form. Miss Gibbons & Mrs Buckland

**Celebration Ceremony** - Wednesday 27th June: Starting at 1.45pm. All students and parents/carers are invited for the ceremony and refreshments.

**Prom** : Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June: 7pm Aubrey Park Hotel, Redbourn. We look forward to seeing Year 11 in their prom dresses and suits for an enjoyable evening. If you are currently experiencing particular financial hardship but your child wants to attend this event please can you contact Miss Gibbons or Mrs Buckland (in confidence) to see if and how we can support you. We do not want any year 11 student to feel they are unable to attend the Prom because of a financial shortfall.

### **YEAR 10**

#### **Year 10 Academic Progress**

As year 11 students near to the end of their GCSE examinations, the focus is now moving swiftly towards Year 10. This time next year their GCSEs will nearly be complete! This is quite a scary thought and we believe for a number of students not yet quite a reality. Time is of the essence and it is really important students and parents/carers make every day count both in and out of school. Students should be putting in a lot of extra hours of independent study at home for their examinations and assessments. Staff will be helping students prepare for their tests and examinations in school but the hard graft must be done by the students at home as well. We are particularly keen as we near the end of year 10 that we continue to work closely with you as parents/carers so that you are informed and equipped to provide as much support as possible to your child over the next year. To this end you will receive by the end of this term a Grade sheet that details Year 10 Examination Results, Predicted GCSE grades (that includes current performance data in class as well as assessment data) and GCSE Target Grades.

We have also added an additional Year 10 Progress and Achievement Evening for all parents/carers and students on Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We are expecting a full attendance for this and will issue further details nearer the time. At this stage we ask that you add it to your diary and keep it free.

### **Year 10 Attendance and Punctuality**

No child can achieve their best if they are not in school or arriving late on a regular basis. It has come to our attention that there are a number of students in year 10 who do not see either of these areas of personal responsibility a priority and this has to change. School attendance should be above 95% and there are few genuine occasions for late arrivals to school or to lessons. As from next week those persistent offenders will be required to remain after school on a Friday to make up the number of minutes late they have accumulated through the week. This arrangement will continue until the end of term. We would very much appreciate your support in helping us with this matter so initially a discussion with your child and on occasions an earlier departure from home in the mornings may be a good starting point. Thank you.

### **YEAR 7 WORK SHADOWING**

Thank you to all year 7 parent/carers for supporting us with Year 7 Work Shadowing on Friday 15th June. The day will have given your child a great insight into the skills required and opportunities available to them in the future. Please ensure that your child has completed their work shadowing investigation booklet and that they bring it with them to school on Monday. Miss Scott

### **CAREERS**

We are delighted to tell you that we have a new Careers policy that will be available to view on our website next week. Mrs Maguire

### **SCHOOL PRODUCTION**

#### **Tickets**

Tickets are on sale for this year's school production 'The Wizard of Oz' on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th July at 7:00pm, tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for concession. Come and support the students who have worked their socks off to give you an excellent show.

#### **Rehearsals**

As shown on the rehearsal scheduled from Monday 18th June after school rehearsals will be from 3:30-5:30pm on Monday's and Thursday's. Please make sure that students are checking their schedule as it is vital that they are present at all rehearsals leading up to the show.

#### **Costume**

If you have any unwanted or old green material or t-shirts etc which you would like to donate to the school show for costumes please feel free to bring them in to reception and say they are for the Drama department. Any donations would be much appreciated!

It has been such a privilege and joy to be working on such a great project, thank you all so much for the support of parents/carers with rehearsals etc. See you all in July, Mrs Coates.

### **CELEBRATION CEREMONIES 2018**

Invitation letters will be sent out shortly but can we take this opportunity of warmly inviting you all to these occasions that celebrate the cohort's achievements through the year. We have listed the dates below. All ceremonies will begin at 2pm and we ask that you are seated by 1.45pm.

Year 12- Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup>

Year 11 - Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup>

Year 10 - Friday July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Year 9 - Monday July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Year 8 - Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup>  
Year 7 - Thursday July 19<sup>th</sup>

### **ENRICHMENT DAY**

All students have now been allocated an enrichment day activity. Please can you ensure you have checked the timings for your child's choice. Further information will be issued by the trip leaders to all students.

### **UNIFORM DONATIONS**

As we approach our New Intake Evening for the students joining us in September we would like to ask all our parents/carers if you have any unused uniform or uniform in good condition that has been 'grown out of' that we could have to offer the many families that are constantly asking about uniform or for those new families joining the school. Can we ask in particular parents/carers of year 11 where students are going into the 6<sup>th</sup> form and won't need their uniform, and at the end of term the year 10 who will be wearing a black blazer next year. The school ties are in particular demand! If you could ask your child to give in any ties/uniforms after their last exams or at the Year 11 Celebration Ceremony it would be much appreciated. Thank you for your support and generosity.

### **HOMEWORK CLUB**

There will be no homework club on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June due to staff training.

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 7**

Students are studying a new unit on the Tudors where they will focus on how religion changed under each monarch. Students can find BBC bitesize link on SMHW which will help them get an overview of the unit.

#### **Year 8**

Year 8 students attended a performance of 'The Children of Willesden Lane' in London on Tuesday which was very moving. Students are working on activities linked to kindertransport refugee testimony and the performance in their Learning for Life sessions this month as part of the 80th anniversary of kindertransport. Thank you for your continuous support.

#### **Year 9 GCSE**

Students have been encouraged to purchase the Crime and Punishment revision guide (£4) directly from the History department in preparation for their Paper 1 trial examination on the week starting Monday 2nd July 2018. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact your child's Director of Learning (Year) in confidence so that we can support you. Students have also been encouraged to attend weekly lunchtime revision (which covers Paper 1) on Thursdays at 1.30 in HU8 as well as access revision materials from GCSEpod or upload history revision material on the shared area from the school network (they print what they need or put it on a USB stick). Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system (further explained below).

#### **Year 10 GCSE**

Students will sit their History trial examination on Paper 1 (Crime and punishment) starting Monday 18th June as part of Year 10 assessment week. All have been encouraged (students who received a letter of underachievement must attend) to attend weekly lunchtime revision which covers Paper 1 on Thursdays at 1.30 in HU8 and access revision materials from GCSEpod or upload history revision material on the shared area from the school network (they print what they need or put it on a USB stick). The History department have launched a 'History Revision Reward' where students must complete a revision activity (including revision session) to earn a teacher signature (details are on the back of the cards). Students are rewarded for each row completed which serves as an incentive to regularly revise.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

A massive congratulations to every athlete who competed in the district athletics finals on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Wodson Park, Watford.

We had a fantastic day with students competing in every event (where some schools missed out) and had some great successes with a number of students getting through to the finals in the track events and some coming home with medals!

Every single athlete at the event, including the year 11 and seniors who competed earlier on in the year contributed to a great overall win for Townsend bringing home the small schools District Athletics Cup!

All students who competed in the event – please see Miss Pennifold in the hall Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Break time for a whole team photo. Anyone who won medals please bring them in too!

### **Results**

- Final County Athletics match – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

#### **U14 girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Chiara – Shot – 6.94m
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Deborah – 100m – 14.6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Layla – hurdles - 14.97
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Erica – discus – 17.94m
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kerri – javelin – 15.45m
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Judith – 200m – 32.17
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – relay – 61.49

#### **U14 boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – David – 100m – 13.05
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Aaron – 200m – 31.6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – relay – 53.74

#### **U16 girls**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Hannah – Javelin – 25.59
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Trisha – 1500m – 6.14.6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Skye – 200m – 31.43
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Skye – Triple jump – 7.36m
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – relay – 58.57

#### **U16 boys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Euan – Hurdles – 14.04

### **Fixtures**

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – year 7 district rounders tournament – 3.30 – 6 at Townsend School
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – year 9 district rounders tournament 3.30 – 6 at STAGS School
  
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June – year 8 district rounders tournament 3.30 – 6.30 at Sir John Lawes School

### **Year 10 GCSE PE Summer Trial Exams**

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June – p5
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – P5

Students should be revising all topics covered across the whole syllabus for these exams.

Revision books are available from Miss Pennifold for £4 (retail price = £10.99)

Students are also guided to GCSE Pod, Brainscape and other revision resource material handed out in their lessons.

If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

GCSE PE revision sessions for year 9 and 10 students is run every Wednesday lunchtime in MA1 from 1.30 – 1.55

Miss Pennifold, Director of Learning for PE