

## **TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**

**Friday 15th March 2019**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

If you don't build your dreams, someone else will hire you to help them build their –  
Dhirubhai Ambani

### **WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For March our value focus is Justice 'Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!' Psalms 106.3 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 11**

#### **Year 11 FixUp Team Workshop**

On Wednesday afternoon Jay and Yvonne from 'The FixUp Team' (@thefixupteam please see Twitter) came into school to speak with our Year 11s in order to give them some strategies which they can use to develop their confidence and motivation in order to be successful not only in the next few months but also in their years ahead. There was a motivational talk from both of our guest speakers and then the Year group were split in half to receive a 1 hour workshop each to ensure that they are examination ready! The feedback from the students has been extremely positive and we look forward to seeing them take these strategies/messages forward for the rest of Year 11 and beyond. Mr Still

#### **Year 11 Trial Examinations (Monday 21st to Thursday 24th March)**

This is the last opportunity for the Year 11's to see where they are at in terms of their achievement/grades for their core subjects. This will be the last practice before the GCSE summer examinations in 7 school weeks' time. Please continue to support your son/daughter in being as prepared as possible for these important examinations and the next challenges that lie ahead. All pupils have been given an examination timetable and it was also attached to Parentmail last week. We are pleased with the positive work ethic a most students are currently presenting and we hope it comes to fruition in the next couple of weeks. We would ask that you ensure your child is fully equipped for each examination they are sitting next week. Borrowing equipment from school for GCSE examinations is not an option. If you have any concerns/issues then please contact me at school. Thank you  
Mr Still.

### **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

Only two months to go till work Experience and I am concerned that I have not yet received signed parental consent slips and medical forms from some students who have been offered a placement. I need these urgently as the placement is not confirmed until I get them, and I do not contact the employer, which may mean they have no idea a student is hoping to join them.

Form tutors have an updated list of which students these are.

I intend to have all students in confirmed places by the Easter holiday, partly as this is an ideal time to suggest meeting the employer for an interview, where required, as we do not allow students to take time out of school for this.

Thank you for your continuing support

Margaret Wood

### **YEAR 10 SWANAGE TRIP - 24-26TH APRIL**

Please be aware that the trip takes place in the week straight after we return from the Easter holidays. There are still a number of final payments outstanding, I would be grateful if you could ensure these are made as a matter of urgency as we have now fully paid for the trip, if you are facing financial difficulties please contact me in confidence to discuss your payment plan.

The parent/carer information evening will be held at 6pm on April 3rd.

Mrs Buckland

### **RESILIENCE TALK FOR PARENTS/CARERS WEDNESDAY MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Thank you to all those who have applied for tickets. You have all been successful and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday for a 7pm start in the school Hall. It is a sold out event. You will receive an email with further information on Monday. Thank you

### **STUDENT STANDARDS**

Equipment - it is vital that all students come to school being fully equipped for their lessons. Students are expected to have a **pencil case with more than one pen, a pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener** etc in it. Students in Years 7-9 are also expected to have a reading book with them every day. Some students are turning up to lessons without this equipment which is having an impact on their learning. There is a school shop that is open every day at break time where all of this equipment can be purchased. Form tutors are checking that students are equipped to learn however please support us in checking this at home also.

Uniform – Please support the school to maintain our high expectations of students by ensuring that your son/daughter has **correct uniform** for school. **Black skirts are not allowed** to be worn, they must be grey and one of the accepted styles identified on the school uniform list which can be obtained from the school office or viewed on the website.

Students must also be in **smart footwear and not trainers**. It is understandable that students may change their footwear at break and lunch but they must make sure that they have their school shoes on before arriving to lessons and tutor time. Jewellery should be kept to a minimum, only one pair of plain studs should be in each ear and no other body piercings are acceptable. A necklace or bracelet is only allowed to be worn for religious or medical reasons. **Nose studs of any kind are not acceptable** - neither are plasters over them. If you are struggling financially with any uniform items please do contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year in confidence so we can assist.

Thank you for your support with this.

### **GCSEPOD – POD OF THE WEEK/PODWATCHER OF THE WEEK**

This week there are two (sets of) pod of the week; one for parents and one for pupils. As we welcome our newly signed up Year 8 students as they prepare for Options choices I invite all parents to look at the parent homepage via this link:

<https://www.gcsepod.com/parents/>

This page has 5 videos covering everything from how to use GCSEpod to dealing with exam stress.

All pupils study Religious Studies. There are a huge number of brand new pods exploring beliefs and practices of both Christianity and Islam. This excellent pod outlines the Five pillars of Sunni Islam:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/12991>

and this one the 10 obligatory acts of Shi'a Islam:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/12991>

It would be good practice to produce a mindmap or take brief notes whilst watching these pods and then consider the areas of similarity and difference between the two.

Congratulations to Poll Vallverdu on being this week's podwatcher of the week. He has won an early lunch pass for next week.

### **GIRLS EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE**

The school extended the celebration of International Women's day by taking 10 of our Year 9 students to a conference in London with the key aim to empower young girls through inspirational speakers and offering career and life advice especially where women are underrepresented. The girls left inspired and more confident in making the best choices for their future. We are hoping to offer the same trip to Year 9 boys in the next academic year.  
Mrs Bailey

### **HOMEWORK CLUB**

There is NO homework club on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April due to staff training.

### **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

#### **ENGLISH**

The English Department celebrated World Book day with two successful competitions that students enjoyed participating in. The first competition was to bring in a representation of their favourite book character (in the form of a drawing, poem, cake or any other format they chose). The participation was overwhelming and the entries were put on display in the discovery centre where students and staff alike could vote for their favourites. Certificates and book prizes were awarded in assemblies this week to reward student participation and excellence. The second competition involved both staff and students as staff wrote the name of their favourite book on a sticker and wore it all day. Students then went around to collect as many names of staff and book titles and four overall winners were chosen: Kiandra de Bruin in 9E was the winner with 35 names, Megan Eddison, Faiyaj Chowdhury and Mason Day (all from 8Y) were the runners up. Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all staff who also participated to make this day a success. A special thank you to Mr Grzesiczek who won the staff competition with his Stanza Stark inspired cupcakes.  
Mrs Kleynhans.

#### **Year 7**

As part of their English scheme of work, year 7 are studying *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne. To accompany the novel, we would like the children to watch the associated 2008 film to enhance their understanding of the time period and plight of children during the Holocaust. The film is rated 12A by the British Board of Film Classification. If you would prefer that your child does not watch this film, please notify Miss Gordon by letter or e-mail by the end of Monday 18th March. Many thanks. Miss Gordon.

#### **MATHEMATICS**

Students have the opportunity to purchase an upgraded model Casio calculator at a discounted price through the school. If you would like to purchase one of the new models, please use the reply slip on the attached letter.

**Thursday 14th March was Pi Day**, when we saw a number of our students fiercely competing to remember as many decimal places of Pi as they could. If they are inspired to continue in preparation for next year, or you would like to try it yourself, then there are plenty of online sites to help you learn, this is one of my favourites <http://www.cow-pi.com/> enjoy! Mrs Berry

### **Year 7 Maths Competition**

Well done to the Year 7s that took part in the Hertfordshire Maths Competition held at the Laureate Academy in Hemel Hempstead this week. The competition had four rounds of mixed activities; general mathematics, a memory round, an estimation round and a problem solving round. Unfortunately we finished outside the top 3 schools, which automatically qualify for the Finals, but we await to see if we qualify as one of the next best runners up. All pupils were a credit to the school and definitely enjoyed the challenge! Mr Still

### **BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK**

Science week has been a big success with many of Townsend's students attending lunchtime activities and participating in competitions with their form groups. This year's theme was journeys and we investigated this from a number of different angles. Rollercoasters and water rockets started the week off with chemical reactions, space travel and the microscopic world completing our demonstrations.

Science lessons began by looking at the developmental journey of the periodic table of the elements which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and the journey that women in science have gone through to finally gain the recognition they deserve for their contribution to the world of science and research. A current example would be the work of Dr Donna Strickland becoming only the third woman to win the Nobel prize for physics last year.

I am still awaiting the last of the competition entries to the poster, microscope picture quiz and the periodic table word competitions. Entries close on Monday. I would like to extend a big thank you to the science staff for the work they put into their activities and to the students who attended and participated during the week. Mr Morgan

### **GEOGRAPHY**

Year 10 field trip to Swanage - Just a reminder to parents/carers that the field trip to Swanage is in the first week back after the EASTER holidays from Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April. There are still a number of final payments outstanding, I would be grateful if you could ensure these are made as a matter of urgency as we have now fully paid for the trip, if you are facing financial difficulties please contact me in confidence to discuss your payment plan.

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 3rd April at 6pm** (please note in previous parentmail before half term the date for this parent meeting was incorrect, the correct date is Wednesday 3rd April, not the 6th) - 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. Mrs Buckland

### **GCSE revision guides**

Please be aware that students can purchase geography GCSE revision guides directly from me for £5.50 (RRP£7). Please contact me in confidence if you are in need of financial support to provide your child with this resource. Mrs Buckland

### **Year 7 Homework Project**

This term year 7 students will be completing a homework project for geography - this will be about population and urbanisation and will complement the work the students' are learning about in Geography at the moment. The class teachers will explain the task and check on progress.

## **Year 8 Options**

It was a pleasure to talk to many of you at options evening this week, if you have any questions about GCSE geography or require further information please feel free to contact me. I believe the GCSE geography course we offer at Townsend is a contemporary and exciting course that broadens student's skills set, whilst providing them with a detailed knowledge of the fast paced and changing world we live in, hence why it is such a popular subject with universities and employers. Mrs Buckland

## **Year 11 Geography**

Please be aware that we have completed teaching the course to year 11 and are now revising for paper 1&2, next week the pre-released materials for paper 3 will be available to staff and we will begin preparing for paper 3 in due course.

All students should be actively revising at home during their allocated geography homework time. I would expect them to be spending at least 2 hours a week at home on geography revision. They have resources from school, their books and GCSE pod and GCSE BBC Bitesize to use. Revision guides are available to buy directly from school. The online resources on Seneca Learning are also excellent for geography and support the specification well, it is another free online resource.

If you would like to discuss any of these aspects please feel free to contact your child's geography teacher.

Mrs Buckland

## **HISTORY**

### **Year 7**

Students have embarked on a cultural exchange project with a French, Greek, Turkish and French school focusing on 'myths and legends'. They will also learn how to develop their written and oral presentation skills in lessons.

### **Year 8**

Students have been set their History extended learning project titled 'Who do you think you are?' and is due for class submission early April. Students are expected to work and complete this in their own time. History teachers are regularly checking 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 not 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**

Early Elizabethan England 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

## **LANGUAGES**

### **Year 11 GCSE Easter Revision Workshop - Tuesday 16th April**

Parents/Carers of Year 11 students will receive a letter in the next week, giving more information about the MFL Easter revision workshop and asking you if your child would like to take part.

The day will run from 10am to 2.30pm with a short break for lunch. Students do not need to wear school uniform, but they will be required to stay on school premises during the lunch break in the area designated for the revision workshop and will need to bring a packed lunch. Students will be supervised by a teacher throughout the day.

The workshop will comprise of sessions focused on developing and using exam skills which will improve performance in speaking, writing, and reading/ listening for the Foundation and Higher tier papers.

If you wish your child to attend the revision day, please complete the reply slip and return to Mrs. Livesey by Monday 25th March.

### **Years 9 & 10 GCSE French Trip to British Film Institute - Wednesday 1st May**

As part of your child's GCSE French course, we study different media in French including film and in the new specification GCSE more emphasis is placed on accessing authentic resources. The Media topic is included in the French GCSE exams at the end of Year 11 and we are now able to offer Year 9 and 10 pupils studying French at GCSE the opportunity to take part in a French GCSE Study Day at the British Film Institute in London.

The trip will take place on Wednesday 1st May and we will leave school at 9am in order arrive in time for the start of the workshop at 10.30am. Students will be required to wear school uniform and will need to bring a packed lunch. Those students entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch. We will leave the British Film Institute at the end of the workshop at 3.30pm and would aim to be back at Townsend School by 5pm, where students would need to be collected by a parent/ carer.

The cost of the trip will be £20.00, this includes the coach cost and the cost of the workshop. It is an excellent opportunity to experience an aspect of French culture and practise exam technique. Please be aware that places are limited to 50 and will be on a first come first served basis.

We will be using our online payment system, School Gateway, to collect instalments. If you have any issues using this system please contact the school office. The deadline for the total cost of the trip to be paid is Tuesday 26th March 2019. If you require financial support with this, please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year in confidence.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Due to the gym being set up for Year 11 trial examinations next week all Physical Education lessons will be taking place outside. All students have been informed about this but please support the PE department in ensuring that your son/daughter has appropriate outdoor kit for next week's lessons. Thank you. Miss Pennifold

### **Swimathon**

This week we saw a number of staff and students give up their time to help raise money for comic relief by swimming as many lengths as they could throughout the week. The challenge was set to swim across the channel, a total of 33,800m. A huge congratulation to the staff and students who took part, swimming a total distance of 37,400m to help raise money for comic relief!