

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Year 11 GCSE French Speaking Trial examinations

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Year 10 Consultation Evening 5pm -8pm

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November - Year 11 & 13 Trial examinations begin

**ANTI BULLYING WEEK AND INTER-FAITH WEEK 2019**

This week we have been celebrating Anti-bullying week and Inter-Faith Week. This year's national theme is 'Change Starts with Us'. Students from all years have taken part by organising a range of activities that have highlighted and promoted awareness of this important area of our society.

We are also pleased to report that the RAISE Ambassadors have recruited new students to help them reinforce the important message that we celebrate individuality and equality at Townsend. The additional support groups, including LGBT group and Pop-Up-Peers were well attended and ideas were shared about how to further improve the inclusiveness of our school community.

On Wednesday, as part of Inter-Faith Week, we invited a Christian, Muslim and Humanist representative to take part in a discussion panel where students were invited to ask a range of questions on topics such as God, The Environment, Crime, Medical Ethics, etc. The students asked thoughtful and challenging questions.

Collective worship was delivered to all Year groups throughout the week. Students were encouraged to think about the choices they make and how the message of 'Change Starts With Us' can be applied in our school.

We are very proud of our students and how passionate they are about equality, diversity and respect for all. Please do ask your child about the activities they took part in.

Miss Scott, Director of Learning for Year 9 and Ms Sheppard, Head of Religious Education and School Worship

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Our Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, with a vegetarian option available, at a price of £3.50. The last day for ordering meals will be Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas lunches should be ordered at the tills. Children on FSM will receive a Christmas lunch automatically. There will still be a Grab & Go food alternative available on the day for those students who do not want a Christmas lunch

**CALCULATORS**

We would like to offer students the opportunity to purchase a calculator at a reduced price through the school. If interested, please return the reply slip to the school office by the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr Richardson – Director of Learning Mathematics

### **NUMERACY TIP**

Maths is very much like learning to read. If you don't know your letter sounds, then you will struggle to sound out words, and as a consequence struggle to read a book. Mathematics is taught in a specific sequence because every topic builds on the previous topic. If you are having a problem with a particular topic, continue working with that one until you understand it and can work problems successfully. Speak to a teacher, attend lunchtime clubs or revision sessions, use online programmes such as MyMaths or Mathswatch or use a revision guide to ensure you understand a particular topic before moving on.

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

### **LITERACY: NO PENS DAY FEEDBACK**

Students at Townsend held a "No pens day" in favour of developing oracy skills. Students had the opportunity to participate in many debates, quizzes, hot seating activities, a wide variety of speaking and listening activities throughout the day. We were able to post a number of pictures to our school Instagram account so please have a look if you have not seen these yet. Thank you to parents / carers for continuing to encourage students to read at home. It really is the key to success for improving outcomes in English language. Many thanks, Mrs Kleynhans - Literacy coordinator.

### **YEAR 7 & 8**

#### **LANGUAGES**

##### **Re: Ciné-minis pour les jeunes: KS3 French Study Day at the British Film Institute Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Students will learn more about French culture through the medium of film and will be encouraged to speak in the target language. In the afternoon, there will be a screening of a suitable feature film for this age group.

We will leave school at 8.45 am to allow for any delays due to traffic congestion and 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 French listening and speaking skills particularly for those students considering taking French at GCSE.

Students who would like to take part should collect a letter from their French teacher. 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.

#### **HISTORY**

##### **Year 7**

Students should be working on their half termly project for History on Medieval castles. An instructional booklet has been provided to support them in their project and teachers will check every week on their progress. Information can also be accessed on Show My HomeWork (SMHW).

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

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

#### **YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13**

##### **TRIAL GCSE AND A-LEVEL EXAMINATIONS**

In preparation for the trial examinations for Y11 and Y13 that begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November please can you support your child by ensuring that they come to school prepared and with all the necessary equipment.

**Students must have a black pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and all the other required equipment including compasses - with a sharp pencil that fits, protractor, ruler and calculator (where necessary).**

**It is the student's responsibility to bring their own equipment for exams.**

Please see attached Trial exams instructions document and timetables.

All the very best of luck to all students!

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

Your child has already been given their trial examination timetable. Please do take the time to discuss this schedule with your child to support them during this important time. Examinations begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr Armitage, Director of Learning for Year 11

#### **Year 11 French Revision Skills Workshop Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2-4.30pm**

A reminder that on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**, we have arranged for the Herts for Learning MFL Advisor, who has access to detailed feedback from exam boards, to come to Townsend School to run a revision skills workshop for Year 11 students of French, based on the latest feedback from Edexcel examiners. This workshop is aimed at helping students prepare for the upcoming mocks and the final GCSE French examinations. The workshop will start at 2 pm and will comprise of the following sessions:

##### **Session 1 - Listening Skills 2-3.25pm**

In this session, students will learn about listening techniques, complete a full practice paper, then mark and discuss how to develop improvement strategies.

##### **Session 2 - Speaking Skills 3.30-4.30pm**

The speaking exam is 25% of the overall mark at GCSE. This session will focus on role-play and photo card strategies and techniques, with some general tips on how to manage revision for the conversation part of the exam.

**Please note that there is no cost to the students for either of these sessions.**

A letter was sent home to ask students to opt in for the after school session. If you have not done so already, please send your child to school with the completed reply slip/ a note on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to take part in the after school session.

Mrs Livesey – Head of Modern Foreign Languages

#### **THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER - YEAR 10 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

Your child should have made and be making appointments with their teachers in preparation for the evening. 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 weaknesses. We are expecting all our parents/carers to attend. If you can't it would be helpful to see if an extended family member could accompany your child instead. Thank you  
Miss Reynolds

### **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

Students will soon be given their individual pin number and clear instructions for accessing the database of job offers. Please support them in this, as you will ultimately need to give parental consent for the placement. It is important that they take their time and consider all relevant factors carefully before submitting any applications. Full details of each job are given on the website.

Private placements, the alternative to choosing places from the database, are acceptable until January. Students may decide on this route if there is nothing ideal for them on the website. Spare forms available from the office.

We ask all families to contribute £15 towards the cost of the placement. This is a fraction of what we have to pay Connexions for their services vetting all placements, both private and from the database. Without your contribution, we simply couldn't afford to offer Work Experience. For placements outside Herts we are charged extra, usually about £15, which unfortunately we have to pass on to you. This will only be private placements as all the database jobs are in Herts.

No payments please until the placement has been confirmed. 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.

Please contact me at the school if you have any queries.

Margaret Wood, Work Experience Co-ordinator

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 10**

Students are currently studying the American West and they can procure the revision guide at the cost of £4 from the History office at any point in the year. We will also offer these on the upcoming consultation evening. 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.

#### **Year 11**

Please remind your child to attend Thursday lunchtime revision sessions starting at 1.30 in HU8. A revision programme can be found on History classroom doors or students can request a copy.

Students are currently studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany and the revision guide can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Director of Learning for the year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Students will be sitting Paper 1: Crime and punishment for their History trial examination on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 therefore it is important for your child to start revising now. They should use their class notes, revision guide and GCSEpods as a starting point.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

## **SIXTH FORM**

### **YEAR 13 TRIAL EXAMINATIONS**

Your child already has their trial examination timetables. Please do take the time to discuss these documents with your child to support them during this important time. Exams begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.  
Miss Gibbons, Director of Learning for Sixth Form

### **STUDENT WELLBEING**

#### **Advice on how to support your child in their upcoming Year 11 & 13 trial examinations**

1. Ensure revision lasts between 20-30 minutes at a time.
2. Help them prepare a revision timetable.
3. Ensure they are clear what content will be covered in the exam for each subject.
4. Support them by carrying out an evaluation of subject knowledge and identify areas about which they feel less confident.
5. Help build confidence in these areas using notes, revision guides or by speaking to their teachers.
6. Find effective strategies to learn all of the subject content for the exam including testing them through quizzes and revision games.
7. Support time management through timing practice past exam questions.
8. Access free revision websites e.g. GCSE Pod / Bitesize.
9. Encourage a good night's sleep throughout their trial examination week.
10. Reward (however small) or simply with verbal praise, their efforts in revising for their trial examination.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

Dr Kathy Weston is delivering a talk about Building Resilience in Girls on November 25<sup>th</sup> in the Hall. The event has been booked by a different organisation but as it is being held in the Hall, parents/carers and teachers from Townsend are welcome to attend. Dr Weston is a fantastic speaker and offers really practical strategies for parents/carers. The talk is at 7pm

<https://www.drkathyweston.com>