

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 15th September 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song"
– Maya Angelou

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For September our value focus is Respect "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you" Luke 6:31 Our values for each month will be shared in daily worship sessions. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on the meanings with a particular reference to how we lead our everyday lives.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

There is a Friends of Townsend (PTA) meeting on Monday 18th September 7pm in one of our meeting rooms. All present members of the committee are welcome to attend and we particularly welcome any new volunteers from all years as well as any new Year 7 parents/carers who may be interested. There are lots of things planned for the year and a good team of parents/carers will help ideas come to fruition!
Many thanks.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2016

This is a crucial evening for the school and we are always grateful for support from so many students and parents/carers. The school closes at 12.30 on this day and dedicated school buses collect students at 12.30. Other students will need to make their way home as you direct.

Students will be asked by teachers next week if they can help out on the evening and clearly this will involve you supporting with transport arrangements. The evening starts at 6.00pm and ends at approximately 9.00pm. It may be that your child can only help for part of the evening but all help is appreciated. We are hoping all Year 8 students will assume guiding roles and students from other year groups will volunteer to help out with subject areas. The students are excellent ambassadors for the school.

We are also looking for parent/carer support for our Open Evening – please contact the school office if you are able to help. This will involve chatting to prospective students and parent/carers at various strategic points around the school, promoting Friends (PTA), answering questions from a Parent/Carer point of view, and issuing refreshments to student guides in the small canteen. Year 7 parent/carers – we know many are new but you too would be very welcome as our most recent ambassadors for Townsend.

Many thanks in anticipation

Ian Graham - Open Evening Coordinator

DEDICATION SERVICE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH 2pm

The whole school will be attending the Dedication Service at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Thursday 21st September. Students will be transported to the Cathedral from school but unless you are attending the service and collecting your child directly after the service, the students 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 children will leave the Cathedral from the West Gate which is the entrance off George Street along Romeland. Although there is minimal parking around this area there is space to stop a car and pick your child up. If you decide however to collect your child from Holywell Hill, your child will need to leave the Cathedral not from the West Gate but from the café entrance and walk through Sumpters Yard to Holywell Hill. This can be a busy road and parking/stopping can be difficult. Do allow yourself plenty of time to collect your child and please be very clear with your child about the arrangements for this. There will be a senior teacher who will wait with year 7 at the West Gate until they are collected but we would appreciate your support in ensuring that you are fully aware of the details above.

For parents/carers of new students to Townsend can you remind your children there is a rehearsal at 1.30 Tuesday 19th for those wishing to participate in the Choir for the service.

LITERACY

Townsend has signed up for a second year to an exciting nationwide one day event called ***No Pens Day***. This year it is to take place on **Wednesday 4th October 2017**. The aim of the day is to encourage the skills of speaking and listening, which is a part of your child's national curriculum.

For one day, children in the school will put down their pens and all lessons and activities will have a focus on speaking and listening skills rather than writing skills. Teachers will assess what children in their class have learnt about the lesson by listening to what they say about it.

Why are we taking part?

Reading and writing are very important and valuable skills but people are often not aware of how important speaking and listening skills are too. Schools that include speaking and listening in a planned and structured way for children in their lessons see improvement in their classroom involvement. Ofsted inspectors (who check standards in all schools in the country) are noticing more and more that speaking and listening is a really important factor for good teaching and child performance in successful schools.

How will your child benefit?

No Pens Day Wednesday gives your child a chance to practice their speaking and listening skills for a whole school day. The day will allow all pupils in your child's class to become involved in a whole school event, and to contribute to class activities, getting a chance to talk. Townsend pupils will be able to use what they have learnt from this day throughout the school year.

We hope this will be both an educational and enjoyable day!

YEAR 10: WORK EXPERIENCE (30TH APRIL-4TH MAY 2018)

Following the letter you received last term, this week your son or daughter will be given a general introduction to how Work Experience operates, and will bring home a form to complete asking about what they might like to do. Please go through this carefully with them and return it to school by half term.

Margaret Wood

Work Experience Co-ordinator

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 - A reminder of 2 events this week:

Induction evening - Monday 18th September 7pm - all parents and students are invited to induction evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

Learn to Live - students were given a letter about this presentation at the Alban Arena for Friday 22nd September. All students should attend and reply slips need to be given to form tutors.

All sixth form students are required to attend the Cathedral Service on Thursday 21st September. They can make their own way there after lessons finish, to arrive by 1.45pm or can get on the buses provided by school. They must sign out at reception when they leave school. Registers will be taken at the Cathedral. Thanks.

Miss Gibbons & Mrs Buckland

STUDENT CONFERENCE

EPOC Careers Conferences organise specialist events for students who want to become doctors or lawyers. It is hosting conferences at University College London on 3rd February 2018 for improving young people's chances of becoming a doctor and then on 4th February 2018 for improving young people's chances of becoming a lawyer. These conferences are aimed at Years 11 and 12. If you are interested in either of these for your child telephone 020 3289 2389 for more details or check for details on their website: <https://www.epoc.org.uk/>. Please be aware the courses are relatively expensive.

Mrs Maguire (Careers Information Advice and Guidance Coordinator)

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS 2017/2018

Please find attached a list of all the clubs on offer. Do encourage your child to take advantage of the comprehensive programme on offer.

BUS TRAVEL

We do now have a large number of students who use public buses and we would ask all our parents /carers to talk to your children about the need for appropriate and respectful behaviour, waiting for the bus, on the bus and leaving the bus. Where there is only the bus driver focusing on the driving and no other adult supervising on the bus a full load of school children from a number of different schools can lead to some noisy and on occasions disruptive behaviour for other passengers. These are public buses and as such often include adults travelling to and from work. Purple blazers are very distinctive and where there are concerns members of the public will complain to us. It's really important students are aware they are representing the school in their uniforms and therefore should be behaving in a manner that promotes a positive reputation for Townsend.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Results

We had our first year 7 cross country event of the year on Tuesday with 11 of our students competing in the mob race at Sandringham against 12 other schools in the district. A very well run race by all, some running further in a competition than they have before, experiencing the level of secondary school sports. They then competed

again on Thursday at Townsend in the hardest and longest race of the season, all students pushed through with the determination to complete the race in the best time they could.

Fixtures

- Monday 18th September – year 10 basketball at Sir John Lawes School 3.30 – 5.15
- Wednesday 20th September – year 8 netball at Townsend vs STAGS – 3.30-5
- Thursday 21st September – district cross country @ St Albans Girls School 3.30 – 5
 - As we have the Cathedral Service on Thursday, students competing will need to meet Mr Still at the front of the Abbey at the end of the service where they will be transported to the girls school to get changed and ready. Students can be collected from St Albans Girls School as soon as their race has finished, or from Townsend school by 5pm.
- Monday 25th September – year 8 Netball @ Townsend Vs St Albans High School 3.30 – 5pm
- Tuesday 26th September – year 9 and 10 Netball @ Townsend Vs Marlborough 3.30 – 5

Activities in Lessons

Students should have received this week a list of the activities they will be covering in PE lessons over the year to help them organise their kit each day. Students should be prepared to be outside for lessons unless they have swimming, gymnastics/dance or table tennis. They will need their trainers for all lessons apart from swimming. The year 7 timetable of lessons is attached for parent information.

Sports Clubs

Included in the attached Extra Curricular Club table are all the sports clubs available at lunchtime and afterschool this term until Christmas. Students are able to attend any club they wish to. It doesn't matter if they missed the first or second session, or if they have never done that sport before. For lunchtime clubs students will just need trainers, after school they will need your full PE kit.

Lunchtime clubs will start between 1.20-1.30 and finish by 1.50

* *swimming club* starts straight after lesson 4 – students need to be at the pool before 1.20 or they will not be able to get in. If anyone needs to buy a school lunch they will be let out of swimming at 1.35 to give them enough time to get changed and get something to eat.

After school clubs will start at 3.30 and finish around 4.45.

Kit

A reminder that students should be bringing their PE kit to every lesson. If students are not able to take part in PE for any reason they must have a note from a parent/carer. They still need their kit as they will be taking part in the lesson as a coach/ umpire. The only exception is if the student isn't able to get changed due to being in a cast through injury.

As the weather is getting colder it is advisable to bring trousers and a jumper/waterproof sports jacket to wear – these must be the Townsend set kit from Stevensons or plain black from any retailer.

If students lose their PE kit they need to go to reception to look in lost property. If they can't find or replace it before the next PE lesson they should bring in a plain black or white t-shirt and shorts/trousers until it can be found/replaced. Anyone who doesn't have their kit will be lent spare kit for the lesson. Second hand kit is also available for purchase from school. We have already had a number of PE kits go missing, many of which have been found with no names in so we have not been able to return them. It would be really helpful if you could ensure your child's PE kit is clearly named. Thank you.

Miss Pennifold

MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

For those who have not already had an instrumental lesson, these will start next week:

Drums - Monday

Piano/Keyboard - Monday & Tuesday

Voice - Tuesday

Guitar - Thursday

Violin/Viola - Thursday

Woodwind - Friday

Anyone wanting to sign up for instrumental lessons can do so online at https://live186.paritor.com/p_web/04_001_192/2067

For any queries, speak to Mr Phelps