

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 16th November 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity – Mark Twain

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For November our value focus is Forgiveness 'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you' Ephesian 4:32 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.

SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Trial Examinations

Examinations start on Monday 26th November and students were given timetables two weeks ago to enable them to plan their revision. Students should be in school at all times, even when they do not have examinations. Teachers will be available during lesson times to support with revision and offer silent places to work. Students will be advised from subject teachers what they are expected to revise for their examinations and they need to ensure they are prepared with equipment. It is black pens only and they should have more than one pen with them! Thank you
Miss Gibbons Head of 6th Form

YEAR 11

The **6th Form evening for year 11** students is on **Thursday 22nd November** at 7pm in the School Hall. All Year 11 students and their parent/carers are warmly invited to attend to see what is on offer for students next year. As well as subject leaders and subject teachers talking about possible courses and pathways on offer, we are delighted to have Jackie Towndrow Associate Director for Blue Arrow and the school's Careers' Enterprise link joining us. She will be talking to parent/carers and students about the current labour market and what employers are looking for in young people. Nicky Honeywell from YCHertfordshire will also be running a drop in service on the evening. Should you already know what you would like a carers meeting with Nicky on the evening please do ring the school office and leave a message for Miss Lingwood and we will reserve you an appointment.

During the school day on Thursday 22nd, Year 11 students will take part in taster sessions for sixth form subjects of their choice. They should try and attend all subjects that interest them to find out more about each subject. We look forward to welcoming you to the sixth form. Miss Gibbons

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2018

This week we have been celebrating Anti-bullying week. This year's national theme is 'Choose Respect'. Students from all years have taken part in organising a range of activities that highlight and promote awareness of such an important area of our society. We kick started the week with Odd Socks Day. Students were invited to wear odd socks to symbolise the importance of expressing themselves and celebrate what makes us unique.

On Tuesday Year 7 were inspired by two Special Olympians who visited our school and spoke about their journey to success.

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 and Townsend. The additional support groups, including Sibling Support Group and the LGBT group, were launched and ideas were shared about how to further promote improve our school community.

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 'choose respect' can be applied in 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 Lead for Anti Bullying and Equality work.

CHILDREN IN NEED - well done to the Head Student team for organising a very successful week of fundraising for Children in Need. Thank you to all students who have donated and contributed throughout the week. We have raised £317 for Children in Need. Thanks to all! Miss Gibbons

CHARITY SUPPORT

The sixth form and years 7 & 8 are collecting donations for the Rennie House Hospice Care Christmas appeal. Rennie House Hospice is a charity providing care and support for adults and children diagnosed with cancer and other life-limiting illness and their families. *Every year through our 24/7 Hospice at Home service, our Family Support services and the range of Day Services at Grove House we give thousands of patients the choice to stay at home, surrounded by their families and friends. We are collecting toiletries, toys, books and other gifts that can be distributed to families for Christmas.* If anyone would like to make a donation please bring it to Miss Gibbons before Wednesday 28th November. Rennie House Hospice care will also be the charity we are collecting for at the Christmas Cathedral Service. Thank you in advance, Miss Gibbons

STUDENT SUPPORT

It was so nice to see so many parents/carers at the Anxiety and Anger Talk yesterday. We are hoping to arrange some more talks on specific topics so please ring Penny Baker, Inclusion Manager, with your suggestions.

It would seem that many parent/carers are not aware of the range of support and information available to them. The DSPL7 website has an enormous amount of information relevant to parent/carers of children with special educational needs or additional needs. All their workshops, groups and contact information are available on the website, some are free. On the Social, Emotional and Mental Wellbeing section there is an excellent Wellbeing Signposting Guide for Young People that has details of helplines and support groups, some have on-line counsellors that the children can talk to without making face-to-face contact. This is an excellent resource to help parents/carers not feel so isolated as there are many different groups offering advice or just someone to talk to.

Can we also draw your attention to:

- 'Understanding Teens, The Gross Stuff and Ground Rules'. This is a free 6 week course running from 27th February, 7-9pm. Details and booking information is on the DSPL7 website.

- There is also a monthly group organised by 'Potential Girls' for girls with ASD or ADHD, first Tuesday of every month, 4.30-6.30 which started on 2nd October, details of which are on the DSPL7 website.
- DSPL7 Simple Solutions Workshops with Sally Glossop. Problem solving sessions for parents/carers of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. All meetings run from 7-8.30pm on a Wednesday evening. Dates are; November 21st, 23rd January, 13th March 2019 15th May 2019 10th July 2019. Places are limited so please book. Booking Line: 01727 853134 Ext 244 admin@dspl7.org.uk

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

This is our first year for a number of years for a Christmas production, we are performing 'Dickensian Christmas' a collection of Charles Dickens era Christmas ghost stories for one night only in the hall on Friday the 14th December. There will also be a Christmas fair during the interval hosted by the Friends of Townsend PTA. Tickets are on sale at the school reception as of today, Adults £5 and Concession £3, please come and support our Drama Club and Choir students who have worked so hard.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND Annual Christmas Raffle

Students have been given an envelope that contains raffle tickets to give to parent/carers. Please make sure that you have received one per family.

The Raffle is our big fund raiser of the year!! Please try to support it! Selling to relatives, neighbours, work colleagues and friends!

We are still looking for Hamper fillers to make another hamper up so if you can spare anything festive such as chocolates, bubbles, wine, festive table decorations, biscuits, stuffing mix, Christmas sauces, jams, relishes, puddings or crackers. It would be greatly appreciated. We are actually also looking for actual hampers so if you have anything left from last year we would be grateful of your donation.

If any parent/carer is manager, director or has some influence in the company /organisation they work in, we are now looking for goods or vouchers as possible prizes. Particularly popular are sports facility vouchers (snow dome, cinema, sports matches, garden centre vouchers) All will go as prizes in the raffle.

Remember all money raised benefits students and will help departments buy equipment and educational materials. With your help we hope to raise £2000!

Logs are still available. If you wish to collect any please contact the school reception. There is a small charge which goes to Friends Funds.

Dickensian Evening 14th December

If anyone can help with refreshments, a Christmas gift stall, a Chocoholic Tombola and other stalls at this evening, please contact Emma Allen (Friends of Townsend) by leaving a message with your contact details at Reception.

Many thanks. Ian Graham and Friends of Townsend.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

ENGLISH

A reminder about the Royal Shakespeare company Live Broadcast of Romeo and Juliet. The English Department has been fortunate to be allocated a free Live Screening to take place on Wednesday 21st of November. This event will be screened live to many schools in the UK and is an excellent opportunity for our

students to experience live theatre. As part of our year 8 curriculum we study Romeo and Juliet. Students will be watching this live streaming in the Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, 21 November periods 1-4. We successfully ran a similar event earlier this year with year 11, screening a live performance of Macbeth. We look forward to sharing this amazing experience with our year 8 students.

Mrs Kleynhans

Film Club

Don't forget Film/Journalist Club every Friday lunchtime run by Mrs Kleynhans. If you are interested in films and writing about them then join her in E3.

Year 11 GCSE

There are numerous support and revision materials on Show My Homework and examination papers/questions to try in preparation for the upcoming trial examinations. Remember to encourage students to do examination questions under timed conditions so they are building stamina for the examinations and they get used to sustained writing.

Years 9-13

Townsend is entering a team in a debating competition to be on 27th November at St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane in St Albans from 6.30 pm until about 9 pm. Mrs Harris is working with eight sixth formers and one Year 11 who are working hard on their speeches and it should prove a good evening. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to finding out how they do!

Years 7 & 8

It was wonderful to meet so many Year 8 parents at the parent /carer evening last night. One of the things that became obvious during the course of the evening was that many parents/carers were unaware about the reading homework. Some were also unsure how to support their children and help to improve their reading ages. 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 /carers can become involved in the reading – asking questions to check understanding – this ensures students are getting the best from their reading. Students can only sit the reading quizzes on books that are on the Accelerated Reader system but the system contains thousands of books – not just the ones in our library. If you have books at home, or are thinking of getting books for Christmas presents then use the Accelerated Reader 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.

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip

'Learning in numeracy takes place all around us, not just in the classroom. Here is an idea how parents and carers can help support and develop numeracy skills: Shopping: How many will we need? How much will the total be? Will we have enough from this amount? How do we work out 20% off? What will it cost if we buy ten? Which is better value?'

Mr Timpson Numeracy Lead

DRAMA CLUB

All students should be attending every rehearsal they are needed for with regards to the Christmas show. Please support your child in checking their rehearsal schedule.

After school rehearsals on a Wednesday will start in December, please check your schedules.

Year 7 Drama have made an excellent start to Pantomime and will be exploring the topic as the term goes on.

Year 8 Drama have now started Mask work and will be continuing to use the masks up until Christmas.

Year 9 Drama are working on mini plays and will be staging these in class just before Christmas.

Year 10 Drama will start preparing for their Component 2 just before Christmas, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents.

Year 11 - please could all trip form and the first payments for the Theatre trip be returned to the school as soon as possible students will be writing about this play in their final GCSE examination in May so it is vital they come on the trip.

HISTORY

Year 7

Year 7 students have started their half termly project for History due to be submitted the week beginning Monday 17th December. A project booklet has been given to pupils including instructions, planning, further reading and deadlines. This can be accessed on SMHW.

Year 8

Students are currently studying the Industrial Revolution with a focus on technological and social changes in the 18th-19th centuries. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zvmv4wx/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

Year 9 GCSE

Students are will begin studying Paper 1: Crime and Punishment in December 2018. We advise that they purchase the revision guide for this unit at the cost of £4. The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 10 GCSE

Students are currently studying Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 for the term. We encourage students to purchase the American West revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 11 GCSE

Students are studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 and this will be the paper which they will sit during trial examination week in November 2018. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please ask your teacher in confidence so that we can support you. History revision is being held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students can refer to the revision programme to find about the skill and content covered every week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

GEOGRAPHY

Monday 19th November – Sustainable Schools Conference

Year 7 students from GeoClub are attending a number of workshops at Harpenden Farm School. The workshops are about new sustainable school projects. The aim is to bring the projects back to school to raise environmental awareness and develop the level of sustainability at Townsend. We look forward to a fun and productive day.

Mrs Buckland

INTERACTIVE WEBINAR TO BEIJING

Forty year 7 students and some sixth former's had a hands-on first time experience of a webinar with our tour guide, Regina, in Beijing. Regina had the task of linking up with approximately 35 schools across the UK to help us have an insight into her life and her home. Throughout the 45 minute live link up we were able to put questions to Regina and ask her about lifestyle and although we were not very impressed with lessons for students starting before 8am and not finishing until after 5pm, all were relieved that KFC was readily available!!! Having travelled a bit herself and visited various cities she said the food was far better at home. This was a great experience and students were very keen to get their questions to her.

COMMUNITY NEWS

This week we have been asked to pass on the following information as part of our support for the community. 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 17th November, Townsend School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £10, and business tables £14

Stevenage 24th November, Bedwell community centre, tables now 2ft x 6ft, seller tables £12.50, and business tables £15

Welwyn Garden City 1st December, Harwood Hill School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £10, and business tables £14

Sustainable St Albans is a charity and one of our projects is to run information sessions whereby people can come and see how they can find out where heat is leaking from their house and book to borrow one of our Thermal Imaging Cameras to use themselves in their home.

The project is free, run by volunteers, the cameras were purchased from Locality Budget grants.

Most sessions are small run in our volunteers homes, however we have one large session arrange at The Harpenden Arms on Monday 19th November. There are places left for Monday, hence the request to add this to this week's newsletter.