

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th May 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. – Winston Churchill

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For May our value focus is Compassion 'Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour' 1 Corinthians 10:24. 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.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE THURSDAY MAY 23RD 2PM

The Ascension Day Service is on Thursday May 23RD at 2pm at St Albans Cathedral. Students should make arrangements to be collected from St Albans Cathedral for 3.00pm. Again we do ask that you are clear with your child about where you are meeting them/picking them up. Parents/carers are welcome to join us for this service.

YEAR 11

The Year 11s have made a positive start to their GCSE examinations. It has been a tough week but we are pleased that on the whole students have come out of examinations in reasonable spirits! Please do continue to support your child as much as possible when they are revising at home. From Tuesday May 21st the Year 11s may choose to remain at home to revise. Should they prefer the school environment they need to go to their normal timetabled lessons.

This Monday students will have the option of signing shirts (if you agree to this for your son/daughter) and taking photographs after their RE examination in the morning. Following this there will be a year 11 final assembly and students will then be able to go home at 12.45pm. Please can you make any necessary travel arrangements for your child for this change to the normal day. Any child wishing to remain in school to revise should have already given their name to their form tutor or to me. Those students staying in school will require a different shirt for the afternoon. We do ask for your support that during this period, after Monday, of optional revision at home (rather than school), you ensure your child is at home studying sensibly.

Reminders

Deadline for Prom payment is at the end of this month, please get those in ASAP.

Letters will be going home shortly about the Leavers Ceremony on Tuesday 25th June.

Many thanks, Mr Still

GCSEPOD

USERS OF THE WEEK

The top users for this week and the week before, receiving an early lunch pass are:

Year	Pupil	Pods Watched this week
9Y	Gabriella	21
10C & Y	Millie and Anashe	118 & 67
11E & C	Aimee and Elizabeth	304 & 161

PODGAMES

The school continues to compete in the GCSEpod Games. We have now moved up to 4th in the world. With a big push in the last few weeks we could even make it onto the podium. Please keep encouraging usage and ask the students to show you what the product can do.

PODS OF THE WEEK

With English Literature Paper this week it is worth remembering that the pods covering all the poems in the 'Power and Conflict' unit can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6002/6062/8122>

A useful flyer on how to use GCSEpod effectively is attached.

YEAR 10 STUDY SUPPORT EVENING

A reminder for your diaries that we are holding a Year 10 Study Support Evening on Wednesday June 5th at 7pm. We are expecting full attendance from all students and parents/carers. Thank you.

SCHOOL SCURRY SHOWDOWN

I will be representing Townsend School at the Herts County show on Sunday 26th May this year at a charity inter schools pony scurry racing competition. 'Scurry driving' is a sport in which a pair of ponies pull a carriage around a course of cones in an attempt to get the fastest time, although we probably won't be going as fast as the professionals! I will be taking the role of the groom whose job it is to balance the scurry carriage around the corners. I will be competing against Senior Leadership Team members from other local schools. I will be wearing Townsend school uniform so will be easy to spot. If anyone would like to come along and watch I will have a few free family tickets which will admit two adults and two children to the Herts County Show on Sunday 26th May. The scurry race itself will be taking place at approximately 12.30pm in the Jubilee ring. If you would like one of the free tickets please ask your child to see me directly as soon as possible as there is only limited number of them. Mrs Davey (Assistant Head Teacher).

SUBJECT INFORMATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 8 homework projects

It is now time for the students to hand in their completed projects as it is due this coming week in their CS lesson. From the feedback given by students, there will be a reminder on 'show my homework', one from myself in their previous lesson and their form tutors will also remind them to bring it in. For this purpose, there should be no excuses. Please support your child in completing the required homework project. I look forward to seeing some amazing and creative pieces!

Mrs King

HISTORY

Year 7

Students are studying Islamic Civilisations and the Crusades. They are encouraged to do further reading by visiting the BBC Bitesize website

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx9xsbk/revision/1> to extend and consolidate their knowledge in the subject as we get on with the unit.

Year 9

Advance notice that students will sit the GCSE Paper 1 trial exam the week beginning 1st July. Crime and Punishment revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Students can also purchase a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2. Please speak to Ms Reynolds if there are financial implications.

Year 10

Advance notice that students will sit the GCSE Paper 2 examination (for their Year 10 examination) the week beginning 17th June. Early Elizabethan England revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Students can also purchase a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2. Please speak to Mr Armitage if there are financial implications.

Year 11

There is a scheduled revision session in HU8 with Mrs Bailey for Paper 1 on Friday 24th May from 12.15 to about 15.15 (Paper 1 exam is on Monday 3rd June AM) and a revision session for Paper 2 and 3 on Tuesday 4th June from 12.15 to 15.00. A reminder that students have 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. A final reminder that students can purchase a revision guide for each unit (there are four) at the cost of £4 and/or a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2 from the History office.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip:

What's 16% of 25? Hard to work out mentally. But it's the same as 25% of 16 (easy, a quarter of $16=4$). $A\%$ of B is always the same as $B\%$ of A , so use this to your advantage

For more information on supporting your child with numeracy please visit <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/your-childs-maths> or speak to your child's Mathematics teacher.

Mr Timpson

MUSIC

TRIP TO BBC PROMS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

All students who are involved in choir and/or other music extra-curricular activities have been given a letter inviting them to sing as part of a massed choir at a BBC Prom this July at The Royal Albert Hall (20th, 21st and 22nd July). The turnaround for reply slips is very tight and the absolute deadline is Monday 20th May. If your child wishes to take part, please ensure that they bring me all three permission/image release forms by the end of school on Monday. Thank you, Miss Kirk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7 Individual Sports Photographs

Next week the year 7 students will get the opportunity to have their individual photograph taken in the PE kit in a sporting pose with a piece of equipment. These pictures are taken by the professional photography company 'Keepsakes Photography' who take these pictures for our students and their families each year to buy as a keepsake memory from their first year at Secondary School.

Students will need to be in their full PE kit for their photos, and will be having them taken within their following PE lessons next week:

7X (Canterbury and Durham) Monday 20th May lesson 5

7Y (Exeter, Norwich and York) Wednesday 22nd May P2

Once the photographs have been developed the students will be given 3 copies of the photo to take home for the opportunity for you to buy them, or return the unwanted photos to school.

- buy 1 photo = £7.50 (the other 2 photos must be returned with the payment for 1).
- buy 2 photos (get the third free) = £15
- or return all 3 photos to school.

A letter detailing the options, including payment will be sent home with the photos.

Miss Pennifold

SCIENCE

Year 11 revision guide requests

After year 11 have finished their final Science examination we would really appreciate a donation of any revision guides that are no longer required. These will be well received by other students who may find the financial cost of resources too high. If your son or daughter is willing to donate their revision guide there will be a box present in the small canteen after their examination to put them in. It doesn't matter if they have been written in or highlighted, any donated book will be put to good use.

Year 13 Text book returns

A reminder to our year 13 students that text books will need to be returned at the end of the year in order for pupils to receive their £10 deposits back. We are currently organising how these can be collected after pupils final examinations and will share this when we have this confirmed.

Mrs McNeillis

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.

REVISION AT ST ALBANS CENTRAL LIBRARY

It is now peak revision season at St Albans Library.

Can you kindly reiterate to any students revising in the library that the library is a public space? We have students studying in the library leaving their bags and high-value personal effects, such as phones, tablets and laptops behind while they go outside for a break. This isn't the same environment as studying at home or in school as you don't know who else is sharing your space.

We cannot be responsible for the personal belongings of students and thefts have occurred in Hertfordshire Libraries before. We would hate for this to happen to a student as we know how distressing this can be, particularly when revision in itself is already stressful. Further, as you will appreciate, the current terror alert level in the UK is high, so we can't have unattended bags and personal effects left behind.

Students are welcome to spend the whole day here, but bringing hot or smelly food in is not allowed under our bylaws.

Finally, please note that since our refurbishment the whole of the rear of the library is now for quiet study only. So while we welcome groups of students, active discussion in this area is discouraged in order to enable other students and members of the public to study quietly.

We do however hold regular activities in our children's library on Tuesday mornings and on both Monday and Saturday at 2.15pm which mean that the library is noisier than usual during these periods.

Should you or any of your team wish to visit us in our newly refurbished library, please let us know and we will be delighted to show you around, in particular our new CreatorSpace

maker space. We would welcome the chance to discuss opportunities for the library to work with the school. In the meantime, thank you for passing this message on. It is useful to have a contact during revision season should we need to contact the school, so please respond with a named contact if you are able.

Sally King
Library Manager

STUDENT SUPPORT

We have received notification of Young Persons Clinics that have been set up to support children

The YP clinics are available to any young person, aged 11-25 yrs, registered with a GP surgery in St Albans or Harpenden and have now been up and running since 11th April. So far they have been very well-received by those attending. They are manned by GPs who have received training in adolescent health, which includes up to date information about the services available locally for this age group.

The clinics are well-stocked with resources to support the physical and mental health of young people from 11-25 years old in Hertfordshire. It is also resourced to support the sexual health of young people locally, which is increasingly important given the latest reports citing the UK as having the worst sexual health data among the industrialised nations.

The clinics are also supported by many fabulous local services to whom we can signpost young people for help with any issues whether they be of a physical, mental or sexual health nature. Where there is not a clear referral pathway already in place for young people, we are fortunate enough to have established good links with numerous local organisations who can help us to support them and point them in the right direction. These include the school nursing service, YC Hertfordshire, Public Health Hertfordshire, CAMHs and a number of local charitable organisations.

The YP clinics are currently being held every Thursday evening 4-7pm at Parkbury House Surgery in the centre of St Albans. The appointments can be requested by young people through their usual GP surgeries and they should ask specifically for the young person's clinic. We are keen for young people to be seen on their own for at least part of the consultation but it is not a problem if they feel more comfortable bringing an adult in to the appointment with them.

If there is a good uptake of these YP appointments and the service is helpful in supporting this age group, we will be able to justify opening up another YP clinic at a different site, so watch this space! We already have a bank of enthusiastic and upskilled GPs waiting in the wings to help deliver these clinics.

Dr Alison Cowan

Please see attached flyer with a list of Support Agencies for Young People