

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later! – Richard Branson

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For January our value focus is Thankfulness 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' 1 Thessalonians 5:18. 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 9**

**TRIP TO THE WWI BATTLEFIELDS, YPRES, BELGIUM  
MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> 7PM**

A reminder that there will be a compulsory meeting for the parents /carers of students who are coming on the Battlefields trip 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. It is a requirement of Hertfordshire County Council that one of the child's parents/carers attend and unfortunately your child will not be able to take part in the trip unless a parent or carer attends this meeting. Your child should also attend the meeting with you as important information will be given out about what the trip involves.

**YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS**

These will take place in school on 29<sup>th</sup> January

**YEAR 10: WORK EXPERIENCE**

I would like to remind you that all completed private placement request forms (spare copies available from the school office) should be handed in by the end of January. We cannot guarantee that forms received later will be processed, and if they are, they may incur a further charge.

Thank you. M. Wood (Work Experience Coordinator)

**YEAR 11**

**STUDY SUPPORT EVENING**

A reminder that there is a Year 11 Study Support Evening, on the 31st January at 7pm. We are in the process of finalising arrangements for this but it is likely to involve letters being set to parents/carers of targeted students who are not achieving target grades or whom we have concerns about with regards to effort and application. There will also be an opportunity for other parents/carers of students to come in to speak to teachers by appointments or to see YC Hertfordshire Carers Advisor by appointment.

**YEAR 11 ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at school for our Year 11s has never been more crucial than the next 3 half terms. Students need to be in school every day except for serious illness. A cold or sore throat is not a reason for absence and we would be grateful for your support with this. Over the next month or so there will be coursework deadlines, revision lessons, advice about CV writing, GCSE booster sessions and some external input from outside speakers. All of the events we are planning are designed to boost

achievements in the Summer so students need to be in school. If as a parent/carer circumstances change at home or you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do contact your child's form tutor or myself. Many thanks, Mr Still (Director of Learning Year 11)

### **UNIFORM**

As the days are getting colder can we please ask for your support in ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform - including coats and scarves. Those students who persist in wearing hoodies, multi coloured scarves or coats other than black or navy will have items confiscated from next week and returned at 3.25. They will also be offered a substitute black coat as the school is currently in possession of numerous black coats that have been left unclaimed for weeks. It is not necessary for any child to be moving around the school wearing a coat.

### **SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION:**

Auditions were a great success and a big congratulation is due to students who worked hard and earned cast places in the show. If your child missed auditions and would still like to be involved in the show tell them to come and see Mrs Coates or Miss Kirk. The rehearsal schedule is attached for you to look at and a copy has been given to your child today at the casting session during lunch.

### **HERTFORDSHIRE CATERING SERVICE**

We are in the process of making some changes to our canteen arrangements to improve the service. We are keen to hear from parents/carers as well as students regarding the current situation so if you have views please do send them into school to the office for the attention of Miss Lingwood and titled Canteen Services. We will also be sending fortnightly menus home through parentmail.

### **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

#### **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

##### **Engineering Club:**

This week in Engineering Club students participated in James Dyson's marble run challenge. The challenge was to create a marble run that would last for 30 seconds. This challenge offered students the opportunity to learn about potential energy and friction. Engineering club takes place in the DT block on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes (Years 7 & 8) and Friday lunchtime (Years 9-11). Mr Hill

#### **DRAMA**

**Year 7** - Have just started Macbeth and have had their Home Learning project set. The project is available on Show My Homework and students have been given a copy of the task sheet in their lessons. If there are any concerns or questions about the homework please send your child to see me and I can offer support. There will be weekly checks in their Drama lessons to check on their progress.

**Year 8** - Are now working on spontaneous improvisation on a story called Warden X, each week they will discover more of the story and the emphasis is on independent learning through storytelling.

**Year 9** - Are developing ideas for their devising and are settled in their groups. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 10** - Are now preparing for their Component 2 and have all settled on their ideas for their pieces, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 11** - Are preparing for Component 3 of the examination with their visiting examiner who will be coming into school in early March, they have their scripts and should be learning lines. If students would like any additional revision material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**New Views:**

Students are continuing to write their scripts, first drafts are due in on Monday 25th February. Plays need to be about a half hour in length and sessions will now run every Wednesday lunch time. National Theatre has contacted us and offered free theatre tickets to the students involved, we are currently organising a date and time to see a production. Letters will be sent home when a date is set.

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Year 8 Trip to St Albans City Centre - Tuesday 22nd January**

Just a reminder that all Year 8 pupils will be walking to St Albans City Centre to carry out some field work skills. All students should be attending - there is no cost involved and it is taking place in school hours. Pupils that are in St Albans for the afternoon session will require a packed lunch as they will be off site during the school lunch period. Thank you to those who have returned your consent/medical forms.

We are still waiting for forms to be returned from a small number of students. Please ensure these are returned by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> if not already done so. WE CANNOT TAKE STUDENTS WITHOUT THESE CONSENT FORMS. If we do not have the forms returned you child will miss the opportunity to go on the trip and will be supervised in normal lessons whilst the remainder of their year group go on the trip.

The trip provides students with geographical fieldwork skills and they will be completing write ups of their investigations in lessons following the trip - we hope it will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for the students.

With thanks for your support,

**GCSE Geography revision guides**

We have a number of revision guides for sale in school. Any child who studies GCSE geography and wishes to purchase one can do so by bringing £5.50 in cash to me at school (I cannot give change so exact money should be given). Should you be experiencing financial need please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year group in confidence so we can discuss how to support you with this resource.

**Geoclub**

Monday lunchtime - HU7 - Geoclub resumes this term with the theme of the "Green Air at Townsend Campaign". Please encourage your child to attend so that we can launch out new campaign.

**Year 11 Geography Study Club**

A reminder that we have geography study club for any year 11 geography student who wishes to attend. We will revise topics as per the schedule previously released.  
Mrs Buckland

**HISTORY**  
**GCSEPOD**

All students in years 9, 10 and 11 have access to GCSEpod. This is a fantastic resource that has reams of evidence that shows a strong correlation between GCSEpod usage and exam success. We have seen it in our school with students with high usage topping the progress charts in the recent mocks. I attach both a 'how to' for parents and a 'how to help your child' leaflet.

In a new weekly feature of parentmail I will include a link to a pod with some good questions you could ask your child (see attachments)

### **POD of the week**

Any students studying GCSE History may find it useful to watch the following pod:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10653>

And think about the following questions:

1. Give 3 reasons why the Stresemann years are sometimes referred to as 'the golden years' of the Weimar Republic
2. Name the two 'plans' that Stresemann negotiated with the Americans. Suggest 3 ways in which they helped the Weimar economy.
3. Explain 3 ways in which the Weimar economy in the Stresemann years may not have been as stable as it appeared.

### **Year 10 History Study Mornings: Wednesday 27th February and Friday 1st March 2019.**

As part of the Year 10 GCSE History course students learn about the reign of Elizabeth I for their Paper 2: British depth study. To consolidate learning and support achievement, we are pleased to offer pupils the opportunity to participate in two activities provided by School History Scene.

Pupils have been given the information letters in their history lessons last week and should have passed these on to you.

Please be aware that the deadline for pupils to submit their consent forms and contributions is Friday 1st February 2019. Contributions can be paid via School Gateway. Should you require support in making this contribution, please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year, (Mr Armitage) in confidence.

Thank you, History department

Mrs Davey

### **Year 7 History**

Winners of the castle projects will be announced in the Year 7 Assembly following a whole school vote held today. Please remind students to refer to the 'Extend Your Knowledge of the Middle Ages' sheet to support the current unit of study. This can also be accessed on SMHW.

### **Year 10 History**

Advance notice that students will sit the American West trial examination the week beginning 28th January.

### **Year 11 GCSE History**

History revision sessions are held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8.

### **Holocaust Survivor Testimony**

All of Year 10, 11 and Sixth form are invited to attend a live webcasting of Harry Spiro BEM testimony in the Hall on Thursday 24th lesson 2.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Numeracy Tip**

With mathematics problems there is always more than one way to get the right answer. When your child thinks about how they figured out a problem, it can help concepts make more sense to them and build their confidence.

For more information on assisting your child with numeracy skills please visit.

[www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

A reminder that students are responsible for their valuables that they bring into school and must ensure their safety at all times. During break and lunch, students should not leave their bags lying around with valuables in, as this is leading to a large amount of lost property with students forgetting where they put them, or students mixing up their bags (especially PE kit) when they look the same from the outside and have no names on the bag, or in the kit inside.

During PE lessons where students leave their bags in the changing rooms, although these are locked where possible at all times, they need to ensure the safety of their valuables, either by leaving them in their lockers in their form rooms during the day, or handing them into the office at the start of the day for safe keeping. Students can also bring their valuables into the lesson to be left safely with the teacher, so long as they remember to collect them at the end.

Miss Pennifold (Head of PE)

### **FOOTBALL FIXTURES**

On Saturday 26th January there are football fixtures for Year 7,8,9 and 10 Boys. All games will be at Marlborough School. Meet time is 9:00am at Marlborough ready for a 9:30 kick off. Pick up time is 10:30am.