

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Date Friday 18th October 2019

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

RESPECT

The Value for this half term is RESPECT: 'Treat others the same way you want them to treat you' Luke 6:31. 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.

LENT 2020 PROJECT FILMING

As part of the Lent 2020 Project which will be launched by the St Albans Diocese, Townsend has been selected to take part in an exciting filming project which captures day to day aspects of student interaction and the positive nature of our school community. Filming will take place on Wednesday 23rd October. After production, the film will be available via a secure link on the Diocesan webpage, of which schools will be provided the password. Students directly involved have been given letters of consent to be signed. Those not directly involved will not be identifiable in the final production. Any further questions, please contact Ms Sheppard.

Ms Sheppard, Head of Religious Education and School Worship

GILLIAN TRIGG LEAVING

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Gillian Trigg who has been one of our well-being leads for a number of years. She has worked tirelessly with so many young people at school and made such a lot of difference to so many families. We wish Gillian well for her move to Northamptonshire and send our thanks for all she has done for Townsend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER – YEAR 8 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 subject areas - identifying strengths and addressing gaps or weaknesses. There is a further evening in the Spring Term that is specifically centred around GCSE option choices for year 8. 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

NUMERACY TIP

It is important students see the importance of Numeracy in the real world. Learning equations such as $2x + 5 = 13$ is an equation that would link to 'A monthly train ticket costs £194. The daily return fare is £13.50. Should you buy individual daily tickets, or a monthly season ticket?'

It is important that you highlight the importance of Mathematics in everyday life so students see how they will need to embed these skills for the future and not just their exams.

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL LESSONS

Well done to students for making a really positive start to the year in their instrumental and vocal lessons. Most students are regularly attending their lessons at the correct time, remembering to practice and making the most of the practice rooms and clubs available to develop their performance skills.

The protocol surrounding forgotten instrumental lessons is changing. It will now work as follows:

- Instrumental teachers will no longer be collecting students if they do not remember their lesson. This is to support our students to take responsibility for their learning and develop their independence.
- The first time that a student forgets a lesson, their instrumental teacher will inform myself and I will email their form tutor. Form tutors will discuss this with the student and put a strategy in place to help them remember.
- The second time that a student forgets a lesson, instrumental teachers will inform myself and I will ensure that you are notified at home.
- If a student continues to forget their lesson, I will be in touch and a discussion can be had about whether they wish to continue learning during the school day and to consider anything else we can put in place to improve attendance.

Timings are displayed on the large purple noticeboard in the entrance of the music block and students can come to check the board during break, lunch and after school. We have had some luck in the past with forgetful students using a silent, vibrating watch alarm. These can be purchased cheaply on eBay or Amazon.

If you have any questions, please do feel free to get in touch via the School Office.
Miss Kirk, Head of Music

DIVERSITY DROP DOWN DAY – WEDNESDAY 23rd OCTOBER

Your child will have the opportunity to take part in their first enrichment day of the academic year where they will be working in groups of all years and celebrate the theme of diversity. This means they will be off timetable for the day and are still expected to wear their school uniform. A great deal of preparation has been undertaken by all staff to ensure this will be a successful and meaningful day. Find out which country your child will be representing and what they can do to prepare for Wednesday.

Mrs Bailey, Assistant Head Teacher

YEAR 7 & 8

YEAR 7

PRIMARY TEACHER VISITS

It was great to see so many Year 7 students stay after school on Wednesday to meet and greet their primary school teachers. After a quick cup of tea and a biscuit in the Discovery centre, the pupils showed their teachers from primary schools around the school site and also pieces of work they were particularly proud of. It was a lovely evening and the students were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Mr Still, Director of Learning for Year 7

YEAR 8

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FIXTURE

Monday 21st October - year 8 netball matches Vs Sandringham School - 3.25-5pm at Townsend.

Miss Pennifold, Head of Physical Education

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

YEAR 9

CHELSEA'S STORY- MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Information was sent out on today for Year 9 parents/carers through student post about this theatre in education presentation. 'Chelsea's Story' is a hard-hitting, 45-minute-long Applied Theatre Production that has proven highly successful in raising awareness around the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

The play has been seen by over 850,000 young people and hundreds of professionals around the UK and has proven highly effective at covering: -

- What makes a healthy/unhealthy relationship?
- Safe Internet Use/Sexting
- What is consent
- What is grooming
- What is sexual exploitation
- Raising awareness around the risks of victim blaming
- Sign-posting relevant services

If you would like to find out more please email alteregocreativesolutions@gmail.com or go to www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk. We are hoping that all our students in year 9 will be in attendance for the presentation and one of our Senior Designated teachers for Child Protection will be present throughout. At the end of the 'show' students have the opportunity to ask questions from the cast members. Should you have any concerns or queries about the show or about your child watching it please do get in contact with Miss Scott.

Miss Scott, Director of Learning for Year 9

HISTORY

Year 10

Students will be participating in a morning workshop delivered by two Native Americans on **Tuesday 22nd October** to learn about Native American beliefs and culture which links with Paper 2.

Students have started 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. 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

Students will be participating in a morning workshop delivered by two Native Americans on **Tuesday 22nd October** to learn about Native American beliefs and culture which links with Paper 2.

Students can procure the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 from the History office as we will be starting this unit in September. 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.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

YEAR 10 PHYSICAL EDUCATION FIXTURE

Monday 21st October - year 9 netball matches Vs Sandringham School - 3.25-5pm
at Townsend.
Miss Pennifold, Head of Physical Education

SIXTH FORM

DIVERSITY DROP DOWN DAY – WEDNESDAY 23rd OCTOBER

All students will be off timetable on Wednesday for diversity enrichment. Sixth form students are expected to attend with the exception of consortium lessons. This is a great opportunity (and the last enrichment day for Year 13) for your child to develop their leadership and managerial skills as groups will be in mixed year groups.

Mrs Bailey, Assistant Head Teacher

STUDENT WELLBEING

DIVERSITY TALENT SHOW

Sixth form students are organising a 'Diversity Talent Show' on Friday 25th October starting at 1.20 in the gym to celebrate talents native to students and announce Diversity day winners. This is a great opportunity for all to come together as a community and celebrate diversity as well as mark the end of the first half term.

LET CHILDREN KNOW THAT GOOD ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

Attendance is a parent / carer and student responsibility. Let your child know that you think attending school daily is important. Show them you are interested in their school activities and tell them that you want them to do well in school.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY NHS TRUST

*Please be advised that the **School Aged Immunisation Team** have now moved. Our new contact telephone number is 01727 732062. This number is for Schools and Parents. All email addresses remain unchanged admin.imms@nhs.net
Kind regards*

HELP WITH PLAYING OUT

We can help you open your street for play up to 8 times a year, bringing neighbours together and building a stronger community where you live.

You can give children the space and freedom to:

- * Be outdoors and active*
- * Gain skills and independence*
- * Make friends on their street*
- * Have fun!*

Find out more

*www.sustainablestalbans.org/playingout
playingout@sustainablestalbans.org*

Two Parent/Carer Support groups - please see fliers