

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 20th July 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" - Aesop

SUMMER BREAK

Firstly, a huge thank-you to all parents/carers who have continued to support the school over what has been an incredibly busy but successful year.

To sum the year up succinctly is impossible but to mention a few highlights which I believe serve to reflect what our school is about may be a start!

The wonderful words provided to us from Ofsted must be a beginning and then the Celebration Ceremonies with all the performances and certificate achievements have really epitomized what the year has meant to us at school.

The hard work of the GCSE and A Level students, the students opportunities to benefit from a variety of enrichment activities, the large numbers involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the brilliant Wizard of Oz and the exhilarating Performing Arts Display, the Sports Day at school, our Diversity Day at the start of the year, and finally the school community's ongoing responses to our family members who on occasions have needed extra support, a listening ear, a caring voice or a thoughtful prayer. This is what we are about a

We want the very best education for all our children, we want them to believe they can aspire to great things but alongside this desire for academic success, we want all our school community to continue to respect and care for each as well as they have done this year.

As we reach the end of the year we say farewell to several colleagues and we welcome new members to our team in September. Thank you and goodbye to Mrs Maguire, Mr Phelps, Mr Barka from the teaching staff and to Mrs Redman, Mrs Callan and Miss Lloyd from our Education Support Team.

From September we welcome Ms Kirk as Head of Music, Mrs Bill to RE, Mrs Phull to Science, Mrs Philpott to Business Studies, Mr Brooks to PE and other subjects, to Miss Gordon as Director of Learning for Year 7 and to the English and Mathematics areas to Mrs Riley-Patterson in Design and Technology and to Mrs Allpress our new Business Manager.

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing, fun and safe Summer break and we look forward to seeing all the students in September ready for the new challenges ahead.

A Wellbeloved

SUPPORT OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As we approach a long holiday period we are conscious that although it is a great opportunity for quality family time, and a time for resting and recharging for a number of our children, this time away from friends and routine can also cause

anxiety and worry. This week, Mrs Hutchinson and Mrs Trigg have been touching base with many students across all year groups- some who they have been supporting over the year others whom we have recognised are in need of a little extra support from school. As part of this ongoing support we have issued information about who students can contact over the holidays should they want to talk to someone. We appreciate that in many cases children will turn to family members when things go wrong and they have worries but on some occasions neither family or teachers are who children want to confide in!

The contacts students have been given and also that would be available to you are

- Childline www.childline.org.uk Telephone 080011111
- Kooth www.kooth.com When are counsellors online? Monday-Friday 12 noon till 10pm. Weekend 6pm till 10pm
- School Nurse Text service 07480635050
- Healthy Young Minds in Herts <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk>
- Well Being Service Hertfordshire Partnership NHS
<http://www.hpft.nhs.uk/services/community-services/wellbeing-service>

For urgent adult help or if you need to speak to someone call the Single Point of Access (SPA) Tel: 0300 777 0707 from 8am - 7pm Email hpft.spa@nhs.net
Alternatively, call the Out of Hours Helpline Tel: 01438 843322

Parents/carers can also use Young Minds www.youngminds.org or telephone 0808 802 5544 as a support.

We do wish you and the children a safe and relaxing holiday, but would ask that you are also mindful of your child's online use of social media sites over these next 6 weeks. For many this will be their communication system to peers and friends and if things go wrong it can be quite damaging for young people.

UNIFORM

We have attached updated uniform lists for ALL students. Before you purchase new uniform or your child has a redesigned hair cut or they make a plea to you for a body piercing please can you and your child read the uniform /attire details very clearly. A reminder that only black and navy coats are acceptable and girl's skirts should be an appropriate length. We do not want to have difficult conversations with anyone in our first week back in September about uniform that has been purchased that is inappropriate or not on our uniform lists! In year 11 students are required to wear black blazers. A letter has been sent with year 10 reports regarding style of black blazers for year 11 that are acceptable. We have a small selection of secondhand black blazers at school for £5 if anyone would like to look. If any students have uniform no longer required please bring into the school office where they will be gratefully received.

TERM DATES

Staff return Monday 3rd September, Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13 students return to us Wednesday 5th September and Years 8- 11 return Thursday September 6th. School photographs will take place on the Thursday.

YEAR 7

Please join us in congratulating Year 7 on completing their first year at Townsend School. All students have adjusted incredibly well to secondary school life and should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. Thank you to the many parents and carers who were able to support us at the Celebration assembly yesterday. I am sure that next year, as they move into Year 8, the students will continue to be role models, particularly for the new students starting in September.

I hope that students have a good rest and enjoy their summer holidays. A reminder that the students have brought home a booklet to evaluate their progress in Year 7. I would appreciate it if you could complete this with your child, consider the information in their end of year reports, and return it to school in September. It is important that students come back in September ready and raring to go with the challenges, hard work and commitment that Year 8 will demand of us. On behalf of myself and the Form Tutors thank you for your support. Have a fantastic summer!
Miss Scott and the Year 7 Tutor Team

YEAR 8

Congratulations to all for a fantastic year, it has been fun, exciting, busy and challenging all at the same time. I am truly proud of all that the students have achieved this year both in and out of lessons, especially the work on the Children of Willesden Lane Project and all the opportunities that brought. Thank you to parents and carers for all you have done throughout the year, your support for your child and the school is appreciated. Have a great summer, don't forget to support your child with summer homework and I can't wait to see you all back in year 9 ready to start GCSEs full of energy and commitment.
Miss Reynolds

YEAR 9

Thank you all for your support over the past academic year. I have had many happy and rewarding times overlooking the progress of your children throughout year 9. I am extremely proud of what they have achieved as I am sure you as parents/carers are too. I am looking forward to seeing what next year has in store. I wish yourselves and your child the best over the summer and look forward to seeing them in September. Kind Regards, Mr Armitage

WORK EXPERIENCE 2019

Please look out for an important letter which your son or daughter will bring home this week. All Year 10 take part in the Work Experience week, which will be 13th-17th May 2019, and the letter explains what it is all about. Further information will follow in September.

Margaret Wood, Work Experience Co-ordinator

YEAR 10

Year 10 Reports have now been issued. Hopefully you will have the chance to read through the comments and discuss these with your child. Any issues or concerns please do contact the individual subject staff or if there is a wider/general issue, then please contact your child's form tutor. Thank you to everyone who attended the Progress & Achievement Evening - the feedback from pupils and parents/carers was overwhelmingly positive. Please see attached sheet. If you were unable to attend then please contact the school and make an appointment to see your child's form tutor. Even if you were unable to attend the evening your son/daughter has been given summer work to help them consolidate the learning from year 10 but also to prepare for the transition into year 11. On behalf of the Year 10 tutors and myself I'd like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer!

Mr Still

YEAR 10/KS4 SUMMER READING

Attached is a list of books for the students to choose from for their summer reading. Have a great summer from all the English Department

SIXTH FORM

We would like to say well done and congratulations to all of those students in Years 12 & 13 this year. You have worked hard towards your studies and made a significant contribution to the sixth form and the wider school community. It hasn't always been easy and there have been some tough times throughout the year, however you have all supported one another throughout and we are very proud of you. Year 13 - we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours, whether that be University, apprenticeship, employment or travelling, keep in touch - we will miss you. Year 12 - keep working hard over the summer, have a rest and recharge your batteries ready for a fresh start in September for the 30 school weeks until the exam period is upon us. Thank you for all the support from parents and carers this year, it is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continue to work closely together next year. Miss Gibbons & Mrs Buckland.

IMMUNISATIONS

The school nursing immunisation team has recently been into your child's school to deliver immunisations for Diphtheria, tetanus, polio & Meningitis ACWY in years 9 & 10 (DTP/MenACWY) & also HPV for girls in years 8 & 9.

If your child missed any of these vaccinations but you would still like them to receive them, please contact our duty number so that we can arrange some further sessions during the summer holidays.

AS a service we aim to ensure all children have the best opportunities to be fully vaccinated for their own health & also to help protect the wider community.

School nurse service duty number – 01727 732009.

Diane Carrington

SUBJECT INFORMATION

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

KS3 SUMMER HOMEWORK -

While we want our students to have a wonderful summer holiday we also want to ensure they are still improving their Reading Age and continuing to improve their reading and writing skills. It is so important that students are reading every day – 40 minutes to an hour and that what they are reading is challenging. This quote from Pearson, the educational book company, shows just how important reading is:

'Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.'

All Year 7 and 8 students should be reading a minimum of 40 minutes a day; they should be reading books that they love but that are also challenging (E.G. they need to get a dictionary to check the meaning of some words – they may need you to explain a concept or idea to them). They also have a reading/writing booklet to complete which they should bring in to the first lesson back in September.

Have a great summer from all the English Department