

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 13th October 2017

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth" Baha'u'llah

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For October our value focus is Unity "Have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind" 1 Peter 3:8. 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.

PRIMARY TEACHERS VISIT

On Monday October 16th many Year 7 students will be welcoming their 'old' teachers from primary schools to a visit to Townsend after school (3.45-5.45) Teachers and other invited guests will be meetings students in the Discovery Centre, offered tea and cake and then provided with a guided tour around the school.

If you are a year 7 parent/carer your child will have brought home a letter from Thursday showing which schools can come and which can't. Although the office is working hard in trying to contact all the outstanding primary schools, some sadly are being very slow to respond. If your child's school is not on the list I'm afraid we have to presume they are not able to come. Those students who have got teachers coming Monday should be picked up from school at 5.45pm from reception. We do thank you for your support in sorting out alternative travel arrangements for Monday.

REMINDER - PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

If you have a child at the school with additional needs – either learning or emotional – we would like to invite you to one of two meetings we are holding on **Tuesday October 17th**. We are very keen to support you as parents/carers with your children as they grow up as young adults at Townsend. In order to do this effectively we need to know from you what it is we do well and what it is we could either do better or perhaps that we don't offer and we could provide. The meeting is an informal get together for parents/carers to hear what you have to say and what it is that may help you. On occasions it can be a difficult and lonely time when things don't go well at home or at school and we would like to provide you with a support network to help on these occasions. These two meetings are not the occasions to discuss individual concerns you may have about your child but instead an occasion to collectively talk about the way forward for Townsend to support its students who may need extra help. The meetings will be held on **Tuesday October 17th**. One will be from **10.00am - 11.00am** and the other will be **6.30pm -7.30pm**.

We are hoping that these times will be able to accommodate the different outside commitments of our parents/carers.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND AGM

This is being held on Wednesday October 18th at 7pm in the school Hall. If you feel you are able to contribute something extra to the school please do come along to this AGM. If you are not sure but simply would like to meet with other parents/carers and hear a little more about how this group tries to support the work of the school

and the opportunities of the students please do join us! Light refreshments will be available.

Christmas fundraisers- once again we are holding our Annual Christmas Easter Rollover Hamper Raffle. This is a good fundraiser and with our other initiatives makes money to purchase essential items and equipment for departments benefitting all students. If any parent/carers can provide festive items for the hampers please send them in to the school office eg bottles of wine and sparkling wine, chocolates, novelty festive items, crackers, tinned and boxed foods etc.

Festive puddings and cakes sales - this was very popular last year. We have attached an order form to Parentmail. Please do try to support this fundraiser- the products are really good quality (and Mr Wellbeloved really liked his six last year!). Thank you.

Friends of Townsend

DIVERSITY DAY FRIDAY OCTOBER 20TH

It's the last weekend for students to put the finishing touches on their presentation stalls for Friday. Do you know which country your child is researching about? Can you help with any ideas or simply chat with your child about what they have found out about their country? We look forward to seeing all the fruits of their work on Friday lunch time. Thank you for your support.

YEAR 7 ACCELERATED READER

All students will have been issued with an Accelerated Reader reading book. This is part of their daily equipment and they need to have it with them for every lesson. Students should be reading 30 minutes a night during the week and 45 minutes on a Saturday and a Sunday. Students should be aiming to complete Accelerated Reader quizzes weekly and can do this during breaks and lunch as well as in their Accelerated Reader lesson. Please do encourage your child to read at home as the scheme has been proven to make a difference to the students reading ability. Thank you for your continued support. Miss Scott

SUBJECT INFORMATION

SCIENCE

This week Year 9 students have been given letters regarding the optional purchasing of revision guides. A copy of this letter is available on the School Website under KS4 Science. Please note that I will be placing the order on Wednesday 18th October so reply slips must be returned to the office by then. Any spare stock will be sold at a first come first served basis. Other students who did not previously purchase a revision guide would have also received a copy of the letter. If you would like your child to have a revision guide but you are currently struggling with a financial hardship please do contact Mrs McNeillis or your child's Director of Learner in confidence so we are able to support you.

Mrs McNeillis

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FIXTURES

- Wednesday 18th October – year 10/11 girls basketball tournament at Oaklands college 3.30 – 6pm
- Thursday 19th October – year 9 netball away vs Stags School 3.30 – 5pm

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.

On the 23rd of November, Sandringham School will be holding its first Mental Health Conference. The conference is aimed at students, parents, teachers and healthcare professionals and aims to focus on four key areas that seem to be overwhelming our education and health services - anxiety, self-harm, body image and eating disorders. We hope that as a result of attending the conference delegates feel better informed and know where to find further advice and support as a student, parent or professional.

Please see the attached flyer for more information or [book here](#). We have some great speakers and workshop hosts lined up. To date, among many others, we have booked the Head of Lean in Europe, The Director of Elysium and comedian and MH Campaigner Jake Mills plus a keynote from Johnny Benjamin MBE and the man who saved his life, Neil Laybourn. If you are not aware of Jonny's work, please see <http://jonnybenjamin.co.uk> and his award winning channel 4 documentary, The Stranger on the Bridge.

For teachers and healthcare professionals, there is a charge of £35. For parents we would ask for a small minimum donation of £10 – with all proceeds going to the OLLIE Foundation charity. For students, the event is free of charge.