

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

If we wait until we're ready, we'll be waiting for the rest of our lives – Lemony Snicket

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For December our value focus is Joy 'Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds' James 1:2 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.

**HEADTEACHERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

It was lovely to see so many parents/carers grandparents and friends at our Christingle Service on Wednesday. It really was a lovely service and I would like to thank all those students and teachers who contributed or helped make it happen. As we reach the end of a busy first term of the academic year, it is time to rest, relax, recharge batteries and spend quality time with those we love. Sadly Christmas will not be a happy time for all our families. As we are aware, a number of families will be handling sad memories from recent bereavements, a growing number will be worrying about financial concerns and some will be living under a roof that is not a home. We send our love and prayers to all these particular families and pray that 2019 will bring better things.

This term we are saying good bye to Mrs Rennae Patterson who has sadly only been with us since September. We wish her well in her new job much closer to home. We have arranged for a replacement for Mrs Patterson next term in the Technology department and Ms Kirk will be taking over as 7Canterbury Form Tutor. In January we will also welcome back Mrs McNeillis as Director of Learning for Science to return to her teaching timetable. We thank Mrs Phull for all her work standing in for Mrs McNeillis since September 2018 and hope that she will continue to teach science here next term.

Thank you all for your support and engagement with the school over this term. We look forward to seeing the students return on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**

Christmas can be a joyful occasion but it can also bring additional stresses and anxieties. We have already provided telephone numbers and website details students can access through the holidays should they feel anxious or sad about anything but we thought it would be useful for you as parents/carers to have a reminder of the support services that are available to you too

There is the Health for Teens website that provides support and advice on a number of issues including anxiety <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/> .Please do have a look at this website with your child. We would also recommend Kooth <https://kooth.com/> and Healthy Young Minds in Herts <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/> This last website offers advice to young people and parents/carers.

We have also taken this from the Healthy Young Minds in Herts Website

***Need help now?***

*What to do if you need help now*

*If you, a friend or relative are experiencing mental health problems now you can:  
Phone: 0300 777 0707 between 8am and 7pm or 01438 843322 between 5pm and 8am (Hertfordshire mental health helpline)*

*Minicom: 0300 777 0909*

*If it is an emergency, dial 999 and ask for an Ambulance*

*Alternatively you can:*

*Contact your GP - to search for a GP in your area or to find the contact details for your practice, please see the GP section on [NHS Choices](#)*

*Go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department*

*Phone the NHS 111 service free of charge from any phone*

*Phone The Samaritans on 116 123*

*Call Childline on 0800 1111*

*If it's not urgent but you're struggling with how you're feeling, there are lots of organisations to help you [listed here](#). If you'd rather not talk, why not visit [Kooth.com](#) and get online support instead?*

## **YEAR 8**

Congratulations to all Year 8 students on completing this busy term. Next term will be a very exciting and important time for students as they will be choosing their options for GCSE study. On behalf of all of us in the Year 8 team we would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support. We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Miss Scott and the Year 8 Tutors.

## **YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS**

In line with the national immunisation programme all children in year 9 are offered immunisation boosters against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal ACWY. All the details you need regarding these immunisations are in the letter attached to the bulletin. There is also a link to the electronic consent within the letter. Can we remind you the electronic consent form will close at 10pm February 4th. The Year 9 immunisations will take place in school **Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> (apologies this is an amended date)** Your child cannot be immunised unless you have provided your consent.

## **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

Students are starting to make their choices from the database, and after the holiday, when everyone has had time to browse carefully, I shall start allocating placements. A few students who have requested private placements that have now been approved will bring home their offers before the end of term. Offers consist of a job description, which should be read carefully; a medical form to complete; a consent form to be signed by a parent or guardian if you are happy with the offer, plus a request for a contribution towards the cost. Completed forms and payment should be handed in to the school office as soon as possible after the holiday.

Many thanks

Happy Christmas!

Margaret Wood

## **YEAR 11**

Students have been given their Grade sheets today. These should be coming home to you so you can discuss with your child what now needs to happen. The sheets include Target Grades Predicted Grades and Examination Grades. The examination

grades are very mixed and this is quite usual at this stage of year 11. Only the students will know how much revision they completed but the key point is that students learn from these examinations and work with their teachers to improve examination performance for the final core examinations in March and for the full set of GCSE examinations in May and June. Some students who underperformed will be required to do extra work over the holiday break and you should have by now been notified about this. Next term the students will benefit from regular examination practice and technique from in all subject areas. Thank you for your ongoing support. The times ahead will still be stressful but a strong partnership between home and school will certainly help your child achieve their very best.

Well done to our Year 11 students for largely getting through the Christmas term in one piece! It has been a very long and demanding term with a large number of trial exams taking place towards the end of it. We hope that you and the students now have an idea of where they are at in all their subjects and can use this as a platform to build upon in the new year.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YEAR 11**

#### **Year 11 Hoodies**

We are looking to get an order sent off in the new year, the cost of the hoodies will be in the region of £22 (dependent on numbers), I will require some deposit money in the New Year, please keep an eye out for a letter shortly.

#### **Year 11 Prom**

I have provisionally booked the Year 11 prom for Thursday 27th June, at the Aubrey Park Hotel, it's the same venue as last year's prom. The cost will be £36, letters will go out in the New Year with more details. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact me in confidence so that we can support you. I know some families were looking at holiday dates so I thought I'd let you know dates in advance.

Many thanks,  
Mr A Still

### **SIXTH FORM**

Well done to all year 12 and 13 students this term. Many of you have worked tirelessly towards your A Levels and BTEC qualifications. Have a rest over the Christmas break and return ready to work again in January. Sixth form parent/carers evening is Thursday 10th January 5-8pm. Students should be making appointments with all subject teachers for each subject they take. Year 13 will be bringing home grade sheets this week to share with parents their trial examination grades and predicted grades. Subject teachers will have made contact with any parent/carers where there are concerns about subject predicted grades. Thanks, Miss Gibbons

**FIRST AID COURSE** - Friday 1st February 11am-2pm, sixth form are being given the opportunity to take part in a first aid course. The cost is £25 and parents should pay on line via Schoolcomms. Students have been given letters about this opportunity. Thanks, Miss Gibbons

### **DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS**

Thank you so much to all who came to support the students after all their hard work, it was a massive success and all profits will go into the summer show.

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

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock'. Audition sign up will take place on Wednesday 9th January, with the auditions to take place on

**Wednesday 16th January 3:30-4:30.** We will be advertising the production in assemblies and through posters this week and the first week back. All students from all years are welcome to come and get involved, we need good performers, musicians and stage crew to create a fantastic show.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)**

Season's Greetings to all Parents, Carers and Friends.

*CHRISTMAS SUPER HAMPER RAFFLE.* Thank you for your support! We raised over £800! Thanks to those who bought raffle tickets, gave prizes and helped prepare the hampers. We also had donations of Hampers, M&S vouchers, a lay down plant bed and wines.

*LOGS* - Thank you to those who have bought logs - this raised over £200!

Thank you to all those members who have helped with *PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENINGS.* Our refreshments sales at parent/carer consultations and the Dickensian Evening raised £210.

The *TOMBOLA* at the Dickensian Night raised £60.

The *CHRISTMAS PRESENT* Shop raised over £300

In total since September 2018 we have therefore raised £1570 that we all towards resources or equipment for the students at Townsend

Many thanks for all your support this term.

Friends of Townsend (PTA)

### **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

#### **DRAMA**

**Year 7** - have just completed their Pantomime assessments and will be working on Macbeth next term.

**Year 8** - have completed their masked assessments and will be working on spontaneous improvisation next term.

**Year 9** - have moved on to devising and will need to complete their research homework over Christmas. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 10** - are now preparing for their Component 2 and have been given their groups and stimuli, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. Students will need to complete their research on the devising topics and themes over Christmas. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 11** - have completed their trial examinations, seen their results and will be preparing for their Live theatre trip in January. They have been given the script to read over Christmas and tasks to complete so they are prepared. 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 involved in the New Views National Theatre project have had their last workshop and need to do the bulk of their writing over the Christmas period with their first drafts due in for February. Sessions will resume after Christmas.

#### **ENGLISH**

##### **Reading Years 9,10 and 11**

It is essential all students continue to read and develop their reading skills all the way up to GCSE in Year 11. It is often difficult for parents/carers to know what books to buy so here is a KS4 reading list that will hopefully inspire some Christmas reading. Christmas stocking fillers perhaps!

### **Classics**

Jane Austin	Emma – Sense and Sensibility – Pride and Prejudice
Robert Louis Stevenson	Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Gulliver’s Travels
Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights
Joseph Conrad	Heart of Darkness – Under Western Eyes
Arthur Conan Doyle	Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

### **Modern Classics**

J.G. Ballard	Empire of the Sun
John Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
Sebastian Faulkes	Birdsong
Joseph Heller	Catch 22
Kazuo Ishiguro	Remains of the Day

### **Non Fiction Travel Writing**

Bill Bryson	Lost Continent – Neither Here Nor There – Notes from a Small Island
Michael Palin	Pole to Pole – Full Circle
Janet Street Porter	Coast to Coast

### **Autobiographies**

Kelly Holmes	Black, White and Gold
Nelson Mandela	Long Walk to Freedom
Frank McCourt	Angela’s Ashes
Frank Lampard	Totally Frank
Roald Dahl	Tales of Childhood

It is essential that students are doing a minimum of 40 minutes reading per evening in order to ensure their reading age continues to improve in line with their chronological age; this is not just important for English but all subjects. If parent/carers can become involved in the reading – asking questions to check understanding – this ensures students are getting the best from their reading.

For all parent/carers of year 11 students, please be aware that homework over Christmas has been set based on their recent trial examination results.

### **Years 7&8**

Students can only sit the reading quizzes on books that are in the Accelerated Reader (AR) system but the system contains thousands of books – not just the ones in our library. If you have books at home, or are thinking of getting books for Christmas presents then use the AR website to check if the books are ‘testable’. Please remember students need to be reading at the top end of their ZPD levels (your child is given an updated ZPD level after every reading age test – usually once every half term.) the web site is [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com).  
Happy Christmas Reading – Mrs Bunyan

### **GEOGRAPHY**

GCSE Revision guides will be available to buy after the January holidays - these are £5.50 each and cash should be given to Mrs Buckland in a sealed envelope with your child's name on. I am still awaiting arrival from the supplier but hope they will arrive in the new year promptly. Should you be experiencing a particular financial need please do contact your child’s Director of Learning for the Year group in confidence so that we can discuss how can we support you with this resource. There will also be spare copies in the Discovery Centre that students can borrow.

**Curriculum:** Next term we will move onto new units for all year groups as follows:

Year 7 - Earth Sciences (geology, weathering and mass movement)  
Year 8 - Cold environments and Glaciation (why we have cold regions, different cold biomes, processes in cold environments, glaciation)  
Year 9 - Urban Issues and Challenges  
Year 10 - The Living World  
Year 11 - Revision - Paper 1

To support the learning of these topics at home, general reading and research about these topics can be found on National Geographic, Royal Geographical Society, BBC news and BBC Bitesize websites - links below:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

<https://www.rgs.org/geography/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

Year 9-11 can also access excellent resources on GCSE Pod - and should be watching and listening to the information on here alongside the topics we are studying in class.

### **Year 10 and 11 study club**

Tuesday 15th January - yr10 and 11 study club commences. This will be held each week in HU5/7. The table attached shows topics which will be covered each week. The Geography Department wish you all a very merry Christmas.

## **HISTORY**

### **Year 7**

Year 7 students have now submitted their half termly project for History. A whole-school exhibition of the castle projects will take place on Friday 11th January. Students will also be provided with a hard copy of a list of ways they can extend their knowledge for the Middle Ages unit. This can be accessed on SMHW.

### **Year 9 & 10 GCSE**

The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Year 9 need 'Crime and Punishment' and Year 10 'American West' at the cost of £4. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds (Year 9) or Mr Armitage (Year 10) in confidence so that we can support you.

### **Year 11 GCSE**

History revision sessions will resume the first week back to school and will continue to be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Numeracy Tip**

New Years resolutions? How about visiting this website [www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/advice-for-families](http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/advice-for-families) which gives excellent advice on how you can support your own and your child's numeracy skills. It also includes information on how you can help your child with their homework and how the curriculum works.

Mr Timpson - Lead in Numeracy