

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

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Believe you can and you're half way there – Theodore Roosevelt

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For September our value focus is Respect. 'Treat others the same way you want them to treat you' Luke 6.31. 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 6 RECRUITMENT OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

A reminder that the school will closed from 12.30pm on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> as staff are working on preparations for the evening. Students will have an early lunch and register at 12.20 to leave at 12.30. Barnetts and Smiths buses will be here for that time.

We do thank you for your support with this important evening - whether it is transporting your child back to school at 6.45pm to help, collecting them at 8.45pm when we finish, helping out yourself as a parent/carer or simply spreading the word around your community or local primary school to encourage families to visit through the evening. Thank you!

**DEDICATION SERVICE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3RD**

This is taking place October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm and students will be required to make alternative transport arrangements home from the Cathedral at 3pm. If you are travelling by car to pick up your child do please allow plenty of time as it is Market Day in St Albans and the traffic that is normally quite heavy anyway will be even worse! Ensure you have agreed clearly with your child where it is you are meeting them. Students will leave the Cathedral through the West Gate.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**YEAR 11 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

Advance notice for the up and coming Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 18th October. We are looking forward to seeing all parents/carer for an early indication as to how the students have settled back into their studies.

**YEAR 11 PROM**

This has been provisionally booked for Thursday 27th June. I know some parents/carers wanted to book holidays around this date, so this is the reason for the early information on this!

Mr Still

**SUBJECT INFORMATION**

**LANGUAGES**

As we are at the beginning of a new school year, I would like to ask you to consider purchasing some useful resources for your children to use in their French studies:

**Recommended Languages Resources all students**

It would be very useful for all students to have their own French/ English dictionary to use at home when preparing their homework. A school dictionary such as the

Collins Gem French School Dictionary contains key vocabulary and verb tables and costs £4.99 from Amazon or high street bookshops.

### **Key Stage 4 Resources (Years 9, 10,11)**

As you are probably aware, a new specification has been introduced for Languages GCSEs with the first examinations following this specification taking place in 2018. As part of the new GCSE, there is a greater emphasis on a secure grasp of French grammar. In order to help students develop their grammatical knowledge a new workbook has been created especially for the Edexcel exam board which we follow. I would like to request that all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 studying French purchase this grammar and translation workbook to help them prepare for the new exam. The workbook will be used for classwork, homework and is also an excellent revision resource. The price is £5.99 and it can be purchased from Amazon or high street bookshops. Details as follows:

Studio Edexcel GCSE French Grammar and Translation Workbook  
Publisher: Pearson Education  
ISBN: 9781292132990  
Price: £5.99

I will be in touch with more information about revision resources for Year 11 soon.

If any families are experiencing difficulties and would like to discuss financial assistance to purchase these resources, please do contact your child's Director of Learning or Mrs. Livesey, Head of Languages in confidence.

### **Year 11 GCSE intervention**

Tuesday lunchtimes and Thursday after school in LA1 and LA2

In order to help students prepare and practise further for the speaking and writing papers in particular, Higher and Foundation support sessions are available to all Year 11 students studying French. Some students, for whom the sessions are essential to improve their current predicted grade, will be advised that they need to attend regularly.

**Year 7 French Club Fridays** 1.30pm to 1.50pm in LA1 starting Friday 28th September

Year 7 French club starts next week in LA1. The club is going to be run by our Year 10 Languages ambassadors who are all studying French at GCSE. They will be offering help with homework, the opportunity to play language games to practise your French and cultural experiences.

Next week for the first meeting to celebrate **European Languages Day**, there will be a Kahoot quiz about the languages used in Europe with prizes for the winners.

A reminder about our activities for European Languages Day:

### **EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER**

To celebrate European Languages Day on Wednesday 26th September, the Languages Department is running 2 competitions, one for KS3 (Years 7 and 8) and the other for KS4 (Years 9,10,11).

Students have been told about the competitions in their language lessons, but please pass on the following information:

#### **KS3 (Years 7&8) Lebkuchen Gingerbread Competition**

Students should use their cooking skills to make Lebkuchen (gingerbread) and decorate with European phrases/ themes.

Creations marked clearly with the name and form should be brought in on Wednesday 26th September to the MFL classrooms (LA1 and LA2) before school or during break. Entries will be on display at Open Evening and will be judged by the teachers on Thursday. Gingerbread can be collected at the end of P5 on Thursday from LA1 and LA2. Prizes and house points will be awarded for taste and presentation. Recipe sheets will be available from the French teachers.

#### **KS4 (YEARS 9-11) Guess the Member of Staff Competition**

During French lessons in the week commencing 24th September, students will complete a quiz to identify linguistically talented members of the Townsend school staff speaking another language. They will hear a number of short extracts and will need to work out the language being spoken and the person who is speaking and complete an entry form which will be provided.

All correct entries will be entered in a prize draw.

### **ENGLISH - FOCUS ON YEARS 7&8**

#### **Roald Dahl Celebrations**

Well done to all the Year 7s and 8s who entered the Roald Dahl competition – we had some amazing entries. WELL DONE.

#### **National Poetry Day 4TH October 2018**

To mark and celebrate National Poetry Day this year we will be having a poetry competition for Year 7. This is a national competition called 'The Lost Words' and asks students to describe an animal in the form of an acrostic poem. More details to follow in the next bulletin but perhaps you can start looking at acrostic poems with your children to help them understand what they can do – and have fun sharing a love for words.

#### **Reading**

It is essential that students continue to develop their reading throughout school. This is an area of your child's progress that you can have a huge impact on. While many students read 'fluently' this does not mean they fully 'understand' what they have read. Being able to 'read' a sentence fluently is not the same as being able to explore the tone, style and connotation of the words they are reading. GCSE examination texts are aimed at a reading age of 15 years and 8 months – the average age of a student taking their GCSE examinations. If a student's reading age falls below their chronological age then they go into their examinations with an obvious disadvantage. If they can't understand what they are reading they will not be able to analyse it. So how can you help? Make sure your son or daughter is doing their reading homework. We recommend at least 30 minutes per day. Listen to them read but more importantly question them on what they have read.

- Why do you think the character did that?
- How do you think he feels when that happens?
- How would you describe the tone of this chapter?
- Which word suggests...?
- What other word means the same as...?
- What do you think might happen next?

It is their ability to explore, analyse and assess a text that is important not the 'fluency' of their reading – no one 'listens' to them read in an exam!

#### **Year 7**

Students are currently studying 'Harris Burdick' which in essence is a creative writing scheme of work. Students create descriptive and narrative writing based on a set of intriguing pictures. To support your children play the adjective game. Pick an image and ask them to come up with 5 adjectives to describe the image – now using a

thesaurus improve the adjectives and use them in a short paragraph describing the image.

### **Year 8**

Students are currently reading 'Of Mice and Men' which if you have older children might recognise as a GCSE text. By introducing more challenging texts in years 7 & 8 we are building and developing key analytical skills, needed in Year 11, at a much earlier stage – improving outcomes at GCSE. This particular novel deals with lots of complex social issues and discussing these with your children (racism, sexism, ageism, mental disabilities and physical disabilities) will help them better appreciate the book and make them more confident to discuss them in class.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **Year 11**

Please note students will be starting their 20 hours of controlled assessment for Computer Science. All students must complete the task within the supervised sessions. Please do try to support them in their review of their programming skills. Thank you Mrs King

## **FOOD TECHNOLOGY**

### **Year 7**

Attached is a list of ingredients and the dates for cooking for 7YDT3 with Mrs Coates. Please contact me if there are any issues with getting the ingredients.

## **DRAMA**

### **Year 8**

This half term's home learning project has been set for year 8, they have been given a hard copy sheet in class and there is also a copy on show my homework for them to access. It is a 5 week project which will help them to improve their knowledge of playwriting and give them a chance to be really creative. Please contact Mrs Coates if there are any issues with the project.

### **Drama Club Christmas Show**

A big congratulation to all students who took part in auditions on Wednesday. Attached is a rehearsal schedule that your child was given to bring home to you. Please could permission slips from the letter they were given, be returned ASAP and we hope you will come and enjoy the production in December.

## **MUSIC**

### **INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

If your child is continuing instrumental lessons from last term, they have started this week. They take place on the following days:

- Monday: Violin, Viola and Drumming/Percussion
- Wednesday: Piano
- Friday: Flute, Singing and Guitar

Please encourage your child to check their time in the music block or with the school office so that they know when they need to attend.

If you have recently registered your child for lessons, Hertfordshire Music Service should have been in touch to arrange billing/remission of fees for these directly. They have not been able to get hold of some families who submitted forms, so please do keep an eye out for their phone call or email. If you have not heard from them, please get in touch with Miss Kirk.

New students are being added to the lesson registers as soon as their paperwork is processed. Students will be given a reminder card with their lesson time for the first week, that they will put in their planner.

If you still wish to sign your child up for instrumental or singing lessons, you can register them directly with the Music Service at [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk)  
If you cannot do this via the Internet, Miss Kirk has paper copies available.

## **HISTORY**

History club is launching on Wednesday 19th September starting at 1.30 in room HU8 for all years.

### **Year 7**

Students are currently practising chronological and source skills with a focus on Anglo-Saxon England in their History lessons. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zq2m6sg#zxxxtfr> on SMHW which will help them get an overview and understanding of the unit.

### **Year 8**

Students are currently studying the British Empire and are considering the changes and continuities to present day. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

### **Year 9 GCSE**

Students are currently studying a non-examined unit this term on the topic of the First World War. This is to help them prepare and develop examination skills. The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Students will study Paper 1 (Crime and Punishment) from January and it is suggested they procure themselves with a copy at the cost of £4 in order to embed revision skills early in the course. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds in confidence so that we can support you.

### **Year 10 GCSE**

Students will now study Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 this term. We encourage students to purchase the American West revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you. History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students this week and put on SMHW. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

### **Year 11 GCSE**

Year 11 History students have received a letter for a trip opportunity on Wednesday 7th November 2018 to spend the day on a guided tour in London (Whitechapel area - historic environment for Paper 1). We ask that permission slips and payment is complete by the latest Monday 15th October. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Still in confidence so that we can support you. Students will continue to study Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students this week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

## **GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS**

As I'm sure you are aware there has been a lot of geography in the news over the last couple of weeks. Tropical storms have hit the US, the Caribbean, Mexico and elsewhere in the Americas. The UK has also been ravaged by Storm Ali this week. As well as these storms many other geographical topics have been in the news this week - reports about the effects of Brexit, migration problems in Europe, the plight of the British wasp and reports of issues linked to social deprivation and crime.

Geography is always in the news. We have been discussing a lot of these current affairs topics with our students in geography lessons over the last 3 weeks and it would be fantastic if you can chat to your children about what is in the news too - it heightens not just geographical knowledge and understanding - but also general literacy and knowledge of the world we live in. Excellent websites to use at home and for Geography homework include the national newspapers websites e.g. The Guardian, The Times, The independent and websites below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>  
<https://news.sky.com/uk>  
<http://time.com/>  
<http://geographical.co.uk/>

If you need any help with accessing these sites or would like to discuss more, please feel free to contact me at school.

Mrs Buckland

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Results**

Cross Country – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Year 7 girls

- Nina – 9<sup>th</sup> Place

Year 7 boys

- Gianni – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

- Hayden – 5<sup>th</sup> Place

### **Fixtures**

- District Cross Country – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at Nicholas Breakspear School  
3.30 – 5pm

- Year 9 Netball vs St Albans High School – away. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3.30 –5.30pm

## **COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

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

## **NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY**

YouTube is the world's largest video platform and the 2nd biggest search platform (after Google), with over 1.8 billion users per month, and this free guide for parents & carers covers what they need to know about the platform to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; age inappropriate videos, in-app messaging, dangerous challenge/viral videos, digital wellbeing and more.

Please help us spread the message by retweeting our YouTube guide for parents & carers here: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1042355435871846401>

For more information regarding our NOS Certified School Community package, developed in line with the new 2018 DfE Statutory Guidance, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', please complete the form here:  
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/online-safety-certified-schools-accreditation/>

Many thanks for your continued support and for helping us to achieve a safer online world for children!