

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd March 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Ask not what your Country can do for you, ask what you can do for your Country' John F Kennedy

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For March our value focus is Justice 'Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!' Psalms 106.3 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 13

Please relay this information to your child

Feeling overwhelmed and I don't know how to start revising?

Here are some tips:

Get the specification for a subject

Get 3 past papers

Get 3 mark schemes

Get your notes and create a flash card for each specification point

Use the mark schemes to help you check your flash cards are good enough for the topic

or

Find a video about your subject that you find interesting to help get you stimulated to start thinking and revising.

Whatever you do, just start! It will become easier the more you do. Ask your teachers for additional resources and ask for their help.

Miss Lisa Gibbons

YEAR 11

Final Trial Examinations in English mathematics and science

Well done to the Year 11 pupils who this week sat their final trial examinations in English, Mathematics and Science. Overall, student's response to the examinations seemed quite positive which is encouraging. Students must be congratulated on their high standards of behaviour and attitude towards this week. Staff are now busy with marking so that they can feedback to the pupils before the holidays identifying strengths and areas to focus on.

There were still some issue with a lack of equipment which we do ask that you address with your child. There is plenty of time between now and May for your child to go shopping! If there are financial implications, or you need clarification as to what is required please contact the school and we will try and help where possible.

After a short time to relax and recharge the batteries, revision should then be back in place for the final run in before the examinations start in May. There are only five school/teaching weeks left so please encourage your child to take every advantage of lessons and what teachers have to offer.

Many thanks, Mr Still

Year 11 Prom

Letters have been given out for this event, but just a reminder that the cost is £36 payable in two instalments or one, by cash, cheque, or on line by 31st May. The prom is at the Aubrey Park Hotel on Thursday 27th June, 7pm to midnight.

Thank you, Mr Still

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

I urgently need any outstanding completed consent and medical forms for work Experience. Please check (all form tutors have an updated list of who is concerned) and return these to the school office asap and at the latest by the end of next week (29 Mar). Placements are not confirmed and employers are not expecting a student until I am able to notify them. Those students going to Herts Fire and Rescue will have brought home special addition forms which must also be returned asap please.

Thank you Margaret Wood

YEAR 10 SWANAGE TRIP - 24-26TH APRIL – YEAR 10

The parent/carers information evening will be held at 6pm on April 3rd.

Please be aware that the trip takes place in the week straight after we return from the Easter holidays. There are still a few final payments outstanding and I would be grateful if you could ensure these are made as a matter of urgency as we have now fully paid for the trip. If you are facing financial difficulties please contact me in confidence to discuss your payment plan. Thank you Mrs Buckland

YEAR 8 GCSE OPTIONS

Thank you to all parent/carers who attended the Options evening last Thursday evening. A reminder that option preference forms should be completed and handed to Form Tutors by Thursday 28th March. We hope you found the evening helpful and supportive. If you need any further information please do not hesitate in contacting the relevant subject teachers or Form Tutors. Miss Scott.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP

A belated thank you to all that came to the last Parent Support Group on March 5th. The talk about the 'rage cycle' given by Add-vance Training was interesting and practical. We have the slides for this, so if you would like them emailed to you, please let Reception know. We have decided to open up the Support Group to ALL Parents/Carers, not just for those who have children with special educational needs. It is important that everyone has the chance to come and chat, share their worries and feel supported by us. The next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd April, 10-11am, so please come along, you will be most welcome.

Thanks

Penny Baker

RESILIENCE TALK FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS

Thank you to all those Townsend parents/carers who attended on Wednesday evening. The talk from Dr Kathy Weston about 'building resilience' in our young people was truly inspirational and included so many excellent and simple examples of minor changes we can make to our language and to our management of situations. We will forward the slides from the course to those who attended as soon as we receive them. In total 222 people attended from DSPL7.

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

The Marlborough Science Academy is holding an Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 27th March, 5 – 8 pm, in the school's Da Vinci Hall. Students and parents are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

The rehearsal schedule- a copy has been given to your child when they received their script, if you need another copy please see Miss Kirk or Mrs Coates. All permission slips for image use need to be returned to Mrs Coates ASAP as we would love to start recording images from the rehearsal process for this year's show. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates. A scheduled for lunch time music sessions has been given out by Miss Kirk, can all students who are learning instrumental or singing parts for the show please check this schedule and make sure they attend the extra sessions.

HOMEWORK CLUB

There is **NO** homework club on Tuesday 2nd April due to staff training.

GCSEPOD

As mentioned in previous parentmails, Townsend has been competing in PODgames, a competition based on the number of pods used by our students in a set period. We made it through the regional competition and are now competing with 45 other schools from around the World. There are two divisions; large schools and smaller schools. We are competing with 23 other smaller schools. We are currently 7th in the world!

This week's top users, who win an early lunch pass, are:

Year	Pupil	Pods Watched this week
9E	Robert	34
10C	Millie	86
11Ex	Aimee	191

GCSEPOD of the week

This week's pod of the week comes from History. Some students in Year 9 have been studying the development of the Police Force. All students studying History could watch the following pod and then note down all the changes to the Police Force in the 20th Century and give a tick for an improvement, a cross for a concern and dash for any you are unsure of:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11503>

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND

Mothers Day and Easter Gift shop will take place in the Founders Foyer on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th March and Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th April. Lots of reasonably priced gifts for sale at lunchtimes.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA

NEW VIEWS

Students have had their second session with the visiting playwright and should now be continuing to work on their final scripts, there will be a visit to see a free play at National Theatre in May and letters will be sent home by the end of next week for this.

Year 7 - Are now working on a scheme of work called Wacky Soap which is a storytelling and role play scheme based around drugs and peer pressure using a metaphor of Wacky Soap.

Year 8 - Are now working on a project about The Titanic where they will create their own miniature GCSE style performance.

Year 9 - Are developing ideas for their devising and are settled in their groups. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 10 - Are now preparing for their Component 2 and have all settled on their ideas for their pieces, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home soon with all the details for parents. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 11 - Have now completed the visiting examiner section of their examination which counts for 20% of the GCSE, they did an excellent job and I am very proud of them. Students have now completed 60% of the GCSE and have only the written exam left which counts for 40% of the final marks. Students now have personalised revision pack with lots of extra reading and tasks to improve their written exam skills. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

GEOGRAPHY RESOURCES

There are a range of online resources students can access to research about the world we live in and the topical issues that are occurring at the moment. I have outlined a few below that have value and link to topics students are currently learning. If you do not have internet access at home students could use public libraries or they can use the Discovery Centre at lunch times in school.

Years 7 & 8

<https://www.geographyinthenews.org.uk/archive/>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrw76sg>

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/natural-resources/>

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

www.senecalearning.com

GCSE Pod

Year 11 Geography

Please be aware that we have completed teaching the course to year 11 and are now revising for paper 1&2, we will begin preparing for paper 3 in due course.

All students should be actively revising at home during their allocated geography homework time. I would expect them to be spending at least 2 hours a week at home on geography revision. They have resources from school, their books and GCSE pod and GCSE BBC Bitesize to use. Revision guides are available to buy directly from school. The online resources on Seneca Learning are also excellent for geography and support the specification well, it is another free online resource.

If you would like to discuss any of these aspects please feel free to contact your child's geography teacher.

HISTORY

Year 7

Students have embarked on a cultural exchange project with a French, Greek, Turkish and French school focusing on 'myths and legends'. They are also learning how to develop oral presentation skills in lessons.

Year 8

Students have been set their History extended learning project titled 'Who do you think you are?' It is due for class submission early April. Students are expected to work and complete this in their own time. History teachers are regularly checking the progress students are making throughout the term. Please refer to project sheet received in lesson and SMHW for instructions and deadlines. It is important to note that students should not be bringing in original and official documentation such as passports in school. All personal information put into this project will be treated in full confidentiality and locked up in our Humanities office.

Year 10 GCSE

Early Elizabethan England revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Please speak to Mr Armitage if there are financial implications.

Year 11 GCSE

History revision sessions are held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students have also been provided with a free red revision guide produced by the department which has useful information about revision sessions, exam dates, examination technique, key notes, timelines, glossary, exam question banks and practice papers. Please encourage your child to use this as part of their regular history revision.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip: Percentages

Negotiate increases in pocket money as percentages. For example, a 5% increase would be how much money per week? Is this better than a monthly increase? Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or birthday money and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week?

For more information on supporting your child with numeracy please visit <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/your-childs-maths> or speak to your child's Mathematics teacher.

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

RE DEPARTMENT

Spirited Poetry Competition

This is open to all students and we are letting you know what has been given to them.

Write a poem of 30 lines on less on one of these themes; - Pilgrimages and journeys, Questions, questions, Where is God? Window on the soul or Mystery of life.

The 10 best poems will be entered into a competition being run by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education.

Ms Passmore

SCIENCE

British Science Week at Townsend finished with a talk to year 8 students. Our guest speaker works for Glaxosmithkline pharmaceutical company and his particular job involves discovering new medicines. So our theme of journeys was looked at from the point of the journey from having the idea to the production of a new medicine.

Our speaker explained that it usually takes 10 to 15 years of research before a new medicine goes into production and can cost up to a billion pounds! He explained the strict testing procedures at each stage of development from testing on individual cells to healthy people to people actually suffering from the condition that the medicine was being made to help. During the talk students were asked questions about what had been said and at the end there was the opportunity to ask our speaker some questions. Our students came up with some interesting and insightful questions which our speaker answered to the appreciation of all listening. Mr Morgan

A LEVEL SCIENCE REVISION

For those students that did not pre-order their A level Science revision guides and work books they are now available to purchase from their Science Teachers. The work book is full of exam style practise questions that will really help pupils to prepare for their upcoming exams. There is currently the opportunity to buy the bundle of the two together at an excellent value price of £12 (RRP £30.98), or the separately at £9 for the revision guide (RRP £19.50) or £5.50 for the work book. Although we highly recommend these guides they are not compulsory items. However, we do not want any child to be disadvantaged because of a financial need and we are aware that for many of our families, finances in this present climate are tight. If your child wishes to purchase these but it is not possible to provide the money for this please contact me in confidence and we will make alternative arrangements. Mrs McNeillis.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

There are still a few places available on our **Student Finance Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 3rd April 19:30-21:00.**

We recognise that the cost of university is a major concern for young people and their parents/carers so we want to offer parents/carers the opportunity to hear the latest information from our Fees and Funding team and to have their questions answered. The evening will include light refreshments and address the following areas:

- What is student finance and how does the application process work?
- What funding is available (including bursaries and scholarships)?
- What support is available whilst at university?
- Budgeting advice and tips

Click [here](#) for more information and to book a place. We have attached the flyer for the event, should you wish to pass this information on.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We look forward to welcoming you to the University.