

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 23rd FEBRUARY 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'We can not solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them' – Albert Einstein

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For February our value focus is Love; 'This is my commandment; that you love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12 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.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

Support our school but at the same time have a great night out by joining us on Thursday May 10th at 8pm for a Abbey Theatre Charity evening performance of 'On Golden Pond' '. Tickets are now on sale at £12 each. This includes a welcome drink for

'On Golden Pond' is a family saga suitable for all secondary school aged students. Friends and family members are also welcome. The Abbey Theatre St Albans is next to Westminster Lodge Hollywell Hill.

Townsend is sharing the charity night with the Hands Together Project who help communities in Nepal. All profits for this performance will be shared between the charity and Townsend. If you are interested in the evening please contact Finola Murphy (finola@practice-perfect.net) to buy tickets or call 07778 855875 for more details.

There is a **Friends of Townsend Committee Meeting** on Thursday March 8th 7.00pm at school. Please do join us to share any ideas or to offer your support for fundraising at Townsend

Bags to School

We are collecting clothing, shoes, trainers, belts and bags. Please send in by Easter. Many thanks Friends of Townsend (PTA)

ATTENDANCE

The expectation for a child's attendance at school is above 95%. Below 90% is deemed by the Government as Persistent Absence. Following recent analysis it has become very clear that the attendance of a number of students has dropped since the first half term back in September and we need your support to ensure it improves again promptly. We understand that through November to February there are often more colds and illnesses but we do urge you as parents/carers to please be quite firm with students in sending children into school unless they are really poorly. There is a very strong correlation between attendance and achievement and we want all our students to have the best opportunity of achieving their very best in each group. They cannot do this if they are not in school or arriving late each morning. Miss Lingwood is meeting with the Local Authority linked Attendance Officer for Townsend and during this meeting they will be looking at further ways of raising the school's attendance for all students. Already the school offer an exhaustive list of strategies and interventions to support parents with attendance but ultimately it is a parent/carers responsibility to ensure a child comes to school each day and on time.

The school are always keen to support home where there are concerns about a child's attendance or reluctance to come to school. Form tutors should be contacted early and spoken to directly. Mrs Trigg and Mrs Hutchinson do a tremendous amount of work with students who have worries or anxieties. They will also meet and greet students in the morning. Where appropriate the school also access external agencies for additional support. If your child is not well – is it really bad enough for them not to come to school? Is there a pattern of absence on a certain day of the week? Have you asked them if there is an assessment or test? Have they had a fall out with their friends? Do you know what % your child is currently sitting at with regards attendance? For ongoing absence we will require evidence of medical intervention and a reminder for all our families that we do not authorise holidays in term times. We feel it is vital at Townsend that we work with parents/carers regarding attendance but where there is ongoing absence that is unauthorised or not supported with medical information we are now seeking advice from our Attendance Officer with regards to further interventions we can implement. If your child is absent please ring the school office with a reason on the first day of absence – this will help us to ensure that we know the whereabouts of every child by 9.30am. If you do wish to talk to anyone about your child's attendance or you have concerns please contact your child's form tutor or Director of Learning. Thank you for your ongoing support

R.A.I.S.E. AMBASSADORS

This week the R.A.I.S.E. (Respect Achieve Inspire Support Encourage) Ambassadors have been given their badges. Students will now be able to easily identify them in School. If your child would like to talk to an Ambassador they can come along to the Discovery Centre every Wednesday from 1.30pm.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAY 2018

Curriculum Enrichment Day – This day was organised to provide additional learning for students beyond the school curriculum. In many cases students were also working with unfamiliar peers with activities not accessed before. We felt it was a really positive day. *'It was lovely to walk around the school and see all students engaged in activities and playing their part throughout the day. There has been some very positive feedback from staff about the behaviour and interaction of students, and we would like to say well done to all students who embraced the challenge of the day.'* Miss Gibbons

YEAR 7 ENRICHMENT DAY

On Thursday Year 7 took part in various group activities focusing on community. They explored what is meant by community and were challenged to consider how community could be promoted at school, in the local area and globally. The day took place at 2 locations – Townsend School and Christchurch Community Centre. The students took part in a range of activities throughout the day including the Community Challenge. The students looked at High Oaks local community and then decided on one project they would like to set up to help improve an aspect of it. There were some fantastic ideas including a food bank, a youth group, and a weekly meeting place for the elderly. Students thoroughly enjoyed the Fair Trade Game. Students were put into groups (different countries) and had to make a pair of trainers. Each group had limited resources depending on what country they had been given. At the end of the game the students passionately discussed the fairness of the game, and the fairness of the world on a global scale. Other activities included building a village and team games.

It was a fantastic day and Year 7 were a credit to the school.

YEAR 8 APPRENTICE DAY

"You cannot learn to be an entrepreneur by reading a book. You can only find out by giving it a try." Alan Sugar

As part of Curriculum Enrichment Day all year 8 students really did give being an entrepreneur a go! They were asked to design, make a prototype and pitch a brand new product aimed at educating pre-school children.

Watching students get out of their comfort zone, being given minimal input and direction and watching the creativity flow was so rewarding. We had products designed to improve maths, literacy, language and music skills. Working with students they may not have even known before the day started, each group had to present their pitch for votes to get through to the final.

In the final we had 6 amazing products, great pitches and students ready to answer unprepared questions about their designs specifications. A truly amazing day, well done year 8 students. Please do congratulate your child for their efforts!

The boardroom have met and shared their feedback with me and I look forward to telling the students next week who has been hired! Each finalist will also receive some feedback Miss Reynolds

YEAR 9- SCIENCE MUSEUM

All year 9 students visited the Science Museum, London for Curriculum Enrichment Day yesterday. Pupils visited 4 main galleries. In the Mathematics gallery pupils had a chance to see how Mathematics is used in everyday life, in areas such as medicine and beauty. The 'Who am I?' gallery looked at how DNA is obtained and how your body mass is made up. Pupils also had hands on experience in the Engineer your Future gallery where they could look at careers in engineering. The Wonderlab: Statoil Gallery was a treasure trove of interactive scientific activities exploring forces, energy and matter. Pupils had opportunity to use friction slides, produce an instant icicle and see how heat could be transferred through the use of thermal imaging. A good day was had by all students and staff and the year 9s were a credit to the school. Mr Armitage

YEAR 10 WORLD OF WORK DAY

Twenty employers from a variety of different sectors visited Townsend School to speak and engage with our Year 10 students. The students listened to twenty different speakers from twenty different sectors of work. The employers who had all volunteered their time for the morning or afternoon shared information about the roles they had at their place of work, their responsibilities, the work they completed, the training and qualifications that were required and in some cases the journeys they had travelled through various career paths to get them to the present day!

The day started with an inspirational talk from David North focussing on his Top Tips for Success in the world of work, and continued with students working in small groups going around a carousel. Thanks to Mrs Maguire, the Youth Connexions Team, and all of the people that gave up their time and energy to speak with our pupils, and make the day flow as well as it did. The pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school, and we had numerous compliments about how polite, interested and engaged they had been over the whole day.

Thanks to the following people/companies for giving up their time: Aecom, Roche, Microsoft, Herts Highways, Cat Hotel, Herts CC, Youth Connexions, Santander, Spiral Junior School, Blue Arrow, Amey, Fujitsu, Leonardo, Office For Science, Fire Service. Students will now follow up this day with extension work with their tutor times. They

have also completed an evaluation about the day which we will send to you once it has been collated.

The day provided a wealth of information as well as hopefully snippets of ambition and aspiration for our students to grab hold of dream to achieve in the future. We now look forward to their week of Work Experience later in the year.

Mr A Still

PARENT/CARER EVALUATION

We are always grateful for any comments about how we are doing as a school. We take parent/carer views from our Consultation Evenings but if you have other comments to make or views to share there are other ways you can be heard. Often we will complain or moan when things don't go well but it is also nice to hear when things go well or you like what we are doing for your child. We do genuinely listen to your opinions and thoughts. You are very welcome to talk to your child's form tutor, to speak to your child's Director of Learning, or you could write a note and send it to the office for the attention of either of these staff or Miss Lingwood or Mr Wellbeloved. You can also go onto Ofsted Parent View (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>) and perhaps share some of your thoughts that you haven't had time to express but that you are pleased with about the school. If on the otherhand you have an issue that hasn't gone well or you are not clear about please do contact us directly to make an appointment with the appropriate person so that we can have the opportunity to respond or put things right. Thank you

SUBJECT INFORMATION

HISTORY

Women's Suffrage Centenary

February marks the Centenary of The Representation of the People Act (6th February 1918) which gave the vote to women over thirty. Activities and discussions will be held in school in both February and March. We encourage you to initiate discussions on the centenary and what this means to them today.

Year 8

Students will have their History independent learning project set for this half term. Students will have their project planning checked twice before deadlines (they will have a checklist for this). Please refer to the project sheet and SMHW for instructions and deadlines.

Year 8 students will take part in a cross-curricular project between the History and English department in order to reflect on the 80th anniversary of Kindertransport. Students will read the book 'The Children of Willesden Lane' in their English lesson and will have discussions/activities set in History lessons. This all leads to a webcast viewing of a Jewish refugee testimony in May and a possible trip to attend a performance of the story in London (TBC).

Year 11 GCSE

A reminder that Year 11 GCSE History revision takes place every Monday (boys only) in HU6 at 1.30 and every Thursday (girls only) in HU8 at 1.30. Please encourage your child to attend these especially if you have received a letter recently regarding your child's underachievement in history trial examination. Your child has been given a lunchtime revision and lesson countdown as a guide.

Students will be provided with a revision guide (free of charge) this week which will include a content checklist, guide to all three papers, bank of practice questions,

essential content and practice exam papers. Please encourage your child to use them as they are very useful for their GCSE History exam preparations.

We encourage Year 9, 10 and 11 History students to buy Revision guides (includes key information, exam skills focus and exercises) for the American West, Elizabethan England, Crime and Punishment and Weimar and Nazi Germany at £4 each. They may obtain these directly from their History teacher. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in special cases. Please speak to your child's Director of Learning for the Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence. Thank you for your support, Mrs Bailey (Head of History)

ART

If you have any old newspapers, please could you send them in for the attention of Miss Bailey. Art is always needing paper for papier mache and other projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fixtures

- Yr 8 netball vs Nicholas Breakspear School, Away – Wednesday 28th February 3.30 – 5/5.30

- Yr 7 girls and boys District Sportshall Athletics Competition – Thursday 1st March at the Hertfordshire Sports Village in Hatfield 12.30 - 4/4.30. Students will have received a letter if they have been selected to represent Townsend in this event, they will need to bring a packed lunch with them on the day as they will be leaving school at 12.30.

- Yr 9 netball v Sandringham, Home – Monday 5th March 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.

SPACE is a charity supporting families in Hertfordshire. We meet up once a month (term time only) at each of these locations across Hertfordshire:

Bishop Stortford, Cheshunt, Hatfield, Hertford, Hoddesdon, St Albans, Stevenage, Ware and Welwyn

We have regular professional speakers, workshops, social events plus a library of books to borrow.

Come along to meet other Parents/Carers

If you would like more information about our charity please contact the SPACE team at the following email address: spaceherts@gmail.com

HOST FAMILIES Needed in St Albans area for French Students who are attending lessons at Christ Church, 3 High Oaks, St Albans, AL3 6DR 7th-19th July 2018. Good rates of pay. Students are out all day.

For more information telephone Katy on 07709 056103 or katymura@yahoo.it

FOSTER CARERS

If you are interested in Fostering please contact Hertfordshire County Council – 08009170925 or visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fostering