

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK –**

All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them – Walt Disney

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For November our value focus is Forgiveness 'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you' Ephesian 4:32 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 11 AND YEAR 13**

**TRIAL GCSE AND A'LEVEL EXAMINATIONS**

In preparation for the trial examinations for Y11 and Y13 that start on Monday please can you support your child by ensuring that they come to school on time and prepared and with all the necessary equipment.

**Students must have a black pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and all the other required equipment including compasses - with a sharp pencil that fits, protractor, ruler and calculator (where necessary).**

It is the student's responsibility to bring their own equipment for exams.

Students have been spoken to about examination conditions and the use of external invigilators. We are trying to ensure that the experience of these examinations are as close to the Summer Public examinations as possible.

All the very best of luck to all students!

Mrs Kovacevic, Mr Still and Miss Gibbons

**YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**  
**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 5-8PM**

We would like to invite all our Year 7 parents/carers to this important evening where you get the chance to discuss the progress of your child in a number of their subjects. Students will be bringing home a letter with all the information next week and this will then give you the opportunity to agree with them, which teachers you would like to see and what times best suit you. We do expect a full attendance at this evening as there is only one Consultation Evening each academic year. Please do book the date into your diaries now! We do appreciate that some parents/carers have work commitments but do ask that you make arrangements around this now so you are available. If you need to bring younger siblings because it's the only way you can attend then this needs to happen. If it is really impossible for you to attend as the parent/carer we ask that you arrange with another family member to come with your child - perhaps an aunt or uncle or grandparent.

**CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE**

**Careers Talk**

On Monday in registration time held in the hall, we have our first guest speaker in to talk to pupils about being a paramedic. All pupils who expressed an interest in pursuing a career in medicine have been invited. There is room for more students to sign up if they feel they would benefit from this opportunity. Please do encourage your child to attend if they are interested in this field of work

These career talks are a new initiative designed to give pupils more guidance in their career paths. If you are interested in coming in to talk to a group of students about your career please contact Mr Armitage. Many thanks in advance.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND**

Many thanks for all parent/carers who have contributed to our Christmas Hamper fillers. The response was great! If any parents/carers own a business or are in a senior position so that you are able to donate vouchers or appropriate items, of any sort, please keep sending them in! Last year we had vouchers from Hemel Snow Dome, garden centres, supermarket vouchers, Kent Brushes, Majestic Wines, to give a few examples. **RAFFLE TICKETS** were sent out to all families last week and ticket sales are gaining momentum. Please try to sell the tickets sent home or make a donation, as proceeds go to benefit students' education.

**Logs for sale.** It's getting colder! If you have a log burner or open fire and want logs, please contact the office and leave a contact number, and we will get back to you.

### **Dickensian Evening Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. 7pm – 9pm**

We need help at the evening to run refreshments, a mulled wine and mince pie stall, a Christmas and seasonal gift stall and a chocoholic and treats tombola. If anyone can help in anyway please contact the school office and leave a contact number or email address so that Friends (PTA) can get back to you.

Thanks for your efforts!

Friends

### **DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS**

This is our first year presenting a Christmas production. We are performing 'Dickensian Christmas' a collection of Charles Dickens era Christmas ghost stories for one night only in the hall on Friday the 14th December. There will also be a Christmas fair during the interval hosted by the Friends of Townsend PTA.

Tickets are on sale at the school reception, Adults £5 and Concession £3, please come and support our Drama Club and Choir students who have worked so hard.

### **ROMEO AND JULIET**

On Wednesday the 21st of November we were fortunate to be able to offer a live screening of "Romeo and Juliet" by the Royal Shakespeare Company, broadcast live from Stratford-upon-Avon. Many schools nationally participated in this event- primary schools right through to colleges and secondary schools. As we study "Romeo and Juliet" with year 8 students, we took them to the Lecture theatre on the day and during period 1 to 4 they watched the performance, enjoying two breaks in between. The experience was enriching for our students as you can see from one particular Year 8 review included below. The English Department enjoyed hosting the event and look forward to offering our students many more exciting events in the academic year. Thank you Mrs Kleynhans

#### **Year 8 Review Romeo and Juliet by Harry**

"Today we watched a live screening of Romeo and Juliet. I really enjoyed the performance and thought all the actors were brilliant. The set was really interesting because it consisted of only the stage and a cube. The cube was to show different levels for different characters. My favourite scene was the fight scene between Tybalt, Mercutio and Romeo. The scene was very well acted and made me feel like I was there. I also thought Romeo and Juliet's deaths were very well acted, because even though you knew it was going to happen it was still a shock. I would definitely

recommend the play to anybody who enjoys the theatre. I hope we get to do something like this again in the future as I really found it interesting and enjoyable.”

### **ST ALBANS SCHOOL'S CONCERT**

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the choir and drumming items we entered for the show. Their items were the talk of the town and were really well received! I have copied one of the emails we received from a spectator at the event *I attended the SASSMA concert tonight at the Albans Arena, to see my daughter who was taking part, and I found the whole evening very enjoyable as I usually do. I wanted to write however and congratulate your students on their especially inspirational performances tonight - I found them musically uplifting, relaxing to listen to and brilliantly performed and a huge credit to your music department and to themselves. It wasn't a competition but I felt Townsend stood out tonight; you are lucky to have some very talented musicians and it was a privilege to hear them this evening.*

*I look forward to hearing more from Townsend at District events next year!*

Well done to all the students and to Miss Kirk.

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **MATHEMATICS**

#### **National Numeracy**

[www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)

Parents and carers are a child's first and most enduring educators, and their influence cannot be overestimated. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at mathematics at school and disliked it. Having a positive growth mindset of numeracy will only inspire children to want to improve their numeracy. Numeracy is used in everyday life as well as future jobs. Mathematics is not a 'can' or 'can't do' subject. Everyone can learn to get better at it. Always be encouraging. Let your children know they have unlimited potential and that having good numeracy skills is about working hard.

If you wish to improve your own numeracy skills, or support your child further, the National Numeracy website has plenty of ideas, information and strategies at [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)

There is a challenge attached to parentmail where you and your children can use to practise your numeracy skills. Good luck!

Mr Timpson Numeracy Lead

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 7**

Year 7 students have started their half termly project for History due to be submitted the week beginning Monday 17th December. A project booklet has been given to pupils including instructions, planning, further reading and deadlines. This can be accessed on SMHW.

#### **Year 8**

Students are currently studying the Industrial Revolution with a focus on technological and social changes in the 18th-19th centuries. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zvmv4wx/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

#### **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**

Students will be sitting Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany on Monday 3rd December 2018. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact your teacher, in confidence, so that we can support you. History revision will continue to be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

## **DRAMA**

### **Drama Club**

All students should be attending every rehearsal they are needed in for the Christmas show, please support your child in checking their rehearsal schedule. After school rehearsals on a Wednesday will start in December, please check your schedules.

### **Summer Production**

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock' auditions will take place in the first week back from the Christmas holidays, we will be advertising the production in assemblies and through posters next week. 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.

**Drama Year 7** are continuing with Pantomime and have made excellent progress so far.

**Drama Year 8** have now started Mask work and will be continuing to use the masks up until Christmas, some excellent comedy scenarios have already been created.

**Drama Year 9** are working on mini plays and will be staging these in class just before Christmas, they will then start a mock until on devising in preparation for next year.

**Drama Year 10** will start preparing for their Component 2 just before Christmas, this will count for 40% of their GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents.

**Drama Year 11** please could all trip forms and the first payments for the Theatre trip be returned to the school as soon as possible. Students will be writing about this play in their final GCSE examination in May so it is vital they come on the trip. Revision materials have been supplied in class and on SMHW for all GCSE students, they should have plenty to help them with their mock examinations in December. If students require additional material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, any students seeking additional revision should come along. Mrs Coates.

## **FOOD TECHNOLOGY**

### **7YDt2**

All DT classes on the 7Y side have just rotated to a new teacher for their second section of DT, 7YDt2 are now with Mrs Coates for Food Technology. Students will be cooking weekly on a Thursday lesson 5. There is a list of all recipes and ingredients on SMHW and attached here also. Students must bring a container with them every week to take their food home with them. If there are any issues with ingredients or

if you need any financial assistance with ingredients, then please do not hesitate to contact me and we can see if the school will be able to offer assistance.

Mrs Coates

## **MUSIC**

Please find attached to this parentmail a booklet of information regarding Instrumental and Voice Lessons. This will hopefully clarify all details regarding requests for lessons and payments.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

### **Sustainable Schools Training Day**

Some of our yr7 Geoclub members attended a day's training on Monday at The Farmschool in Harpenden. They attended various workshops to gain insight into some of the UK's current environmental issues and what we can do to live more sustainably. They had great fun whilst gaining valuable ideas to bring back to school. The students made a hedgehog house and brought it back to school to help the endangered hedgehog species over the winter. They had a tractor ride and found out about how farming in the UK is trying to become more sustainable to protect our countryside. They worked on campaigns to improve air quality and be sustainable with the resources we use in school, such as the Plants in Classrooms, recycling and reducing use of plastics.

The students will be launching a club and programme in school with an aim to make Townsend more sustainable. Watch this space for more news and info!

Well done to the students for their engagement, participation, manners and behaviour, you were a credit to the school community.

Mrs Buckland

### **Geography in the News**

As I'm sure you are aware, California is suffering terribly at the moment, we have been discussing the causes and effects of these fires in geography lessons this week.

The link below shows some recent news reports on the situation in California:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=california+fires>

This is particularly relevant to year 10 students who are currently learning about climate change.

### **Year 8**

Year 8 students have begun a homework project this term about Japan. The students have been given instructions and a mark scheme to complete their task over the next 4-5 weeks. A copy is attached for your reference. Class teachers will be checking on progress and taking the final piece in for marking before Christmas. The homework links the last unit of Tectonics and the current unit on Asia and the Middle East.

For any queries about their homework please speak to the class teacher.

Thank you Mrs Buckland

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

### **St Albans Mental Health Conference**

**Sandringham School Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.**

*A two-day event with keynote speakers, talks, workshops, a marketplace and networking opportunities on the Saturday and workshops and 121 sessions on the*

*Sunday - both days suitable for health care and educational professionals, parents and students. With seminars and sessions on resilience, communication, emotional regulation, visualisation, the trauma of adoption, healthy eating habits, transition into 6th form and university, EFT, Yoga, and lots more. The cost of tickets for this event and further details can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-albans-mental-health-conference-tickets-49687176683#tickets>*