

## **TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**

Date 24th January 2020

### **WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

The Value for this half term is LOVE: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' John 3:16. The values will be shared in daily worship sessions and students will have the opportunity to reflect on their meanings with a particular reference to how we lead our everyday lives.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

This week's topic will be on 'Holocaust Memorial Day' as part of our commemorations for the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and exploring the 2020 theme 'Stand Together'.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Wednesday January 29th – Year 9 Immunisations 9am

Thursday January 30th – Year 11 Study support evening 7-8.30pm

Week beginning 10th February – Feeling Good Week

Tuesday 11th February – Year 10 (History students only) Elizabethan theatre trip

Wednesday 12th February – Year 8 History & Drama workshop

Thursday February 13th - Year 7 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening 5-8pm

Friday 14th February – Year 10 (History students only) Elizabethan England workshops in school 9am-12pm

Monday February 17th – Friday 21st Half Term

### **LAST REMINDER - YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS**

Letters were issued with information at the Year 9 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening on Thursday 9th January 2020 and another copy was sent home this Wednesday with students. Please ensure this is read then go online to decline or accept. The closing date for online acceptance is 28th January. You can also use the link in the letter we have attached to this parentmail. Thank you.

### **YEAR 11 STUDY SUPPORT EVENING**

The year 11 Study Support Evening is this Thursday January 30th starting at 7:00pm in the school Hall. Attendance for this evening is expected from all parents and carers along with your child. The evening is the last opportunity for you to see subject staff regarding your child before their GCSE examinations that start in May. On the evening you will also receive information about the March English, Mathematics and Science Final Trial examinations, information about the intervention sessions that are available to your child in school and examination times and dates detailing your child's GCSE examinations from May-June. This information will help you support your child working at home in what is a very important period of their education. It is therefore important that you are able to join us on Thursday.

If your child has not returned the reply slip, then please can you make sure they hand it in to their form tutor on Monday at the latest. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 30th January. Mr Armitage.

### **PUBLIC BUS FARE REVISIONS (304 / 305)**

Please be advised that there will be fare revisions across our Centrebus Network from 27th January 2020. The changes will affect Students who purchase Single, Return, Weekly and Monthly tickets on the bus. Full details can be found on our website - <https://www.centrebus.info/news/fare-revisions/>

Becky Harris, Commercial Assistant for Centrebus Network

### **CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS DISPLAY – REHEARSALS**

The Creative and Performing Arts Display is getting close – Thursday 26 March – 7pm at the Alban Arena. Pupils have completed the auditions and we are pleased to announce a bigger than ever cast of students showing off some amazing talents in dance, drama, singing, playing musical instruments, writing and reading poetry and more! We are also excited to be able to give you a glimpse of some scenes from this year's school show - which we are sure will get you wanting to sing along and join in with all the fun!

- The hall and studio will be available every Monday and Thursday lunchtime for students to practise their pieces ready for the display.

- Gymnastics rehearsal is every Wednesday lunch in the gym – it is essential that all gymnasts involved attend each week.

Tickets will go on sale from Monday 24th February – available to buy from the school reception, £6 per adult, £4 per child.

### **CHATHEALTH SERVICE** (provided by the Hertfordshire School Nursing team)

ChatHealth is a confidential text messaging service that enables parents and young people to contact their local public health nursing (school nursing) team. Please see the attached leaflet for further details.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND PTA MEETING**

The next meeting of the 'Friends' will take place on 5th February, 2020 at 1830. We would love to see as many as possible attend and would particularly welcome new members or those that have not attended for some time. Chocolate biscuits provided!

### **DRAMA**

#### **School Production - Beauty & the Beast**

Please can parents/carers ensure that students attend all the rehearsals they are needed in, the rehearsal schedule given to your child on Tuesday will have all details you need to keep track of this. Please could all photography permission slips also be returned ASAP. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs Coates.

#### **Donations**

If anyone would like to donate any old unwanted books and large cardboard boxes which we could use to create sets for the school show these would be very gladly received, please could you drop them in with a note attached to say they are for the Drama department. We are also looking for old suitcases and luggage bags in a medium size for the Drama clubs' performance for the Creative Performing Arts Display in March. Any donations would be very much appreciated.

### **New Views**

It is vital that students attend the Thursday lunch time sessions for the New Views project as the first draft submission deadline for Wednesday 26th February is fast approaching. Students should have a completed draft of their full script for this date. We will be having our second writer visit workshop during March, letters will be sent home when the date is confirmed by the National Theatre team. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child, the New Views project is an excellent opportunity to build key writing skills and allow students to experience career pathways in the Arts industry.

### **Drama Club**

Students in the Drama club are getting comedy sketch scenes ready for the Creative & Performing Arts Display at the Alban Arena in March. Parts have been allocated and scripts given out, students should be learning their lines and should be attending Drama Club every Wednesday lunch time to support the rest of the members of their scene so that the scenes are as stage ready as possible. Tickets for the event will be available to purchase nearer the time, please contact Mrs Coates if there are any concerns or queries concerning the Drama Club.

Mrs Coates, Head of Drama

## **YEAR 7 & 8**

### **YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

This is an advance notice that the Year 7 Parents/Carers Evening is coming up on Thursday 13th February from 5pm to 8pm. Your child will need to make appointments with their teachers ahead of the evening but will receive support with this from form tutors. As parents/carers you can expect to receive feedback on how your child is progressing in their learning with targets on how they can improve going forward. Each appointment is 5 minutes and we do ask both teachers and parents/carers to respect this so we can help keep to schedule. We are expecting 100% attendance from all our students and parents/carers. On this occasion the child accompanies their parent/carer to the evening in full school uniform. Form tutors will be speaking to their tutees about the evening ahead of time so they know the expectations. Should you have any queries in the meantime then please contact me at school.

Mr Still, Director of Learning for Year 7

### **YEAR 7 DRAMA HOME LEARNING PROJECT**

Year 7 have just started their scheme of work on Macbeth and have been set their Shakespeare research home learning project. The project is 5 weeks

long and has 4 tasks to complete. Students have been given a copy in class and it is also on Show My Homework, if a spare copy is needed students can come and request one from Mrs Coates.

Mrs Coates, Head of Drama

### **YEAR 8 FRENCH LESSON**

Please ensure that your son or daughter remembers to bring a pair of headphones (over the ear or ear bud style) to their weekly French ICT session. The headphones are an essential tool to allow our pupils to access bespoke listening activities during their French learning.

The Modern Foreign Languages Department

### **YEAR 7 & 8 FRENCH STUDY DAY AT THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY (those attending)**

We will be leaving school at 8.45 am to allow for any delays due to traffic congestion and in order arrive in time for the start of the workshop at 10.30am., so please make sure your child arrives by 8.40am at the latest. Students will be required to wear school uniform and should have a suitable coat as there is a short walk from where the coach drops us to the BFI. Students need to bring a packed lunch. Those students entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

If your child needs to take medication/ bring it with them, please make sure they have it with them on the day.

We will leave the British Film Institute at the end of the workshop at 3.30pm and would aim to be back at Townsend School by 5pm, where students would need to be collected by a parent/ carer.

Mrs Livesey – Head of Modern Foreign Languages

### **YEAR 8 DRAMA AND HISTORY WORKSHOP**

A reminder that the History and Drama department are offering a workshop opportunity to all Year 8 pupils hosted by the Trestle Theatre company on Wednesday 12th February 2020. We accept £5 donations to cover the costs of the workshop and letters have already been issued to your child. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Bailey, Head of History & Mrs Coates, Head of Drama

### **YEAR 9, 10 & 11**

#### **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

#### **YEAR 11 INTERVENTION MONDAYS LA1 1.30PM**

A reminder that these sessions are now running weekly and we are currently focusing on listening and speaking skills, since these are the two areas students find most challenging.

All students are encouraged to attend and some students, whose performance was 2 grades or more below target in their trial exams, are required to attend. (If this is the case, parents/carers have been informed). The GCSE oral exams take place before the main GCSE exams at the end of April, which is now just over three months away, so it essential that students take up opportunities to work on these skills.

Mrs Livesey, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

### **YEAR 9 NETBALL MATCH**

Year 9 Netball team have a match on Thursday 30th January at Nicholas Breakspear School. Letters have gone out to students involved to return to Miss Pennifold. Students will be taken to Nicholas Breakspear via minibus and will be finished there to be picked up at 5pm, or taken back to school for a 5.15 pickup.

Miss Pennifold, Head of Physical Education

### **YEAR 11 SCIENCE REVISION**

Science intervention/revision clubs running this week are on:

Mon lunch from 1:25 - Metals and non-metals (TLA) in Sc4

Mon lunch from 1:25 - Physics revision (SMC) in Sc5

Mon after school from 3:45-5:00 - GCSE Science revision (SPR) in Sc2

Wed lunch from 1:25 - Moles (NGU) in Sc1 - Higher tier only

Thu lunch from 1:25 - Biology revision (DMO) in Sc3

Miss Prakash

### **STUDENT WELLBEING**

Ten keys to happier living guidebook

Have a read of the wellbeing guidebook which could be helpful for both children and parents/carers alike. For each Key it provides an introduction, an inspiring image, a question to ponder, a thought-provoking quote and practical action ideas, all underpinned by the latest wellbeing research. You can access and download the free guidebook here:

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys-guidebook>.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

Hertfordshire Apple Regional Training Centre

"Supporting your Child with Digital Technology: Webinar for Parents"  
commencing at 6.30pm on Monday 3rd February 2020. Please see the attached leaflet for further details.

Youth Awareness Crime Awareness Evening

Re: Youth Crime Awareness Evening – Monday 27th January 2020

In response to the growing national youth violence crisis, and a rise in reported knife-related crime across the country, Hertfordshire Constabulary

and the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are working with local schools. We invite parents/carers, young people and professionals to a Youth Crime Awareness Evening, following on from our work with the students as part of our Peace Week events.

During the evening there will be presentations from a number of professionals working in the area of youth violence, they will provide a local context and raise awareness for parents, young people and professionals on a number of topics including:

- Knife crime
- Gang culture
- County Lines
- Social media exploitation
- Positive choices
- Staying safe
- Exploitation of young people
- Impact

It is hoped that these events will in turn be hosted by different schools and venues across the local CSP. The next evening will take place on Monday 27th January 2020, between 6:30pm and 9:15pm at Bushey Academy, London road, Bushey, WD23 3AA.

The evening is open to local parents, young people and professionals both connected to education in Watford, Bushey / Three Rivers as well as those from other neighbouring local authorities/areas. Those wishing to attend are asked to email [WHTYouth@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WHTYouth@herts.pnn.police.uk), with details on number of seats required and if you are a parent / professional, an officer will then be able to confirm space.

If you are a parent, please specify which school your child attends. If you are a professional organisation, please state the organisation's name.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend this awareness evening.

Yours faithfully  
Matthew Phillips  
Watford Chief Inspector  
Hertfordshire Constabulary