

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 25th January 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life – Muhammad Ali

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For January our value focus is Thankfulness 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' 1 Thessalonians 5:18. 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

Theatre trips - Friends of Townsend

Please see attached flyers for two exciting forthcoming trips to London. The theatre trips leave school at 5pm and back to school around 11.30pm. Nothing could be easier for an enjoyable evening out! For anyone wishing to join the database or come off database please let me know. See you there. Jackie & Heather

YEAR 11

National Citizen Service

Last week the National Citizen Service (NCS) came in and spoke with Year 11 students about some amazing opportunities on offer over the Summer Holiday (see attached letter). Students were all given letters and a sign up pack after the presentation, and quite a few showed an interest in signing up in the summer. The NCS team are returning to school on Monday lunchtime and will have a stall set up in the foyer by the large canteen to answer queries or take in registrations. We would ask that you talk with your child about what is being offered so that you are aware of the commitment required. Any Year 11 student that would like to sign up will need to bring their sign up pack (with payment) to the NCS stall on Monday. Students can also sign up on-line at the following web address

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

Revision workshop for year 11

All year 11 students have a fantastic opportunity to develop their study skills including boosting learning power, revision skills and skills required for examinations 'Learning Performance', a team focused on delivering examination workshops to students preparing for their GCSE examinations, will be in school Monday 11th February delivering to all year 11 students during lessons 3 and 4. Students will need to bring with them pens/pencils and any highlighters or colours they find useful to help create revision resources.

Motivation Workshop for Year 11

We have also secured some funding for an outside speaker to come in and deliver a workshop around motivation strategies later this term. More details will follow.

YEAR 11 TARGETED INTERVENTION EVENING FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS)

We are holding a Year 11 Targeted GCSE Support event on **Thursday 31st January from 7pm to 8.30pm**. Letters have already been sent out to parents/carers of those students whom teachers most want to see in terms of possible under

performance or lack of focus or perhaps not putting in the hours required after school hours. However, as this is the final formal event in school for parents/carers of year 11 support, we are aware there may be other parents/carers and students who may wish to see teachers. We would not want to deny anyone the opportunity to speak to their teachers but without appointments we are unable to guarantee access to the member of staff with whom you wish to speak to on this particular evening. They may be available via 'drop-in' appointments on the evening but again we must stress that priority will be given to parents/carers and students with appointments. If the member of staff a parent/carer wants to see is not available, senior members of staff will be attendance and are happy to field queries, offer support, or take messages. Thursday evening is an additional evening we have added for Year 11 to try to boost achievement - if you are keen to meet or talk with any Year 11 teacher about a particular issue, please do contact the office to leave a message for that teacher, so an appointment or call back can be made to suit you. We will also be issuing a general Study Guide to support with GCSE preparation and this will be available to all students.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Reminder: All private placement request forms to be handed in to the office by the end of January. Any later applications should be submitted directly online using the website: <http://hcc.learnaboutwork.net> (all students have a pin number). Late applications may incur an extra charge, if they are accepted.

Also, once you have received an offer, please return the signed consent slip, medical form and payment asap as the placement is not confirmed until then.

Thank you

Margaret Wood

YEAR 9 BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 8TH-9TH MARCH 2019

Thank you to all of those parents /carers who attended the meeting about the trip on Wednesday evening. Students will be issued with a full kit list nearer the trip itself. Please remember that every student will need a **full passport with at least 6 months left on it**. They will also need a **European Health Insurance card (EHIC)**. You can apply for one of these for free at www.nhs.uk. Students will be unable to take part in the trip if they do not have a valid passport and an EHIC card which are both still in date. If a small passport sized photo of your child has not yet been given to Mrs Davey please send this into school in a named envelope with your child as soon as possible.

YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS

In line with the national immunisation programme all children in year 9 are offered immunisation boosters against Diptheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningococcal ACWY. All the details you need regarding these immunisations are in the letter attached to the bulletin. There is also a link to the electronic consent within the letter. Can we remind you the electronic consent form will close at 10pm February 4th. The Year 9 immunisations will take place in school **Tuesday February 5th**. Your child cannot be immunised unless you have provided your consent.

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP FOR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A reminder that our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 5th from 10.00-11.am. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Following on from the talk last term from ADD-vance at the Parent/Carer Support Group on anxiety and anger, we are running another session on **Tuesday 5th March** at 10-11am. This will focus more on anger management, looking at triggers and producing a rumbling/meltdown plan to use at home. We will be looking more specifically at situations where our children's behaviour becomes more challenging. The previous talk was well received and parents/carers that attended found it helpful, so if you are able to come, please ring Reception and let them know. The Parent/Carer Support Group is there for you as your 'safe space', somewhere you can talk to other parents/carers, ask us for help, have a cuppa and find out more about what is available to support you in your area. Looking after children with additional needs can feel very lonely, but through talking to others and swapping ideas, you will hopefully leave the group feeling reassured and supported.

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Rehearsals have begun and are off to a great start. It is vital that students attend all rehearsals they are needed for to help make the show a success and support the other students who are involved in their scenes. The rehearsal schedule is attached for you to look at and 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.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Through the week of February 4th the school will be promoting Just Talk campaign run by Healthy Young Minds in Hertfordshire. Using the following link you can pick up resources for parents/carers and students.

<https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/tags/justtalk>. There is wealth of activities for young people including a competition with £100 prize money but there is also a whole section offering advice and practical strategies for parents and carers in supporting young people with anxiety, worries or emotional well-being concerns. Please do take a look

During the week of February 11th the school will then be supporting Hertfordshire's Feelin' Good Week which again is focusing on emotional well-being and mental health. As a school we hold no stigma towards mental health - in fact the very opposite. By giving our young people the encouragement and confidence to talk about how they are feeling or what they are worried about we are aiming to prevent ill health in the future. It's good to talk and to ask for help. We may not have all the answers but we can listen and we can direct students to other sources of help and support.

POD OF THE WEEK

This week's pod of the week is for students of Geography GCSE. The pod can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11543>

Students could reflect on the following questions:

1. How might we identify the UK's largest city?
2. Identify the population density of London
3. Identify the 4 reasons given on the pod as to why the population density is significantly lower in the north of Scotland or central Wales

There is an assignment associated with these questions and some more, available to all students in Years 10 and 11 here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/pupils/assignments/assignment/269810>

SCHOOL CANTEEN MENU

Week 2 JANUARY 28TH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef burger in bap & wedges	Pasta bolognaise	Roast pork	Chicken curry & rice	Battered fish
Southern style Quorn burger	Vegetarian bolognaise	Baked tomato & basil Quorn fillet	Chick pea & vegetable curry	Cheese topped ratatouille yorkshire

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA NEW VIEWS

Students are continuing to write their scripts, first drafts are due in on **Monday 25th February**. Plays need to be about a half hour in length and sessions will now run every Wednesday lunch time. National Theatre has contacted us and offered free theatre tickets to the students involved, we are currently organising a date and time to see a production. Letters will be sent home when a date is set.

Year 7 - Have just started Macbeth and have had their Home Learning project set. The project is available on Show My Homework and students have been given a copy of the task sheet in their lessons. If there are any concerns or questions about the homework please send your child to see me and I can offer support. There will be weekly checks in their Drama lessons to check on their progress.

Year 8 - Are now working on spontaneous improvisation on a story called Warden X, each week they will discover more of the story and the emphasis is on independent learning through storytelling.

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 in the Spring term 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 - Are preparing for Component 3 of the examination with their visiting examiner who will be coming into school in early March, they have their scripts and should be learning lines. If students would like any additional revision material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

ENGLISH Year 11

Year 11 are currently studying the poems in the anthology – all of the revision websites cover these in great detail so there are plenty of resources available for

independent learning and to consolidate the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Mrs Kleyhans has also put lots of work on SMHW from GCSE pod etc. This covers a wide variety of skills and texts from the syllabus and is open to all Year 11 students – not just the students in her class.

Reminder of revision sessions: Mrs Harris – Tuesday lunchtime E1. Mrs Bunyan Monday lunchtime in the lecture theatre.

Year 10

Year 10 are currently working on Speaking and Listening and their presentations start on Monday – although this no longer counts as part of their overall G.C.S.E. grade their exam grade will not be awarded without a successful completion of the task. Some students get nervous about talking in front of the class but it is a requirement of the task that their presentations are done in front of an audience while being filmed. So perhaps parents can support by getting their sons/daughters to practice at home so they are well prepared and have experience of talking in front of an audience – thank you in anticipation of your support.

Years 7 8 and 9

Reading

It is essential that students are doing a minimum of 40 minutes reading per night in order to ensure their reading age continues to improve in line with their chronological age; this is not just important for English but all subjects. If parents can become involved in the reading – asking questions to check understanding – this ensures students are getting the best from their reading.

Years 7 & 8 students can only sit the reading quizzes on books that are in the Accelerated Reader system but the system contains thousands of books – not just the ones in our library. If you have books at home then use the AR website to check if the books are 'testable'. Please remember students need to be reading at the top end of their ZPD levels (your child is given an updated ZPD level after every reading age test – usually once every half term.) the web site is www.arbookfind.com

Congratulations to the Year 7 and year 8 students who have been rewarded for their commitment to their reading by being selected to go on the Harry Potter Trip. It should be an amazing day and it was fantastic to see how many of our KS3 students understand how important their reading age is and how it is so closely linked to their overall academic success. Thank you so much to Mrs Liddington for organising the trip and we hope all the students have a 'magical' day!

Mrs Bunyan

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 geography field trip to St Albans

We had a fantastic day on Tuesday with year 8 geography. The sun shined for most of the day and the snow stayed away long enough to get the 2 groups into St Albans and back! The students were beautifully behaved and we had lovely comments from members of the public about our students' behaviour and attitude, they represented the school exceptionally well and we are really proud of them. The students completed environmental quality surveys, questionnaires and land use maps. They will be using the data they collected back in the classroom over the next week to write up their investigations and draw conclusions about their hypothesis.

Well done to all the students.

Year 8 Options

I spoke to all students in assembly on Monday about the benefits of choosing GCSE Geography as an option subject, I outlined to them the skills base, links to careers and how well valued geography is as a discipline by colleges, apprenticeships,

universities and employers. I also outlined the course content and how topical, exciting and varied it is - something of interest for everyone. I hope the students found this helpful.

Year 11 Study Club

On Tuesday we had a number of students revising about ecosystems. This Tuesday's session will be about urban environments. All year 11 GCSE Geography students are welcome. Mrs Buckland and Miss Reynolds

Geo-club

This week we launched our "Green Classroom Campaign". The geo-club members delivered recycling boxes to all classrooms and we have also begun our work to try to offset our carbon emissions from travelling to and from school by encouraging staff and students to have plants in the classrooms - this is also beneficial to health and well-being. We will continue our mission on Monday lunchtime! Mrs Buckland and Miss Reynolds

Thank you Mrs Buckland

HISTORY

Year 7

Please remind students to refer to the 'Extend Your Knowledge of the Middle Ages' sheet to support the current unit of study. This can also be accessed on SMHW.

Year 10

Advance notice that students will sit the American West trial examination the week beginning 28th January. 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

YEAR 10 HISTORY STUDY MORNINGS: WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY AND FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2019.

As part of the Year 10 GCSE History course students learn about the reign of Elizabeth I for their Paper 2: British depth study. To consolidate learning and support achievement, we are pleased to offer pupils the opportunity to participate in two activities provided by School History Scene.

Pupils have been given the information letters in their history lessons this week and should have passed these on to you.

Please be aware that the deadline for pupils to submit their consent forms and contributions is **Friday 1st February 2019**. Contributions can be paid via School Gateway. Should you require support in making this contribution, please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year, (Mr Armitage) in confidence.

With thanks, History department

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip

Embrace mistakes: It may sound odd, but mistakes make it easier to learn. Every time we get something wrong we understand a bit more about how to get it right next time. Remember, nobody is born an expert – we all have to start somewhere

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Townsend Student Success in County STEM/PE Competition

Congratulations to year 7 student Terin for winning the county competition set by EDUFund to design a poster to inform people about topics relating to STEM and PE. Terin's posters were put forward as Townsend's Key Stage 3 winner in EDUFund's schools competition. She designed her poster to inform students of a Secondary School age about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet, what is required in your diet to maintain your health and provided examples of what each part of a balanced diet was needed for. Terin was presented with her prize from EDUFund's events coordinator Gareth Mottram. Well done Terin!

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

DSPL7

Behaviour Conference on March 14th for parents/carers who have children with additional needs whose behaviour can be challenging. The course is titled 'What lies Beneath'. You will be required to pay a refundable deposit of £10 to book your place. If you require support with this please contact Miss Lingwood. (see attached for further information)