

## **TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**

**Date Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

### **WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND WISDOM**

The Value for this half term is WISDOM: 'Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.' Proverbs 4:6-7. 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.

Ms Sheppard, Head of Religious Education and School Worship

### **LOST PROPERTY**

We have collected a large amount of lost property that we would like to try to return. If it's not claimed we will then offer it for sale as 'used uniform' or take it to a charity collection. Some of the uniform we will clearly keep so that it is available to those families through the year who are experiencing financial difficulty.

Any property given to the office that is named is returned to the child but if it is unnamed it often remains unclaimed.

After half term we are putting the uniform including numerous black coats on display for students to reclaim. This will be during two lunch times. We would also like to make this uniform available for you to look at in case you feel you would like to try to reclaim lost clothing/uniform. We will therefore be putting it out in display on Tuesday and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November between 3.30pm-4.30pm. If anyone wishes to purchase any 'used uniform' at the same time as looking for clothing you are very welcome.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

Can we again ask that you support your child with the safe use of mobile phones and in particular use of social media sites over the half term break. We have experienced a rather unpleasant flurry of complaints about inappropriate and unkind messages being sent and posted from child to child but in most cases this is taking place out of school hours. Mobile phones are an easy way to communicate but sadly at the same time they are also a cowardly way for bullies to hurt other people. Please do ensure your child is safe with their mobile phone and do regular checks to make sure you are happy with what they are accessing on-line.

### **LITERACY**

"No pens Wednesday" is going to be celebrated in our school on the 13th of November this year. It is a national event run by the "I can" charity, promoting oracy in schools across the country. We will be encouraging students to develop their subject knowledge with a variety of creative teaching and learning strategies, including debating, problem solving puzzles, group discussions and many more exciting activities. We will be supporting our students to become even better at voicing their opinions and forming answers verbally as future employers value this skill immensely. We look forward to celebrating the day!

Mrs Kleynhans, Whole school Literacy coordinator

### **NUMERACY TIP**

Ask your child if you can look through their mathematics exercise book together. Ask them to explain the examples and questions they have answered to reinforce understanding. If your child has difficulty describing what they covered in class that day, encourage them to talk to their teacher or use Mathswatch/MyMaths to go over the topic again.

Mr C Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

### **ICELAND TRIP 2020**

Thank you to everyone who has returned forms and paid deposits, there are still a few places remaining, the final deadline for deposits and returned medical forms and permission slips is Monday 11th November.

Thanks, Mrs Buckland

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

#### **WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> WILL BE WEEK 1**

#### **DIVERSITY DAY**

The school was buzzing on Wednesday for our first drop down day of the academic year, when normal lessons are suspended and our students tackle a special project. It was wonderful to see students of all year groups working together and producing such impressive stalls representing their country. Please check the school Instagram account @townsendcommunity for a montage of students working together and our diverse hall. A great day to celebrate diversity and community.

#### **PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING**

Our next Parent/Carer coffee morning will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other parents/carers and share any concerns or ideas with others whilst being supported by Townsend. All are welcome and it would be lovely if more Year 7 parents/carers were able to come.

We are currently running these on the morning of the first Tuesday of every month, but if you think you would be better able to attend if it was held in the evening, please ring Reception and let them know as it could possibly be changed.

We can invite speakers to come and talk to the group about relevant topics and your input is always welcome.

Hope to see you there.

Mrs Baker, Inclusion Manager and Autism Lead

### **YEAR 7 & 8**

#### **HISTORY**

##### **Year 7**

Students have been set their half termly project for History on Medieval castles. An instructional booklet has been provided to support them in their project and teachers will check every week on their progress. Information can also be accessed on SMHW.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

##### **Year 7**

Students will be studying algorithms and how they are part of everyday life in the next half term.

## **Year 8**

We will be pausing on our network and communication module to take part in the UK bebras challenge. UK bebras is a national challenge looking at problem solving. Students will be given time to practice and can view some of the practice challenges on the following website

[https://challenge.bebas.uk/index.php?action=user\\_competitions.](https://challenge.bebas.uk/index.php?action=user_competitions)

Mrs King, Head of Computer Science and IT

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

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

#### **Year 11**

Students will be revising in preparation for their trial examinations and there is a drop in support club on Friday lunchtimes.

Mrs King, Head of Computer Science and IT

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 10**

Thank you to all parents/carers who encouraged their child to attend the American West workshops on Tuesday. It was great to learn more about Native American culture and stories which go beyond the history textbook.

Students are currently studying the American West and they can procure the revision guide at the cost of £4 from the History office at any point in the year. 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.

#### **Year 11**

Thank you to all parents/carer who encouraged their child to attend the American West workshops on Tuesday. It was great to learn more about Native American culture and stories which go beyond the history textbook.

A reminder that Year 11 Historians will be out on the Whitechapel trip on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November** and students must be on site by the latest 8.30am to get on the coach to London. We aim to return around 18.30pm.

Please remind your child to attend Thursday lunchtime revision sessions starting at 1.30 in HU8. A revision programme can be found on History classroom doors or students can request a copy.

Students are currently studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany and the revision guide can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in very special cases. Please speak to your child's Director of Learning for the year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence.

Advance notice that students will be sitting Paper 1: Crime and punishment for their History trial examination at the end of November 2019 therefore it is important for your child to start revising now. They should use their class notes, revision guide and GCSEpods as a starting point.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

### **YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING**

Advance notice - this is on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. If you have a child in year 11 we hope to see you at this important event.

## **SIXTH FORM**

Year 13 will be bringing home grade sheets and trial examination timetables today. Please do take the time to discuss these documents with your child to support them during this important year.

Miss Gibbons

## **STUDENT WELLBEING**

### **Tips for balancing screen time over the half-term – from an article in a parent website.**

Here are some of our holiday tips to help your family achieve that balance:

- Have a conversation about activities you are planning as a family.
- Create a plan as a family of days out, daily routines and ensure every family member gets to pick one activity for the whole family to do together.
- Agree to limits together so that your child knows when they are expected to turn their video game or smartphone off.
- Invite friends or family members over for outdoor play or outings.
- Create a challenge to learn something new: an outdoor skill or hobby.
- Re-introduce board games, card play or toys to your family, with new titles like Fortnite Monopoly or old favourites like Rubik's cube.
- Remember that late nights can be fun, but good quality sleep is essential.
- Watch a TV or online series together and agree limits so that binge-watching is reduced.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

*ADD-vance are offering a variety of workshops and courses for parents/carers of children with ADHD and ASD*

*Courses can be booked through [eventbrite.co.uk](https://eventbrite.co.uk) but for information or queries please contact Amanda at [tickets@add-vance.org](mailto:tickets@add-vance.org)*

*ADD-vance Managing Anxiety for Parents/Carers November 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30-12pm (£25)*

*ADD-vance Managing Anxiety for Parents/Carers Monday November 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30-12pm (£25)*

*ADD-vance Autism and Girls for Parents/Carers and School staff Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup> 1.00-3.30pm (£25)*

*ADD-vance Understanding Autism for Parents/Carers Weds November 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30-12pm*