

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th April 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people – Eleanor Roosevelt

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For April our value focus is Patience 'Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer' Romans 12:12. 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.

YEAR 10

WORK EXPERIENCE

May 13th is approaching rapidly and preparations are well underway.

I suggested students should try to arrange their preliminary interview with employers, where required, during the Easter holiday. If this wasn't possible, please ensure that your son or daughter contacts their placement urgently, as most employers prefer to meet students at least 2 weeks before they start. Employers may refuse to take students who fail to contact them beforehand.

Thank you again for your continuing support

Margaret Wood

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP SWANAGE 2019

A fabulous trip again to Swanage this year in glorious sunshine despite the rainy forecast! Students spent Wednesday completing a town survey of Swanage, Thursday was at Studland Bay carrying out an investigation about plant succession on sand dune ecosystems and finally examining coastal management strategies at Swanage Bay on Friday.

As always the students were a credit to the school and positive comments about their manners and general behaviour were given by members of the public. Well done year 10 geographers, a fabulous start to the summer term!

Mrs Buckland and Miss Reynolds

YEAR 11

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

GCSE examinations are fast approaching with several elements having been completed already (Drama & PE practical). French Orals take place on Tuesday of next week and then there are two days of Art GCSEs the following Thursday and Friday (Thursday 9th May and Friday 10th May). Students have been given their examination timetables but please do ensure you have a copy at hand. There is also a copy on the school website; News & Dates - GCSE dates. Students should be working incredibly hard both in and out of school with just under 2 weeks until the main bulk of the examinations start. You will be receiving a further communication about arrangements next week. Please do try to support your child at home with their studies. If you have any other questions/queries then please ask.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Year 11 pupils have been given the proof cards for the photograph of the whole Year Group plus individual shots today and should be bringing these home. If you would like to order any photographs please read the instructions provided. We need the orders in by Friday

10th May. If you DO NOT wish to order then you DO NOT have to return the proof cards. Any late orders will incur a surcharge of £3.50 or £5 depending upon what has been ordered.
Thank you Mr Still

SOCIAL MEDIA AT TOWNSEND

We are pleased to announce that the school Instagram account has gone live starting Friday 26th April where you can add us @TownsendCommunity. This will feature entries from our new Head students and BBC Young Reporters on school life at Townsend. We would also like to remind you that we run a school Twitter account which you can check out @Townsend_School.

CURRENT AFFAIRS READING

Please encourage your child to read current affairs news pieces on 'The Day' or 'The Day Explorer' (for English as Second Language and special needs) website to support literacy and understanding of the wider world. The site can be accessed through the school website (go to curriculum, KS3 and click on 'The Day' logo).

GCSEPOD NEWS

Pod of the Week

Y10 Geography students returning from Swanage may enjoy this pod that covers some of the features of Swanage and the formation of the bay.

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11159>

Podders of the Week

Year	Pupil	Pods Watched this week
9Y	Jayen	50
10D	Grace	25
11E	Bethany	81

Well done to the above, they receive an early lunch pass for next week

GCSEPOD competition

As mentioned in previous weeks the school has been competing in the GCSEPOD grand finals against other schools from around the world. I am delighted to report that we are currently in the Top 5 schools in the world based on our usage. Keep it up students!

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

My apologies to parents and students who were present at this Thursday's rehearsals which needed to be cancelled due to a lack of attendance by other members of the cast. 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. As we progress closer to the show date lack of attendance to rehearsals may result in the loss of role or cancellation of the performance due to a lack of commitment. From now on all rehearsals on Monday's and Thursday's are full cast rehearsals and all students involved on stage must be there, principle and chorus roles included.

If you need another copy of the rehearsal schedule please contact Miss Kirk or Mrs Coates. All permission slips for image use need to be returned to Mrs Coates ASAP as we are still waiting for these and would love to start recording images from the rehearsal process for this year's show. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates urgently.

ADVANCE NOTICE PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP

The next Parent/Carer Support Group will be on Tuesday May 7th 10-11.00. All parents/carers are welcome. We have invited Marianne Burrows the Advocacy Coordinator from Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme to join us for the second part of the meeting.

Introduction

Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme is a Community Interest Company who offer specialist family support. This includes parenting support which covers child-parent abuse and parenting teenagers. We are a not for profit organisation.

St Albans Inclusion Advocacy Service

Our Advocacy Co-Ordinator will be on hand to support families in the St Albans and District area. It may be that you are experiencing isolation or need support to access services. We will be specializing in supporting families with children who are 12+ and need family support and will work with families in need either by phone or face to face. The

Project will be linked to our service www.hertfordshireppp.co.uk

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA

NEW VIEWS

Final scripts have now been entered for the competition, well done to all students involved and thank you to parents/carers for the support you have given your child. The theatre trip letters have been sent home and the date of the trip to see Top Girls at the Lyttelton Theatre is on the Wednesday 8th of May for the 2:15pm. Please can all permission slips and money for trips be returned asap to the school office.

Year 7 - Have started an anti-bullying scheme of work which is focused around the script 'The terrible fate of humpty dumpty' teaching skills such as role play and looking at how we can tackle bullying together.

Year 8 - Have started their 'Romeo and Juliet' scheme of work for this half term.

Year 9 - Will be performing their devised pieces next week and will then complete their devising logs to experience a mock run of the coursework which will be completed next year. After this they will move on to studying a play called DNA by Dennis Kelly. 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 have been sent home for parents, please return the reply slips ASAP for the performance date on Friday 24th May. 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 their written examination on Friday 17th May, all revision material has been provided and if students would like extra support they can come ask me for extra materials. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 8

Students have been introduced to their Computer Science homework project this week in lessons. They have until the end of this term to complete it.

PART A

Each week there is a single puzzle that will be looked at in the lesson.

PART B

Please support students in choosing one of the 3 options available:

A- History of the mobile phone

B- History of gaming

C- Open option choice looking at various technological advances (Students can suggest alternatives but must be checked first with myself)

There is also a challenge task which needs an empty pringles tube, some glue and the template to create a working replica of the enigma machine.

Next week, I will be looking at answers for the first puzzle and checking in on what option choice students have chosen.

Please support them in providing some background knowledge of the topic from your own experience! For example, I remember the first game I played was on the Sega mega-drive and the Nokia was my first ever mobile phone! What was yours? What history of technology can you share with your son/daughter?

Thank you for your support in advance.

Mrs H. King (D.O.L. ICT)

HISTORY

Year 7

Students have started studying new unit on Islamic Civilisations and the Crusades. They are encouraged to do further reading by visiting the BBC Bitesize website

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx9xsbk/revision/1> to extend and consolidate their knowledge in the subject as we get on with the unit.

Year 8

Thank you for supporting your child in completing the 'Who do you think you are?' project for this half term. We are really pleased with the standard of the projects and how much work students have put into them. Please be aware that projects will be returned to the students once they have been marked and feedback has been provided.

Year 10

Early Elizabethan England revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Students can also purchase a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2. 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. A final reminder that students can purchase a revision guide for each unit (there are four) at the cost of £4 and/or a targeted revision workbook (Target 5 or Target 9) on all History topics for £2 from the History office.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

LANGUAGES

Year 11 GCSE Preparation for the Speaking Exam

This is a reminder that the GCSE French speaking exams will take place next week on

Tuesday 30th April

As you are aware, for the speaking exam, students will need to take part in a short role play in French, describe a photo and answer questions on it and take part in 2 short conversations on topics we have studied.

For the first conversation, students are able to choose the topic. Students have been given support materials and homework time to do this and should now be finishing their preparations at home. All students should have prepared a 1 minute talk on their chosen conversation topic and answers to questions on this topic as well as answers to help them in the second unknown topic. Please help them practise for the exam at home this weekend by listening to their answers. You do not need to be a French speaker, just check they are saying what they have prepared!

Year 10 GCSE French proposal to show the award-winning French film "Entre les Murs" in French lessons after the Easter holidays REMINDER.

As part of the work on our current GCSE module, School, and to coincide with our visit to the British Film Institute, the MFL department would like to show the French film "Entre Les Murs" ("The Class") to Year 10 French students after the Easter break. This is an award-winning film about life in a tough secondary school in Paris (see below).

It has been rated 15 by the British Board of Film Classification due to some instances of strong language used in the film. However, we feel that seeing the film would offer students an authentic insight into the issues facing young people in France today.

All students should have now received a letter asking for permission for your child to see the film. Please complete and return to your child's French teacher as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

Years 9 & 10 GCSE French Trip to British Film Institute - Wednesday 1st May

A reminder that the MFL trip the British Film Institute will take place on Wednesday 1st May.

Some key points to remember:

We will leave school at 9am in order arrive in time for the start of the workshop at 10.30am. Students will be required to wear school uniform and will need to bring a packed lunch.

Those students entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

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.

In order to be able to come on the trip, students must have paid the £20 required in full by Monday 29th April. We are using our online payment system, School Gateway, to collect instalments. If you have any issues using this system please bring a cash or cheque payment to the school office. If you require financial support with this, please contact your child's Director of Learning for the Year in confidence.

KS3 - Years 7 and 8

National Centre for Excellence in Language Pedagogy MFL Hub Project REMINDER

The Department for Education has established a National Centre for Excellence in Language Pedagogy, which aims to improve language teaching and the uptake of Modern Foreign Languages at Key Stage 3 and 4. Townsend School is one of 45 schools selected to take part in a 2-year project with the Centre. It is an opportunity for the students and language teachers at our school to help shape language learning nationally.

Purpose of the study

The Centre aims to stimulate the use of research-informed teaching materials and methods in order to improve learners' foreign language abilities.

Student participation

As part of the project, students in Years 7 and 8 have been asked to take part in an anonymous online survey to gauge their enjoyment of and interest in learning languages. For some classes, their teacher will be making some short video recordings of delivery of the new teaching techniques during regular classroom hours. While the pupils are not the focus of these videos, it is possible that your child may appear in the background.

If your child is in a class where videoing will take place, you should now have received a letter asking you to give or refuse permission for them to take part. Please return this letter to your child's French teacher as soon as possible.

For information about General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) please use the link https://www.york.ac.uk/education/research/gdpr_information/

Mrs Livesey

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip

For children to be good at maths, they need to feel confident about doing it. Praising your child for their effort and progress, not their ability, will increase their confidence and make them hungry to improve further.

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

County Athletics Competitions

The county athletics competitions begin after Easter, with a match every week over 6 weeks. Students who have shown interest have received a letter with all the athletics competition dates and venues.

- The first match is Tuesday 30th April at Ware Athletics Track 3.15 – 6.30/7pm

Athletics training will be on every Wednesday after school, for each competition students will be selected weekly based on performance at competitions and in lessons and attendance to athletics club. Students will be informed by their team manager each week if they have been selected and which events they will be doing.

Any further queries please speak to Miss Pennifold

Senior District Athletics Championships – Wednesday 1st May 1.30 – 4pm

The year 11, 12 and 13s have their district final on Wednesday 1st May.

A Level PE practical moderation

The A Level PE practical moderation will take place on Tuesday 7th May at Haberdashers boys school. The students being assessed in football (10.30 – 12.15) are required to attend the moderation day, and should be prepared to do a live EAPI on the day. Students will need to arrive at Haberdashers with plenty of time to warm up and prepare themselves for the activity, and will need to bring with them appropriate clothing for football, including shinpads, socks, football boots and goalie gloves as appropriate, along with plenty of water and food for the time they are there.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Hertfordshire Teacher Recruitment Fairs 2019

At Teach in Herts (managed by Herts for Learning), we work on behalf of over 525 Hertfordshire shareholding schools to raise the profile of our job search website on which schools can manage all of their school vacancies. Applying for posts advertised on Teach in Herts means that schools do not have to pay agency fees to recruit their staff. Encouraging people to career change in to teaching or to consider teaching as their first career is a vital part of our work and we would like you and your extended family and friends to support us in getting the word out about our next events.

The last Teacher Recruitment Jobs Fair taking place in the 2019 academic year is for experienced teachers looking for teaching jobs in Hertfordshire, those looking to secure their first NQT teaching post or those looking for support and advice to return to teaching; delegates will be able to meet schools with vacancies face to face. There will also be an opportunity to meet teaching schools and university training providers face to face for an informal discussion about starting or changing in to a career in teaching. There will be a series of workshops which support each of these groups. Further information can be found on our Teacher Recruitment Event page along with a link for delegates to book on to this last event.

To register as a delegate for the events please click on the link below:

teachinherts.com

Teacher Recruitment Jobs Fair at Cheshunt - Saturday 11th May 2019 9:30am – 1:00pm

Location: Goffs-Churchgate Academy, College Road, Cheshunt, EN8 9LY

Delegate registration survey - <http://bit.ly/TRF11thMay>