

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th January 2018

'THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK'

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others" – Booker T Washington

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For January our value focus is Hope 'We wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and saviour, Jesus Christ' Titus 2:13 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.

IMMUNISATIONS

Year 10 (and Year 9 students that missed the immunisations in January)

The school nurses will be in school on Tuesday 20th February to immunise Year 10 (and several Year 9) students against Meningitis ACWY and DTP. Please make sure your child is aware that this will be happening and also ensure that you have completed the online consent form attached.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON HARPENDEN ROAD

We are very grateful to Charlotte Hogg County Councillor for St Albans North: Batchwood and Marshalswick South who following our request for help, wrote to the Highways department regarding a pedestrian crossing on Harpenden Road. Although clearly there is a long way to go yet, at least it is now an item for consideration. Ms Hogg hopes the response she was sent would be 'positively received by the School community'.

"This request now sits highly in terms of its ranking, and during the 2018 2019 Financial year, funding will be made available to investigate a scheme further. It is proposed to undertake a feasibility study, traffic and pedestrian counts, and an engineering investigation, and depending on the outcome, consideration will be given to obtaining funding in future years to build a scheme, though having said this we do usually aim to build any scheme the financial year following investigation (i.e. in this case during 19/20), though this isn't always achievable for a number of reasons. Exactly what may be built will depend on a number of factors that will be identified from the feasibility study."

YEAR 9 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING

A reminder that this is on Wednesday 31st January 5.00pm-8.00pm. Students should by now have made most of their appointments with subject teachers. We look forward to seeing all our parents/carers at this event.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Wednesday 24th January, 16 Year 9 pupils had the opportunity and privilege to attend the County Holocaust Memorial Service. The afternoon was a thought provoking occasion with music, drama and stories about the Holocaust and indeed other tragic cases of Genocide that people have suffered around the world. The guest speaker was Zigi Shipper BEM, a holocaust survivor. He shared his story of his experience from the start of World War II to his liberation at Gdansk, Poland. It was

a humbling experience and even more powerful coming from someone who lived through the atrocity. After the ceremony, the pupils looked around an exhibition and left messages of respect on the message board. Well done to the pupils who represented the school so respectfully. Mr Armitage

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR JANUARY 31ST

This event is being held at Marlborough Science Academy on Wednesday January 31st 5-8pm. As part of our consortium (Alban Learning Partners) this evening provides an opportunity for students and parents/carers to find out more about apprenticeships and what training providers and companies have on offer. For further details and for confirmed exhibitors please visit Marlborough Science Academy website.

COMMONWEALTH SERVICE

There is to be a significant emphasis on the Commonwealth during 2018, not least because of Her Majesty's hosting as Head of the Commonwealth and the UK Government's receiving of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in London and Windsor during the week of 16 April 2018.

The Hertfordshire Lieutenancy which undertakes various activities on behalf of the Queen has approached Townsend School to assist in one of the Lieutenancy's flagship county events, which will be a Commonwealth Service, taking place at the Abbey and Cathedral Church of St Alban on Sunday 18 March 2018, starting at 11.15 am. The Lord Lieutenant and other local, national and international dignitaries are expected to attend. We think this is an exciting opportunity for our school.

The Service is open to all, so do feel free to spread the word and invite family, friends and neighbours. People are being encouraged to attend in cultural dress if they wish to do so.

During the Service there is to be a Commonwealth Procession for which we are seeking the support of 53 pupils to carry the flags of the Commonwealth nations. The pupils are likely to be required to be at the Abbey from 10:30am on the day, with the service concluding by 12:30am, followed by light refreshment. Further details including drop and pick up points/timing, etc. will follow in due course. Perhaps there is a particular Commonwealth Country/Countries you would identify with or with which you have an affiliation. This would assist us in allocation of pupils to the various national parades where best we can.

This is an exciting opportunity for the school and the students to participate in great reflection for the community.

We would like your assistance with encouraging your child/children to participate in the flag bearing procession. If any students would like to be involved, they should see Ms Sheppard to declare their interest next week.

Ms Sheppard

SUBJECT INFORMATION

MATHEMATICS

A selected number of students from Years 9 and Year 11 will be taking part in the National Mathematics Challenge on Thursday during lesson 2 in the Hall. We wish them good luck.

GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 and 12 - Swanage trip

With the date fast approaching we are looking forward to our residential fieldtrip to Swanage. This trip forms a compulsory part of the course worth 30% of the final GCSE grade and 20% of the final A level grade. Thank you to all who have made their payments, this is to remind you that the third payment is now due. Many thanks.

Year 8 - St Albans Field Work

Just a reminder of the fieldwork work being carried out by year 8 students on Tuesday (30th) next week. Please ensure you have returned your child's slip and health form or they will not be able to attend. On Tuesday they will need to be in full school uniform, have a warm waterproof coat, pens, pencils and a clipboard if you have one for them. 8 Durham and York will be out over lunchtime so please do remember to send a packed lunch in with your child. A packed lunch will be provided for those students who are entitled to a free school meal. Thank you Miss Reynolds

HISTORY

GCSE YEAR11

A reminder that Year 11 GCSE History revision takes place every Monday (boys only) in HU6 at 1.30 and every Thursday (girls only) in HU8 at 1.30. Please encourage your child to attend these especially if you have received a letter recently regarding your child's underachievement in history trial examination. Your child has been given a lunchtime revision and lesson countdown as a guide.

We encourage Year 9, 10 and 11 History students to buy Revision guides (includes key information, exam skills focus and exercises) for the American West, Elizabethan England and Weimar and Nazi Germany at £4 each. They may obtain these directly from their History teacher. Please note that the Crime and Punishment revision guide will be available in February 2018. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in 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

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE YEAR 11

Revision Guides for GCSE students are available to purchase from the School Shop for the price of only £2.75 each on Tuesday and Thursday at break time. 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. Ms Sheppard

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 & 8

For the new Technology rotation of food technology your child has been given a list of all the ingredients in a hard copy to bring home to you, there is also a copy on show my homework and a copy attached to this parentmail. Please check your child's class on their timetable so you know which day they are cooking on and contact me if there are any issues with ingredients etc. 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. Mrs Coates

DRAMA

It's the time of the year where we start getting ready for the school show. This year's production is the Wizard of Oz (performances on 12th and 13th July 2018)

7pm) and auditions are fast approaching. Sign up for auditions is on Monday 29th January at lunch time (1:20) in MU1 and the actual auditions are Monday 5th February 3:30-4:30pm in the school hall. If your child would like to be in the show but transportation from after school rehearsals is an issue please contact Mrs Coates or Mr Phelps. Last year we managed to sort out lift shares etc. so that everyone could join in the fun and take part in a wonderful Townsend community activity. We encourage any and all students to audition and come to join in! Mrs Coates

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Results:

- Year 7 netball match vs St Albans High School for Girls

A very tough match for the year 7 girls, facing a team of players who play regularly outside of school. The girls fought hard and never gave up, improving each quarter to try to work out how to beat the opposition, with some fantastic defending and interceptions. POM – Anna

- Year 7 netball match vs Roundwood Park School

What a difference a day makes! The team started the match like renewed players from the last game, more focused, calmer and a new desire to make the ball theirs. Some excellent performances across the court, with all players taking on their individual goals from the last game and improving on them like professionals. A true team performance with the final score representing a very fair and well fought out match 9-9. POM - Megan

Fixtures:

- Year 7 netball match vs Sir John Lawes School – Tuesday 30th January – away 3.25 – 5/5.15

- Year 7/8 girls district football tournament – Monday 5th February at Oaklands college – 3.25 – 6/6.15pm

This week we have been asked to pass on the following information as part of our support for the community. Please note that although we are very happy to pass on information these are not Townsend sponsored or organised events.

DSPL7 are pleased to present Autism and Girls

Do you have a girl with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of Autism?

This introductory workshop is aimed at parent/carers of girls aged

5 - 16 years of age, with a diagnosis of Autism, or those awaiting diagnosis.

The workshop will take place between 10am—12pm

on Friday 23rd March 2018 at St Albans Girls' School Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans, AL3 6DB To book, please email - admin@dspl7.org.uk or call 01727 853134 Ext 244

Places are limited, so please do book early to avoid disappointment

This course is open to all residents of St Albans, Harpenden and villages

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

The School of Education would like to invite you to the next instalment of our flagship lecture series - 'Information and Insight into Autism'. The lecture will take place on Tuesday 06 February 2018 from 17:30 - 18:30.

Ros Blackburn is an adult with autism. At three months old she appeared withdrawn, isolated and very much in a world of her own. At eighteen months she was diagnosed severely autistic but with average intellectual ability. Ros now lectures nationally and internationally, giving insight into her own experiences as well as the care and education practices she has observed.

In this talk, Ros will draw on her experience of living with severe autism and her considerable experience both as a recipient of services and increasingly as an observer of education and care approaches. Ros brings a perspective that is unique and yet speaks to all her audience: people with an autism spectrum disorder, carers, families, educators and the planners and providers of these services. She explores with humour and passion the 'mistakes' from which she has had to learn and some of her coping strategies. From these she is able to offer helpful advice on practical strategies (and even more helpful advice on what not to do!)

JUST FOR DADS GUIDE TO.....

Fully funded by DSPL7 and places available for any dad, grandfather, adoptive/foster father caring for a child under 11 years old with any additional need, learning/physical disability and/or chronic health condition living in St Albans, Harpenden & villages

Mon 30th April 7-9pm

Strategies to manage behaviours that challenge

Mon 21st May 7-9pm

Strategies to manage anger

Mon 25th June 7-9pm

Using empathy to communicate and build emotional well-being

Mon 9th July 7-9pm

Strategies to manage anxiety

The Alban Way Children's Centre @ Marshalswick,
Sherwood Park,

Sherwood Avenue,

St Albans AL4 9QL

Places are limited and must be booked by contacting

Lesley, Francine or Maria: Email info@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Phone and leave a message: 01442 219720

Website: www.familiesinfocus.co.uk Email: info@familiesinfocus.co.uk

Tel: 01442 219 720

Hertfordshire Branch Parent/Carer Drop In

If you would like to meet other parents and carers raising a child with Autism or other spectrum conditions, why not join us for drop in sessions run by local parents, offering friendship, support and an opportunity to share practical ideas and information. Refreshments and a friendly welcome await you.

Please join us on Thursday 8th February 2018 11.15am –12.45pm and thereafter on the second Thursday of the month.

11.15am –12.45pm Fleetville Community Centre Royal Road St Albans AL1 4QL

HAND NEWS (Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database)

View the latest issue on their website handnews.gov.uk

Dear parents and carers
Welcome to the latest edition of HAND News.
I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it useful.
With very best wishes
Claudia Houghton - Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database.

Understanding Teens, The Gross Stuff & Ground Rules

To book your place call Vista on:
01727 855134 (Ex 6) or 07584 798528
Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com
Places are limited - Please call NOW to secure your place on this popular course

Topics covered include:
The importance of self esteem
Tools for handling conflict
Understanding physical & emotional development
Improving communication & relationships
Dealing with challenging behaviour

Venue: St Albans Girls' School, Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans, AL3 6DB
Time: Wednesdays, 7pm – 9pm
Date: 21st February to 28th March 2018
Cost: £15 per person to cover venue hire.
Understanding Teens, The Gross Stuff & Ground Rules