

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 28th September 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You can make whatever you want out of your life, but first you have to not be afraid to try - Unknown

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For September our value focus is Respect. 'Treat others the same way you want them to treat you' Luke 6.31. 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 (PTA)

OPEN EVENING.

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who helped in any way whether you came in on the evening or helped with transporting your children. The evening was a great success and it was a real team effort.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA) AGM

Our **AGM is on Wednesday the 17th of October** in the school hall at 7pm. Please come along and support.

New ideas and help with our activities are much appreciated. There will be light refreshment available.

Other news

If you have a wood burner/open fire - we have **logs available** on site, mainly oak. If anyone is interested please contact Ian Graham via reception. There will be a small charge to go towards PTA funds.

We are about to start preparing for **Christmas Hamper Raffle** and are looking for hamper fillers. Any items such as tins or boxes of chocolates, bottles of drink, festive items, in date seasonal foods, crackers, gift vouchers, etc would be much appreciated. Please send in to reception for the attention of Ian Graham.

Many thanks for your support.

Friends of Townsend

DEDICATION SERVICE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2018 2PM

The whole school will be attending the Dedication Service at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Wednesday October 3rd. Students will be transported to the Cathedral from school but unless you are attending the service and collecting your child directly after the service, the students will need to make alternative travel arrangements home from the Cathedral at approximately 3.00pm. We do ask that you are clear with your child about a meeting point after the service. The traffic around St Albans city centre is always heavy and Wednesday is a market day so likely to be even worse! Please do allow enough time for travel if you are driving to pick up your child for 3.00pm.

The children will leave the Cathedral from the West Gate which is the entrance off George Street along Romeland. Although there is minimal parking around this area there is space to stop a car and pick your child up. If

you decide however to collect your child from Holywell Hill, your child will need to leave the Cathedral not from the West Gate but from the temporary entrance along past the bookshop and walk through Sumpters Yard to Holywell Hill. This can be a busy road and parking/stopping can be difficult. Do allow yourself plenty of time to collect your child and please be very clear with your child about the arrangements for this. There will be a senior teacher who will wait with year 7 at the West Gate until they are collected but we would appreciate your support in ensuring that you are fully aware of the details above.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Healthy Young Minds in Herts website provides a lot of valuable and useful information for children parents/carers and professionals. Please do have a look at the website and if you think it may help you support your child, please do perhaps have a look at it together with your child.

<https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/>

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP TUESDAY OCOBER 2ND 2018

Last year we started up a Parent /Carer Support group. We would like to continue with this and are proposing the group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month (unless the first Tuesday falls during a holiday in which case it will be the 2nd Tuesday). We will start with two different times for the meetings to try to see whether there is a better time or whether we really need both 10.15-11.15am and 6.0pm-7.00pm. The information below will give you an idea of who the group is aimed for and how it can support. The Support Group is for you if you have a child at the school with additional needs – either learning or emotional. It could be an ongoing need or it could be one that has come about as a result of a particular incident or trauma. We are very keen to support you as parents/carers with your children as they grow up as young adults at Townsend. The meeting is an informal get together for parents/carers to provide you with a voice to help us to help your child or simply to help you with your child at home. On occasions it can be a difficult and lonely time when things don't go well at home or at school and we would like to provide you with a support network to help on these occasions. Last year on many occasions it was actually providing the opportunity to share your anxieties or worries rather than a specific strategy of support offered by school that helped parents/carers. Knowing that the struggles you have are struggles many other parents/carers have can sometimes be in itself reassuring. Sharing ideas and ways of dealing with things with other parent/carers can only be a good thing. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. This is open to parents/carers of all year groups. Please just come to the reception area and we will direct you to the meeting room.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA

Year 7

Students have started off their Drama lessons with an introduction to basic Drama skills this term, there is also still the opportunity to join the Drama club and be a part of the Christmas production as a member of the chorus.

YEAR 8

The Drama Home learning project is currently on week 2 of 5. A copy of the work sheet is available on Show my homework and student have been given a copy in lessons. If they need a spare hard copy then they can come to the Drama studio to collect one during break and lunch. Students should bring some of their home learning to be checked during the week of the 8th October to check progress. The full project is due in during the week of 22nd October to be marked over half term.

YEAR 9

An excellent start to GCSE Drama by the year 9's with their introduction to Drama skills, postcards will be speeding their way home for students who have made excellent effort.

YEAR 10

Students are studying design elements in theatre, if anyone has any old shoe and egg boxes for our set design module please could you donate them and send them in with your child.

YEAR 11

GCSE open house revision is available every Tuesday lunch in IT1 for students to complete home learning or revision.

DRAMA CLUB - ALL YEARS

Please can all permission slips for the Drama club photo consent form be returned to Mrs Coates as soon as possible, also please make sure that your child is checking their rehearsal schedule so they attend all rehearsals.

ENGLISH

FOCUS ON YEARS 9 10 AND 11

The English Department would like to thank all the wonderful students who helped with Open Evening – as always our students were wonderful ambassadors for our school and so many parents commented on how mature and special our young people are.

National Poetry Day 4TH October 2018

To mark and celebrate National Poetry Day this year we will be having a poetry competition for Year 7. This is a national competition called 'The Lost Words' and asks students to describe an animal in the form of an acrostic poem. We know our students will produce some excellent work and we will be posting some on parent mail in a few weeks.

Reading

Whilst we understand it is more difficult to monitor reading once students reach KS4 it is essential that this is something parents still encourage and support. GCSE examination texts are aimed at a reading age of 15 years and 8 months – the average age of a student taking their exams. If a student's reading age falls below their chronological age then they go into their exams with an obvious disadvantage. If they can't understand what they are reading they will not be able to analyse it. So how can you help? Make sure your son or daughter is reading regularly – fiction and non-fiction (good quality newspapers and magazines etc.) We recommend at least 30 minutes per day. Read something together but more importantly question them on what they have read.

- ✓ Why do you think the character did that?
- ✓ How do you think he feels when that happens?

- ✓ How would you describe the tone of this chapter?
- ✓ Which word suggests...?
- ✓ What other word means the same as...?
- ✓ What do you think might happen next?

It is their ability to explore, analyse and assess a text that is important not the 'fluency' of their reading – no one 'listens' to them read in an exam!

Year Groups

Year 10 are currently studying one of their literature texts 'An Inspector Calls' an interesting play that explores many interesting social and moral themes. There is weekly homework set on SMHW but all the revision sites – BBC Bitesize, SAM Learning etc. have excellent revision materials. If possible it is ideal if students have their own copy of the play so they can annotate the text and keep this for revision next year.

Year 11 are currently revising Paper 1 for their upcoming mocks. All of the student websites have very good revision materials and apart from the homework set in class students should be spending at least two hours per week revising English and Literature in order to ensure they are well prepared for the exams. A great way to support your children with Literature – is to help them memorise their quotes. The new G.C.S.E. requires students to know the key quotes for each text – no books in exams anymore – therefore the earlier they start the process of memorising the quotes the better – less stressful than starting when the exam season is upon us! Get them to make revision cards, post it notes all over the house (it's temporary!), family quizzes etc. Any time spent helping with this will improve their chances of using the key quotes in their essays and therefore improve their grades.

GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

Geography is always in the news. We have been discussing many current affairs topics with our students in geography lessons this term and it would be fantastic if you can chat to your children about what is in the news too - it heightens not just geographical knowledge and understanding - but also general literacy and knowledge of the world we live in. Excellent websites to use at home and for Geography homework include the national newspapers websites e.g. The Guardian, The Times, The Independent and websites below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

<https://news.sky.com/uk>

<http://time.com/>

<http://geographical.co.uk>

GCSE Geography and GCSE Pod

There are some fantastic resources on GCSE Pod for geography - all specifically designed around the AQA specification. Students will sometimes be set assignments using GCSE pod videos and pods. Mrs Buckland's year 10 and 11 classes have been set assignments on GCSE pod this week, but all GCSE students can access these resources all the time and are excellent in supporting their learning from class.

If you need any help with accessing these sites or would like to discuss more, please feel free to contact me at school.

Mrs Buckland

HISTORY

This October marks the 31st annual **Black History Month** in the UK. The History Department is once again encouraging students to take part in Townsend's Black History Month competition, researching some fascinating but often forgotten individuals in history. Students are asked to produce an A4 or A3 poster on their individual, explaining how they have influenced society and why more people should know about them. **Deadline for entries is Monday 5th November** and are to be given Mrs Bailey, Head of History, in HU8.

History club is at lunchtimes on Wednesdays at 1.30 in room HU8 for all years

Year 7 History

Students are currently practicing chronological and source skills with a focus on Anglo-Saxon England in their History lessons. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zq2m6sg#zxxxtfr> on SMHW which will help them get an overview and understanding of the unit.

Year 8 History

Students are currently studying the British Empire and are considering the changes and continuities to present day. Students can find the BBC bitesize link

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

Year 9 GCSE History

Students are currently studying a non-examined unit this term on the topic of the First World War. This is to help them prepare and develop examination skills. The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Students will study Paper 1 (Crime and Punishment) from January and it is suggested they procure themselves with a copy at the cost of £4 in order to embed revision skills early in the course. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 10 GCSE History

Students are currently studying Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 for the term. We encourage students to purchase the American West revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you. History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students this week and put on SMHW. Please continue to encourage

your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Year 11 History GCSE

Year 11 History students have received a letter for a trip opportunity on Wednesday 7th November 2018 to spend the day on a guided tour in London (Whitechapel area - historic environment for Paper 1). We ask that permission slips and payment is complete by the **latest Monday 15th October**. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Still in confidence so that we can support you. Students will continue to study Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students this week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

MUSIC

Instrumental Lessons

Lessons are now taking place for those who received lessons last term on the following days:

Monday: Percussion

Wednesday: Piano

Friday: Singing, Flute & Guitar

Violin and Viola lessons will start on a Monday ASAP. We have been allocated a new teacher who we hope will be starting in the next two weeks.

For students who have recently signed up to start lessons, these are beginning to be added to the timetables as soon as they are processed by the Music Service. When this happens, students will be given a reminder slip by their form tutor so they know the time of their first lesson.

Please note: We have had more applications for piano and guitar lessons than we are currently able to accommodate. The music service is working hard to find us additional teachers for these, but this may not happen until after half term.

All students are expected to check for their lesson time in the music block. Please encourage them to do this as it isn't always possible to catch up missed lessons.

A number of families have been in touch with queries, I am working my way through these so please do expect a call from me soon. If your query is about billing or you wish for your child to start instrumental lessons, please contact Hertfordshire Music Service, who bill families directly and provide instrumental teachers on our behalf. Their website has a wealth of information and you can apply for lessons online at www.hertsmusicservice.org. There are some

great schemes for reduced-price lessons and free instrument loans for eligible families, too.

Thank you. Miss Kirk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Results

- Another cross country win for Gianni in year 7 this week, and some excellent performance from other year 7 and 8 boys coming 7th overall as a team.

Fixtures

- Monday 1st October - year 9 girls netball match Vs St Albans High School – away 3.30 – 5pm

- Thursday 4th October - district cross country at Verulam School playing fields 3.30 – 5pm

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Please find two attachments promoting two important events that we would encourage you to consider

WELLBEING VILLAGE Thursday 18th October 2.30pm -7pm at St Albans Girls School. This is a gathering of many professionals dedicated to providing wellbeing and mental health support to children and families. No need to book just turn up and see the stalls that interest you.

SPEECH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE Wednesday 7th November 9.30-2.30 Booking details on form