

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The future depends on what we do in the present – Mahatma Gandhi

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For March our value focus is Justice 'Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!' Psalms 106.3 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.

**PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP REMINDER**

There will be a Parent/Carer Support Group on **TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 10-11AM**. This is for all parent/carers who feel they could do with a bit of extra support, either from the school and/or other parent/carers.

Any worries or good news can be discussed in a friendly, non-judgmental way and sometimes it's helpful to know that others are dealing with the same difficulties as you. We also share with you information about services out of school that are available as well as courses and social groups that may be of interest to you and your children. Hope to see you there.

Penny Baker Inclusion Coordinator

**ENRICHMENT DAYS 2019**

Your child has been sent home with information regarding our 3 day enrichment programme on 26th, 27th and 28th June. Please read the information carefully and discuss this with your child, including criteria for the participation in the trips.

Students will need to sign up for their Friday optional choice on the specified day next week, with a £10 deposit to secure their place on the trip. There are a certain number of places available for each year group for each trip, therefore students will need to be prepared to have a 2nd choice as well.

We hope these 3 days will give students different experiences outside of the classroom, and we hope all students will be excited to take a full and active part in the 3 days. If you have any questions please contact your child's director of learning.

Thanks, Miss Gibbons & Mr Armitage

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENES WEEK 2019 APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> -7<sup>TH</sup>**

*Autism is a lifelong disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. There are approximately 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK.*

At Townsend we are proud to celebrate being an inclusive school; to recognise and support all the many differences we have within our school community. We understand and appreciate that differences can bring added challenges for young people and families but appreciating these and working alongside home to ensure all our young people are supported encouraged and valued to do the very best they can is in essence what we are about. Next week in school we will be celebrating the many successes our autistic children achieve in school. There will also be information about Autism provided for all students. If you would like more information about Autism Awareness Week please use this link

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

### **YEAR 13**

Students will be bringing home end of year reports this week, along with details of the summer term and the leavers ceremony. Attached is an electronic version of the letter they have received. Please ensure the reply slip is completed and returned to your child's form tutor. Thank you, Miss Gibbons

### **EURODISNEY**

The parent/carer meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26th June - please ensure you are able to attend this meeting for your child to be able to come on the Eurodisney trip. I am still awaiting several passports - these must be with me by Friday 5th April as the company must have the information before the Easter break. The final instalment (£135) is also due by Friday 5th April - therefore you should have paid the balance of the trip by this date please. Thanks, Miss Gibbons

### **YEAR 11**

#### **YEAR 11 PROM**

Just a reminder that the reply slips need to be in ASAP and the payment deadline in 31st May.

#### **YEAR 11 PHOTOGRAPH**

On Friday 5th April we have a Photography company coming in to take a large year group photo as well as individual photographs of Year 11. Students will need to make sure that their uniform/dress is as it should be and that they are all looking smart! Parents/carers will be able to purchase the large photo and individual photographs online. We will send you details of this.

#### **EASTER HOLIDAY WORK**

Now that the Year 11 students have completed their final trial examinations in English, Mathematics and Science, they should now know their areas of strength and areas to work on. Revision should be in full flow over the Easter holiday break so please support us in helping your child try to focus and make the most of the revision time available. All subject areas have set revision for the holiday and we as a school are setting the pupils a target of **50 hours** revision. There are 17 days where the pupils are not at school, so 3 hours a day on average will meet the challenge! Students should use a variety of revision methods from reading notes, attempting past papers, using online tools, etc and should also look to break the 3 hours down into 20/30 minute chunks of time. Plenty of rest, exercise and healthy eating will also help the mind and body. After the Easter break we only have 3 school weeks until the 1st GCSE exams start W/C 13th May.

Many thanks, Mr Still

### **YEAR 9 WORKSHOPS - TUESDAY 2ND APRIL**

On Tuesday instead of core PE (no need to bring your kit that day) year 9 students will be taking part in a Herts Young Homeless workshop, being delivered by external speakers that looks at the way relationships change as young people get older. It also includes help with identifying harmful relationships and offers strategies for the young people to avoid these situations but also manage them. The workshop is designed to empower our young people, to enable them to make reasoned and informed choices and to know where to seek advice and help from should they be concerned about anything. If you have any questions or queries please do contact me at school.

Miss Reynolds

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PARENT ASSOCIATION)**

**easyfundraising**

You can help raise funds for Townsend School simply by shopping on the internet via the listed website below. This website provides links to many well-known high street stores (Marks & Spencer, Amazon, Carphone Warehouse, Eurocamp, Staples, Superdrug, Thornton's Direct, Ticketmaster, Waterstones). All of these shops, and others, will pay a small commission on all purchases at absolutely no cost to you. Click on the link to help raise money for our school: [www.easyfundraising/townsend](http://www.easyfundraising/townsend)

**Easter Gift shop** will take place in the Founders Foyer on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th April at lunchtime break. Lots of reasonably priced gifts for sale.

### **GCSEPOD – PODDERS OF THE WEEK**

This week's podders of the week, winning an early lunch pass for next week, were:

Year	Pupil	Pods Watched this week
9C	Yana	46
10C	Millie	79
11C	Kamrul	93

All 3 winners from Canterbury!

There will be the usual weekly prize as well a term prize so get podding.

### **POD OF THE WEEK**

This week there are multiple pods of the week. With Mock results for Y11 students returning some students will be worried about achieving a grade 4 pass in English or Maths that will facilitate their progress into Sixth Form or College courses. GCSEpod have produced fantastic playlists with the essential information needed to achieve those critical passes. The Pass4Maths list can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6004/6080>

The English one here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6002/6079>

GCSEpod have also produced some fantastic 'pod to paper' playlists that provide pods for specific questions on your recent mocks. If you missed a question in the mocks and would like a playlist to help you understand the topic then ask your teachers about 'Pod to Paper'.

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS READING**

The school has subscribed to 'The Day' which offers a range of news articles (over 5000 archived) accessible for all secondary pupils in order to encourage reading, extending knowledge, global learning and making cross curricular links. Although these will be integrated in every day practice, we would like to encourage students to read further on current affairs or articles which link to their interest(s) at school and at home. The articles are followed by discussions questions, glossaries, activities and further reading opportunities. Moreover, the sister site 'The Day Explorer' offers articles designed for students who have English as a Second Language and special needs. The site can be accessed via the link below or through the school website (go to curriculum, KS3 and click on 'The Day' logo).

<https://theday.co.uk/?token=ZYFLx7Zsi3YLPD09cgFrTC1SbVxLvz00>

### **SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2019**

A copy of the rehearsal schedule has been given to your child when they received their script. If you need another copy please see Miss Kirk or Mrs Coates. All permission slips for image use need to be returned to Mrs Coates ASAP as we would love to start recording images from the rehearsal process for this years show. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates. A scheduled for lunch time music sessions has been given out by Miss Kirk, can all students who are learning instrumental or singing parts for the show please check this schedule and make sure they attend the extra sessions.

Mrs Coates

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE YEAR 11 GCSE**

A quick reminder that there are approximately 4 academic weeks until the first Computer Science exam which is on the 13th of May 2019. The second is on the 16th of May 2019. (Please find a breakdown of the lessons from January up to May attached to bulletin) Students have been using their revision guides and workbooks to complete related revision topics covered in class.

Please encourage your child to complete the workbook as this is a valuable tool providing practice exam based questions covering every topic area in the syllabus.

There will be homework set over the Easter break to complete the two exam papers within the workbook. If there are any questions, please do get in contact via the school office.

Mrs King (D.O.L. ICT)

### **DRAMA**

#### **NEW VIEWS**

The final submission for scripts is due on the 24th April at 12pm, students need to get a digital copy of their script to me by Tuesday 23rd April at the latest so there is time to submit the scripts to New Views. Students should finish their scripts over Easter, they need to be one act and around 30 minutes long.

**Year 7** - Are now working on a scheme of work called Wacky Soap which is a storytelling and role play scheme based around drugs and peer pressure using a metaphor of Wacky Soap.

**Year 8** - Are now working on a project about The Titanic where they will create their own miniature GCSE style performance.

**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 soon with all the details 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** - Should be drafting a copy of the 32 mark question to submit to me before Easter so I can mark it and give feedback to them after Easter. The details are on SMHW and students must hand something to me to help them improve their work and gain additional marks for their exam in May. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

### **ENGLISH**

Students are in the process of receiving their grades for their English Language and English Literature final trial examinations and they will be going over these papers with their teachers. Students have been set consolidatory work on Show My Homework and they should be working through this over the Easter holidays. Thank you for your support  
The English Department

### **FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION – YEAR 11**

There are a lot more videos on GCSEpod now for this course. Students should aim to watch 1 per day in the holidays to recap and revise the subject. Students also have a revision book with many past exam questions in that they can complete and give to me for marking.

Thanks, Miss Gibbons

### **GEOGRAPHY**

#### **SWANAGE PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING - YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY - WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 6PM**

This is a compulsory meeting for all students and a parent/carer must attend. The meeting will take place at 6pm and information about the trip, health and safety and risk assessments, as well as logistics of the trip.

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 7**

Students are will start a new unit on Islamic Civilisations and the Crusades this week. They have been provided with further reading on SMHW to extend their knowledge in the subject as we get on with the unit.

#### **Year 8**

Students have been set their History extended learning project titled 'Who do you think you are?' and is due for class submission early April. Students are expected to work and complete this in their own time. History teachers are regularly checking the progress students are making throughout the term. Please refer to project sheet received in lesson and SMHW for instructions and deadlines. It is important to note that students should not be bringing in original and official documentation such as passports in school. All personal information put into this project will be treated in full confidentiality and locked up in our Humanities office.

#### **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. 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 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. 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 Bailey – Head of History

## **LANGUAGES**

### **Year 11 GCSE Easter Revision Workshop - Tuesday 16th April REMINDER**

The day will run from 10am to 2.30pm with a short break for lunch. Students do not need to wear school uniform, but they will be required to stay on school premises during the lunch break in the area designated for the revision workshop and will need to bring a packed lunch. Students will be supervised by a teacher throughout the day.

The workshop will comprise of sessions focused on developing and using exam skills which will improve performance in the Foundation and Higher tier papers. There will be an opportunity to practise for the GCSE French speaking exam which will take place on Tuesday 30th April.

If you have not yet returned the reply slip and wish your child to attend the revision day, please complete the reply slip and return to Mrs. Livesey by Monday 1st April.

## **YEAR 10 GCSE FRENCH**

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

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.

As some students will not be quite 15 yet, you will receive a letter in the next week, asking for permission for your child to see the film. Please complete and return to your child's French teacher as soon as possible.

The Class (French: Entre les murs, lit. 'Between the walls') is a 2008 French drama film directed by Laurent Cantet, based on the 2006 novel of the same name by François Bégaudeau. The novel is a semi-autobiographical account of Bégaudeau's experiences as a French language and literature teacher in a middle school in the 20th arrondissement of Paris, particularly illuminating his struggles with "problem children": Esmerelda (Esmeralda Ouertani), Khoumba (Rachel Regulier), and Souleymane (Franck Keïta). The film stars Bégaudeau himself in the role of the teacher.

The film received the Palme d'Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, making it the first French film to do so since 1987, when Maurice Pialat won the award for Under the Sun of Satan. The Class was also nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, but lost to Departures.

## **YEARS 7 AND 8 FRENCH**

### **National Centre for Excellence in Language Pedagogy MFL Hub Project**

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 will receive a letter next week and will have the opportunity to give or refuse permission for them to take part.

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

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Numeracy Tip**

Numeracy in Sport:- There is a lot of numeracy and calculations in sports: batting averages, points per game, ratio of goals per game. If you and your child watches a game, or read about one in the newspaper, talk about mathematics concepts which are involved.

For more information on supporting your child's numeracy please visit

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/your-childs-maths> or speak to your child's Mathematics teacher.

Mr Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Athletics**

The athletics season starts after Easter with county league competitions starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week after Easter. If any student is interested in representing the school they need to see Miss Pennifold for a letter with information before Easter. Dates of competitions are:

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at Ware athletics club
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Westminster Lodge, St Albans
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at Westminster Lodge, St Albans
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Westminster Lodge, St Albans
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Westminster Lodge, St Albans
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at Westminster Lodge, St Albans

## **SCIENCE**

### **Year 11**

In the coming week all of year 11 will be completing their feedback lessons on their trial examinations. This will involve going through the papers to see where marks were missed and identifying weaknesses in topic areas and working on those areas.

All pupils who did not achieve their target grades will be given a blank copy of the test to complete over the Easter holidays, however this does not need to be completed in examination conditions. Teachers will be setting playlists on GCSE pod based on the topics in the test and we strongly recommend that pupils watch these videos and then complete the relevant question on their papers. Please support your child in this.

Mrs McNeillis

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

***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.***

## **ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership is supporting the seatbelt campaign run by Roads Policing, raising awareness about the importance of wearing your seatbelt. You can receive a fine of up to £500 if you are caught not wearing your seatbelt.

Most people do wear their seatbelts but still nearly ten per cent choose not to – help them make the right decision for themselves and others. If you have friends or family, who still do not realise how important it is to belt up, have that conversation and make sure they know how much you value their safety, and everyone else’s in the vehicle. Please make sure children are secured in the most appropriate car seat for their age and height. For more on seatbelts and car seats go to [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/seatbelts](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/seatbelts)

### **FEEL YOGA STUDIO IN ST ALBANS**

This Easter at Feel Yoga Studio in St Albans we have organised a 2 hour Yoga and Wellbeing workshop for teenagers. It is on Friday 12th April, 1pm-3pm.

This workshop is an introduction to a weekly term time class we will be launching after Easter. I would really appreciate it, if you could promote the session to the pupils at your school as with exam time coming up and added pressure being put on the students, this could be a good way for them to have some time out from their studies and learn new ways to cope with their emotions and support their whole wellbeing.

If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. Emma 01727 856003 Email: [info@feelhotyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@feelhotyoga.co.uk)

### **EXAM RESULTS WORRY? FREE ONLINE SUPPORT NOW IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

With exam results just a few days away and stress levels rising, Hertfordshire’s GPs are recommending that young people feeling anxious log on for free online counselling and support at [Kooth.com](http://Kooth.com).

Anyone aged between 10 and 25 and registered with a Hertfordshire GP surgery can sign up anonymously and have an online chat with a fully-trained therapist. Counsellors can help with lots of different problems, including exam-related stress, family problems, eating disorders, loneliness, bullying, anxiety and depression.

“The build-up to exam results day can be extremely stressful as young people think the worst and worry about what the future holds,” said Dr Steve Kite, a Ware GP who leads on services for children and young people for East and North Hertfordshire CCG. “By going online at [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) you can get counselling, advice and support immediately. It’s free and anonymous.”

“Please remember, there is no shame in asking for support during hard times, like when you’re waiting for exam results,” said Watford GP Dr Rami Eliad, who leads on services for children and young people for Herts Valleys CCG. “The good thing about [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) is that you can use your phone or tablet to get emotional support and even talk online with an expert who can help in complete confidence.”

Kooth’s counsellors are available between 12noon and 10pm, Monday-Friday and 6pm-10pm at the weekend, 365 days a year. You can also talk to other young people anonymously on the moderated forums whenever you like and keep an online journal.

Young people already using the service have given good feedback, with one teenager saying: “I’ve liked being able to discuss things with you and get some ideas on how to start better controlling my anxiety. It’s been useful.”

### **TALKING TEENS ST ALBANS**

Free workshops for parents/carers - see attached flyer