

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 1st December 2017**

**'THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK'**

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value" –  
Albert Einstein

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For December our value focus is Grace 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of god – not by works, so that no one can boast' Ephesians 2:8-9 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.

**SIXTH FORM PARENTS EVENING**

Will take place on January 11th from 5-8pm. Students should attend with their parents/carers as this is a crucial time to gain feedback from all subject teachers. Students should start to make appointments with their subject teachers.

**ROAD SAFETY FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS**

As parents of children in the sixth form you will be aware of issues relating to road safety, either if your child has started to drive, or your child travels with other young people who are driving vehicles on the road. It has come to our attention that a product is on the market that blocks signals to mobile phones (signal blocking phone pouches). One of the biggest causes of road traffic accidents for young people is the distraction of mobile phones and other devices. Following on from the driving awareness seminar we take all year 12's to and other advice on road safety, we think this is a product you could encourage your child to purchase and use. They can be bought from various suppliers on line and costs vary from £4-£15.

Mrs Marion Buckland

**YEAR 11 AND 13 TRIAL EXAMS**

Well done to all Year 11 & 13 students who have sat trial exams over the last 2 weeks. All staff have been impressed by the commitment and hard work towards these exams. Results and feedback will be given back in lessons before December 13th. Thanks, Miss Gibbons & Mrs Buckland

**YEAR 11 PROM**

This is a last call for students who wish to go to the Prom as final numbers are needed to be given to the venue. Please remember that you can pay on line for this event but must return your consent form to be able to attend. If you are struggling to manage the cost of the trip through financial hardship please can you contact Miss Gibbons/Mrs Buckland in confidence so that we can look at how we may be able to support you.

**YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

A reminder that this is on Thursday 7th December 5.00pm-8.00pm. Students should now have made most of their appointments with subject teachers. We look forward to seeing all our parents/carers at this event.

**YEAR 7 PHASELS WOOD SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE TRIP - FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

Thank you for returns – can we remind you that we do need any outstanding monies and forms by Monday. Payments for this trip can be made online through the Gateway system (the way you pay for your child's lunches) but remember to send in your consent forms as well. If you are struggling to manage the cost of the trip through financial hardship please can you contact Miss Scott in confidence so that we can look at how we may be able to support you. Miss Scott

### **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP TUESDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Don't forget the second meeting for Parent/Carer Support Group. This is for parents/carers of students with additional needs and all are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet other parents/carers, to share ideas and strategies and to help understand that your worries or concerns may well be the same as others! The two meetings will be as before 10-11.00am and 6.30-7.30pm

### **MOBILE PHONES**

Students are not allowed to use their mobile phones in school. If a child is unwell, they can see their Director of Learning who will decide whether he/she should be sent home and if so, ask the office staff to call a parent. Students should not be contacting their parents/carers directly if they are feeling unwell – they should be seeing the subject teacher of their form tutor. The school would appreciate parents/carers support of this policy.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA) SUPER CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2017**

The list of Prizes just keeps growing!!

We now have 6 Hampers and gift boxes

Thank you to all parents /carers and Friends for all your kind donations.

A tower of boxed chocolates, a box of mixed wines, pamper box, cuddly toys

A £50 voucher for Hemel Snow Dome!

A £40 voucher for Hemel Cine World!

A £20 voucher for The Waffle House!

Mystery Christmas goodies box

'Basil Brushes complete Grooming Kit' .....and a CHRISTMAS PUDDING!

Please keep buying raffle tickets (sent home recently) and please send back any monies to the school office. All money raised is being given to departments for educational items to the benefit of all students.

Christmas pudding orders will be here next week. Parent/carers will be notified when they can be collected.

Thank you

Friends of Townsend

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND SCHOOL THEATRE CLUB**

We have a few tickets left for our latest trip to Theatre Royal, Dury Lane, London to see '42nd Street' on 28th February 2018. If you are interested in purchasing tickets please see the attached, fill in and return to the address at the bottom of it.

### **HOMEWORK CLUB**

Please note that there will be **no homework club** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **PREMIER LEAGUE ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME**

A group of our year 10 and 11 students have just completed an eight week Premier League Enterprise Programme with Watford Sports and Education Trust. We had a day at Watford Football Club, having a tour of the stadium, taking part in various activities and ended the day with a press conference with two of the Watford players. The students spent the next six weeks working through various projects related to building their self-confidence, team work and learning to budget their money etc. For our final session we returned to Watford Football Club where all schools involved took part in presentations, which one of our groups won. All students were then presented with certificates by Daniel Bachmann and Miguel Britos. All of our students were a credit to the school, and we are very proud of them. Mrs Altria

### **ADVANCED NOTICE**

#### **CHRISTINGLES SERVICE AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL MONDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2PM**

Our school Christingle Christmas Service takes place at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>. Students will be transported to the Cathedral from school but 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 West Gate is where students leave the Cathedral at the end of the service). Parents/carers are most welcome to join us for this service. Please note that there is a Christmas market in the Vintry Garden in the Cathedral grounds so traffic will be particularly heavy in and around St Albans. **Please do allow extra time for travelling!**

### **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

#### **HISTORY**

##### **Year 7 – Castle Project and competition**

Mrs Burani and Mrs Bailey have set a half termly project to build a medieval castle. The students must submit their castles the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December (dates have been set with teachers) where each class will vote for the top 5 best castle in their History lesson. These castles will then be part of the whole school competition in the Discovery centre. \*\*\*Castles which did not make the cut MUST be taken back home on the day.\*\*\* Top 25 castles of the year group will be on display on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Discovery centre where the entire school will vote for their favourite one. Winners will be announced in assembly (and on parentmail) early January 2018. Prizes, house points and postcards will be awarded to winners and castles will be displayed in school. Please note that there should be no cash expenditure to build these castles. Past castles have been made of bits of recycling such as cardboard, loo/kitchen rolls, etc. Students have been told to speak to their History teacher, see Miss Bailey at lunchtimes (Art department) or Ms Baker in Inclusion on Tuesday/Wednesday lunchtimes should they need further support. We want this to be a positive and rewarding experience as it has been in previous years. Thank you for your continuous support, Mrs Bailey

##### **GCSE History**

We encourage all history students to buy Revision guides (includes key information and exercises) for the American West, Elizabethan England and Weimar and Nazi Germany at £4 each. Please note that the Crime and Punishment revision guide will be available in February 2018. They may obtain these directly from their History teacher. 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

## **MUSIC**

### **Christmas Concert - Wed 13th December**

Our end-of-term concert is fast approaching. This event, taking place in the Hall at 7pm, will include performances of music, drama, dance and poetry. Ensembles and soloists have been hard at work preparing for the performance, so we are looking forward to a good audience to support all our students. We hope the evening will provide a lovely way to celebrate the Christmas season and the end of term. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Mr Phelps (priced £2/£1) or will also be available on the night. Mr Phelps

***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.***

The SEND Executive Board has developed an online feedback survey to evaluate all Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services that are provided to schools/parents/carers.

We would like to obtain feedback from anyone who has recently received a SEND service and would appreciate your help.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/SENDfeedback/>

The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. All feedback is extremely important to us and will be used to help shape the services that can be accessed by schools/parents/carers.

Many thanks  
Debbie Orton  
Head of Integrated Services for Learning  
Children's Services

### **For our Dacorum parents/carers – Free Workshops for parents of children with additional needs Thursday 25th January 2018 SEN Managing the impact on siblings and relationships**

Family life is all about relationships and communication. SEN can bring communication challenges affecting every relationship. How can we balance the needs of all family members?

### **Thursday 1st February 2018 Practical information around SEN and working effectively with Professionals and Schools**

Realising the full potential of our child by understanding the "ins and outs" of special education from early identification to intervention, the terms and acronyms. Building positive working relationships with professionals.

FREE two hour workshops facilitated by Sarah Ellis

10.00 – 12.00

Gade Community meeting room  
Chaulden Junior School, School Row  
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2JU  
Refreshments and resources provided  
Please note that these Workshops are only open to Dacorum parent/carers'  
Information and bookings: Ashley Fabray, DSPL Dacorum,  
[fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk](mailto:fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk) or 07525 917 125

**DSPL7 Delivering Special Provision Locally**

“Communication for Life”

A workshop on meeting the communication challenges of teenage years and young adulthood.

**Date: Wednesday 31st January 2018, Time: 9.30 am to 4pm**

**Venue: St Albans Girls' School, Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans AL3 6DB**

**Cost:** £25 for schools and other professionals. £10 for parents/carers. Tea Please see flyer for more information