

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tiptoe if you must, but take the step - Unknown

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For November our value focus is Forgiveness 'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you' Ephesian 4:32 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**

Our December Parent/Carer Support Group will be running on Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10.15. We have decided to only run one session as the evening one seemed unattractive to people! This group is for parents/carers from any year group who have students with additional needs. It is about providing an opportunity for our parents/carers to share strategies that are working or /and to ask questions about what strategies they could use. It is also an opportunity for parents/carers to meet others with similar worries or concerns and sometimes this alone can be reassuring!

**YEAR 11 AND 13 TRIAL EXAMINATIONS**

Students have been working really hard for these examinations and on the whole our external invigilators have reported excellent behaviour and attitude. It is a tough two weeks for the students as the examinations are clearly closer together than they will be for the Summer 2019 actual examinations. Please encourage your child to keep revising hard this week to prepare for the second week. Thank you for your support.

**DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS**

This is our first year doing a Christmas production, we are performing 'Dickensian Christmas' a collection of Charles Dickens era Christmas ghost stories for one night only in the hall at 7pm on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a Christmas fair during the interval hosted by the Friends of Townsend PTA.

Tickets are on sale at the school reception, Adults £5 and Concession £3, please come and support our Drama Club and Choir students who have worked so hard.

**CONCERNS AROUND ANXIETY**

We have attached a Top Tips Sheet for Parents/Carers to help with strategies around children with anxiety. This is a recommended list from a reliable source so please do use it if your child is experiencing worries/concerns/anxieties.

**CAREERS TALKS**

The careers talk held last Monday by a Paramedic in the NHS was very successful with 62 pupils attending. The next talk will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 1:55pm in the Discovery Centre. We will be visited by a surgeon from the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford who will talk to a group of pupils about working in Medicine. Also planned for this term is a talk on Women in Business that will be open to both male and female pupils, time and date to be confirmed. I am still looking to

find guest speakers who would like to speak to a group of children about their profession. If you are interested please contact Mr Armitage for details.

### **SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Year 12 are hosting the annual Senior Citizen Christmas party on 7th December 12.30-2.30pm and have been working hard on planning activities. We are looking forward to hosting this event once again.

### **FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)**

**Christmas and Festive Hampers Raffle** and other prizes!

We now have 6 Super Hampers as well as a variety of other raffle prizes including big boxes of chocolates, biscuit selections, and vouchers that include a £50 M&S voucher.

Thank you for all your efforts to date with selling raffle tickers - please do keep selling all you can so we can raise as much as we can for school funds to benefit students learning. There are more tickets available from the office if you sell your quota! All sold tickets/stubs please return to the school office.

A few logs are still available for wood burners and open fires. If interested please contact the school office.

Many thanks for all your continued support  
Friends of Townsend

### **ADVANCE NOTICE - REMINDERS**

#### **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MEAL DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

The canteen is arranging for a Christmas Meal in school on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be £3.50 and lunch must be pre-ordered and paid for beforehand as well. All payments must be made directly to the school kitchens through Gateway. Should your child want to pay directly from their account they are able to go to the till - place their thumb on the scan and pay for it this way. They need to make it clear they are ordering a Christmas lunch. Students who normally have a meal provided for them will receive a Christmas lunch.

### **YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING**

#### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 5-8PM**

We would like to invite all our Year 7 parents/carers to this important evening where you get the chance to discuss the progress of your child in a number of their subjects. Students have been given their letters today (copy attached) and this will then give you the opportunity to agree with them which teachers you would like to see and what times best suit you. We do expect a full attendance at this evening as there is only one Consultation Evening each academic year. Please do book the date into your diaries now! We do appreciate that some parents/carers have work commitments but do ask that you make arrangements around this now so you are available. If you need to bring younger siblings because it's the only way you can attend then this needs to happen. If it is really impossible for you to attend as the parent/carer we ask that you arrange with another family member to come with your child - perhaps an aunt or uncle or grandparent.

### **JUMPER DAY DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

On Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> students have the option of wearing a jumper or a Christmas jumper to wear to school instead of their blazer. Should they wish to participate in the day, we are asking for donations of a minimum of 20p that will go towards Save the Children.

## **CHRISTINGLES SERVICE AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2PM**

Our school Christingle Christmas Service takes place at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Wednesday 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 but please be aware that there is limited seating available as this is a popular service. Wednesday is also Market Day in St Albans so the traffic is likely to be heavier than normal. As well as this there will also be a Christmas Market taking place in the Vintry Gardens in the Cathedral grounds. **Please do allow extra time for travelling!**

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **DRAMA**

#### **Drama Club:**

All students should be attending every rehearsal they are needed in for the Christmas show, please support your child in checking their rehearsal schedule. After school rehearsals start on **Wednesday 5th December 3:30-5:30pm**, full cast must be there, please support your child in attending this vital rehearsal.

#### **Summer Production:**

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock' auditions will take place in the first week back from the Christmas holidays, we will be advertising the production in assemblies and through posters next week. All students from all years are welcome to come and get involved, we need good performers, musicians and stage crew to create a fantastic show.

#### **New Views**

Students involved in the New Views National Theatre project will be having a visiting playwright from National Theatre next week, letters have been sent home with permission slips to attend the after school workshop. The workshop is on Thursday 6th December in the Drama studio from 3:30-5:30pm. Please could all permission slips be returned to me in the drama room asap.

**Year 7** - are continuing with Pantomime and have made excellent progress so far.

**Year 8** - have now started Mask work and will be continuing to use the masks up until Christmas, some excellent comedy scenarios have already been created.

**Year 9** - are working on mini plays and will be staging these in class just before Christmas. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 10** - will start preparing for their Component 2 just before Christmas, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

**Year 11** - Revision materials have been supplied in class and on SMHW for all GCSE students, they should have plenty to help them with their mock examinations next Thursday. If students require additional material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework  
Mrs Coates

### **GEOGRAPHY**

## **Geography GCSE**

Revision guides have been ordered for year 9 - 11 geography GCSE students to purchase from school. I hope the order will be delivered in the next 2 weeks. If students would like to purchase a revision guide they should see their geography teacher for a letter with the details on, alternatively the letter is attached to parentmail this week - please see attachment for further details. Should you be currently experiencing any particular financial difficulty please do speak in confidence to your child's Director of Learning so we can support you with these purchases.

**Year 10 and 11 Geography GCSE Study Clubs** - we will begin a programme of study clubs on Tuesday lunchtimes after Christmas. We will issue the programme in January, students will be given details in lessons, these will be drop-in sessions for those who wish to attend, but some students will be targeted in order to give extra support, challenge or intervention.

**Year 8** - students should be continuing with their home work projects this week (as per parentmail last week), if you have any queries or questions please contact your child's geography teacher.

**Christmas Club** - all students are welcome to attend Christmas Club on Monday lunchtimes - we will be creating Christmas cards and decorations using recycled materials that students can bring home.

Mrs Buckland

## **HISTORY**

### **Year 7**

Year 7 students have started their half termly project for History due to be submitted the week beginning Monday 17th December. A project booklet has been given to pupils including instructions, planning, further reading and deadlines. This can be accessed on SMHW.

### **Year 8**

Students are currently studying the Industrial Revolution with a focus on technological and social changes in the 18th-19th centuries. Students can find the BBC bitesize link <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zvmv4wx/revision/1> on SMHW (Show My Home Work) as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

### **Year 9 & 10 GCSE**

The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Year 9 need 'Crime and Punishment' and Year 10 'American West' at the cost of £4. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds (Year 9) or Mr Armitage (Year 10) in confidence so that we can support you.

### **Year 11 GCSE**

Students will be sitting Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany on Monday 3rd December 2018. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact your teacher in confidence so that we can support you. History revision will continue to be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Numeracy Tip**

Watching or playing sports – what's the score now? How will the table look if your team win? How much is the pink ball worth in Snooker? What is treble nineteen worth in Darts? How long is the game? What time will it be at half-time? How far can you run in 5 seconds? How many points is a lay-up worth?

If you wish to improve your own numeracy skills, or support your child further, the National Numeracy website has plenty of ideas, information and strategies at [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)  
Mr Timpson Lead of Numeracy

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

#### ***National Online Safety***

*As part of our #WakeUpWednesday campaign, we've created a free online safety guide for schools to share with parents and carers about Twitch; an online gaming-focused live streaming service, owned by Amazon, which has over 15 million daily active users!*

*TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1067809053865402373>*

*FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety/photos/a.1681508315488685/1924624341177080/?type=3&theater>*