

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd May 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure – Bill Cosby

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For May our value focus is Compassion 'Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour' 1 Corinthians 10:24. 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

The next Parent/Carer Support Group will be on Tuesday May 7th 10-11.00. All parents/carers are welcome. We have invited Marianne Burrows the Advocacy Coordinator from Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme to join us for the second part of the meeting.

Introduction

Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme is a Community Interest Company who offer specialist family support. This includes parenting support which covers child-parent abuse and parenting teenagers. We are a not for profit organisation.

St Albans Inclusion Advocacy Service

Our Advocacy Co-Ordinator will be on hand to support families in the St Albans and District area. It may be that you are experiencing isolation or need support to access services. We will be specializing in supporting families with children who are 12+ and need family support and will work with families in need either by phone or face to face. The Project will be linked to our service www.hertfordshireppp.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday!

SAFEGUARDING

Please be aware that we have received information about a child from Townsend who was approached by a driver in Batchwood Drive offering her a lift. We would be grateful if you could remind your children about safe practice and to report any concerns to you as parents/carers or to us at school. We have passed on the information to the Police. As we approach examinations, where children will be additional pressure at home and school, please do access support from Healthy Young Minds in Herts <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/> or Health for Teens <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire/> or Kooth.com or Youth Talk. Students have been provided with a number of different websites and phone numbers to use should they need further support or seek advice.

ENRICHMENT DAY

On Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th June all pupils in Years 7-10 will be off timetable to take part in an Enrichment Programme. We have asked through letters that have been sent out last term, for a contribution of £5 for each year 7 pupil and £10 for each year 8-10 pupil. If your contribution is still outstanding please could you make arrangements to pay at the earliest opportunity. This can be done either by cash or cheque or can be done online on the School Gateway. If you are struggling to make this donation please can you contact your

child's Director of Learning for the Year group (in confidence) to see if there is further support we can offer. Thank you to everyone who has already paid.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT TOWNSEND

A reminder to add us @TownsendCommunity if you hold an Instagram account or would like to see what we have been up to. We would also like to remind you that we run a school Twitter account which you can check out @TownsendSchool.

YEAR 13 REMINDERS

The following information was sent home via letter before the Easter holidays, however a reminder to parents/carers:

The Year 13 Leaver's Assembly is on Friday 10th May at 1.45pm. Students should arrive in school at 12 noon to have their photograph taken, where they will have an individual photograph and a year photograph and these will be available to buy online. I would be grateful if parents/ carers could arrive from 1.30pm and meet in the Learning Resources Centre where you can meet other parents from the year group. Form Tutors will also be present. After the assembly I hope you will join us for refreshments. The Leavers' assembly is a formal occasion and so all students will be expected to wear formal dress (suits or blazer and trousers for boys – smart office type clothes for girls).

Week commencing Monday 13th May, year 13 students are expected to be in school and be attending lessons. Formal AS and A Level examinations being on Friday 17th May (AS Business exam). Those sitting the AS business exam are not expected in school on Thursday 16th or Friday 17th May (except for their exam in the afternoon). As of Monday 20th May, year 13 students are only expected in school for their examinations (for which they have a separate timetable). Teachers will still be available throughout the examination period at their allotted lesson time for support and additional revision should this be required by pupils.

May I take this opportunity to remind you, that while students are not in school during this period, they are your responsibility. Please ensure you know where they are and ensure they are revising and working towards their examinations. This can be a stressful and pressured time for students therefore as parents/carers we would be grateful for your support in ensuring that you are monitoring the work and emotional health of your son/ daughter. Please return the reply slip from the letter to agree for your son/daughter to only be in school for examinations if they choose to do so from Monday 20th May. As always, students must sign in and out at reception. Students should ensure all text books are returned to individual subject teachers. This must be done after that subject's last examination at the latest.

Examination results will be available in school from 8am on Thursday 15th August.

I wish all Year 13s the best of luck in their exams. If either you or your children need any support or have any queries about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Miss Gibbons

YEAR 11

Students are working hard in lessons during this final week before examinations start. All Year 11 are expected to be in school during week commencing May 13th. From Tuesday May 21st students will then have the option of studying in school or at home but we are sending out more information about these arrangements next week. The information will be coming home with students as well as through parentmail so please do look out for it.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE: 13-17TH MAY

Only a short week to go now! Students will bring home a checklist of "Important Points" for work experience. Please go through this very carefully with them, and also check the job description details again. Make sure they have contacted the employer and had a meeting, where required. Employers may refuse to take students who fail to do this.

Herts Fire and Rescue students: no interview needed, but come to reception in school on Tuesday 7th May at 2 pm to meet a representative.

Margaret Wood

DUKE OF EDINBURGH WEEKEND - 11th/12th May

Just a reminder to parents/carers who have a child who is taking part in the expedition, that the outstanding money, including rucksacks if ordered, for the weekend **must be paid by Tuesday 7th**. If you are struggling with this payment please do contact the school to speak in confidence with your child's Director of Learning for the Year. Thank you Mrs Liddington

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

It is vital that students attend all rehearsals they are needed for to help make the show a success and support the other students who are involved in their scenes. As we progress closer to the show date lack of attendance to rehearsals may result in the loss of role due to a lack of commitment. From now on all rehearsals on Monday's and Thursday's are full cast rehearsals and all students involved on stage must be there, principle and chorus roles included.

The rehearsal schedule- a copy has been given to your child. 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 are still waiting for these, we have started recording images from the rehearsal process for this year's show so if you do not wish to have your child photographed we need to know. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates urgently.

GCSEPOD

USERS OF THE WEEK

The top users for this week and the week before, receiving an early lunch pass are:

Year	Pupil	Pods Watched this week
9Y	Sean	21
10	Millie and Anashe	118 & 67
11	Aimee and Jack	108 & 75

PODGAMES

The school continues to compete in the GCSEpod Games. As with previous weeks we continue to be in 5th place in the world but we are fast closing in on 4th! With a big push in the last few weeks we could even make it onto the podium. Please keep encouraging usage and ask the students to show you what the product can do.

PODS OF THE WEEK

With the first GCSE exams imminent here is a quick reminder that all subjects and all boards are covered. For RE Paper 1 this week why not take a look at Christian beliefs and practices here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6003/6024/8651>

or Islamic ones here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts#6003/6024/8840>

A useful flyer on how to use GCSEpod effectively is attached.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA

NEW VIEWS

Final scripts have now been entered for the competition, well done to all students involved and thank you to parents for the support you have given your child. The theatre trip letters have been sent home and the date of the trip to see Top Girls at the Lyttelton Theatre is on the Wednesday 8th of May for the 2:15pm. Please can all permission slips and money for trips be returned asap to the school office.

Year 7 - Have started an anti-bullying scheme of work which is focused around the script 'The terrible fate of humpty dumpty'. Students will be looking at role play and as well as sharing strategies for tackling bullying together.

Year 8 - Have started their 'Romeo and Juliet' scheme of work for this half term.

Year 9 - Have performed their devised pieces and need to complete their devising logs to experience a mock run of the coursework which will be completed next year. The logs are due in at the end of next week and will be marked to a GCSE standard to give students an insight into the process next year. After this they will move on to studying a play called DNA by Dennis Kelly. 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 have been sent home for parents, please return the reply slips ASAP for the performance date on Friday 24th May, we recommend that due to GCSE content audience members be aged 12 and over. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress, the devising log counts for 60 marks out of the 80 so they should make sure they are keeping up to date and completing drafts. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 11 - Are preparing for their written examination on Friday 17th May, all revision material has been provided and if students would like extra support they can come ask me for extra materials. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

HISTORY

Year 7

Students are studying Islamic Civilisations and the Crusades. They are encouraged to do further reading by visiting the BBC Bitesize website <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx9xsbk/revision/1> to extend and consolidate their knowledge in the subject as we get on with the unit.

Year 9

Advance notice that GCSE History students will sit the Paper 1 trial examination the week beginning 1st July. Crime and Punishment 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. Please speak to Ms Reynolds if there are financial implications.

Year 10

Advance notice that students will sit the Paper 2 trial exam the week beginning 17th June. 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. Please speak to Mr Armitage if there are financial implications.

Year 11

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.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

SCIENCE

KS3 SCIENCE HOMEWORK PROJECTS

Last half term year 7 and 8 were set homework projects by their science teachers. Year 7's were looking into cells whilst year 8 got to choose between researching everyday uses of science or a famous scientist of their choice. The quality of the homework projects we have received so far from year 7 & 8 have been excellent. It has been wonderful to see the thought and effort that has been put in to the research and presentation of this work. We look forward to seeing the projects that are due in the coming weeks.

GCSE SCIENCE LESSONS

This week year 11 Combined Science classes have been reorganised into revision groups to suit the Higher and Foundation exams that they will be sitting. So far feedback from the pupils has been really positive and we hope this will give the students the boost they need before their exams.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that all of year 11 has been issued an examination practice work booklet produced by the Science department. This includes past papers, mark schemes, summaries of their required practical assessments and other useful information for their exams. Please do take the opportunity to discuss what they have learnt in their sessions, how to apply this to their home study and encourage them to complete the exam work booklet during their revision.

A LEVEL SCIENCE REVISION

For those students that did not pre-order their A level Science revision guides and work books they are still available to purchase from their Science Teachers. The work book is full of exam style practise questions that will really help pupils to prepare for their upcoming exams. There is currently the opportunity to buy the bundle of the two together at an excellent value price of £12 (RRP £30.98), or the separately at £9 for the revision guide (RRP £19.50) or £5.50 for the work book. Although we highly recommend these guides they are not compulsory items. However, we do not want any child to be disadvantaged because of a financial need and we are aware that for many of our families, finances in this present climate are tight. If your child wishes to purchase these but it is not possible to provide the money for this please contact me in confidence and we will make alternative arrangements.

Mrs McNeillis.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Please do look at the attached fliers about various workshops for parents/carers

- Happy Teens
- Managing Family Stress
- Teens and Sleep

