

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th April 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing – Oscar Wilde

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For April our value focus is Patience 'Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer' Romans 12:12. 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 AND STUDENT SUPPORT

At this point of term for a lot of children there is excitement and joy at the thought of a two week holiday but while we all take time out of the routine of school we can perhaps spend some time or prayer thinking of those who aren't thinking or feeling such positive thoughts. Firstly for those children who have public examinations in May and June - rest but work hard and use all the information teachers have sent home particularly those key learning points from the recent final year 11 examinations. Parents/Carers please encourage and support your children in achieving a balance of revision rest and relaxation.

Next - to those families who have stresses and worries in their lives and where possibly a child is anxious about a two week break from school. We are thinking of all of you too and hope that you will have a break but also that you will access and ask for support if you are in need.

These are key resources/websites you and your child can look at or contact to seek advice or guidance

- Kooth.com - counsellors on hand to chat to
- ChatHealth for young people to text a school nurse about any subject 07480635050
- Health for Teens www.healthforteens.co.uk
- Healthy Young Minds in Herts www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk
- Single Point of Access (SPA) can put you in touch with the relevant NHS mental health service 03007770707 (8am-7pm)
- Wellbeing Service - for children and adults www.talkwellbeing.co.uk
- Young Minds www.youngminds.org.uk
- Samaritans 24/7 support Tel; 116 123
- NHS 111 if you need urgent medical advice

In case of an emergency call 999

YEAR 11

Prom

Just a reminder that the reply slips need to be in ASAP and the payment deadline is 31st May. If you require financial support with this please do contact Mr Still in confidence. We would love to see the whole year group celebrate their school years at this event.

50 Hour Challenge

With the GCSE examinations only 5 weeks away we are setting the pupils the challenge of completing a minimum of 50 hours revision over the Easter holidays. With 17 days off that works out at roughly 3 hours a day. I would advise splitting this into 2 or 3 chunks. Pupils are advised to revise in the morning, when our brains are at their freshest and take regular breaks. Healthy eating, exercise and some relaxation time should also be built in to the

revision timetable. Staff have set lots of revision tasks/past papers/specific areas to cover. Pupils should use methods that work for them and hopefully this will give them the added confidence when they return in the summer term. I wish everyone a happy, peaceful break.
Mr Still Director of Learning Year 11

NEW WAY TO ACCESS, REVIEW AND REQUEST CHANGES TO YOUR CHILD'S DATA

We have a new convenient way for you to access, review and request changes to the data held on you and your child direct from your phone which we plan to roll out during the summer term. You'll be able to access our new parent app and website at your own convenience via smartphone, tablet or PC. 'SIMS Parent' will allow you to access your child's contact details and medical / dietary information held on record at school and update them as necessary so that we always have the most up-to-date information in case of an emergency. Once a parent submits new information, the school office will approve it and so make it a permanent change.

As we roll out 'SIMS Parent' we will send you an activation email. Simply click on the link from your smartphone, tablet or PC to activate your account. You can then login using your normal Facebook, Twitter, Google or Microsoft username and password. From your smartphone or tablet, download the app from Google Play or Apple App store – search for SIMS Parent or from a PC or Windows phone login online at www.sims-parent.co.uk. Please note only parents living at the same address as the student will be allowed to make changes.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT TOWNSEND

We are pleased to announce that a school Instagram account will launch on Friday 26th April. This will feature entries from our new Head students and BBC Young Reporters on school life at Townsend. The account will go live on Friday 26th April so do add us @TownsendCommunity on the day. We would also like to remind you that we run a school Twitter account which you can check out @Townsend_School.

CURRENT AFFAIRS READING

Please encourage your child to read current affairs news pieces on 'The Day' or 'The Day Explorer' (for English as Second Language and special needs) website to support literacy and understanding of the wider world during the holidays. The site can be accessed via the link below or through the school website (go to curriculum, KS3 and click on 'The Day' logo).

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

Many thanks to all who contributed items and time to our Mother's Day and Easter gift stall and to Mrs Adams and Mrs Sanderson a special thanks for their time and effort to make it a success. We raised £212-50 which is great! Thanks also to the 6th form that helped on the stall.

"Easy Fundraising" This is an easy way to earn money for school initiatives, and it costs you nothing, other than your purchase prices. Check last week's Parentmail for details.

SWANAGE

Year 10 GCSE Geography students will be attending the field trip in Swanage Weds 24TH April to Friday 26TH April . We hope they have a good time but work hard too!

GAS WORKS IN HIGH OAKS AND SPARROWSWICK RIDE

Information we have received from the Council

The gas works are to renew the gas main and services on High Oaks and Sparrowswick Ride. The permit for the works opens on 15th April when you will see the team come into the road

as the works begin. The work involves pushing a plastic pipe through the existing metal gas main in the public footways (supplying gas to properties) and the pipe from the gas main to the properties from the pathway (usually under the driveways and gardens). To do this there will be an excavation outside every property.

This will not require traffic management as the holes are in the public footways; however our machinery and vans will be in the area (and holes!), therefore I would appreciate it if you could inform parents/guardians and the staff at your school. We will always maintain a safe walkway or direct pedestrians where to cross safely.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

HISTORY

Year 7

Students have started studying new unit on 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 8

Thank you for supporting your child in completing the 'Who do you think you are?' project for this half term. We are really pleased with the standard of the projects and how much work students have put into them. Please be aware that projects will be returned to the students once they have been marked and feedback has been provided after the Easter holidays.

Year 10 GCSE

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 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.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

LANGUAGES

Year 11 GCSE French Revision in the Easter Holidays

Preparation for the Speaking Exam

This is a vital time for Year 11 students and in lessons this week, students had an opportunity to discuss their revision for French so far and their revision plans for the holidays with their French teacher. As the GCSE French speaking exam is the second week after the holidays, it is essential that students prioritise preparation for this exam.

As students are aware, for the speaking exam, they will need to take part in a short role play in French, describe a photo and answer questions on it and take part in 2 short conversations on topics we have studied.

For the first conversation, students are able to choose the topic. Students have been given support materials and homework time to do this and should now be finishing their preparations at home. **All students should have prepared a 1 minute talk on their chosen**

conversation topic and answers to questions on this topic as well as answers to help them in the second unknown topic.

Online Revision Tools REMINDER_These resources can be particularly useful for building vocabulary knowledge and listening practice. Students have been set a number of revision activities using online packages and these are listed for students on Show My Homework as follows:

- **Activelearn** - this is the online version of the Edexcel French GCSE textbook. Students have individual logins and exercises have been set to allow them to access at home and revise. The particular advantage of using this package to revise is that it is created by the same exam we use for GCSE French to support their GCSE textbook and should reflect the topics, vocabulary and structures which will come up in the exams. There are vocabulary, reading and listening activities set for each module. **PASSWORD = revision2019**
- **Thislanguage** – students are very familiar with this package as we use it often in school. Students have individual login and password details and exercises have been set to allow students to access at home and revise.
- **GCSE Pod** – More GCSE French revision activities have been added.
- **Linguascope** _ - another package familiar from KS3 but the intermediate section is suitable for KS4 revision. User ID townsend, password francais18.

Year 11 French 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 and students have been asked to bring their preparation for the conversation part of the speaking exam to this session to review with a teacher.

Students should not attend the day unless they have returned the parent consent slip to Mrs. Livesey before the end of term.

Year 10 GCSE French proposal to show the award-winning French film “Entre les Murs” in French lessons after the Easter holidays REMINDER.

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.

All students should have now received a letter asking for permission for your child to see the film. **Please complete and return to your child's French teacher as soon as possible if you have not done so already.**

French Years 7 and 8

National Centre for Excellence in Language Pedagogy MFL Hub Project REMINDER
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 should now have received a letter asking you to give or refuse permission for them to take part. Please return this letter to your child's French teacher as soon as possible.

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sports Extra Curricular Clubs - Summer Term 2019

Please find attached a list of the changes to the sports clubs running at lunch times and after school throughout the summer term.

Students are welcome to attend all sports club no matter their experience or ability to improve their skills at all levels.

*The trampolining club on a Monday after school will not be running during the exam period.

County Athletics Competitions

The county athletics competitions begin after Easter, with a match every week over 6 weeks. Students who have shown interest have received a letter with all the athletics competition dates and venues.

- The first match is Tuesday 30th April at Ware Athletics Track 3.15 – 6.30/7pm

Athletics training will be on every Wednesday after school, for each competition students will be selected weekly based on performance at competitions and in lessons and attendance to athletics club. Students will be informed by their team manager each week if they have been selected and which events they will be doing.

Any further queries please speak to Miss Pennifold

Senior District Athletics Championships – Wednesday 1st May 1.30 – 4pm

The year 11, 12 and 13s have their district final on Wednesday 1st May.

A Level PE practical moderation

The A Level PE practical moderation will take place on Tuesday 7th May at Haberdashers boys school. The students being assessed in football (10.30 – 12.15) are required to attend the moderation day, and should be prepared to do a live EAPI on the day. Students will need to arrive at Haberdashers with plenty of time to warm up and prepare themselves for the activity, and will need to bring with them appropriate clothing for football, including shinpads, socks, football boots and goalie gloves as appropriate, along with plenty of water and food for the time they are there.

Year 7 National Schools Cross Country

A big well done to Gianni 7C who recently participated in the Boys at 'Primary and Year 7 National Schools Cross Country Final' and finished in an amazing 5th place!