

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 5th October 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.
Nelson Mandela

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For October our value focus is Inclusiveness 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus - Galatians 3:28. 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.

**YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING THURSDAY
OCTOBER 18TH 2018 5-8pm**

Your child was given a letter today about this important occasion. We are expecting a full attendance so please do make a note in your diary now. Students should be starting to make appointments with all their teachers so please do check your child is organised for this on Monday. We are also asking you to confirm your attendance at this Parent/Carer evening by returning the slip that went home with your child today. A copy of the letter is attached.

YEAR 10: WORK EXPERIENCE 13TH-17TH MAY 2019

It is time to start thinking about the sort of placement that would best suit your son or daughter for their Work Experience week in May.

A database of employers who have already agreed to offer a place will be available online from late November for students to make applications. Alternatively, students can make their own private arrangement to go to a willing employer of their choice, in which case that employer must complete a specific request form which we will provide. All students will be bringing home a form asking for an indication of the kind of placement that might interest them. This is purely for our information (it is not an application form) to help us allocate places appropriately. Students should think about it carefully and have until half term to return it to school.

M Wood Work Experience Co-ordinator

YEAR 8 AND 9 IMMUNISATIONS – WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

We are attaching PDF HPV Immunisations Oct18 to the parent/guardians of all girls in year 8. **Please complete by the 9th October** for your child to have their immunisation.

Any year 9 pupils (or older) who have received the HPV immunisation in 2017/18 and are now due a second dose will have already consented and will not need to complete an electronic consent. However, any pupils who did not consent last academic year and now wishes to receive the HPV immunisation should consent electronically and should also be sent the electronic consent link.

This academic year will see the completion of the HPV course for year 8 pupils and we will be returning to deliver HPV 2 in approximately 6 months' time

SAFEGUARDING

Many of our students use public transport for travelling to and from school. We would ask that you speak to your child or children about safety and about actions to take if they feel unsafe. This aspect is covered in school but reinforcement at home would be much appreciated. Simple tips like where students sit on public transport, having a mobile phone ready to use, travelling with another person and going straight home from school instead of delaying in town etc would help with safe practice. This applies to those who walk, bus train or cycle. Thank you.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

We are keen to support students in this area of personal development but would also urge you and your child to seek medical assistance from health professionals where you are concerned about areas of emotional health. We recommend and provide a wealth of resources for students in terms of who they can contact but on occasions they may need gentle encouragement from you to do this. Youth Talk in St Albans, KOOTH, Childline, Healthy Young Minds in Herts are all recommended websites for the wellbeing of young people. They all offer practical strategies for you as parents/carers and for young people. Do have a look. The Family First Portal is also available for parents/carers to seek advice and guidance around a wide range of topics. Go to the Public Area at

<https://www.hertfordshirefamiliesfirst.org.uk/october-2016/the-families-first-portal/quick-links-to-the-families-first-portal>

STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The Parent Support group met for the first time on Tuesday. We shared information and strategies and identified 'what was going well' and any current concerns. We would draw your attention to a special event titled Well Being Village on Thursday October 18th being held at St Albans Girls School from 2.30-7pm. There is a wealth of information on offer to parents/carers as well as professionals. Most external agencies supporting the wellbeing of young people will be represented including CAMHS, STEP2, The Counselling Foundation, The Children's Wellbeing Team, ADD-VANCE, Youth Talk, St Albans LGBT, School Health and many more. If your child is currently experiencing anxiety or if you are struggling to manage behaviour at home please do go to this event to seek out what is on offer from these various agencies. This is really an ideal opportunity to speak to a wide range of professionals with a wealth of experience.

We are also looking to book a special work shop here through ADD-VANCE around the issue of children who are managing their behaviour in school but who are then exhibiting challenging behaviours in the evening when they get home. We are looking at November 6th as a possible date. If you are interested in attending please make a note in your diary and we will confirm a time as soon as we receive confirmation.

It was also suggested that we create a resources library of books about supporting students with additional needs that parents/carers could borrow. These will be available from the Inclusion base so please do contact them if you are interested in donating or borrowing!

Finally Mrs Baker is considering the possibility of creating a SEND Parent/Carer group on parentmail where we just send relevant SEND information to you. If you have any thoughts about this please do contact Mrs Baker or Mrs Altria in Inclusion.

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Wednesday the 17th of October in the school hall at 7pm. Please do come along and support. New ideas and help with our activities are much appreciated. There will be light refreshment available.

Other news

If you have a wood burner/open fire - we have logs available on site, mainly oak. If anyone is interested please contact Ian Graham via reception. There will be a small charge to go towards PTA funds.

We are about to start preparing for Christmas Hamper Raffle and are looking for hamper fillers. Any items such as tins or boxes of chocolates, bottles of drink, festive items, in date seasonal foods, crackers, gift vouchers, etc would be much appreciated. Please send in to reception for the attention of Ian Graham.

Many thanks for your support.

Friends of Townsend

SUBJECT INFORMATION

SCIENCE

WORLD SPACE WEEK

World Space Week (4th-10th October) is a United Nations accredited, global event that seeks to encourage an appreciation for, and an understanding of, the wonders of space and space exploration. The event is celebrated around the world with over 80 countries hosting events to recognise the week. More information about the week in general can be found here:

<http://www.worldspaceweek.org/>

At Townsend School, Miss Prakash and her team have arranged a series of events both inside and outside of lessons to celebrate the week. Starting on Thursday Mr McNeillis helped launch the event by indulging his passion for all things space in giving a space themed talk at lunch time. Throughout the week and up to the 10th October there are two activities – a 'space junk' model making competition and the observation of famous constellations task. In lessons students in both Y7 and 8 will be learning about pressure and many will get the opportunity to build and launch their own rockets. Finally, in keeping with this year's theme of "Space Unites the World" we will be showing the brilliant American film 'Apollo 13' across Monday-Wednesday lunchtimes. We know all students will have the opportunity to get involved in World Space Week and hope this is the start of a passion for many. Please do look at the school website and the attachment for further information.

HISTORY

This October marks the 31st annual Black History Month in the UK. The History Department is once again encouraging students to take part in Townsend's Black History Month competition, researching some fascinating but often forgotten individuals in history. Students are asked to produce an A4 or A3 poster on their individual, explaining how they have influenced society and why more people should know about them. Deadline for entries is Monday 5th November and are to be given Mrs Bailey, Head of History, in HU8.

History club is at lunchtimes on Wednesdays at 1.30 in room HU8 for all years.

Year 7

Students are currently practicing chronological and source skills with a focus on Anglo-Saxon England in their History lessons. Students can find the BBC bitesize link

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zq2m6sg#zxxxtfr> on SMHW which will help them get an overview and understanding of the unit.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

www.bbc.co.uk

Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from? Learn about Anglo-Saxons settlements, daily life and jobs in this BBC Bitesize KS2 History.

Year 8

Students are currently studying the British Empire and are considering the changes and continuities to present day. Students can find the BBC bitesize link

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

BBC Bitesize - KS3 History - The British Empire through

www.bbc.com

What is the British Empire? An 'empire' is a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch or ruling power. An empire doesn't need an 'emperor'. The British Empire comprised of Britain, the 'mother country', and the colonies, countries ruled to some degree by and from Britain.

The British began to establish overseas colonies in the 16th century. By 1783, Britain had a large empire with colonies in America and the West Indies. This 'first British Empire' came to an end after the American Revolution.

However, in the 19th century, the British built a second worldwide empire, based on British sea-power, made up of India and huge conquests in Africa.

Year 9 GCSE

Students are currently studying a non-examined unit this term on the topic of the First World War. This is to help them prepare and develop examination skills. The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Students will study Paper 1 (Crime and Punishment) from January and it is suggested they procure themselves with a copy at the cost of £4 in order to embed revision skills early in the course. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 10 GCSE

Students are currently studying Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 for the term. We encourage students to purchase the American West revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you.

History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students this week and put on SMHW. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Year 11 GCSE

We kindly remind parents to complete permission slips and payment by the latest Monday 15th October for the Whitechapel trip on Wednesday 7th November 2018. If your family has financial difficulties please contact Mr Still in confidence so that we can support you. Students will continue to study Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. History revision will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 starting on Thursday 20th September. A revision programme has been issued to students. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

A number of events have taken place over the past 2 weeks that we have been learning about and discussing in geography lessons, for example the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami that occurred last Friday. Excellent websites to use at home and for Geography homework include the national newspapers websites e.g. The Guardian, The Times, The Independent and websites below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

<https://news.sky.com/uk>

<http://time.com/>

<http://geographical.co.uk/>

Geography lessons:

Year 7 have been learning about map skills and how to use them - they can practise their map skills at home with you.

Year 8 have been learning about Plate Tectonics - the recent events in Indonesia are therefore very topical for them

Year 9 are also learning about tectonic hazards for the GCSE course, how these hazards happen, the effects they have on people and how communities, regions and countries respond to these hazards.

Year 10 are learning about Tropical Storms, which are also very prevalent in the news at the moment. The students have an online game to play in the next week or so looking at planning for and reducing the impacts of natural hazards. Mrs Buckland's class have been set this activity for homework this week.

Year 11 are studying about resource management - particularly the issues of water deficit and surplus and problems that arise from this.

Year 13 - as well as studying their human and physical topics at the moment, year 13 are currently working on their coursework - the deadline for which is fast approaching!

Mrs Buckland

ENGLISH

The English Department would like to thank all students that participated in the National Poetry Day competition - we had an overwhelming response. If any students in year 7 or 8 would still like to enter in the 10 -12 year old category, they can see their English teacher next week for details as we still have a window of time before we have to send all our entries for the "Lost Words" in.

Mrs Kleynhans

YEARS 7&8

All year groups are approaching their half term scheme of work assessments.

Year 7 will be doing a Creative Writing assessment – so any extra work or support on this area of their writing would be wonderful. They are doing descriptive writing rather than a story so the success criteria focus is on skills – figurative language and grammar and punctuation.

Year 8 will be doing an essay on 'Of Mice and Men' which will be a character based essay. I know that many of the parents will remember doing this book for their school days!

YEARS 9,10,11

Year 9 will be doing an essay on 'Animal Farm' which again will be a character based essay. All of the websites have very good revision sites for this book – BBC bitsize, Sam Learning etc.

Year 10 will be doing an essay on 'An Inspector Calls' one of their Literature exam texts. All of the major revision sites cover the play in depth.

Year 11 are working towards their trial examinations and in lessons we are focused on Paper 1 – all questions. However students should also be revising their Literature texts – also Paper 1 and there are a series of lectures and revision sessions running till Christmas. There will be more details on this in the next bulletin.

Mrs Harris Director of Learning for English

MUSIC

Most instrumental lessons are now fully up and running and violin and viola lessons will begin on Monday (8th October). We appreciate that there has been a delay for some Year 7 students starting their lessons and apologise for this. We are working hard with Hertfordshire Music Service to get all students on the timetable as soon as possible.

Further information about how to begin instrumental and voice lessons if your child would like to start will be shared with families shortly, including information about a reduction of fees for eligible families.

Choir runs every lunchtime in school and the Townsend Band will be every Friday lunchtime. These are open to students of all ages and abilities.

Miss Kirk

DRAMA

Year 7

Year 7 have started their Drama lessons this term with an introduction to basic Drama skills. There is also still the opportunity to join the Drama club and be a part of the Christmas production as a member of the chorus.

Year 8

The Drama Home learning project is currently on week 3 of 5, the role on the wall sheet was handed out in lessons this week and a copy is on show my homework for this week's task. A copy of the work sheet is available on Show my homework and students have been given a copy in lessons. If they need a spare hard copy then they can come to the Drama studio to collect one during break and lunch. Students should bring some of their home learning to be checked during the week of the 8th October to check progress. The full project is due in during the week of 22nd October to be marked over half term.

Year 9

An excellent start to GCSE Drama by the year 9's with their introduction to Drama skills, postcards will be speeding their way home for students who have made excellent effort. They have been given their mini script projects and should be learning their lines for performances next term.

Year 10

Year 10 are studying design elements in theatre, if anyone has any old shoe and egg boxes for our set design module please could you donate them and send them in with your child.

Year 11

GCSE open house revision is available every Tuesday lunch in IT1 for students to complete home learning or revision. Theory lesson homework is set every Friday and is on SMHW.

Drama Club

Please can all permission slips for the Drama club photograph consent form be returned to Mrs Coates as soon as possible. Can you also please make sure that your child is checking their rehearsal schedule so they attend all rehearsals.

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 #WakeUp campaign, we have created a free updated Reddit guide for parents & carers for your school to share with its whole school community!

Reddit is commonly referred to as "the front page of the internet", with millions of users continually creating/sharing videos, images, memes and much more on this forum-style site. This free guide for parents & carers covers what they need to know about the platform to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; online payments, inappropriate and potentially harmful content, trolling, fake news and more.

Please help us spread the message by retweeting our Reddit guide for parents & carers here: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1044926653846245377>