

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For October our value focus is Unity "Have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind" 1 Peter 3:8. 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.

**SAFEGUARDING**

We have been notified by a local school of an incident involving an inappropriate video that apparently is being circulated around a number of schools. This has not come to our attention from any students here but we have been asked by the Police to pass on to school communities that the video is a fake video and although it depicts a child it is not of the student in question. They have also asked us to remind our community members that it is a criminal offence to distribute or be in possession of this particular video or indeed any other that would be deemed as abusive or malicious. We would be grateful if you could talk to your child about this or if you believe it is appropriate check the video section of their phone with them.

A second part of our message regarding student safety is to do with Snapchat. We know this is a popular messaging site for students however, there is apparently a new media application attached to it called Sahara that is not safe. It is an anonymous messaging system that can access all of a user's contacts. The basis of this application is to send messages without the recipient being able to trace the user. This is extremely unsafe and dangerous as it enables users who are not identified to send messages which can contain abusive or inappropriate content without them being traced. We would urge you to talk to your child about this and ensure that if they continue to use Snapchat they do not touch this new app.

**PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

If you have a child at the school with additional needs – either learning or emotional – we would like to invite you to one of two meetings we are holding on **Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>**. We are very keen to support you as parents/carers with your children as they grow up as young adults at Townsend. In order to do this effectively we need to know from you what it is we do well and what it is we could either do better or perhaps that we don't offer and we could provide. The meeting is an informal get together for parents/carers to hear what you have to say and what it is that may help you. On occasions it can be a difficult and lonely time when things don't go well at home or at school and we would like to provide you with a support network to help on these occasions. These two meetings are not the occasions to discuss individual concerns you may have about your child but instead an occasion to collectively talk about the way forward for Townsend to support its students who may need extra help. The meetings will be held on Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>. One will be from 10.00am - 11.00am and the other will be 6.30pm -7.30pm. We are hoping that

these times will be able to accommodate the different outside commitments of our parents/carers.

### **KEY DATES- REMINDERS**

Free Bowling trip for excellent attendance 2016/2017 – Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>  
3.45-6.15pm

Year 10 Consultation Evening - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 5.00-8.00pm

Year 9 Battlefield Trip – Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>

Year 7 Primary School teachers visiting year 7 students – Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> 3.45

Friends of Townsend (PTA) AGM Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 7pm.

Diversity Day Event (in school at lunch time for students only ) - Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>

### **DAFFODIL PLANTING**

We are looking for free or 'good deals' for daffodil bulbs. We are hoping with our Year 7 students will help with planting 1500 daffodils around the school. If anyone has any contacts that would be able to support us with this please contact the School Office. Thanks

### **EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE (2017/2018) BOWLING TRIP**

Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> we are taking all our excellent attenders from last year to a Free Bowling trip as a reward. The coach will leave school at 3.45 and return at approximately 6.15. If your child falls into this category and has not returned the form, they must do so on Monday!

Thank you

### **YEAR 10 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING 5.00pm-8.00pm**

A reminder that we are expecting a full attendance at the Year 10 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening on **Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Students by now should have made most of their appointments and we look forward to seeing you on the evening.

### **YEAR 7 PRIMARY TEACHERS VISIT TO TOWNSEND**

Year 7 students have sent all their letters to their 'old' primary schools and we are eagerly waiting the replies to see who can come to visit students on Monday October 16<sup>th</sup>. We will contact you through next week as soon as we get replies so that you have sufficient time to make alternative arrangements to collect your child on this day at 5.45pm. Students have invited one, two, or three adults of their choice from their primary schools and we are hoping that many will respond favourably telling us they can come. I know the students are excited and looking forward to it. Thank you for your support in anticipation. Miss Lingwood

### **BATTLEFIELDS-Ypres Year 9 October Trip**

This is just a quick reminder of some of the key details for the October Battlefields trip which leaves this Friday. We are due to depart at 6:45. Please can you make sure your child is at school for 6:30am so that we can make a prompt departure in case of any traffic. Your child needs to bring their school uniform with them including shoes for the Last Post Ceremony. If I do not have your child's passport or EHIC please can you ensure they bring it in by Wednesday. They must give the passport to me directly, not to the office, form tutors or any other member of staff. I look forward to seeing you bright and early on Friday morning! Mr Armitage

## **DIVERSITY EVENT**

Students in all years are busy preparing their 'stalls' for this event on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Each form group has 'picked' their country and now have to research about the country to create a presentation stall for the rest of the school. They will be looking at food, laws, dress, weather, environment, employment, hobbies, money etc. It should be a great spectacle. If you are able to support your child with research and ideas do please feel free to contribute!

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **ART**

Just a reminder about the year 9/10/11 Art trip on the 18th October, the reply slip and OV7A should now be in. The £9 needs to be put on through School Gateway electronically - under the title British Museum trip. Any queries please contact Miss Bailey Head of Art

### **PE YEAR 7**

Congratulations to the Year 7 boys football team who have had an excellent start to the season. Townsend were 0 - 2 down at half time but came back magnificently drawing 2-2 at full time. The winning goal was scored in extra time resulting in the boys winning their first football match 3-2! Well done!

***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.***

### **Fair Funding Event**

See the attached advertisement for the event where there will be an update for parents on the funding crisis facing local schools at 7.30pm on 16th October 2017 at the Sandpit Theatre, Sandringham School, AL4 9NX. Experts will provide a national context. Parents who want to understand more about the funding realities, to make sense of the debate around cuts and to support local schools are invited to the event organised by Fair Funding for all Schools (St Albans), a new local parent-led group. The event is free to attend but please book your place

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/launch-event-fair-funding-for-all-schools-st-albans-tickets-38538373312>