

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back to all our students. A special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time - our year 7 children, the children from other schools joining the 6<sup>th</sup> form and to those who have joined different year groups. We extend a warm welcome and hope that both they and you as parents/carers will enjoy being part of the Townsend community.

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each half term 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.

**DEDICATION SERVICE THURSDAY**

This is taking place September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and students will be required to make alternative transport arrangements home from St Albans Cathedral at 3pm. If you are travelling by car to pick up your child do please allow plenty of time for travel. We will provide more details of the arrangements in next week's parentmail and year 7 will have a separate letter. Please be clear with your child where you are meeting them. Students will leave the Cathedral through the West Gate.

**PARENT /CARER SUPPORT GROUP**

Every month on the first Tuesday we hold a coffee morning /get together for any parents/carers that would like further support from the school. You may want to join us because your child is a new student, you may have worries about their anxiety, you may like to meet other parents and become part of the Townsend community or perhaps you would just like a 'cuppa' whilst having the opportunity to ask any questions and find out how we are supporting your children. We sometimes get professionals in to talk about issues you've raised so do come with any ideas you have about future guests. This first support groups will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am - 11.00am It's very informal and those that regularly come say they find it a great source of support. It would be lovely to see some new faces as well as our 'regulars' just come along and find out what it's about.

Hope to see you there.

Penny Baker

Inclusion Manager and Autism Lead

**NEW TIMETABLES**

I hope all the students have settled in well to the new two-week timetable.

I wanted to take the opportunity to reassure you of the steps that we are taking to support students with this transition. These include:

- Notices in form rooms, and support from form tutors
- Notices around the school at entry points and reception
- Cards that fit in blazer pockets that have an overview of the year along with space for 2 weekly timetables
- Planners with weeks identified for Year 7 and students who requested them
- Information on the School Website

If we can support you or your child any further, please let us know  
Mrs A Berry  
Assistant Headteacher

### **YEAR 7**

The Year 7 pupils have had a fantastic start to the term and have had a great week. They have taken part in a variety of lessons and activities designed to make their transition from primary to secondary a smooth one. Students have been participating in; team building, orientation activities, Discovery Centre induction, tutor time, collective worship, school photographs, assessments, taster lessons, as well as learning how the canteen, break and lunchtime all work. They should sleep well this weekend! It has been great to see lots of smiley Year 7 faces when they have been heading home at 3.25pm. Please do feel that you can get in contact with your child's form tutor (by ringing the school office) if you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small, as we want to continue with this positive start. Can I also remind you that we have the Year 7 parent/carer drop in sessions after school on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 3.30-4.30 where tutors will be available to see you. I hope you all have a great weekend.  
Director of Learning for Year 7- Mr Still

### **YEAR 8 HPV IMMUNISATIONS REMINDER**

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunisations are taking place for year 8 in school on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>

- On Monday Year 8 will receive the first dose and the 2nd dose will be delivered in approximately 6 months' time
- All Year 8 boys and girls will be offered the HPV vaccinations
- In order for your child to be vaccinated you **MUST** give consent. This should ideally be online or if you would rather the Nursing team will accept hard copiers from the forms we have sent out.
- By clicking the link included in the letter attached you will be able to give consent online using the code number EE117555

The electronic consent form closes 10pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

Thank you for your support

### **SIXTH FORM**

Welcome to all of our new Year 12 students and welcome back to year 13. It was lovely to see them all looking smart and ready to work over the past 2 days. Please remember that sixth form students should be in school 8.45am-3.25pm every day. I look forward to a successful year!

### **A Level Results**

We are pleased with our A Level results this year and our students have worked hard to reach their individual potential. All those who wanted to have gained places to university and others have decided to pursue apprenticeship and employment opportunities. As always, we are proud of all our students and wish them all the best for the next stage of their journey.

Director of learning for Sixth Form, Miss Gibbons

### **GCSE SUMMER RESULTS**

Staff, parents and students are celebrating another fine set of results at Townsend School. The examination coordinator commented that "once again the school has achieved an excellent set of GCSE results. We are proud of all the students and the

effort they put in and are delighted that the hard work has paid off. It is particularly pleasing to see so many of our students choosing to stay on for sixth form.”  
Assistant Head Teacher, Mr Buckland

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

### **Dates for your Diary**

We have our **ANNUAL OPEN EVENING** for year 6 prospective students on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. The school will close at 12.30 for students on this day so we can prepare for the evening. Help is needed from parent/carers on this evening from 6pm until 9pm.

If you can help please leave a message with the school office or email [PTAFriends@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:PTAFriends@townsend.herts.sch.uk)

Our Friends AGM is also coming up in October. Please watch out for the date.

Many Thanks

Friends

## **ROALD DAHL DAY**

After the success with celebrating Roald Dahl day the last few years we are happy to run the same competition for Key Stage 3 again this year. Students are encouraged to bring in a poem, poster, visual representation or cake of their favourite Roald Dahl character. In the past few years we've had some amazing Bruce Bogtrotter chocolate cakes, Willy Wonka papier mache' hats and poems to impress us in the English Department. Please encourage all Key Stage 3 students to bring in their offerings next Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to the Discovery Centre at the start of the day. Many thanks, Mrs Kleynhans English Department

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **LANGUAGES**

*As we are at the beginning of a new school year, I would like to ask you to consider purchasing some useful resources for your children to use in their French studies:*

#### **Recommended Languages Resources all students**

It would be very useful for all students to have their own French/ English dictionary to use at home when preparing their homework. A school dictionary such as the Collins Gem French School Dictionary contains key vocabulary and verb tables and costs £4.99 from Amazon or high street bookshops. *If any families are experiencing difficulties and would like to discuss financial assistance to purchase these resources, please contact Mrs. Livesey, Head of Languages via the school admin email address.*

#### **Key Stage 4 Resources (Years 9, 10,11)**

As you are probably aware, a new specification has been introduced for Languages GCSEs with the first examinations following this specification taking place in 2018. As part of the new GCSE, there is a greater emphasis on a secure grasp of French grammar. In order to help students develop their grammatical knowledge a new workbook has been created especially for the Edexcel exam board which we follow. I would like to request that all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 studying French purchase this grammar and translation workbook to help them prepare for the new exam. The workbook will be used for classwork, homework and is also an excellent revision resource. The price is £5.99 and it can be purchased from Amazon or high street bookshops. Details as follows:

#### **Studio Edexcel GCSE French Grammar and Translation Workbook**

Publisher: Pearson Education

ISBN: 9781292132990  
Price: £5.99

I will be in touch with more information about revision resources for Year 11 soon.  
*If any families are experiencing difficulties and would like to discuss financial assistance to purchase these resources, please contact Mrs. Livesey, Head of Languages via the school admin email address.*

### **Year 11 GCSE intervention Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes LA1 and LA2**

In order to help students prepare and practise further for the speaking and writing papers in particular, Higher and Foundation support sessions are available to all Year 11 students studying French. Some students, for whom the sessions are essential to improve their current predicted grade, will be advised that they need to attend regularly.

FOUNDATION – Mondays 1.25-1.55 LA1 and LA2

HIGHER – Tuesdays 1.25-1.55 LA1 and LA2

***Sessions start Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September***

Mrs Livesey Head of Languages

### **MUSIC**

Instrumental lessons will start again over the next two weeks. Your child will be informed of their first lesson when the dates and timings have been confirmed by visiting teachers. If you have not signed up for instrumental lessons but wish for your child to receive them, attached is information about how to do so.

Choir will start on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, with just two rehearsals before our first performance of the year at the Cathedral. All students are welcome to join us in MU3 at lunchtime. Townsend Band will start on Friday also in MU3 at lunchtime.  
Ms Kirk

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

#### ***Activities in Lessons***

In their first PE lesson of the year students will receive a list of all the activities they will be doing in the PE lessons throughout the year to help prepare for what kit they will need for each lesson. Please use this as a guide of when they will be swimming, and doing indoor or outdoor sports so they are prepared with the appropriate kit.

#### ***Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs***

Please find below the timetable for extra-curricular sports clubs running at lunch times and after school throughout the autumn term.

Students are welcome to join any of the clubs running throughout the term, they just need to turn up, with trainers at lunch times and full PE kit after school.

#### ***Upcoming Sports Competitions***

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – year 7 Cross Country Competition at Sandringham School 3.25 – 5pm

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September – all years Cross Country Competition at Townsend School 3.25 – 5pm

Students who have shown interest in these events will have been given letters with reply slips to return to the PE office. If anyone hasn't received one and is interested in competing please see a member of the PE department.

## PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 2019

	<b>Lunch-Time 1.20 - 1.50</b>	<b>After School 3.30 - 5pm</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Year 7/8 Basketball – Gym Dance/Gym - Studio	Trampolining – Gym Rugby – Field Table Tennis - Studio
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Year 9/10/11 Basketball - Gym Swimming Club – Pool	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Gymnastics Club – Gym 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid - Studio	Football - Boys & Girls – Field Netball - Courts
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Advanced Swimming Club – Pool Girls Basketball – Gym Table Tennis - Studio	Cross Country Fixtures – Field Girls Football – Field Basketball - Gym
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Table Tennis - Studio	

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

***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.***

#### **St Albans Air Cadets**

We are Corporal Finlay Killner and Corporal Jennifer Ward-Tsang from 220 St Albans Air Cadet Squadron.

We are writing to inform you of the next recruitment evening at the squadron, taking place on **Monday 9th September at 7.30 pm.**

We would like to ask you to inform your school about the upcoming event, as we seek to expand our squadron. New cadets must be in **Year 8 (and above) or at least 12 years old.** Please may you give this notice during assembly or form time. Being an air cadet helps to build character and improves dedication. The entire squadron would be very grateful for you to help advertise, so that our unit is able to expand. For any more information, pupils and parents can go to the St Albans Air Cadet website: <https://220atc.org.uk/recruitment-nights/>

Yours Sincerely,

Corporal Finlay Killner and Corporal Jennifer Ward-Tsang

#### **Supporting children in year 7 who have siblings with special educational needs**

Please see flyer for further information