

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 7th December 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK -

Replace fear of the unknown with curiosity – Penelope Ward

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For December our value focus is Joy 'Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds' James 1:2 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 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12TH 5-8PM

We look forward to seeing all our year 7 parent/carers at this event on Wednesday. Students should attend in full school uniform

JUMPER DAY DECEMBER 14TH

On Friday December 14th students have the option of wearing a jumper or a Christmas jumper to school instead of their blazer. Should they wish to participate in the day, we are asking for donations of a minimum of 20p that will go towards Save the Children charity.

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

This is our first year doing a Christmas production, we are performing 'Dickensian Christmas' a collection of Charles Dickens era Christmas ghost stories for one night only in the hall at 7pm on Friday the 14th December. There will also be a Christmas fair during the interval hosted by the Friends of Townsend PTA.

Tickets are on sale at the school reception, Adults £5 and Concession £3, please come and support our Drama Club and Choir students who have worked so hard.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS SUMMER 2019 YEARS 11 & 13

For all parents/carers and candidates sitting public examinations in summer 2019 - According to a new regulation by Joint Council for Qualifications, all awarding bodies have designated **Wednesday 26th June 2019** as a 'contingency day' for examinations. The designation of this date is to cover the event of national or local disruption to examinations. Candidates therefore must remain available until 26th of June 2019 should an awarding body need to evoke its contingency plan. This means **that candidates should not take holiday or be away from home for any length of time until after this date.** Should an examination have to be postponed nationally or locally this would be communicated to candidates via parentmail and by the website.

Thank you. Gordana Kovacevic (Examination Officer)

YEARS 11 & 13

The Year 11s have been working incredibly through their trial examinations over the past two weeks. There are still Art examinations taking place next week but most students will be returning to normal lessons. Clearly this fortnight has involved examinations taking place over a shorter period of time and in the Summer the timescale will be different. On the whole the behaviour and preparation by the

students has been excellent and they must be congratulated on this. Over the next week or so pupils will be getting their results and papers back from staff. They must now use this information to work out where the gaps are in their knowledge and use this as a springboard into the New Year where there will be further opportunities for practice questions and papers in lessons. There will be range of results, and deep down the students will know how much effort they have put into revising for these examinations. Its particularly important students do not compare results with other students - this can be demoralising and damaging as it is unlikely to be a like for like comparison. Students should be setting their own personal targets looking at their own progress. If there is anything that you think your child needs that they don't currently have then please get in contact with the individual subject teacher for support. There will be a further Year 11 Intervention Evening for parents/carers next term and students will also be taking a final set of trial examinations in the core subjects at the end of March. Grade sheets will be issued to students before the Christmas holidays so please spend some time talking through their results with them. Many thanks, Mr Still and Miss Gibbons

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Next week, on Mon 10th or Tues 11th December, your son or daughter will be given full instructions on how to access the database of job offers, plus an individual pin number. Students will have the chance to browse the site and research the various placements.

It is important not to rush this. I hope they will continue with this at home and that you will be involved. No placement can be confirmed without final parental consent anyway. Submitting choices is only the first step as each offer will be allocated to the most suitable candidate, which is why it is vital to have at least three choices. Students opting for a private placement do not need to use the database unless their placement fails, but they will have a pin number and once their private placement is approved, details of it will appear on the database.

Please contact me at school if you have any concerns
Margaret Wood

CAREERS TALKS

There will be a talk held on Monday 10th December at 1:55pm in the Discovery Centre. We will be visited by a surgeon from the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford who will talk to a group of pupils about working in Medicine. Also planned for this term is a talk on Women in Business that will be open to both male and female pupils, time and date to be confirmed. I am still looking to find guest speakers who would like to speak to a group of children about their profession. If you are interested please contact Mr Armitage for details.

CHRISTINGLES SERVICE AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19TH 2PM

Our school Christingle Christmas Service takes place at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Wednesday December 19th. Students will be transported to the Cathedral from school but will need to make alternative travel arrangements home from the Cathedral at approximately 3.00pm. We do ask that you are clear with your child about a meeting point after the service (the West Gate is where students leave the Cathedral at the end of the service). Parents/carers are most welcome to join us for this service but please be aware that there is limited seating available as this is a popular service. Wednesday is also Market Day in St Albans so the traffic is likely to be heavier than normal. As well as this there will also be a Christmas Market

taking place in the Vintry Gardens in the Cathedral grounds. **Please do allow extra time for travelling!**

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)

GRAND CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Two weeks to go to the Big Draw! Please send your counterfoils and monies in as soon as possible. If you have any unsold raffle tickets, please return to school reception. Prizes now include 7 hampers, £50 M&S voucher, 2 cuddly toys, boxes of chocolates, a tower of treats, festive biscuits, a favourite Christmas game, and more!

Remember all money raised goes back into the school to help subject areas with additional resources that ultimately benefit the students. Money raised so far is £550. Our target is £1500 !

Many thanks

Friends of Townsend (PTA)

INCIDENT

We are aware that your child may come home from school today having heard about an incident in school at morning break. We wanted to reassure you that the incident was dealt with promptly and appropriately. It involved only three students and while the school and Police continue to investigate the details, two of the students will not be in school.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE

UK Bebras

Congratulations to all students in year 8 and GCSE year 9 and 10 Computer Science Groups who participated in this year's UK BEBRAS computational thinking challenges. We had some great successes this year with 7 of our students being invited to take part in the online TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. Well done to all of those who took part! Mrs King

DRAMA

Drama Club

Due to parents evening on Wednesday the after school rehearsals for Dickensian Christmas this week are on **Monday 10th Dec 3:30-5:30** in the hall. Apologies for any inconvenience due to the change of date. Students should bring their stage blacks with them to this rehearsal (black t-shirt and black trousers) as it is a dress and tech rehearsal.

All students should be attending every rehearsal they are needed in for the Christmas show, please support your child in checking their rehearsal schedule.

Summer Production

This year's summer production will be 'The School of Rock' auditions will take place in the first week back from the Christmas holidays, we will be advertising the production in assemblies and through posters next week. All students from all years are welcome to come and get involved, we need good performers, musicians and stage crew to create a fantastic show.

New Views

Students involved in the New Views National Theatre project had a brilliant workshop with Sonia Jalaly on Thursday which really got the creative juices flowing for their scripts. Writing time will be over Christmas with their first drafts due in February.

Year 7 - Are continuing with Pantomime and have made excellent progress so far.

Year 8 - Have now started Mask work and will be continuing to use the masks up until Christmas, some excellent comedy scenarios have already been created.

Year 9 - Will be performing their mini GCSE plays this coming week and then moving on to devising. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 10 - will start preparing for their Component 2 just before Christmas, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 11 - Have completed their mock exams and will be preparing for their Live theatre trip in January 2019. If students would like any additional revision material then they should come and see me. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

ENGLISH

Reading KS4

It is essential all students continue to read and develop their reading skills all the way up to G.C.S.E. in Year 11. It is often difficult for parents to know what books to buy so here is a KS4 reading list that will hopefully inspire some Christmas reading. Christmas stocking fillers perhaps!

Classics

Jane Austin	Emma – Sense and Sensibility – Pride and Prejudice
Robert Louis Stevenson	Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Gulliver’s Travels
Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights
Joseph Conrad	Heart of Darkness – Under Western Eyes
Arthur Conan Doyle	Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Modern Classics

J.G. Ballard	Empire of the Sun
John Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
Sebastian Faulkes	Birdsong
Joseph Heller	Catch 22
Kazuo Ishiguro	Remains of the Day

Non Fiction Travel Writing

Bill Bryson	Lost Continent – Neither Here Nor There – Notes from a Small Island
Michael Palin	Pole to Pole – Full Circle
Janet Street Porter	Coast to Coast

Autobiographies

Kelly Holmes	Black, White and Gold
Nelson Mandela	Long Walk to Freedom
Frank McCourt	Angela’s Ashes
Frank Lampard	Totally Frank
Roald Dahl	Tales of Childhood

It is essential that students are doing a minimum of 40 minutes reading per evening in order to ensure their reading age continues to improve in line with their chronological age; this is not just important for English but all subjects. If parent/carers can become involved in the reading – asking questions to check understanding – this ensures students are getting the best from their reading. KS3 students can only sit the reading quizzes on books that are in the Accelerated Reader (AR) system but the system contains thousands of books – not just the ones

in our library. If you have books at home, or are thinking of getting books for Christmas presents then use the AR website to check if the books are 'testable'. Please remember students need to be reading at the top end of their ZPD levels (your child is given an updated ZPD level after every reading age test – usually once every half term.) the web site is www.arbookfind.com.

Happy Reading – Mrs Bunyan

Cultural Exchange Project

This week we have been writing to describe in English with year 7 and 8, and to make this skill even more tangible for our students we have created a link with a school in the Karoo: Prins Albert, South Africa. The students made Christmas cards or wrote letters to the students in Zwartberg High School and described Christmas in England, their school day at Townsend and any other interesting information they wanted to include was encouraged. The school in South Africa will be doing the same and we can expect our return letters/cards in the New Year. This was great for cross-curricular links with Geography, Art, DT and IT.

Thanks for all the effort put in by the English teachers and students alike.

Mrs Kleynhans

(See photo attached of some amazing artwork)

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 homework projects - These projects will now be coming to an end and your child's Japan project will be due in to the class teacher.

GCSE Geography - Just a reminder that students can purchase GCSE Geography revision guides from school. They should bring £5.50 in a sealed envelope with their name on (cash only, no change can be given) and given to Mrs Buckland directly. As soon as the books arrive in school I will give to those who have bought already.

Christmas club - We had a very jolly time on Monday making our own glitter baubles, listening to Christmas songs and eating the odd chocolate or two! Christmas Club will run again on Monday lunchtime - we will be making Christmas Cards and decorations (using recycled materials!). All year groups are welcome.

Sustainable Schools - As we move towards the Christmas season Geo-club and the sustainable schools students ask that you think carefully about what can be recycled over the festive period, perhaps consider recyclable wrappings, such as cloth, tea towels, brown paper, ribbons etc. The sustainable schools students will be launching new campaigns in the new year, such as "plants in the classroom" - an attempt to offset our carbon emissions in school.

Year 10/11 GCSE Geography Study Clubs - these sessions will begin on Tuesday 15th January in HU5 at lunchtime and will run until the exams. The programme is attached for your records.

Mrs Buckland

HISTORY

Year 7

Year 7 students are currently doing their half termly project for History which is due to be submitted the week beginning Monday 17th December. A project booklet has been given to pupils including instructions, planning, further reading and deadlines. This can be accessed on SMHW.

Year 8

Students are currently studying the Industrial Revolution with a focus on technological and social changes in the 18th-19th centuries. Students can find the

BBC bitesize link <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zvmv4wx/revision/1> on SMHW as supplementary reading to the history lessons.

Year 9 & 10 GCSE

The History department sell revision guides which can be purchased throughout the year. Year 9 need 'Crime and Punishment' and Year 10 'American West' at the cost of £4. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact Ms Reynolds (Year 9) or Mr Armitage (Year 10) in confidence so that we can support you.

Year 11 GCSE

Students will soon be receiving teacher feedback and setting targets for the Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany trial examination. History drop in sessions will be held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8 until the end of term. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. If your family has financial difficulties please do contact your teacher in confidence so that we can support you
Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy Tip

Talk with your child about how they feel about Maths. They may not always be willing to discuss problems they're having, but it is important to show your support and that you are interested in what they are learning. If your child is having difficulties with Maths, speak to your child's teacher or write them a short note. Once problems are identified, learning patterns can be better understood and a solution can be developed.

If you wish to improve your own numeracy skills, or support your child further, the National Numeracy website has plenty of ideas, information and strategies at www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk. Why not have a go with the attached sheets and see how you get on!

Mr Timpson Lead of Numeracy