

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**WELCOME BACK TO THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR**

A great start to the year at Townsend. We have welcomed students back and caught up with all their summer news and we have met all of our new students. A large year group has started in year 7 which is very exciting. Our summer examination results are being celebrated and we are all joyful at the success of individual children who have some great results to be very proud of. Our A level results were our best ever and our GCSE results were very strong so we look forward to the government publishing it's Performance Tables for all schools later in the year. Students have had a good first few days and we look forward to the rest of the year working together to improve achievement still further while living together using our Respect for All code as our guide to everyday life. The school is expanding again and we have therefore been able to increase our staff with new teachers in mathematics, science, technology, music, physical education, computing and a new Head of Year (Director of Learning), and two new colleagues have joined our office team. All the new teachers are very experienced and are moving to us from other schools. These are good times at Townsend and we hope to continue to improve so that your child has the best possible opportunities to achieve well and to have increased their life chances because they were a student attending Townsend.

Best wishes

Mr Wellbeloved Head Teacher

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

'He who is not everyday conquering some fear has not learnt the secret of life' –  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For September our value focus is Respect. 'Treat others the same way you want them to treat you' Luke 6.31. 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.

**TOWNSEND DEDICATION SERVICE 2018**

Please note that the date of the Dedication Service has been changed from Thursday 20th September to Wednesday 3rd October.

**YEAR 7 COMMUNICATION WITH HOME**

All year 7 students have been given a letter this afternoon about various events that are taking place in school. We hope you find the information helpful and look forward to a reply on Monday and to seeing you on Thursday at 5pm! We are excited and delighted with the way year 7 have responded to their first week at Townsend and look forward to seeing them all return raring to go on Monday!

**PROCEDURES AND REMINDERS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

When **dropping off and picking up** children please do use Toulmin Drive Car Park in Toulmin Drive at the end of Flint Way. The children only have a short walk (about 200 metres) from the school entrance on a footpath to the car park. We have already had two residents complaining about parking on the verges and blocking

drives and by using the Public car park you will be helping both local residents and the school by reducing complaints and protecting our reputation in the community. When the police and parking enforcement officers make one of their regular surprise visits it will also prevent you from getting into trouble!

**Respect for the community** - please can you talk to your child about remembering our school is in a residential area and therefore it is really important our local community are respected. Students should take care not to drop litter on the ground or in resident's hedges/gardens. We now have a large number of students who use public buses leaving from High Oaks or Harpenden Road. It is really important that students behaviour sensibly and responsibly travelling to and from school.

**Uniform** – on the whole students are looking really smart, so thank you for your support with this. Our one concern remains around the length and style of some of the girls skirts – particularly in years 10 and 11. Students will be required to change to trousers or change their skirts if they are a non-uniform style or too short. We are giving children the weekend to sort this issue out! Can we also ask that you support us with ensuring your child is wearing school shoes not trainers. It would help us returning uniform if all uniform was also marked clearly with your child's name that articles that are lost can be returned! If you are in need of any financial support with regards uniform please do speak in confidence with your Head of Year.

**Safeguarding** – we will continue to share important safeguarding and well- being support with parents/carers through parentmail on a regular basis. This remains a priority for us at Townsend and we can only protect the students with your support. The Senior Designated staff for Child Protection are Miss Lingwood, Miss Gibbons Mr Buckland and Mrs Brooks should you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything regarding safeguarding.

**Absence-** parents/carers should contact the school office by 9.30am in the morning if your child is absent from school. A phone call should be made each day so that registers are kept up to date with reasons for absence. Please note that although we are appreciative that traffic in and around St Albans can be very heavy this will not be an acceptable reason for absence. We do ask that you leave ample time for travel and that your child arrives punctually to school each day.

**Medical /dental appointments** - Ideally appointments should be made outside of the school day. However, if your child needs an appointment in school time, please give advance notice of appointments where possible or phone the office on the morning of the appointment – students should not be arriving late to school and signing in the late book with a reason of "medical appointment" without a parent/carer already having informed the school. If your child needs to leave school early for an appointment, then a parent/carer or other adult must collect them from school (students are not allowed to leave school on their own. This is part of our safeguarding procedures. Please write the details of the appointment and the time they will be collected in their planner, so that your child can show it to their teacher.

**Illness in school** - The school (Director if Learning for the Year) will take a decision whether to contact home about a child requiring collection through illness or accident. It is not the student's decision and students should not be using their mobile phones to do this. The school would appreciate parent/carers' support of this policy.

**Emergency Contact** - If you have changed your phone number or address recently, please ensure that we have the current details. We recommend that you have at least two people listed as emergency contacts for your child, just in case we cannot get hold of you. These can be other family members, friends, neighbours etc. Please put any changes or additions in writing and send them in with your child.

**Payments-** We would generally prefer for you to make payments electronically via School Gateway. Alternatively you can pay by cheque (with child's name and reason for payment on the back) or cash (please enclose correct money in an envelope stating child's name and reason for payment on the front) which should be handed in to the office.

**Parent/Carer Contact with teachers** - Please remember that a member of staff who you wish to speak to or meet with, maybe teaching all 5 lessons and have a lunch or after school activity. If you leave a message with the office staff for a teacher, please allow up to 48 hours for them to return your call. Thank you for your patience.

**Mobile Phones-** If you want your child to have a mobile phone on their possession because of travel arrangements please can you remind your child from 8.45 - 3.25 it should be turned off and kept out of sight. Any phone that is heard, seen or used will be confiscated, locked away for safekeeping in the office and can only be collected by a parent/carers. No confiscated phone will be returned to a child. In this context, where there is a need to contact home after school the child will be able to use the school phone.

### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS, ALLERGIES & MEDICATION**

If your child had a medical condition or allergy, please ensure that the school has full details of symptoms, treatment etc (the office can provide you with the relevant form). We do not allow students to carry their medication apart from asthma inhalers or epi pens. All other medicine is stored in the office. It is recommended that students, who carry asthma inhalers or epi pens, should also have a spare in the office. If you would like us to store a spare for your child, please send one into the office. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that any medication required by their child is in school and in date. If you would like to check, please call or visit the school office.

### **OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>. 6-9.00PM**

We are hoping a large number of students will be supporting us at this important event and would welcome your support as parents/carers with both transport and perhaps volunteering yourself to help in the evening. A reminder that school will be closed at 12.30 on this day to help with preparations. If you can help at all in the evening please do leave a name and contact number with the school office for Ian Graham. More information will follow

### **CRAFT CLUB DONATIONS**

If anyone has any oddments of knitting wool they would like to donate to the craft club for a weaving project, could they please drop it off to reception or get your child to find Gillian Trigg in HU4. Many thanks in advance.

### **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

#### **ENGLISH**

#### **Dahlicious Competition Time!**

Year 7 & 8 are invited to enter a representation of their favourite Roald Dahl character on Thursday 13th of September. The character representation can be in the form of art (drawing, paper mache, painting, sculpture etc), food based design, a poem, story or any other creative means feasible for this! Entries to be handed in to Mrs Kleyhans in EN3 on the day.

## **HISTORY**

### **Year 7**

Students will be introduced to chronological and source skills with a focus on Anglo-Saxon England. 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.

### **Year 8**

Students will be studying the British Empire by 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.

### **Year 9 GCSE**

Students will be 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 try to offer some support

### **Year 10 GCSE**

Students will now study Paper 2 beginning with the American West topic 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 do 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 will be issued to students next week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

### **Year 11 GCSE**

Year 11 History students have a trip opportunity on Wednesday 7th November 2018 to spend the day on a guided tour in London (Whitechapel area - historic environment for Paper 1) where trip letters will be issued next week for further detail. Students will continue to study Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany). 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 Mr Still 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 will be issued to students next week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Mrs Bailey, Head of History

## **MUSIC**

Instrumental lessons will be starting week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please ask your child to check the notice board in the music block for their times. Choir will be starting from next week on Monday lunchtimes, with drop-in rehearsal opportunities on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Miss F Kirk – Head of Music

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**For Year 7 students** - please can you sign and return the Edmodo slip. When received, students will be able to use the assessment platform used in the subject Computer Science/ICT . Many thanks. Mrs King Head of Computer Science

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PE LESSONS**

In their first lesson of PE this term, students will be given a list with the activities that they will be doing in every PE lesson across the year. If a student has any questions about these they will need to speak to their PE teacher or Miss Pennifold – the head of PE

### **PE Kit**

A reminder that students are expected to bring their PE kit to every PE lesson.

If students are ill or injured they must still bring their kit and get changed to take part in the lesson in other roles such as a coach or umpire. The only exception is if they are in a cast or unable to get changed for medical reasons. In this case a note must be provided detailing the problem.

Students are only allowed to wear the PE kit in the uniform list, no hoodies, coats (other than sports jackets/raincoats) or other coloured tops or trousers will be allowed.

If a student has forgotten their PE kit, or part of their Kit they will be expected to borrow spare kit, if this becomes frequent, they will receive detentions for failure to bring kit (length of which is dependent upon the frequency of forgotten kit).

### **Lost Kit**

If a child has lost their kit, then they are expected to look for it around the school to try to find it. If it can't be found a replacement will be needed. Whilst a replacement is on order they can bring in other plain black or white sports clothes, or borrow our spare kit.

To avoid losing kit – every item, as well as the bag it is in should be clearly labelled with the students full name and form group so it can be returned to them if found.

## **SPORTS ENRICHMENT CLUBS AT LUNCH TIMES AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Attached is a list of all the sports enrichment clubs starting from Monday at lunchtimes and after school. Students do not need to sign up in advance, just turn up on the day of the club at the venue listed. For lunchtime sports clubs they will only need their trainers. For after school clubs they will need to bring their full PE kit, and extra kit such as shinpads, football boots depending on the activity.

For swimming club they will need to bring their swimming kit and a towel. If they are attending a lunchtime swimming club they will need to be at the pool by 1.25, and either buy food from the canteen at break or bring a packed lunch that day, or inform the teacher who is running the club so they can be let out early to change and buy food from the canteen. Students will be let out of the pool by 1.40 giving them 15minutes to change and eat before the first bell for afternoon registration, however they are able to leave earlier if they wish or need longer to change and eat. \*Swimming club will not be on for the next 2 weeks whilst refurbishments are being made to the pool.

### **Cross Country**

District cross country competitions start on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September for year 7s and 13<sup>th</sup> September for all years. Details of each cross country event this term are in a letter for students to complete and return to a PE teacher, or the school office if they want to take part, they can also ask a PE teacher for a letter from school.

### **Cross Country 2018 dates**

-Tuesday 11th September – Year 7 Fun Run at Sandringham School 3.30 –5.00

- Thursday 13th September – All years -Townsend School – 3.30 – 5.00
- Thursday 20th September – All years - STAGS School – 3.30 – 5.00
- Thursday 27th September – All years -Nicholas Breakspear School - 3.30-5.00
- Thursday 4th October – All years races -Verulam school playing fields 3.30 – 5.00
- Thursday 11th Sept. Cross Country District Finals Westminster Lodge 3.30-5.00

### **Netball Club and Matches**

Netball club will be running on a Monday lunch time and after school for anyone wanting to give it a go, take part for fun or fitness, or to make new friends, or to compete as part of the school team.

Below is a list of all the girls netball matches for the year – students need to attend either the lunch or after school club to have the chance of being selected to represent the team at any of the matches. If your child is interested but unable to make the training, please ask them to speak to their PE teacher, or Miss Penniford – the head of PE.

### **NETBALL MATCHES 2018-2019**

All Training practice: Wednesday After School

#### **Year 7**

- year 7 netball match vs Sandringham @ Townsend – Wednesday 10th October
- Year 7 netball match vs Sir John Lawes @ Townsend – Monday 22nd October
- year 7 netball match @ Beehood Park School – Wednesday 14th Nov
- Year 7 netball match @ Roundwood Park School – Wednesday 28th November
- year 7 netball match @ St Albans High School – Tuesday 5th March
- Year 7 District netball tournament @ St Albans Girls School–Tuesday 12th March

#### **Year 8**

- year 8 netball match vs Beaumont @ Townsend – Wednesday 19th September
- year 8 netball match vs Sandringham @ Townsend – Wednesday 10th October
- year 8 netball match vs NBS @ Townsend – Wednesday 17th October
- Year 8 netball match vs Sir John Lawes @ Townsend – Monday 22nd October
- Year 8 netball match @ St Albans Girls School – Thursday 25th October
- year 8 netball match @ St Albans High School – Wednesday 7th November
- Year 8 District netball tournament @ St Albans Girls School–Tuesday 19th March

#### **Year 9**

- year 9 netball match vs Beaumont @ Townsend – Wednesday 19th September
- year 9 netball match vs NBS @ Townsend – Wednesday 17th October
- year 9 netball match @ St Albans High School – Monday 1st October
- Year 9 netball match vs Samuel Ryder @ Townsend – Tuesday 13th November
- Year 9 netball match @ St Albans Girls School – Tuesday 22nd January
- Year 9 District netball tournament @ St Albans Girls School–Monday 25th March

#### **Year 10**

- year 10 netball match vs Sandringham @ Townsend – Wednesday 10th October
- year 10 netball match @ Marlborough – Tuesday 16th October
- Year 10 netball match vs Samuel Ryder @ Townsend – Tuesday 13th November
- year 10 netball match vs St George's - TBC
- Year 10 District netball tournament @ St Albans Girls School–Thurs 7th March

### **Year 7 girls District Basketball matches.**

If any year 7 girl is interested in being part of the basketball team, they will need to attend basketball club on a Thursday lunchtime, and/or see Miss Pennifold to show their interest.

**Year 7 Girls Basketball Matches 2018-2019 dates**

- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September @ Oaklands College
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October @ Oaklands College
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November @ Oaklands College
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ Oaklands College

***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.***

**CALLING ALL ST ALBANS PARENTS**

***Support Your Schools***

*Anne Main MP will address local parents on the issue of school funding at the next public meeting of the Fair Funding for all Schools group at 7.30pm on September 17th at the Sandpit Theatre. Local St Albans Headteachers Alan Gray from Sandringham School and Sian Kilpatrick and Julie Lowenthal from Bernards Heath Junior School will give secondary and primary/SEND perspectives.*

**'LEST WE FORGET' WEEKEND**

*This is taking place this weekend at St Michael's Church, St Albans 7th-9th September. The weekend is a community fundraising initiative, hosting a series of events to commemorate the centenary of the end of The Great War. Funds are being raised for two causes: to enable key restoration works to be carried out on the historical Grade I listed church building of St Michael's and also to raise funds in aid of The Royal British Legion.*

**NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY ORGANISATION**

*We have created a free guide for parents & carers that covers what they need to know about the game FIFA to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; online payments, in-game chat, addiction, fake accounts and more.*  
<https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1037317637339054081>