

**TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**'THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK'**

"Participate joyfully in the sorrows of the world. We cannot cure the worlds sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy" – Joseph Campbell

**WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND**

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For December our value focus is Grace 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of god – not by works, so that no one can boast' Ephesians 2:8-9 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.

**ATTENDANCE**

We are very keen to support parents/carers with attendance so if you are having problems regarding your child's attendance we do urge you to get in contact with your child's form tutor to talk through any issues before we are contacting you!

Our expectation is that a child should be achieving 95-100% attendance. There of course may be exceptional circumstances where this is not possible but there is such a strong correlation between attendance and attainment we believe it is essential this remains a priority for all.

We are in the process of reviewing our current attendance policy and procedures with the advice of our Local Authority Attendance Officer but currently we would draw your attention to the following points

- If your child is absent please can you contact the school on the first day of absence to notify us
- Any child arriving to school after 10.50am will be noted as missing one session (half day) and will require an absence note to this effect
- Where there is no reason provided for absence a child receives an 'N' on their registration sheet. From next week if these 'Ns' persist after two weeks they will be converted to unauthorised absence
- Where there is a concern about a child's absence and the reason being provided is related to health, the school will require medical evidence to support this. This may be in the form of a signed appointment card (by the GP or consultant) or by showing a form tutor/member of office staff a prescription or prescription packet. If a parent/carer wants the school to contact the GP directly this can only happen with written permission by the parent/carer to the GP.

Finally can we remind you that the school will not authorise holidays during term time. This is as advised by the Department for Education. Thank you for your support with all the above points

**FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND (PTA)**

**Super Christmas Raffle 2017**

The list of Prizes just keeps growing!!

We now have 6 Hampers and gift boxes

Thank you to all parents /carers and Friends for all your kind donations.

A Tower of boxed chocolates, a box of mixed wines, pamper box, cuddly toys

A £50 voucher for Hemel Snow Dome!  
A £40 voucher for Hemel Cine World!  
A £20 voucher for The Waffle House!  
Mystery Christmas Goodies Box  
'Basil Brushes Complete Grooming Kit' and A CHRISTMAS PUDDING!  
We have raised £700 so far but our target is £1500so please keep sending those tickets into reception!

REMEMBER .. All money raised is being given to Departments for educational items to the benefit of all students.  
Thank you from "Friends"

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

This event starts at 7pm and should be finished by 9pm. It should be well worth watching as students have been working really hard for this, particularly the GCSE Music students who have helped to organise the event and whose performances are being assessed. Entry is £2 (concessions £1) Tickets can be purchased on the door.

### **ALTERNATIVE/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FRIDAY DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December we will be supporting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. All money raised will be donated to Save the Children UK.

Students can wear any alternative jumper – not just a Christmas jumper!

If children would like to make a donation for wearing an alternative jumper then they will need to give the money to their form tutor on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December in the morning. It is only the jumper that can be different! Students need not wear a tie or blazer if they are participating but – **all other uniform must remain the same!**

Staff and sixth form that participate are expected to donate £1 to the charity.

*Save the Children UK believes that every child deserves a future. In the UK and around the world, they give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. They do whatever it takes for children – transforming their lives and the future we share.*

### **CHRISTINGLES SERVICE AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL MONDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2PM**

Our school Christingle Christmas Service takes place at St Albans Cathedral from 2.00pm – 3.00pm on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>. 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. Please note that there is a Christmas market in the Vintry Garden in the Cathedral grounds so traffic will be particularly heavy in and around St Albans. **Please do allow extra time for travelling!**

### **YEAR 7 PARENT/CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING**

Thank you to all those who attended this week. It was a really positive evening and hopefully all parents/carers found it helpful. We really are proud of the students and hopefully they will continue to work hard and build on the strategies they were given on Thursday!

## **IMMUNISATIONS YEAR 9 AND 10**

A parentmail was sent out yesterday regarding these immunisations. Can we remind you a response is required by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you

## **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

All students have now received their pin numbers and instructions on how to access the jobs on the database. I hope you are able to take time browsing with them before they make their final choices so that you all understand the full details of the job including its location. Once "submit" is clicked, the choices cannot be changed except by asking me to unlock them.

Students organising Private Placements do not need to use the database. Spare Private Placement forms are available from reception, and once completed by the employer should be returned to me at school as soon as possible.

There is a notice in the Discovery Centre telling students when I shall next be available to see them (usually Monday lunchtimes).

I am pleased that we have not had to increase the parental contribution towards the cost of Work Experience. It remains £15 and no payment is needed until a placement is finally confirmed.

M Wood

Work Experience Co-ordinator

## **YEAR 11 PROM**

This is a last call for students who wish to go to the Prom as final numbers are needed to be given to the venue. Please remember that you can pay online for this event but must return your consent form to be able to attend. If you are struggling to manage the cost of the event through financial hardship please can you contact Miss Gibbons/Mrs Buckland in confidence so that we can look at how we may be able to support you.

## **PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

If you require support/advice around the area of special Educational Needs and in particular the Disability Living Allowance we have kindly been provided with a link by one of our current parents

<https://www.facebook.com/HertsParentCarerInvolvement/posts/1355432864583850>

## **FOODBANK**

A reminder for all our parents/carers that we now have a local Foodbank at Christ Church 3 High Oaks AL3 6DJ. It is open Tuesdays 1-3.00pm. We are a registered distributor so if you are in need of any vouchers please do get in contact with Miss Lingwood or Mr Wellbeloved (in strict confidence).

## **HOMEWORK CLUB**

Please note that there will be **no homework club** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## **SUBJECT INFORMATION**

### **HISTORY**

#### **Year 7 – Castle Project and competition**

Mrs Burani and Mrs Bailey have set a half termly project to build a medieval castle. The students must submit their castles the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December (dates have been set with teachers) where each class will vote for the top 5 best castle in their History lesson. These castles will then be part of the whole school competition in the Discovery centre. \*\*\*Castles which did not go through to the final

MUST be taken back home on the day.\*\*\* Top 25 castles of the year group will be on display on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Discovery centre where the entire school will vote for their favourite one. Winners will be announced in assembly (and on parentmail) early January 2018. Prizes, house points and postcards will be awarded to winners and castles will be displayed in school. Please note that there should be no cash expenditure to build these castles. Past castles have been made of bits of recycling such as cardboard, loo/kitchen rolls, etc. Students have been told to speak to their History teacher or see Miss Bailey at lunchtimes (Art department) should they need further support. We want this to be a positive and rewarding experience as it has been in previous years. Thank you for your continuous support, Mrs Bailey

### **YEAR 7 – CONSULTATION EVENING**

Unfortunately Ms Burani was absent from consultation evening due to illness. Ms Burani will get in touch with some parents and we also encourage parents to contact her should they have any concerns or questions. Thank you, Mrs Bailey

### **GCSE History**

We encourage all history students to buy Revision guides (includes key information and exercises) for the American West, Elizabethan England and Weimar and Nazi Germany at £4 each. Please note that the Crime and Punishment revision guide will be available in February 2018. They may obtain these directly from their History teacher. If your family has financial difficulties, the school may be able to assist in special cases. Please speak to your child's Head of Year in the first instance to discuss the problem in confidence. Thank you for your support, Mrs Bailey

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Fixtures:**

Year 7 Basketball Vs. Nicholas Breakspear at Nicholas Breakspear 3:25-5:30pm

**Results:** The year 7/8 girls football team had a fantastic first game this year with a 6-0 win over Nicholas Breakspear. The girls worked together really well and fought as a team, communicating and organising themselves well to ensure the opposition barely had a sight of the goal.

Scorers: Darcie – 2, Tilly – 1, Jasmine – 1, Neve – 1 plus 1 assist

Opposition player of the match – Leyla

Coach player of the match - Darcie

***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.***

Dacorum DSPL Area 8 are pleased to present Understanding Autism & Managing Anger & Anxiety. This 4-hour workshop is designed to meet the needs of parent/carers to help them build on existing skills in supporting children with Autism. The workshop will take place between 9:30am - 2pm on Thursday 8th February 2018 at Willow Room, Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Peascroft Road Hemel Hempstead HP3 8ER

To book, please call Ashley Fabraya on 07525 917125 or email

**Free mini drop-in consultations for parent/carers Facilitated by ADHD/Autism Specialist Coaches from ADD-vance.**

Dacorum DSPL Area 8 are pleased to offer Mini Drop-in Consultations For Parent/Carers of children with Autism/ADHD These mini consultations are designed to meet the needs of parent/carers to help them build on existing skills in supporting children with ADHD/Autism. The mini consultations will take place in Hemel Hempstead, Tring and Berkhamstead between 9:30am - 11:30am. Please note these sessions are only for Dacorum parents/carers

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Area</b>
08.01.18	Monday	09:30-11:30	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Hemel Hempstead
07.02.18	Wednesday	09:30-11:30	Greenway Primary School	Berkhamstead
01.03.18	Thursday	09:30-11:30	Dundale Primary School	Tring
16.04.18	Monday	09:30-11:30	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Hemel Hempstead
02.05.18	Wednesday	09:30-11:30	Greenway Primary School	Berkhamstead
07.06.18	Thursday	09:30-11:30	Dundale Primary School	Tring
02.07.18	Monday	09:30-11:30	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Hemel Hempstead