

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I am thankful for all of those who said NO to me. It's because of them I'm doing it myself. – Albert Einstein

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For March our value focus is Justice 'Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!' Psalms 106.3 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 AND PUNCTUALITY

We are very keen that expectations for attendance and punctuality remain high. Students should be achieving 95%+ and on time for registrations and all lessons. This provides a good work ethic that is transferable to a later career or job. We are aware that the traffic in St Albans can be challenging but would ask that you allow plenty of time for travel particularly in the mornings.

This week we had our Ash Wednesday Service at St Albans Cathedral. Our church services are very much part of our school work and as a community it is the only time we are able to get the whole school together. We are fully aware that our students have many faiths and beliefs or perhaps no faith but we are a faith school and we are proud of our commitment in celebrating our uniqueness, our Respect for All and all our members individuality on these occasions at the Cathedral. God's teachings of love care and tolerance are embedded within the school ethos so we are expecting all our students to attend each service.

Form tutors and Directors of Learning are requiring evidence of medical appointments should your child have missed this service. We are particularly concerned and disappointed with those few children who have missed all three services and would ask for your support in ensuring that this situation is addressed.

It is unfair to expect your child to have the opportunity to take part in other school activities and trips if there is a lack of support and participation in these special occasions for the school.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2019

Thank you to everyone who has supported and donated to the local St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge appeal. We are overwhelmed with donations and so thankful for your contribution. The donations will be collected until Thursday 14th March if you would still like to contribute. Thank you, Mrs Bailey

YEAR 8 GCSE OPTIONS EVENING – WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 7.00PM – 8.30PM

As you will be aware the Year 8 GCSE Options Evening is next Wednesday. The evening will consist of a talk about the options process and a subject fair where you can gather information about the subjects and what they offer. Form tutors and members of the inclusion team will be available to offer guidance. A YCHertfordshire Advisor (formerly Youth Connexions advisor) will also be available to provide guidance about potential careers and qualifications. Within school time, students have started to experience "typical" GCSE lessons to give them an insight into the changes from Key Stage 3 to GCSE as well as listening to talks by subject leaders about all the GCSE options available to them. All students and

parents/carers are required to attend this important evening and students should be in full school uniform. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 13th March.
Thank you for your support, Miss Scott and the Year 8 Form Tutors.

YEAR 11

FINAL TRIAL GCSE EXAMINATIONS IN CORE SUBJECTS (see attached copy of the timetable)

The Year 11 students have another opportunity for further examination practice in English Mathematics and Science papers from Monday 18th March. Students should use this opportunity to see where they are in terms of their learning and this will highlight areas of strength and also areas to work on. Please can you support your child by ensuring that they come to school prepared and with all the necessary equipment.

Students must have a black pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and all the other required equipment including compasses - with a sharp pencil that fits, protractor, ruler and calculator (where necessary).

It is the student's responsibility to bring their own equipment for exams.

Should your child require support with purchasing any particular equipment please do speak to Mr Still in confidence.

All the very best of luck to all students! Mrs Kovacevic (Examinations Officer)

YEAR 11 MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

On Wednesday 13th March we have the Fixup Team (please see Twitter) coming in to deliver an assembly and workshop with the entire cohort, in readiness for their up and coming GCSE examinations. They come highly recommended and have worked with lots of schools on a national level. We look forward to them working with our students on Wednesday.

YEAR 11 PROM

I have organised the Year 11 Prom for Thursday 27th June at the Aubrey Park Hotel on the Redborn Road from 7pm to Midnight. The price includes; a red carpet entrance, a drink on arrival; a hot buffet and a DJ for the evening. The cost will be £36 and letters will go out shortly. It will be a great event and nice way for the students to finish off the year, and say goodbye to friends and staff.

YEAR 11 PHOTOGRAPHS

The Year 11 photos have been booked for Friday 5th April here at school during Lesson 1 . Pupils will need to be looking their smartest, so now is the time to polish up on any uniform issues.

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Apprenticeship Show - all of year 12 are attending the apprenticeship show on Wednesday 13th March at Milton Keynes arena. Please ensure your son/daughter has paid £10 to attend. Thanks, Miss Gibbons

Year 13 - we are giving year 13 the option to study at home on a Wednesday afternoon and one other afternoon of their choice as we feel that this may help student prepare for their summer exams and cope with what can be a stressful term when studying A Levels. Students are able to stay in school if they wish to do so, but must sign out at the school office if they are leaving site to go and study.

YEAR 13 EURODISNEY

I need a copy/ photograph of all year 13's passports who are going to Eurodisney urgently please. They can email them to me, or bring me the photo any time I am in my office. Thanks Miss Gibbons

COMIC RELIEF - FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

There will be various activities running for students to raise money for comic relief:

Thursday 14th March - staff vs sixth form volleyball - 50p per entry

Friday 15th March - Lip sync battle in the hall at lunchtime - 50p entry to spectate.

Non-school uniform day - if students wish to wear non-school uniform the donation will be 50p collected by form tutors - how about trying to wear some red clothing to support comic relief? No colouring of hair is allowed.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Science "week" runs from the 8th to the 17th of March. This year's theme is journeys. It kicked off today with a lunchtime session led by Mr Morgan looking at speed, acceleration, momentum and emotions through the theme of rollercoasters. Some of the world's fastest rollercoaster rides were looked at along with other thrill-seeking rides that can cause a range of emotions ranging from euphoria to fright. The session ended with Mr Morgan showing a film of himself completing the world's fastest zipline.

Learning for Life sessions in form times next week will be looking at the journey that women scientists have been on to gain the recognition for the work that they have done in the world of science.

Lunchtime activities will be on every day next week starting on Monday with Mr Law looking at water rockets. Tuesday will be Mr round demonstrating some exciting chemical reactions. Wednesday Mr McNeillis will be journeying into space and on Thursday Miss Prakash will be on a journey into the world beyond the naked eye with some microscope work. Friday will end with some films of great scientific journeys.

Please encourage your child to attend some or all of these sessions.

ROTARY CLUB TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT 2019

On Wednesday 6th March 12 Year 8 and 9 students represented Townsend in the Rotary Club Technology Tournament. Their challenge was to design and make a remotely operated crane that could be used to clear damaged carriages from a railway system. The task developed students' understanding of a variety of engineering principles including the use of pulleys and making a reversible switch.

Mr Hill

SCHOOL OF ROCK - WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

This coming Monday is a full cast rehearsal and will be in the Drama studio due to the Hall being occupied, rehearsals will end at 4:50pm as the music school needs the studio space. Sorry for any inconvenience this time change causes. It is vital that students attend all rehearsals they are needed for, to help make the show a success and support the other students who are involved in their scenes. A copy of the rehearsal schedule has been given to your child when they received their script. If you need another copy please see Miss Kirk or Mrs Coates. All permission slips for image use need to be returned to Mrs Coates ASAP as we would love to start recording images from the rehearsal process for this year's show. If you need another letter please see Mrs Coates.

GCSEPOD

Over the last few months the school has been competing in the PODgames. These test your usage against other schools in a geographic area. Amazingly the school has now qualified, along with 40 or so other schools, to compete in the World games against the very best pod using schools globally. The competition will run for several months so watch this space!

POD OF THE WEEK

All GCSE PE students would benefit from watching the following pod on what it means to be healthy:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11820>

I would recommend producing a small spider diagram of all the benefits of participating in sport mentioned in the pod.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

DRAMA

NEW VIEWS

Students are continuing to write their scripts, and first drafts have been submitted. The next visit from our Playwright is on Wednesday 13th March. Each student will have a 20 minutes time slot and will have a 1:1 session to improve their scripts. Students know their time slot and a letter has been sent home with them today to inform parents of times etc. the workshop runs from 2:25-5:00pm so some students will not need to stay after school. Please send in the reply slip for your child asap, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Year 7 - Are now working on a scheme of work called Wacky Soap which is a storytelling and role play scheme based around drugs and peer pressure using a metaphor of Wacky Soap. Students have enjoyed the first few lessons and will continue to explore the subject throughout the coming weeks.

Year 8 - Are now working on a project about The Titanic where they will create their own miniature GCSE style performance. Students have enjoyed the first few lessons and will continue to explore the subject throughout the coming weeks.

Year 9 - Are developing ideas for their devising and are settled in their groups. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 10 - Are now preparing for their Component 2 and have all settled on their ideas for their pieces, this counts for 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home next week with all the details for parents. They have booklets that they should regularly be updating for their homework and these will be checked fortnightly to monitor their progress. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

Year 11 - Are preparing for Component 3 of the examination with their visiting examiner who will be coming into school on Tuesday 19th March, they have their scripts and should be learning lines. Letters will be sent home with the details for the exam day on Monday. Students now have personalised revision pack with lots of extra reading and tasks to improve their written exam skills. Tuesday lunch time there is GCSE support in IT1, for revisions and homework.

HISTORY

Year 8

Students have been set their History extended learning project titled 'Who do you think you are?' It is due for class submission early April. Students are expected to work and complete this in their own time. History teachers are regularly checking the progress students are making throughout the term. Please refer to project sheet received in lesson and SMHW for instructions and deadlines. It is important to note that students should not be bringing in original and official documentation such as passports in school. All personal information put into this project will be treated in full confidentiality and locked up in our Humanities office.

Year 10 GCSE

Early Elizabethan England revision guides can be purchased at the cost of £4 from the History office. Please speak to Mr Armitage if there are financial implications.

Year 11 GCSE

History revision sessions are held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students have also been provided with a free red revision guide produced by the department which has useful information about revision sessions, exam dates, examination technique, key notes, timelines, glossary, exam question banks and practice papers. Please encourage your child to use this as part of their regular history revision.

Mrs Bailey – Head of History

GEOGRAPHY:

Year 10 field trip to Swanage - Just a reminder to parents that the field trip to Swanage is in the first week back after the EASTER holidays from Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April. Final payments (as per the original letter and payment schedule) will be due in April. Students will begin preparing for the work they will carry out 3 weeks prior to the trip in lessons. The parents information evening for the trip will take place on Wednesday 3rd April at 6pm (please note in previous parentmail before half term the date for this parent meeting was incorrect, the correct date is Wednesday 3rd April, not the 6th) - it is important that a parent/carer for each child going on the trip attends this meeting as it is a residential trip - please put these dates in your diary.

LANGUAGES

Year 11 Revision Information and Key Dates

As the examination season is now getting very close, I want to remind you about key dates, revision sessions and revision materials which your child can access to prepare for their forthcoming French exams.

GCSE Revision Workshop – Wednesday 27th February

On Wednesday 27th February, the Herts for Learning MFL Advisor, who has access to detailed feedback from examination boards came to Townsend School to run a revision skills workshop for Year 11 students of French, based on areas of development identified after the recent mock exams. The First part of the workshop focused on listening skills. A number of students also took part in the additional speaking skills session after school and feedback has been very positive. Please encourage your child to put these revision skills into practice when revising independently at home.

Key Dates for Year 11 GCSE

- **Tuesday 16th April GCSE Easter Revision Workshop** – more details and exact timings to follow, but please reserve the date. Your child will have the opportunity to come to school to take part in revision activities to prepare for the French GCSE, including the speaking exam.
- **Tuesday 30th April** – this is the date when your child will take their French speaking exam which is worth 25% of their overall exam mark. The exam lasts 10-12 minutes and will perform a short role play in French, describe a photo and answer questions on it and take part in two short conversations about two different topics they have studied. **The first topic is chosen by the student**, so it is **essential** for your child to prepare thoroughly for this, as it is the only part of the speaking exam where they can be certain about what they will need to discuss.

Revision materials/ resources/ sessions

Revision books

Most students have copies of at least some of these revision books. Please encourage them to draw up a revision programme where they use these to revise little and often as this is the best approach when studying a language.

Studio Edexcel GCSE French Grammar and Translation Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9781292132990	Price: £5.99
Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Revision Guide			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9781292132082	Price: £5.89
Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Revision Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9781292132013	Price: £5.99
Target Grade 9 Writing Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9781292245829	Price: £3.99
Target Grade 5 Writing Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9780435189068	Price: £3.99
Target Grade 9 Reading AQA* GCSE (9-1) French Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9781292246055	Price: £3.99
Target Grade 5 Reading Edexcel GCSE (9-1) French Workbook			
Publisher:	Pearson Education	ISBN: 9780435189037	RRP: £3.99

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 or speak in confidence to your child's Director of Learning of the year group.

Revision Sessions

Year 11 GCSE intervention Tuesday lunchtimes and Thursdays after school in LA1 and LA2
 In order to help students prepare and practise further for the GCSE exam these revision sessions are available Tuesday lunchtimes 1.30-1.55pm and Thursdays after school 3.30-4.30 to all Year 11 students studying French.

Other Revision Resources

- **Activelearn** - this is the online version of the Edexcel French GCSE textbook. Students have individual login and password details and exercises have been set to allow students to access at home and revise. The particular advantage of using this package to revise is that it is created by the same exam we use for GCSE French to support their GCSE textbook and should reflect the topics, vocabulary and structures which will come up in the exams. There are grammar, reading and listening activities.
- **Thislanguage** – students are very familiar with this package as we use it in school. They have individual login and password details and exercises have been set to allow students to access at home and revise. Students revise by completing exercises and play interactive games.
- **GCSE Pod** – some relevant French GCSE revision exercises have been set covering topics we are currently revising in class. More will be added as we move on to the new topic areas.
- **Linguascope** - another package familiar to students from KS3 but the intermediate section is suitable for KS4 revision. User ID townsend, password francais18.

Year 8 French GCSE Option Information

Year 8 students will have experienced a GCSE French taster lesson and seen the Languages Options presentation before Options Evening next week. The presentation has also been loaded onto ShowMyHomework for students to have a chance to review and access as part of their options decision-making progress. Please ask them to show you when you are discussing their options choices with them.

If you have any questions regarding GCSE French, the MFL department will be happy to answer on Options Evening.

MATHEMATICS

Numeracy

Identifying problems and solving them can also help your child develop maths skills. If you see him or her puzzling over something, talk about the problem and try to work out the solution together.

For more information on helping with your child's numeracy please visit

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/> or speak to your child's Maths teacher.

Charlie Timpson – Lead in Numeracy

Pi Day

14th March is Pi Day, and every year we encourage our students to memorise as many digits as they can of pi (which is a number that we use a lot in Maths). You may wish to support your son / daughter with this over the weekend. Last year's winner memorised over 150 digits, so it is quite a challenge!

Students can come and see me any break or lunch time next week to enter the competition - there will be prizes.

Anna Berry - Assistant Headteacher

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please note that although we are very happy to pass on information these are not Townsend sponsored or organised events.

'What is it with my Teen! - support for stress wellbeing and brain development' run by Natural Flair Coaching Ltd. On 18th March 7-9pm. See attached flier with further information