

TOWNSEND PARENTMAIL NEWSLETTER
Friday 9th November 2018

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Use your fear ... it can take you to the place where you store your courage – Amelia Earhart

WORSHIP AT TOWNSEND

Each month we have a different values focus for the school. For November our value focus is Forgiveness 'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you' Ephesian 4:32 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 8 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15TH 5-8PM

We are hoping for and expecting a full attendance on Thursday for this important evening. Students will be making GCSE choices in March of next year so it is important that students and parents/carers have the opportunity to discuss current progress in subjects to help make informed decisions later in the academic year. There will be a Year 8 Options Evening taking place on Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm to provide additional information for this transition.

REMINDER - YEAR 7 PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION EVENING

This is taking place on Wednesday December 12th. Please make a note in your diaries!

FRIENDS OF TOWNSEND

A Friends Committee meeting is being held on Tuesday 13th of November 2018 at 7pm. Any parent/carers who are interested in helping the school - either with ideas of fund raising or simply as a volunteer with some school events, please do feel free to come and join us. Your input will be most valuable and much appreciated.

Hamper Fillers - we are looking for items in gold, silver and green, if you can spare any items Christmassy or otherwise, please send in asap for the attention of Mr Graham. We are looking for items such as white wine or bubbles, chocolate, crackers, tins, wrapping paper, sauces, rice, serviettes.

Logs - we still have a few logs available for open fires. Please contact Mr Graham via the school office if you would like any.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2018

This year's national theme is 'Choose Respect'. Clearly this message lends itself to our Respect for All Statement and we are proud that we have this ethos embedded within the school.

Each year through this week we organise a range of activities that highlight and promote awareness of such an important area of our society. We take the opportunity of inviting external speakers into school to talk to students about how individuals have overcome barriers in their lives, have dealt with feeling different or have changed their lives around by their strength in standing up to prejudice.

This year the RAISE Ambassadors will be working with students to further promote our commitment to Anti-Bullying. Throughout the week there are many different opportunities for students to seek information and support. Students can also take part in a variety of activities that celebrate individuality and equality in our

society. Many of the additional support groups being launched are being suggested, led and driven by the students themselves. This demonstrates our community's commitment to equality. We are extremely proud of our students at Townsend. Please do go through the programme with your child to see what is happening and reinforce the important message that we celebrate individuality and equality and Townsend. Thanks. Miss Scott

Odd Socks Day – Monday 12th November

In celebration of the start of Anti-Bullying Week we are holding an Odd Socks Day on Monday 12th November. This is a national initiative supported by the Anti – Bullying Alliance. The Anti-Bullying Alliance are encouraging students to wear odd socks to school on Monday 12th November to show their support for Anti Bullying Week 2018. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for students to express themselves and celebrate what makes us unique. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All the students have to do to take part is wear odd socks, it couldn't be simpler! Aside from the odd socks, students are required to be in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM. As Anti-bullying Week coincides with Children in Need we are asking students to make a contribution and raise money for a good cause. Thank you

NEW LUTON SCHOOL BUS – 3 STAR COACHES

By now, I am sure you are aware that the new private bus service travelling from Luton-Harpenden-Townsend has been running successfully for a week. Feedback from those using the service has been extremely positive. Students using the service are enjoying the many benefits identified in previous messages including;

- Drop off and pick up from the school site– no more waiting on a busy road or walking from the school to the Harpenden Road in bad weather or when it is dark!
- Able to wait in the safety of the school if the bus is late or if weather is poor.
- A reliable service.
- Direct travel onto and from the school site
- Dedicated drivers
- No access for other members of the public or students from other local schools. The bus will be exclusively for the use of Townsend students
- The convenience of parents/carers paying the bus company directly (as this is a private arrangement between you and the bus company)

However, we are also aware that there are many more parents/carers that expressed an interest in using the service who have not yet signed up to use it. Whilst there may be a variety of reasons why this is the case, I would ask that those parents/carers feedback to Colin Dudley at Three Star Coaches. The route could possibly be adapted to meet needs of other students if we know what the pick-up points are. All enquiries should go to Three Star Coaches directly at townsend@threestarcoaches.com via the Three Star website www.threestarcoaches.com and the contact details available there. Many thanks
Jon Buckland

REMEMBRANCE WEEK AT TOWNSEND

Year 9 and Year 10 History students watched a performance about life of a First World War 'Tommy' and the social reforms that resulted from the war in the school Hall on Monday 5th November as part of Remembrance week. They also reflected and recorded their thoughts on what the Great War means to them on poppies as part of a History display. In addition, Mr. Buckland delivered a moving collective worship on showing gratitude to the bravery of First World War soldiers. STEP have

also run a 'Remembrance' STEP Café in the Discovery centre at lunch all week covering a range of topics such as peace and freedom. Students were also invited to attend the Remembrance Service in the Hall which included a period of silence for reflection, and an opportunity to lay a poppy to remember someone recently bereaved.

YEAR 10: WORK EXPERIENCE

Most of the students have now told me their preferences for work experience, and I have been informed that the database of offers for them to apply to will go live towards the end of term.

Students opting for a private placement should get the employer to complete the necessary form (spares available from the office) and return to school. I have already received a number of these and been able to submit them for vetting. We ask all students to pay a contribution of £15 towards the cost of work experience, whether the job is from the database or a private placement. Please be aware that placements outside Hertfordshire incur an additional fee, usually up to £15, which we must pass on to you. This is a fraction of what we have to pay, and without your contribution the school could not afford to offer work experience. No payments required at this stage, thank you.

Margaret Wood Work Experience Co-ordinator

YEAR 9 BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

All students taking part in the Battlefields trip will be issued a letter on Tuesday confirming their place on the trip, giving a date for a compulsory parent / carer meeting and reminding parents and carers of the payment schedule for the trip. Please ask your child for this letter as it contains important information. Mrs Davey

SUBJECT INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY - TEXTILES

Next term the year 9 DT Textiles students will begin a project to design and make a kite. To promote environmental awareness it would be great if we could make use of any old tents you would like to donate or you are not using anymore. Please let me know. Many thanks in advance, Julia Woodward.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Early notice that Townsend will again be participating in British Science Week in March next year. The theme for the 2019 event is Journeys. We will be looking at this topic from the point of physical journeys to lifecycles and journeys through time. There will be lots of activities to choose from, hopefully including other departments from the school as well. If you are interested in helping out with some aspect of British Science week please contact Mr Morgan through the school office.

GEOGRAPHY

Virtual Interactive Tour of Beijing - a selection of year 7 students will be taken on a virtual excursion to Beijing, where a person in China will take them on an interactive adventure around the city. This experience will connect our students with Asia and give them the chance to experience and learn about China and its culture.

HISTORY

Year 7

Year 7 students have been set their half termly project for History this week and must 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.

Students have been issued with independent learning activities they can do throughout the academic year outside the classroom which will enrich their history knowledge as well as experiencing history in the wider-world. This is a great opportunity for students to stretch and challenge themselves in History. Further details can be found 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. Please read instructions for independent learning under the Year 7 section.

Year 9 GCSE

Students are currently 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 can support you.

Year 10 GCSE

Students are currently studying Paper 2: The American West, c1835-c1895 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 contact Mr Armitage in confidence so that we can support you. History revision is being held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students can refer to the revision programme to find about the skill and content covered every week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.

Year 11 GCSE

The Whitechapel trip to London was a great success and enjoyed by all. Pupils had the opportunity to visit the sites studied in the classroom and discuss primary sources in context. Thank you for your support in running these trips as the History department felt this was real value for money and a great revision opportunity. Students are studying Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 and this will be the paper which they will sit during trial examination week in November 2018. We encourage students to purchase the Weimar and Nazi Germany revision guide at the cost of £4 sold directly by the History department. History revision is being held weekly on Thursdays at 1.30 in Hu8. Students can refer to the revision programme to find about the skill and content covered every week. Please continue to encourage your child to revise and make use of the 'History Revision Reward' card system.
Mrs Bailey, Head of History and Assistant Head Teacher

ENGLISH

Students have the option of attending Film/Journalist Club every Friday lunchtime. Please encourage your child to speak to Mrs Kleynhans about this.

Year 11 GCSE

There are numerous support and revision materials on Show My Homework and examination papers/questions to try in preparation for the upcoming trial examinations. Remember to encourage your child to do examination questions under timed conditions so they are building stamina for the examinations and they get used

to sustained writing. There are already several support and intervention sessions running in preparation for the upcoming trial examinations. Mrs Kleynhans is running a Tuesday lunchtime revision class focused on Literature to which all students are welcome. Mrs Bunyan is running a Monday lunch time revision session in E5 – and Mrs Harris is running revision sessions Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes in E1. Please encourage your child to attend as these sessions are an important process in preparing our students for their examinations. Please can we ask that you remind your children that they need to go to the revision sessions. Not one student turned up to the Monday lunch time session and the Tuesday Literature sessions have not been well attended. It is really important that students attend these sessions as they give teachers the opportunity to spend more one on one time with individual students.

Years 7 & 8 Reading

Can we please ask for parental/carer support with reading homeworks. While preparing the recent assessment data for Year 8 and Year 9 it was very disappointing to see how many students have not taken a single Accelerated Reading test since September. It is essential that students are doing a minimum of 40 minutes reading per night in order to ensure their reading age continues to improve – which means that an average student should have taken at least 3 tests by now. While we can provide consequences for students not doing their reading homework we would much rather encourage students to read – this means it is important they realise how important their reading – in every subject. Please can parents/carers discuss the books their son or daughter is reading and encourage them to take the tests as soon as they have finished reading the book to maximise their chances of doing well in the test. Thank You

DEBATING

Townsend is entering a team in a debating competition held on the 27th November at St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane in St Albans from 6.30pm until about 9pm. Mrs Harris is working with eight sixth formers and one Year 11 who are working hard on their speeches and it should prove a good evening. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to finding out how they do!

Mrs Harris Director of Learning for English

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE

Our current year 11's are completing one more week of their controlled assessment before pausing to review and revise in preparation for their November trial examinations. Please support students by encouraging them to attend revision drop in sessions (on a Monday) and to complete their revision guides and workbooks. This will help with gaining maximum exposure to the examination based questions and general revision topics.

CYBERDISCOVERY

If you have a child in year 10 to 13 and you think they may have a hidden talent for cyber security? A national campaign has been re-launched to encourage any 14-18 year old student who may want to pursue a career in cyber security. The assessment tasks are open now and students can complete this in school. For more information, please see Mrs King in IT4 Tuesday lunchtime, or for parents, please go to www.joincyberdiscovery.com

UK Bebras

Congratulations to all of year 8 and GCSE students studying Computer Science. We have just completed the national challenges for UK Bebras for the second year.

Results will be published in the next few weeks. To find out more, please go to : https://challenge.bebbras.uk/index.php?action=user_competitions

Mrs King

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Mrs Coates Year 7 class on Thursday students will be cooking their final assessment dishes. They have a free choice of dish and this will be their last cooking lesson. Please skip the muffin recipe. Thank you.

DRAMA

Club

All students should be attending every rehearsal they are needed in for the Christmas show, please support your child in checking their rehearsal schedule. Tickets will be on sale from next Friday in the school office, £3 concession and £5 adult.

Lessons

Year 7 - Have made an excellent start to 'Pantomime' and will be exploring the topic as the term goes on.

Year 8 - There were some excellent Homework projects handed in before half term. All projects will have been returned by Monday next week in lessons.

Year 9 - Students are working on mini plays and will be staging these in class just before the end of this term.

Year 10 - will start preparing for their Composition 2 just before the end of this term. This represents 40% of the GCSE and letters will be sent home in the Spring term for parents/carers with more information.

Year 11 - please could all trip forms and the first payments for the Theatre trip be returned to the school as soon as possible.

Thank you. Mrs Coates

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Results

- the year 8 netball team fought hard in their match against St Albans High School on Wednesday night, after struggling in the first quarter to a higher pace of the opposition, the girls refocused with a greatly improved 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters giving the high school a tough match. Opposition POM – Arianne, Teacher POM - Anna
- the year 9 and 10 girls mixed together for a friendly match against Sir John Lawes on Thursday, another game with a tough start, taking a while to focus and get to know new players in different positions. But once again they kept spirits high and fought hard throughout the match, constantly improving their game and drawing the last quarter. Opposition POM – Leyla, Teacher POM – Kerri and Erica

Fixtures

- Tuesday 13th November – year 9/10 netball Vs Samuel Ryder away 3.30 – 5.15
- Wednesday 14th November – year 7 girls basketball tournament at Oaklands College 3.30 – 6pm
- Wednesday 14th November – year 7/8 netball friendly Vs Beechwood Park School away 3.30 – 6pm

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

DSPL 7

Information Evening for Parents, Carers and Families of Children and Young People with Additional Needs. Please see attachment.

Wednesday 14th November 2018 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Workshops about Language Difficulties and Autism

LOTS FOR TOTS BABY & TODDLER TABLE TOP SALE

(see attachment)

Many good items for sale or if you would like a table to sell your own, email naomi@lotsfortotssale.co.uk

St Albans 17th November, Townsend School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £10, and business tables £14

Stevenage 24th November, Bedwell community centre, tables now 2ft x 6ft, seller tables £12.50, and business tables £15

Welwyn Garden City 1st December, Harwood Hill School, tables now 2ft x 4ft, seller tables £10, and business tables £14