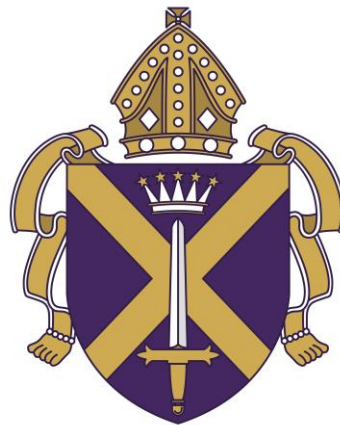


# Townsend Church of England School - Edition 1 / Autumn Term 2023

## Weekly Newsletter



## TOWNSEND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

The students have been fantastic this week. They all look incredibly smart in their uniform, have been very polite and courteous and made me feel very welcome in my first week as Headteacher. I have been particularly impressed with Year 7, who have settled in like they have been here for months. Year 11 have also stood out and seem to have taken to the responsibility of being the oldest students in uniform with grace and maturity.

I hope you all had a fantastic summer and were able to spend some quality time with friends and family. All the Townsend staff are feeling refreshed and excited about the year ahead and have been enjoying teaching their first lessons of the term. A special welcome must go to all the new parents/carers of students who joined us in Year 7 and 12 on Tuesday. I am sure your son / daughter will be very tired at the end of their first week of secondary school and we hope they have a relaxing weekend.

Congratulations must go to all the students who sat public examinations with us in the summer term. We are proud of all our students so I will not name any individuals in this newsletter, but would like to wish them all success in the future.

Bruno came to visit again today and it was really nice to see how many students wanted to meet him. He certainly enjoyed himself and was quite worn-out with all the excitement when he went home this afternoon. Bruno will be back next Friday if any students did not get the chance to meet him today.

Please can I remind you about our **Open Evening on Wednesday 20th September**. If you have a child in Years 5 or 6 and would like to book tickets for one of the Headteacher presentations, please email [admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk). On Wednesday school closes for all students at 12.30pm after a shortened lunch break. We hope the majority of students will stay for the evening to help us

showcase their fantastic school. Information about how they sign up to help will be sent early next week. The school buses have been made aware and are adjusting their times accordingly.

One of the many areas of Townsend life which we are particularly proud of is our co-curricular clubs. We are able to offer a diverse range of clubs, sports and activities for students to take part in. These clubs will begin next week and details of which days they take place on will be displayed around school.

As we begin our first full week of lessons, please can you check your son / daughter is appropriately equipped to learn. A full list of items can be found under the parent/carers section of our website.

Monday 11th September is our school photograph day. All students will have an individual picture taken so please make sure that they have their 'happy face' on!

Safeguarding the wellbeing of all students is something we take very seriously. Please see further information at the bottom of this newsletter for our updated safeguarding team for 2023-24. If your son / daughter has any concern about their own wellbeing or that of another member of the Townsend community, they should report this to their trusted adult in school. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to phone or email the school.

Some of our neighbours have been in contact this week as cars belonging to parents/carers of Townsend students have not been parked in marked areas, with some left on grass verges and blocking driveways. Please remember to use the car park off Toulmin Drive which is just a short walk away for the students.

The following student is the first to have received a Headteacher's Commendation. Congratulations to:

**Mateusz K 11 Canterbury**

Best wishes,

Mr Anthony Flack

Headteacher





**Prayer:**

Thank you God,  
for this term.

For our challenges, our successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family, carers and friends

Give us strength and courage to do what is right

And to return to start a new year

with renewed energy and a determination

to be the best we can be -

for ourselves and for others.

Amen

**Bible Verse:**

Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow! And let gentleness be seen in every relationship.' *Philippians 4;4*

The school's Christian vision is taught through the parable of the **Good Samaritan** (Luke 10:25-37), teaching people to '**love your neighbour**' and practising the values of respect, love, wisdom, hope,

stewardship and awe & wonder, all of which can be seen in this story. Our Bible-based vision supports our long-standing school ethos of 'respect for all, achievement for all'; look after one another, and you can all achieve together. Our ethos comes from wholly Christian principles.

### **Achievement for All, Respect for All**

## **Year Group Notices**

### **YEAR 7**

The Year 7 students have had an outstanding first week and have settled into Townsend School very well. I am delighted to report that the transition to secondary school for our Year 7 students has been smooth and successful. It has been a joy to witness their enthusiasm and adaptability as they embarked on this new phase of their educational journey. Here are some key observations from this week:

**Engagement and Participation:** Our Year 7 students have actively engaged in their classes, showing a genuine interest in learning. They have embraced the opportunities to explore new subjects and extracurricular activities.

**Friendships:** Friendships have blossomed, and students have formed supportive bonds with their peers in their tutor class and within the year group. The inclusive and welcoming environment at our school has made it easier for them to connect with classmates.

**Positive Attitude:** It is evident that our Year 7 students are approaching challenges with a positive attitude. They are not afraid to ask questions, seek help when needed, and strive for improvement.

I believe that this strong start sets a solid foundation for their future years at our school. I encourage you to continue supporting your child's educational journey by maintaining open communication with teachers and staying involved in their school life. Together, we can ensure that they have a fulfilling and enriching experience throughout their time here. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Here's to a successful and rewarding academic year ahead!

Mr Brooks

### **YEAR 8**

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome Year 8 back to Townsend this week. Students have looked incredibly smart and have worked hard to make a positive start to the new academic year. Each form group has set their own rules to create a positive learning environment and have set personal targets for this week, this term and this year. I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing them achieve their targets over the coming days, weeks and months. I would like to particularly congratulate Amelia (8E) and Zoya (8N) on a superb start to this school year.

Miss Gordon

### **YEAR 9**

Welcome back Year 9! It is now the time to start mentioning 'GCSE's' and not be afraid of what that means, or what that will look like for you. This year is your opportunity to get your head down and focus, remain determined and show resilience in all you do. There certainly will be bumps in the road, but everyone at Townsend is here to help. Be open minded, accepting and caring to those that cross your path and enjoy the journey.

Miss Withers

## **YEAR 10**

Welcome back year 10, I have chosen Psalm 25:4 "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths" as our year group focus for the year. I hope you will be inspired to try your best, focus on your studies and strive to go forward in your journey to success, whatever that looks like for you as an individual. Here's to a great year, I know you are going to make me proud as always.

Miss Reynolds

## **YEAR 11**

It has been great to see the new Year 11s come back to school with their new black blazers looking ever so smart! I know staff have really enjoyed having them back in their classrooms for their final big year in school, and will support them every way they can on this journey. Also, just a quick reminder that my work email address is now [year11@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year11@townsend.herts.sch.uk) which will be the easiest way to contact me if you need to throughout the school year. I am really looking forward to seeing how they progress this year!

Mr Still

## **SIXTH FORM**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Year 12 students as they join the Sixth Form, it is rewarding to witness their swift adaptation to the Sixth Form environment, coupled with their evident enthusiasm for the forthcoming two years of their education. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to those students who have chosen Townsend as their educational institution for Year 12 and Year 13. Your presence enriches our school community, and we are delighted to have you as part of our Sixth Form. Our Year 13 students have returned with a profound sense of purpose and self-assuredness, determined to apply themselves diligently to their educational objectives as they approach this pivotal stage in their academic journey. May I take this opportunity to remind Y13 students that all information for their Post 18 intentions including personal statements and university courses (if applicable) need to be uploaded to Unifrog. The year ahead promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for all members of Townsend Sixth Form, and I eagerly anticipate the achievements it will bring.

Mr Tominey

## Important Information



### Help Needed

As I am sure you are aware we have our open evening on **Wednesday 20th September 5:30 to 8:30pm**. We are looking for volunteers to join other members of the PTA to help out on the night. If you are able to give up some time on the night or are interested in joining the PTA, please contact the school on [admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk).

Many Thanks

Townsend PTA

### Year 7 Football

The year 7 boys have a friendly football match versus Nicolas Breakspear on Monday 25th September, taking place at Townsend School. Kick off will be at 4pm. Please feel free to come and support your child and the school. Furthermore, football training takes place every Monday after school for both boys and girls. Please ensure your child is wearing the PE kit with shin pads and correct footwear. Best wishes, Mr Brooks

- Homework club for Years 7-11 is every Tuesday and Thursday in the Discovery Centre from 3.25pm - 4:30pm.
- Inclusion - As exam boards will no longer be producing exam papers on coloured paper, we are moving to the use of coloured overlays within school. Students requiring an overlay will be able to collect one from Inclusion, before school, or at break or lunch time, and will then be able to keep it with them. Teachers will have spares in the classroom if required. You may wish to purchase your own, the links below offer some good value options. Teachers have been advised to copy an extra paper/worksheet when required, so students are able to read one copy, and write on the other. Do let me know if you have any questions.

APH <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dyslexia-Overlays-Coloured-Children->

[Highlight/dp/B0BK8W7X73/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?crd=8IHU645XJ10&keywords=overlays+or+reading+rulers&qid=1694095724&sprefix=overlays+or+reading+rulers%2Caps%2C63&sr=8-5](https://www.google.com/search?q=highlight/dp/B0BK8W7X73/ref=sr_1_5?crd=8IHU645XJ10&keywords=overlays+or+reading+rulers&qid=1694095724&sprefix=overlays+or+reading+rulers%2Caps%2C63&sr=8-5)

Thank you

SEND Team

Over the last term and summer holidays, the Discovery Centre has had a refit! The centre will be open to students from Monday 11th September, with a launch including games activities and free resources - come along to see the new look! Mrs Rice and Mrs Hartgroves



## **SPORTS ENRICHMENT**

Sports enrichment clubs start up this Monday. All students are available to join sports clubs - they are free and do not require signing up.

- If a student wants to join a club - they just need to turn up at the right place at the right time according to the sports clubs list.
- For break time basketball - you just need trainers
- For lunch times - all clubs (apart from swimming) start at 1.20, and just require trainers (or shorts for gymnastics if you wear a skirt to school)
- For swimming club - Tuesday lunch - students need to go straight to the gates between the large canteen and inclusion (where they enter the school in the mornings) - they will then be escorted to the pool by Mr Hill. If they arrive later than 1.20 they will not be able to get across. It is recommended that students bring packed lunch on days they are swimming, or get something to eat at break. They will have time after swimming to eat.
- For after school clubs, students will need their full PE kit.
- Football trials (boys and girls) - Monday 11th September and Monday 18th September - after school - 3.30 - 4.45 on the field (meet in outdoor changing rooms)



- Netball trials - Wednesday 15th September - after school - 3.30 - 4.45 on the courts (meet in outdoor changing rooms)

### **District Cross Country**

Students have been given opportunities to collect a letter in assemblies / PE lessons this week. If a student does not have a letter, but is wishing to compete in any of the cross country races, please see Mrs Aubrey (Head of PE), or a member of PE staff for a letter. Signed reply slips must be handed in to the PE office (can be via a form tutor) before they can compete

Yr 7 race: Tuesday 12th September: 3.25 - 5.00pm at Sandringham School. Students meet in the indoor changing rooms at 3.25.

Race 1 (all age groups): Thursday 14th September: 3.25 - 5.00 at Townsend School - students can leave after their race has finished

Race 2 (all age groups): Thursday 21st September: 3.25 - 5.00 at Katherine Warrington School

Race 3 (all age groups): Thursday 28th September: 3.25 - 5.00 at Nicholas Breakspear School

Race 4 (all age groups): Thursday 5th October: 3.25 - 5.00 at Verulam School playing fields

Race 5 (all age groups): Thursday 12th October: 3.25 - 5.00 at Westminster Lodge

For races not at Townsend: - students can be collected from the host venue after their race, or return to school via minibus and be collected / make their way home from Townsend at 5.20 / 30. Mrs Aubrey



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

Here are some places you can get in touch with for help:

**Kooth.com** (<https://www.kooth.com/>) provides free, online support Mon – Fri 12pm – 10pm and Sat & Sunday 6pm – 10pm, 365 days a year.

**Shout** provides free confidential support via text 24/7, just text SHOUT to 85258.

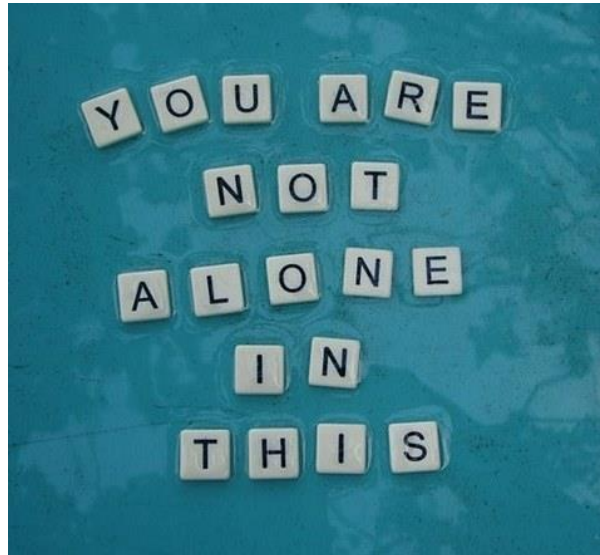
<https://giveusashout.org/>

**Childline** provides free 24hr counselling service call 0800 1111 or go to

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>

**For Me App:** <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/for-me/> A free app from Childline. It offers counselling, group message boards, and advice.

**MeeTwo App:** <https://www.meetwo.co.uk/> A safe forum for teens including advice from experts on any topic that is difficult to talk about and built in signposting.



*1 - If you're struggling emotionally with anything please drop me an email to [well-being@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:well-being@townsend.herts.sch.uk) and I will try to signpost you to additional support. Kate Barron*

## Safeguarding



Any of our Team can be contacted through the school office – by telephone or by using email to [safeguarding@townsend.herts.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@townsend.herts.sch.uk)

Please find the quick link below for reporting any incidents of bullying at the school

[Bullying Report Form](#)

There is a lot of information about safe practice with regards remote learning and use of the internet – please do access what you can so children remain safe while using lap tops and PCs at home.

Two particular websites that support schools are CEOP and Think You Know

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Do have a look at both for tips and advice.

Can we remind all parent/carers the designated safeguarding leaders in the school are;

Mr M Armitage- Assistant Headteacher

Ms K Barron - Student and Family Wellbeing Lead

Mrs K Brooks - Assistant Headteacher

Miss L Gibbons - Assistant Headteacher

Miss E Gordon - Director of Learning for Year 8 and Head of Key Stage3

Mrs G Llewellyn - Deputy Headteacher

Miss A Philpott- SENDCO

Mr R Potter - English Teacher and Year 9 form tutor

Mr M Tominey- Director of Learning for Sixth Form