

TOWNSEND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Townsend Church of England School - Edition 3 / Autumn Term 2023

Weekly Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I must start with a big thank you to all the students who helped out at Open Evening on Wednesday night. I was fortunate to receive lots of very positive feedback from parents / carers about how wonderful our students were. I am so proud of every one of them as they represented themselves and Townsend in the best possible way. I hope they have a relaxing weekend after an incredibly long day on Wednesday.

I am grateful to all the staff who have or are taking trips out this week. GCSE and A level Drama students were fortunate enough to be taken out this week. On Tuesday the A level students enjoyed a trip to see 'The Pillowman' at The Duke of York's Theatre. Today, Year 11 GCSE History students have been to Whitechapel in East London as part of their unit on Crime and Punishment. Over the weekend, as Townsend hosts the annual MODELS THAT MOVE Show, Mr Armitage will be leading a group of Year 10 students into the wilderness as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Good luck to them and I hope the weather is fine.

I must complement all the students for their conduct during the Fire Alarm on Thursday. The alarm was triggered by a toaster used in one of the canteens. Their conduct was exemplary from start to finish even under the additional challenge of the alarm starting before all the students had arrived in school. Yet another reminder about how brilliant our students can be.

Two important dates for your diary next week. On Wednesday 27th September we invite the parents / carers of students in Year 7 to an information evening which begins at 5.30pm. A final reminder that Thursday 28th September is our Annual Service of Dedication at St Albans Cathedral. Visitors should be seated by 1.45pm and students will be dismissed from the Cathedral at 3.00pm.

There is a long list of Headteacher's Commendations this week as each department nominated two students who they felt went above and beyond when representing us at Open Evening. Congratulations go to:

Year 7- Roman D ,Finley F, Brecon G, Zyan J, Esther T

Year 8- Jasmine M, Praise U, Lucine U

Year 9- Zahra A

Year 10- Alfie B, Summer F, Nasri M, Gracie S, Amelia W

Year 11- Jasmine C, Samir K, Jessica T

Year 12- Maysoon A, Lola B, Ellie D, Amelia H, Daniel J, Dylan J, Shaun J

Year 13- Millie A, Ellie C, Anna-Marie H, Isabel H, Harry K, Arnav K, Callum P, Roemello V, Phoebe W and Addison W.

Attendance & Punctuality

Last week I wrote to you about the importance of all children being in school on a regular basis and arriving on time every day. There has been a small improvement in the last week, so thank you to those of you who have encouraged your son / daughter out the door. This focus on attendance and punctuality will continue this week and for the rest of the academic year. Once good habits have been established, it is easier to maintain them. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Online Safety

Trying to keep young people safe online is a never ending task for us as a school and you as parents and carers. To support you in this task, every week we will share with you a Parents / Carers Guide to Online safety. Each week is a different theme with specific information I am sure you will find useful. This week's edition is on WHATSAPP.

Headteacher





23rd & 24th September 2023

TOWNSEND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
HIGH OAKS, ST ALBANS, AL3 6DR

10am - 5pm FREE PARKING. MODEL TANKS.

FREE TRAIN RIDES . HAVE-A-GO BOATS . HOT AIR BALLOONS
TRACTION ENGINES . STEAM LORRIES . MODEL RAILWAYS
DRONES . MECCANO . LIVE STEAM TRACK . CLUB SHOP
TRADE STANDS . REFRESHMENTS . TAMIYA TRUCKERS







Prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for the skills and gifts you have given me

Help me to appreciate the opportunities school offers ,

And to recognise the responsibilities I have

To myself and to others,

Help me to make the right choices

To help me on my journey

Amen

Bible Verse:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

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 Spotlight

Year 10:

Year 10 Army Careers Event written by Charlotte F (10Y) and Darrell D (10E):

On Friday afternoon the Army were kind enough to come and visit Townsend and led us through a series of activities and competitions to get us out of our comfort zones. This consisted of putting together a map using big puzzle pieces, which took quite a long time to finish as many of the pieces looked similar. We used tubes to transport a golf ball down the entire field before the other team did. Our team took an early lead but when we dropped the ball, we had to do forfeits which cost us time, and the others soon caught up and won. We also designed things that the army didn't already have that they would find useful, which for us was an AI/turret. They talked to us about a lot of things that they would do and how these activities can help them wind down after working hard. It was a great afternoon.





Year Group Notices

Year 7:

This week the year 7 students have continued to settle in fantastically well into life at Townsend School by showing an excellent attitude and effort to learning in and outside of lessons.

On Wednesday we had our Open Evening and It was very pleasing to see so many Year 7s volunteer supporting the school by either being Tour Guides or taking part in subject activities within classrooms. They certainly did themselves and the school proud. Thank you for allowing your child to do this.

Next week the students will be completing their Cognitive Abilities Tests. They are designed to assess a students ability in three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space).

As mentioned previously, some of students will be representing the school in a football match against Nicholas Breakspear on Monday 25th September, kicking off around 4pm. Your child would have received a letter if they have made the squad. Please feel free to come and support the squad.

Well done to **Nevaeh M**, **Brecon G** and **Harry W** for being nominated by their teachers for Good News Friday.

Finally, please remember Year 7 Information Evening is taking place on **Wednesday 27th September** from 5:00pm- 6:30pm. Please let the office know if you will be attending.

Best wishes,

Mr Brooks

Year 7 & 8 MFL bake-off competition, please see attachments for more details!

Subject Spotlight



Drama:

Our Year 10 GCSE and A-Level Drama groups enjoyed a workshop hosted at St Albans High School for Girls, by the Frantic Assembly Theatre Company Workshop. The students all did an amazing job and really enjoyed the work shop. Here are some pictures below!

Mrs Coates

Head of Drama







Important Information



Foodbank collection for the St Albans Foodbank

Next Thursday is our first abbey service of the year. Instead of monetary collection that we usually have, this year we will be collecting various food items to give to the Food Bank at Vineyard, St Albans. We will be collecting items in form time every day and then taking them to the service. Here is a list of all the things they have requested us to donate. Providing for others is an important part of our ethos as our Bible-based vision here at Townsend is all about loving our neighbours and is based on the story of the Good Samaritan. Many thanks, **Ellie C**, Head Student



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:

The Sandbox (<https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/>) The Sandbox is an online NHS-funded service to support children and young people in South Staffordshire and Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being.

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

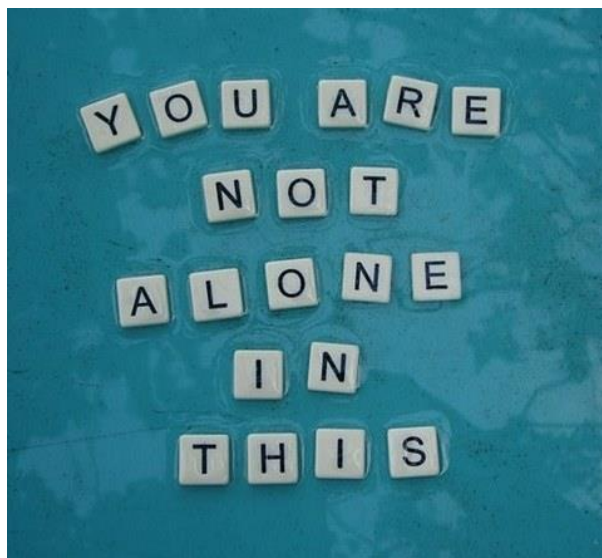
Shout provides free confidential support via text 24/7, just text SHOUT to 85258.
<https://giveusashout.org/>

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.

Please see attached a ASC/SEND coffee morning provided by Vista.



1 - If you're struggling emotionally with anything please drop me an email to 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

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.

Do you know how to keep your children safe online? Take a look at the UJ Safer Internet Centre's guides to parents and carers to ensure your children are safe online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

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

Stay Connected:

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