



TOWNSEND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Townsend Church of England School - Edition 4 / Autumn Term 2023

Weekly Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I was honoured to attend my first St Alban Cathedral service yesterday, and am delighted to have been welcomed into the parish with a blessing delivered by Reverend Zuckert. Our Annual Service of Dedication for 2023 was a fantastic event, showcasing the very best of Townsend. I will be awarding a Headteacher's commendation to all those who performed, read or led prayers at the service. They are all worthy recipients. Thank you to all the parent / carers and family members who attended, it was so nice to have so many of you there to worship with us. Our next visit is on **Wednesday 6th December** for our Christingle Service, so please put this date in your diary.

This week we also held our first Open Mornings for families with children in Year 6. Our Sixth Form students who led the tours did a fabulous job. Tours continue throughout October and information about how to book in is on our website.

I very much enjoyed meeting many of our Year 7 parent / carers this week at our Parent / Carer Information Evening on Wednesday. Turnout was very good and I am pleased so many found this event helpful. For those who we unable to attend, Mr Brooks announced that he would be taking all of Year 7 on a 3 day residential from the 1st to 3rd July 2024. This will be at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre in Kent. To wet your appetite, please watch their promotional video here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obALlu3oLb0>

We will write separately in the next few weeks with the full details including cost and payment plans.

There is a timely reminder about the dangers of Vaping as part of our parent / carer information on safeguarding this week. This is something which was discussed at my meeting last week with the St Albans and Harpenden Secondary Headteachers. I feel that young and impressionable adults need more information about the dangers of Vaping. I would urge you all to read this as it is a useful summary.

Keeping yourself safe online is also a key challenge facing our students. It can be difficult to monitor which sites your child should be using as part of their learning. To support you with this we have created a list of all the websites we believe a student at Townsend should need as part of their learning. Please find in the document attached to the newsletter.

Headteacher's Commendations:

Daysha B Year 10, Zena P Year 10, Ahmed Y Year 10, Ronnie O Year 10, Naarah A Year 11, Sarah N Year 11, Lilianna R Year 11, Mia J Year 13, Leena J Year 13, Charlotte S Year 13, Daniel W Year 13, Naledi N Year 9.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend,

Mr Anthony Flack

Headteacher







Prayer:

Dear God

As we celebrate our unique school in the Dedication Abbey service

We remember our school values

To love our neighbour

To show respect for all

To show humility

To be caring towards one another

And to remember that we are all created in God's image

Amen

Bible Verse:

'Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.'

1 Peter 4:88

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



This week the **Year 7 students** completed their Cognitive Abilities Tests. Students were assessed across four key areas:

- Verbal Reasoning – Thinking and problem solving with words
- Non-Verbal Reasoning – Thinking and problem solving with shapes and space
- Quantitative Reasoning – Thinking and problem solving with numbers
- Spatial Reasoning – Visualising, picturing and moving shapes around

These tests will help teachers judge progress over the academic year and help the school to make a decision about what set they should be in for some of their subjects.

On Monday year 7 played their first Competitive football match versus Nicolas Breakspear. The team got off to a great start with a goal from **Caden A** putting us one nil up. Soon after, the away team equalised before **Caden** scored another fine goal for Townsend to go into half time 2:1 up. However, unfortunately, the players became tired as the game went on and we ended up losing 6:2. A huge well done to all of the squad, lots of positives to take from the game. Player of the match was **Josh C** for an outstanding performance in goal. Thank you to those who came to support your child and the school.

On Thursday the school attended the dedication service at St Albans Abbey Cathedral. The year 7 students behaved impeccably. The next service will be taking place on Wednesday 6th December for the Christingle Service.

Well done to our winner, **Isabelle C** in Norwich For Good News Friday this week who was nominated by Miss Jones for her outstanding start to Townsend and being kind and caring in and outside the classroom.

Over the next few weeks, the year 7s will be writing a letter to their primary school teachers inviting them to come into Townsend. It will give the students the opportunity to show their teachers around

the school and see how they've settled in. This is taking place on Wednesday 18th October from 3:45pm - 5:00pm.

Thank you to those who attended the year 7 information evening on Wednesday. I hope you found it informative and helpful.

Kindest regards,

Mr Brooks

Head of Year 7

Year Group Notices



Year 9:

Year 9 have made a great start to their 3 year GCSE journey!

Since starting school on 6th September we have had two guest speakers, 1 representative from The Oddballs Foundation and the others from the Army discussing potential careers and courses within this line of work.

Oddballs Foundation are a group of men who travel around the UK providing assemblies to secondary school pupils educating them on testicular cancer and how to safely check one's body. This talk was incredibly informative and provided our students with the knowledge of how to check your body safely and who to approach if you believe something is wrong. Our students all appreciated this and learnt something new.

The Army spoke about potential career opportunities within this line of work, with videos, personal stories and even equipment to show the students as part of their session. Years 9 and 10 were heavily engaged and there were tonnes of questions that were successfully answered at the end! They were signposted to appropriate links and resources if they felt this was something they wanted to explore in the future.

We had our first Cathedral service of this year which is always received so positively by the students. Our next Abbey service will be December 6th and as always, parents and carers are more than welcome to join us.

Miss Withers

Head of Year 9

We are getting ready for our Christmas show this year!

We will be doing a musical variety act for the first half of the show, which students can sign up for with solo or group acts to perform any Christmas song of their choice. A short Pantomime of Cinderella will take place for the second half. We would love as many students to be involved as possible! Audition sign up is on **Monday 2nd October** at break time in the Drama studio, Auditions are on **Thursday 5th October 3:30-4:30pm** in the Hall. If you have any questions or would like to donate any costume items that could be used in the Pantomime performance, please contact Mrs Coates Head of Drama.

Mrs Coates

Head of Drama



Year 9 – the atmosphere, radiation, waves, inheritance, and genes.

Year 10 – metallic bonding, electricity and ecosystem

Year 11 – chemical analysis, radioactive materials and the human body

Well done to the following students for their hard work and achievement in Science this month:

Year 7 – Emily T 7E

Year 8 – Ugoma U 8E

Year 9 – Divine B 9C

Year 10 – Brody Q 10N

Year 11 – Daria N11E

Year 12 Biology – Amelia H 12N

Year 12 Physics – Shaun J 12D

Mrs Armitage

Head of Science

Careers



- **Open days**

The Liverpool Institute of performing Arts is offering a number of Open Days for prospective students during October and November. Please go to their website www.lipa.ac.uk to find out more. Open days at the University of Derby can be booked now though their website www.derby.ac.uk Newcastle University is offering a number of activities which can be booked by the students themselves. These include a Get Ahead day which is designed to provide a deeper insight into studying at university for year 12 students, a Headstart to Uni day for year 13 students to provide practical advice and guidance and support students in making a successful application to university and a Bitesize Uni free residential summer school for year 12 students. To find out more or book an activity go to www.ncl.ac.uk/schools

- **Law Insight Day**

St Albans High School for Girls is holding a law insight day on **Saturday November 4th from 9.30am until 3,30pm**. This careers event will be an opportunity to learn about the study and careers pathways for law and pupils will have the opportunity to hear from a range of students and professionals

within the industry. The event is primarily targeted at Years 10-12, but pupils in Years 9 and 13 are also very welcome to attend.

- Highlights of the event include:
- Guest speaker: Lisa Ball, Head of Compliance, Content and Safety at TikTok.
- Information about the pathways for studying law and entering the legal profession.
- Interactive legal case studies – see law in action.
- Tips on how to get legal work experience.
- Advice about the skills you need to succeed in law.
- The chance to speak and network with professionals working across a range of areas of law. This event is free to attend and is open to pupils from all local schools in the relevant year groups. To sign up to attend please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Qie7fxAC3UmLZtGz5C6qkZjpGgCJnC5BuX33e01WQdJUOE55WDVPVDU5ODA0SVVFWTMOM0RHR1FBSS4u>

Mrs K Davey

Assistant Headteacher



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

The following YouTube link was shared on Twitter / X by Kate Jones - teacher and best selling author. A webinar for parents and carers of Year 11 students on effective revision strategies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FLodJnggFc&t=157s>

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.

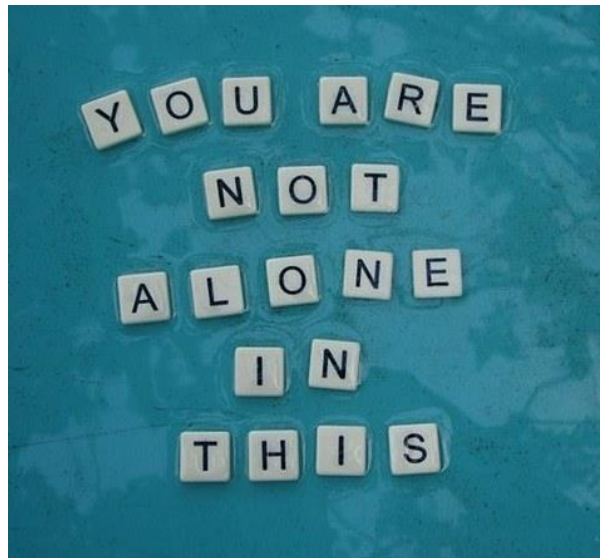
<https://giveusashout.org/>

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.



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 you 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:

Facebook- @townsend.cofe.school

Instagram- @townsend.cofe.school

Twitter- @townsend_school