



TOWNSEND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Townsend Church of England School - Edition 7 / Autumn Term 2023

Weekly Newsletter



TOWNSEND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of the academic year I asked all students in their first assemblies to work with the staff to make Townsend an even better school than it currently is. I can vividly remember those first few weeks and how impressed I was with the children and young adults who sat before me. Seven weeks on and I am proud to say the students have taken up the challenge and are demonstrating many wonderful qualities. There are too many highlights to reflect on in this newsletter, but it would be remiss to not mention our service of dedication at St Alban Cathedral and Abbey. This is certainly an event which will live long in the memory.

I was delighted that a group of students from a number of year groups led our assembly / collective worship on the theme of Black History this week. The key message was one of appreciation and celebration of Black culture. The national theme for 2023 is 'Celebrating our Sisters', which emphasises the vital role black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. Our 'Respect for All' policy provides an expectation that at Townsend, everyone is treated equally and as members of our school community, we can all learn from each other. Congratulations to all the students who took part and thank you to Miss Gordon for organising this wonderful presentation.

Thank you to the parents / carers who attended the Information Evening on Monday. As requested by some, a copy of the presentation is attached to this newsletter. The second one is aimed at parents / carers of Year 10 – 13 and will take place on **Wednesday 1st November 7.00 – 8.00pm** in the Hall.

The Townsend Parent and Teachers Association are keen to welcome new members to the fold. If you are interested in attending a meeting to find out more about the role, please email us at: admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk and we will be able to invite you along. Previous experience is not necessary, just a passion for improving young people's experiences and opportunities. Further information can be found towards the bottom of this newsletter.

When we all return to school on **Monday 30th October**, our journeys to and from school are more likely to be in the dark. Particularly for those students new to Townsend, please can you ensure they have thought about travelling safely in the dark and that they have a 'Plan B', should one be required.

Wishing all our Townsend community a relaxing and enjoyable half-term holiday.

Headteacher Commendations this week:

Year 11: Janelle B, Jared C, Daniella P

Year 10: Chloe A, Jamie S

Year 8: Joy D

Mr Anthony Flack

Headteacher Townsend School

'Where everyone is welcome and everyone succeeds'







At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to keep our children safe online. We're here to help you do this. If you need more information, please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, UKi, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which video games are suitable for your child can be a challenge. Some games are rated for children, but others are not. It's important to be aware of the content of the games your child is playing. Some games can be quite violent or contain strong language. It's a good idea to look at the game's rating and the content description before allowing your child to play. You can also use parental controls on most consoles to restrict what your child can play.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in short bursts rather than for long periods. Encourage them to take breaks to do other activities, like reading or exercising. You can also set a timer to remind them to take breaks. It's also a good idea to encourage them to get some fresh air and drink water during their gaming sessions.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise the cost of the games they're playing. It's important to set clear spending limits for your child. You can agree on a budget for games, or you can set a limit on how much they can spend on in-game purchases. It's also a good idea to encourage them to save up for games rather than spending money impulsively.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games, so it's important to talk to them about what the ratings mean. You can explain that the ratings are there to help parents and carers decide if a game is suitable for their child. You can also use the ratings to set boundaries around what games your child is allowed to play. For example, you might agree that your child can only play games with a rating of 12 or below.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, they'll probably have friends who also play. It's important to consider the influence of their friends when setting boundaries. You can talk to your child about the importance of being a good friend and not letting their friends pressure them into playing games that are not suitable for them. You can also set boundaries around how much time your child can spend with their gaming friends.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Playing games together can be a fun way for parents and carers to spend time with their children. It can also be a good way to encourage your child to play games that are more educational or creative. You can also use gaming as a way to teach your child about teamwork and communication. For example, you can play a game that requires your child to work with you to solve a problem.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to recognise and manage their emotions when they play. Encourage them to talk to you about any feelings they have while playing. You can also use gaming as a way to teach your child about managing their emotions. For example, you can play a game that requires your child to stay calm and focused under pressure.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is dealing with trolls. Trolls are people who try to start arguments or cause trouble. It's important to teach your child how to deal with trolls. You can explain that trolls are not worth the time and effort, and that the best way to deal with them is to ignore them. You can also set boundaries around how much time your child can spend playing online games.

Meet Our Expert

David Duggan is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, culture and the internet. He has written for a number of years about the impact of technology on our lives. He has also written about the importance of setting boundaries around gaming. You can find out more about David and his work at www.davidduggan.co.uk.

Prayer:

Dear God,

As we celebrate Black History Month

May we be generous in our love for others

,As we work towards ending

Misunderstanding , racism and injustice

And work towards creating communities

Where everyone equally can flourish

Amen

Bible Verse:

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 7:12

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 11 Parent Consultation Evening - Wednesday 8th November 5pm -8pm

The Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening is coming up on the second week back at school after half term, **8/11/23** from 5pm to 8pm. A letter with more details will be sent out shortly but please make a note of the date and time in your diary. Parents and pupils will have the opportunity to get feedback from individual subject teachers on next steps for the pupils. With the Trial Exams fast approaching it is vital that pupils are feeling supported. If you have any further questions please contact me on;

year11@townsend.herts.sch.uk

Have a great half term!

Mr Still

Head of Year 11

YEAR 7

Congratulations to the year 7 students for a fantastic first half term. I am delighted to share some wonderful news about our Year 7 students' achievements during this first half of the academic year. They have demonstrated remarkable dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work, and I wanted to take a moment to celebrate their accomplishments.

Throughout the past few months, our Year 7 students have not only settled into their new learning environment but have also shown significant progress in various aspects of their education. Here are some highlights of their achievements:

- **Academic Excellence:** Our Year 7 students have consistently displayed a strong commitment to their studies and demonstrated some outstanding work within many subjects.
- **Positive Attitudes:** It's been heart-warming to see the enthusiasm and curiosity that our Year 7 students have brought to their classes. They are eager to learn.
- **Resilience:** This year, our students have faced numerous challenges, including adapting to new routines and learning environments.
- **Co-Curricular Participation:** Many Year 7 students have participated in Co-Curricular activities, showcasing their talents beyond the classroom. Whether it's in sports, arts, or other clubs.
- **Positive Social Integration:** Building friendships and strong peer relationships is an important aspect of their development. Our Year 7 students have shown great kindness and inclusivity, making everyone feel welcome and valued.

I believe that the first half of the academic year sets the tone for the rest of the year, and the progress our Year 7 students have made is truly inspiring. I am immensely proud of their achievements, and I look forward to supporting and guiding them as they continue to grow.

I would like to express my gratitude to you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Your encouragement and engagement plays a vital role in their success.

Let's continue to work together to ensure that the second half of the term is just as successful. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support both you and your child on their educational journey.

Congratulations once again to our Year 7 students on their accomplishments. We are excited to see how they will continue to shine in the coming months.

Finally, a well done to all the students who were nominated for "Good News Friday" this half term:

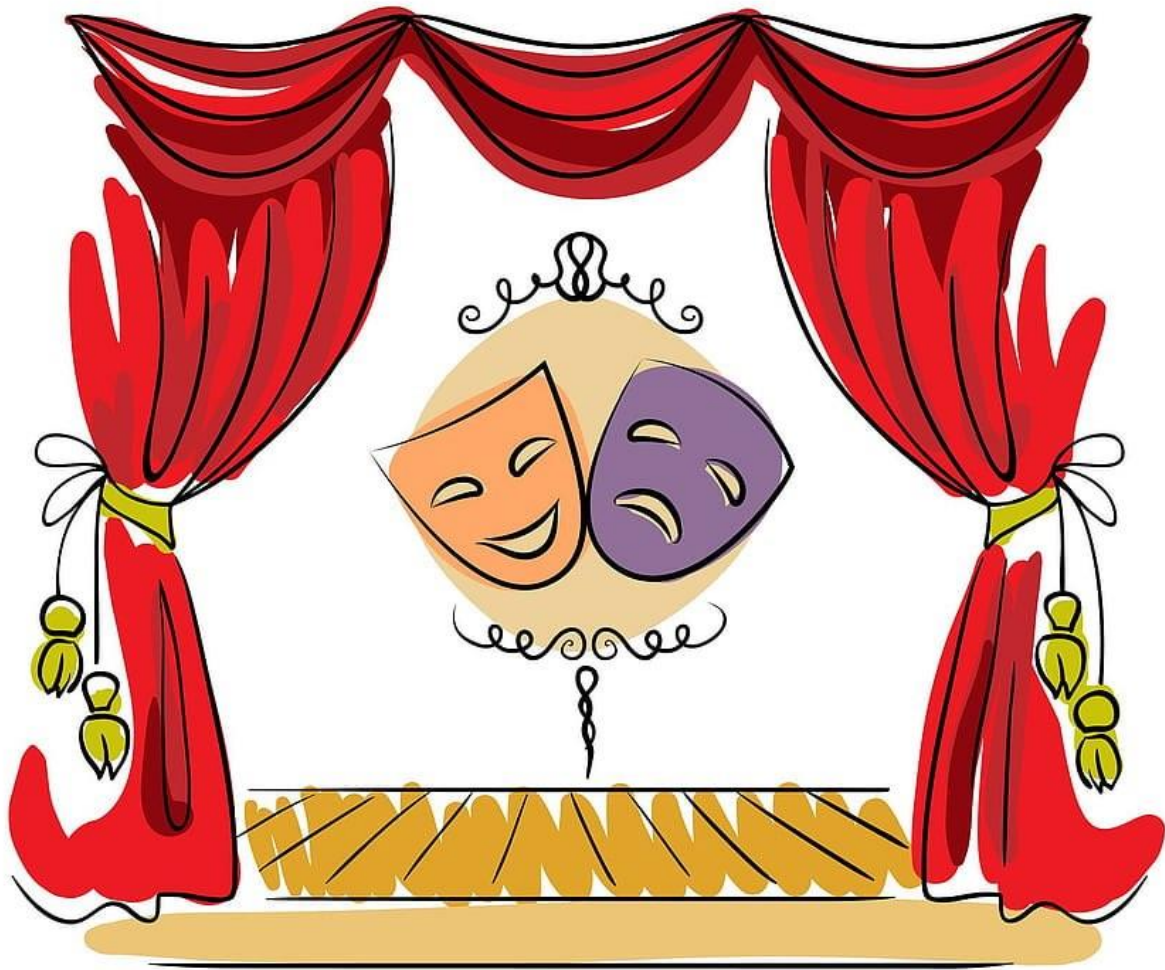
- **Isabelle C, Brecon G, Neveah M, Jenna W-T, Kai, L-W and Freya S.**

Kind Regards,

Mr Brooks

Head of Year 7

Subject Spotlight



Drama:

Year 7

This half term year 7 have been exploring basic drama skills and storytelling with the mysterious tale of Dr Duban and the imaginary land of Yunaian. So far we have explore basic vocal and physical skills, narration, still image and slow motion to explore the tense and intriguing story of the King of Yunaian's illness and his cure by a strange magician Dr Duban from another land and the King's growing suspicion and paranoia about Dr Duban's powers. Students have really enjoyed this project and have had some fantastic creative ideas for their assessment work revolving around performances of the King's nightmares about Dr Duban.

Year 8

To kick start their second year of drama year 8 have been studying Iconic Television which has given them a chance to explore a wide range of genres and styles of acting through different mediums of television such as Reality TV, Streaming, Crime Dramas, Soap Operas and many more. Using basic drama skills from year 7 and new skills such as Parody, students have been creating their own mini episode scenes using lots of creativity and a good dash of comedy. This has been a great way to improve public speaking and presentation skills. Year 8's homework project has been set this term, it

is titled 'The Perfect Play' and revolves around students own ideas for a play they would like to write. There is a different task set each week and all details and hand in dates are on Google Classroom.

Year 9

Students started their GCSE options this term with some introductory workshops to build their basic drama skills ready for the more advanced work they will be accessing this year. We have now moved on to contemporary monologues and duologues which will be performed in the last week of term for their first assessment. The students have show excellent teamwork skills and have been supporting each other with line learning and rehearsals, many students have taken time out of their lunch breaks to come and rehearse in the Drama Studio. We are very impressed with their progress so far and expect great things from them as the year goes on! Homework is set weekly and checked regularly currently the weekly task is to learn lines, all tasks are set on Google Classroom.

Year 10

Year 10 have started the year with a bang by studying multiple theatre practitioners and styles of theatre, including a 2 hour workshop with Frantic Assembly (one of the top physical theatre companies in the UK) in September at St Albans High School for Girls which students thoroughly enjoyed. So far we have explore a range of styles from many different theatre practitioners who all changed the face of theatre in their lifetimes, from Stanislavski the father of Naturalistic theatre to more modern companies such as 'The Paper Birds' who pioneered modern Verbatim theatre. Students have really thrown themselves into these workshops and enjoyed exploring so many styles of theatre before they begin their Component 2 Devising coursework next half term. Homework is set weekly and checked regularly, all tasks are set on Google Classroom.

Year 11

Year 11 have returned to their Drama studies with excellent enthusiasm and we have been delving into their set text 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller as well as preparing their performance scenes for Component 3 of the GCSE exam. We also have a focus on theory lessons and learning to answer exam style questions from Component 1 of the GCSE, this includes acting based questions from the set text and the live theatre review, students have enjoyed watching a digital theatre production and analysing the actor's performances. Revision booklets are being handed out before half term and revision sessions will be offered for the whole month of November, students can sign up for these with their teacher, students have already been booking in additional rehearsals and seeking extra work for revision. Overall an excellent start to the year for year 11!

6th Form

Having introduced A Level Drama & Theatre Studies last year we have again had an excellent uptake of students for the subject this year. In year 12 students are currently exploring Naturalistic modernist theatre with their first extracts for component 3 of A level, they are also exploring classical theatre with their first set text 'Antigone'. Year 13 are exploring their second set text 'Our Country's Good' which is a contrast to their classical first set text, they are also exploring analysis and evaluation of live theatre. Alongside all of this both year 12 and 13 have been exploring specific theatre practitioner styles and have enjoyed a full day workshop with Frantic Assembly (one of the top physical theatre companies in the UK) in September at St Albans High School for Girls, which helped students to access and recreate the intricate style of theatre the company performs. The students were superb and we are very proud of how they conducted themselves.

Extra-Curricular & Trips

We are currently rehearsing for our Christmas Variety Show, which will be made up of two acts. The first act will be made up of student performances of songs, music, dances or scenes that they have chosen based around Christmas themes. The second act will be a pantomime of Cinderella, which we have over 40 students involved in! Students are involved both on and back stage and the production looks to be great fun for all age ranges, tickets will be on sale mid November.

We also have three theatre trips that will be happening next half term and after Christmas:

- Our year 9-11 GCSE classes are going to see 'Ocean at the end of the lane' at the Noel Coward Theatre on **16th November 2023**, all information has been emailed to parents and payment is on School Gateway
- Our A Level classes will be going to see 'Metamorphosis by Frantic Assembly' at The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre on **16th February 2024**, all information has been emailed to parents and payment is on School Gateway
- 6th form students have an exciting opportunity to attend the English National Opera's 'La Traviata' in London at The Coliseum Theatre on **7th November 2023**. We are lucky enough to have discounted tickets at £3.50 per student, it is part of the ENO's school's outreach programme and is a wonderful way for students to experience the Opera at a fraction of the usual cost. Letters to all 6th form parents/carers will be sent out on SchoolComms in the next few days with details, places are limited and it is a first come, first serve trip so please book your tickets as soon as possible on School Gateway.

We are also hoping to offer some KS3 and KS4 trips to see shows in London as these were incredibly popular and successful last year, please keep an eye out for letters home with details of these.

Mrs Coates

Head of Drama

School PTA



Dear Parent Carers,

I hope you are well, and by now your children have settled into the new school year. Last week our new head Mr Flack sent out a parent mail to gauge interest from parent/carers who wished to join our PTA and help to develop its activities. Thankyou for those who have responded so far. We could still do with a few people to help in various ways.

We are hoping in the near future to have anyone who volunteers and is available to help at our consultation evenings to serve refreshments and sell Festive Hamper Tombola tickets. We are also running a Christmas Festive Stall on two lunchtimes in the last week of term selling seasonal items for students and teachers to buy as presents for family and friends. We are also looking for help at our annual shows, displays and concerts. Any new ideas for fund raiser are also gratefully considered. If you wish to join our band of volunteers please contact the school at admin@townsend.herts.sch.uk or leave a message and we will be in touch.

You could also help supporting us by contributing to the Hamper Tombola and The Christmas Festive Shop. For the hampers we need festive food items, (in date please), vouchers, alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks, (Winning hampers will have to be collected by an adult) Christmas Crackers, chocolates and sweets, preserves and Christmas novelty items.

For the Christmas Festive Shop if any of you can supply through a company, a contact or your own goodwill any present type items will be gratefully received.

Lastly we are looking for sponsors of our annual Christmas tree and lights (some got storm damaged last year). Any contribution will help.

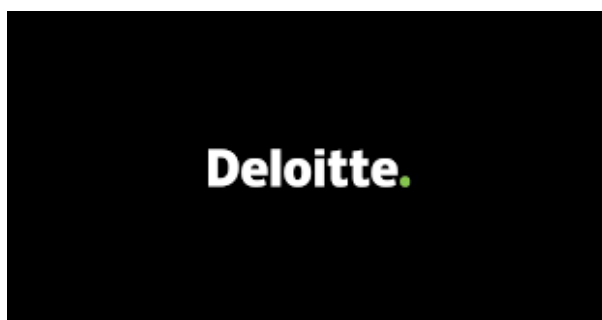
Please make cheques out to Townsend C of E School PTA.

Please remember that all monies raised benefits students.

Many Thanks

Ian Graham vice chair PTA (Friends of Townsend)

Careers



Deloitte School Leavers Programme

We have received the following information from Deloitte about their Early Careers Programme for school leavers:

Career Shapers

If your students are in year 10, 11 or 12, this is their chance to spend 2 or 3 days with us to discover more about life at Deloitte and see if we're a good fit for your future career.

Entry Level Apprenticeship

Get ready to develop your research, administrative and project management skills alongside peers and senior partners.

Brightstart Apprenticeship

Solving client challenges while studying degree-level and professional.

Where can they join us? We have nationwide opportunities across our entire business, so whatever your student's passion is, they'll find something that's right for them.

From **Audit & Assurance** to **Tax Consulting** and **Enabling Functions** to **Technology**, we're delivering end-to-end programmes across the United Kingdom – turning complex challenges into opportunity and redesigning a more connected future. And your students could be part of it. Ready to discover what matters to your students?

Visit our careers site and encourage your students to apply now by visiting www2.deloitte.com and then clicking on the careers tab at the top of the page.

Mrs Davey

Assistant Headteacher

Attendance

Attendance - does your child struggle to attend school due to anxiety? Hertfordshire have produced a parent's guide to Emotionally Based School Avoidance and you can read it here. School staff use this guidance to support families and pupils where feeling anxious about attending school is causing low attendance.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/Media-library/Documents/Emotionally-Based-School-Avoidance-Parent-guidance-PDF-642kb.pdf>

Miss Gibbons

Assistant Headteacher

Important Information

- **REMINDER HALF TERM**- The school will be closed for Half term on Monday 23rd October-Friday 27th October. School will start again on Monday 30th October at 8:45am.
- **Townsend's Book Machine!**

If you have been into school recently, you may well have noticed our new book vending machine in the main foyer, we are very excited about it! This is a new reward scheme for our students, for those who have done something totally amazing, with schoolwork, enrichment, helping others or doing something for our school community. Any student who receives a golden book token can use this in the vending machine to choose a book to keep (it is tokens only; you cannot use cash in the machine). In order to keep the books topped up, for all our students to access, we have set up a wish list with Books on the Hill (independent bookshop in St Albans) so parents and member of our community can choose a book to donate to the school. If the vending machine is full, we will add the book to our library in the Discovery Centre for students to borrow.

If you would like to donate a book to Townsend for our students, please click on the link below which will take you to our wish list. You can then choose the book you would like to donate, pay for it online, and the bookshop will deliver it directly to us. If you click the tabs at the top of the wish list it takes you to the different collections we have chosen. Link: <https://www.books-on-the-hill.co.uk/townsend> Password: Townsend

Thank you so much for your help and support of this venture if you are able to donate. We are really very grateful and excited to be able to offer such a lovely opportunity for our students.

Mrs Buckland

Assistant Headteacher

- **Flu Vaccine**- Please find attached information about the Flu Vaccine that is taking place on Monday 30th October. <https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/hertfordshire>



**WE'RE
HIRING**

STAFF VACANCIES

We currently have three staff vacancies at
Townsend School:

- **Network Manager**
- **Science with Leadership**
- **Receptionist/ Administrator**

For more information, please follow the links or
contact the school office.

Visits to the school are warmly invited.

Network Manager: <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/117555/EDV-2023-TCS-73379>

Science with Leadership: <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/117555/EDV-2023-TCS-41588>

Receptionist/Administrator: <https://www.mynewterm.com/jobs/117555/EDV-2023-TCS-63888>

Teach in Herts Links: https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job.htm?schoolid=207&fbclid=IwAR2Hs_KekOmRjInOE3Z0p3V_X2txMvZAIRLYdM5CtUsvTyeRiCZaqEuKBvc



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.

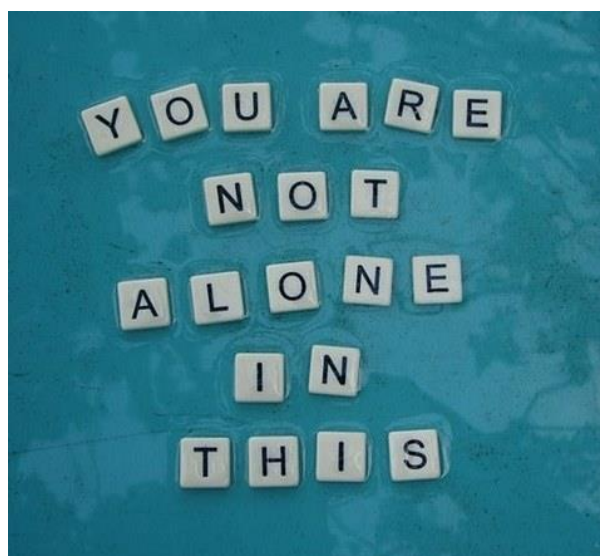
Kooth.com (<https://www.kooth.com/>) provides free, online support Mon – Fri 12pm – 10pm and Sat & Sunday 6pm – 10pm, 365 days a year.

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.



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