

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please see this week's news and information below.

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month celebrations, Townley ran a spoken word competition with the theme of Black Excellence. We received some amazing entries and are so happy to announce the winners:

"Life of a Dark-Skin" by Pearl A (12.8)

"Black Excellence" by Princess A (10 Persephone)

"Stand Up" by Tobenna E (7 Aphrodite)

Thank you to all who entered the competition! Olia C (13.11)

Life of a Dark-Skin by Pearl A (12.8)

I loved my skin. I thought they would too.

I never knew it would be so forsaken, mistaken, perceived as mildew.

I was once proud to wear the crown that was my skin.

But the people around me made me feel as if there was something,

So wrong within.

"Why are you so dark?", they asked.

"Why do you look like dirt?", they laughed.

I saw myself leaving the love I once had for my skin,

And begin to shapeshift into something I cannot pretend wasn't hate.

Hate. I hated my skin.

More so the ideology that I was less than because I was more dim.

This ideology tarnished my confidence, gave me a feeling of incompetence.

My once weightless crown became the biggest burden I've ever carried.

It took me a while to accept it again.

Ages, it took me to understand that,

Darker does not mean I'm further from success,

Nor does it mean that I cannot be blessed.

Even though I may never fit the role of "the best",

Because my skin is a bit darker than the rest,

But at least, I now love my skin, and to me, that's the biggest win.

Black Excellence by Princess A (10 Per)

In a society of misconceptions and preconceptions,

Where pigmentation is a form of discrimination.

What is black excellence?

Black achievements in a society filled with racial disparities,

conventional notions of success — the graduate, medic, lawyer terms that hold familiarity. A

cocktail of struggles often kept hidden,

Black Women are so strong, but have a list of what they did and didn't, Of community

approval and not let them down

Because black representation is just another noun

Of feeling visible and noticeable,

And not to be in the spotlight is almost sounding criminal.

Why do we have to be an epitome, first of their kind,

Defined by W.E.B DuBois as looking at oneself through other people's eyes. Yet black

excellence is taking pride,

For each success story isn't a small step for a community,
It's a stride.

Stand Up by Tobenna E (7 Aph)

You say we are divided that the walls separate and segregate the human race

STAND UP

You capture and spite us you crumble us to the floor STAND UP

You erase us from history

STAND UP

We cry, we mourn, we sorrow.

STANDING

We will not take it any more.

STANDING

The melanin of our skin will not define who we but the love in our hearts and the care in our souls

STANDING STRONG

We will eliminate the thick line called RACISM STANDING TOGETHER

We will unite the nations and write new stories together STAND UP

You are the future: unique, special, beautiful, and most importantly BLACK

British Film Institute, London

This week, four Year 10 German students made us very proud as they went on the cinema stage to answer some questions in perfect German. They received massive applause from all the schools that were participating in this event. Their strength, courage, as well as their knowledge of German are highly commendable. The students were Roxana L, Gg G, Juleika T and Hadicha M.

Welcome Gift Books for Year 7 / PTA

We are delighted that thanks to the PTA all of Year 7 will be receiving a welcome to Townley gift book over the next week in their Library lessons. Using the BookTrust Bookbuzz selection each student has chosen a book to keep. The book selection ties in with multiple themes in 21c and we hope this will inspire students to continue to read voraciously. All titles will also be available to borrow from the Library. Thank you to the PTA for wonderfully supporting reading and our curriculum.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/students/bookbuzz-books/>

Ada Lovelace Day Celebrations

As part of our Ada Lovelace Day celebrations the Computer Science Department held a poetry competition. The winner was Mofiyinfoluwa S (7 Aph) and the runners up were Shaimi K (7 Per) and Kirpa N (8 Art). Please see the attachment.

NHS Flu Vaccination

Please see the attached documents for your consideration and consent.

Remembrance

During the course of this week, year groups have been attending Remembrance Services. The theme which we have taken is service and the contribution of individuals. This has included remembering those who have contributed to the defence of democratic freedoms and way life more recently and across the two World Wars. We have recognised and heard stories of individuals from across the community.

'On Site Out of Sight'

Thank you for all of your support so far with the communication you have had with your daughters regarding our 'on sight out of sight' policy. Please could I take this opportunity to remind you that students in Year 7 are not permitted to have smartphones in school. Guidance on mobile phones and GPS trackers was sent out in July, so please do refer to this if you are concerned with your daughter not having a smart device for tracking reasons. We have unfortunately had a small number of concerns raised in Year 7 recently which have involved the use of smart phones and so in order to best support the social development and wellbeing of our students in Year 7, please could you ensure that your daughter is not bringing these devices in.

S Totty

Senior Deputy Headteacher