

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

It has been a particularly busy half- term but of course a busy environment also encompasses so much achievement, celebration, innovation and progress. This week captured this perfectly as the entire school community came together in showcasing Townley for our Open Event sessions, days which were filled with pride for our school alongside a reminder of the values and vision that underpin all of our endeavours. As always, our visitors were particularly impressed by our students, commenting on their confidence, enthusiasm, intelligence and charm. Indeed, every student who guided, supported in the hall, performed, took part in lessons or who presented speeches embodied the leadership qualities that we encourage at Townley; qualities that will undoubtedly help them flourish both within and the world beyond school. Our students are our best ambassadors!

### **Black History Month**

The school community was delighted and honoured to welcome Yemisi Jenkins MBE who spoke to a group of our students about leadership as part of our ongoing Black History Month celebrations. Yemisi Jenkins was awarded the MBE in 2016 by King Charles and has worked tirelessly to inspire and enact change within the UK and in Africa. We look forward to welcoming her back to Townley in the future to work with our students and staff.



### **Cultural Day**

We will be celebrating our annual Cultural Day on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. On this day we invite all students and staff to wear clothing that reflects and celebrates their identity and culture. Senior students are currently planning a ‘Cultural Catwalk’ at lunchtime on the 11<sup>th</sup> November – details will be shared straight after half term.

### **Intergenerational Irish Community Podcast Project**

Thank you to the students involved in the latest podcast recording. This was played on Maritime Radio on 8<sup>th</sup> October on the Live with Barra & Cal Show and the team were particularly impressed by how brilliantly and naturally our students were in their roles as interviewers! The full recording can be listened on [Time To Talk With Townley](#) and you can still hear the playback of the radio show here: <https://www.maritimeradio.co.uk/> ( You can find the playback link under ‘listen again’).

## **SIX the Musical**



A request to any parents/carers who are dress makers, can sew and would like to help with design and making of the costumes for "SIX" the musical. Anyone who would be willing to help in any way please email [mbrittle@townleygrammar.org.uk](mailto:mbrittle@townleygrammar.org.uk) ; your help is very much appreciated!

### **Year 7 Concert – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Year 7 are continuing to practise for the concert next month and will be learning words during half term ready for a spectacular performance. Tickets for the concert will be available shortly, with a further letter containing a link and confirming final details to follow.

### **Townley Disco for Years 7 and 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The disco for Years 7 and 8 Townley students, organised by Townley PTA, will take place in the Main School Hall on Friday 11th November, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets can be purchased for £6.50 from [www.townleypta.co.uk](http://www.townleypta.co.uk) (select Events, then Disco and register) or £7.50 on the door. All drinks and goodies will be 50p each.

May I take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their commitment to Townley this term, whether that be through the organisation of the PTA Quiz Night, the PTA Disco or their presence at the open sessions. The PTA raise a significant amount of money for the school and invest in resources and materials that enhance the learning experience for all student so we are extremely grateful.

### **Parking around Townley**

Please can parents be mindful when parking to drop off or pick up students. We have had several complaints about drives being blocked and buses not being able to pass due to parents parking on side roads. Can we ask that you consider where you are dropping off your child and that it is a safe place that does not disrupt local residents.

### **Where children can eat for less over half term**

Please find attached a leaflet the provides information on a range of restaurants that are providing meals for children for free or for £1 over the October half term.

### **Yog Foundation - free meals for staff and students**

Given the current economic situation, many families may be struggling financially and having to cut back on money spent for food and meals. In response, volunteers at the Yog Foundation started a hot meal distribution initiative in Dec 2021, with over 500 meals prepared and distributed to-date. We are delighted to partner with the Yog Foundation this Diwali to provide free delicious hot meals to all staff and students. Yog Foundation is an award-winning registered charity (No. 1185740) based in Bexley which seeks to bring the local community together to improve community cohesion and inclusivity, serve the vulnerable, celebrate

diversity and improve the mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing for all. We are proud to have worked with them for over seven years. This hot meal distribution initiative is open to all staff and students at the school. Please find details for the distribution below:

**Date:** Saturday 29th October 2022

**Time:** 12:00 - 2:00pm

**Venue:** Main Hall, Townley Grammar School

This month has included a wide range of celebratory events such as TED style talks, tutor time activities and our wonderful student led assemblies which focused on Black Excellence. Thank you to our Senior Equity Commission prefects for organising and facilitating such wonderful events.

In other corners of the school and beyond we have seen a number of students getting involved in community projects, attending Dance, DT and Geography trips, learning about the philosophy of memory in EDGE days and raising money for a number of charities. In addition, we have welcomed integration students from Germany and Brazil into the heart of our community, have re-launched our STEM Outreach programme and have organised a Freshers Fayre for Year 7 and Pastoral/ Expectations Evenings for a number of year groups. This has also been a particularly busy term for our sixth form students and an exciting time as Year 13 students submit UCAS, Oxbridge and Medic applications! Year 12 mentoring, EDGE days, team building events, House Captain interviews and Sports Fest have also taken place and it is always so refreshing to witness how the sixth form immerse themselves fully in all the opportunities Townley has to offer.

Wishing our whole school community, a restful, relaxing half term.

Kind regards,

N Pandya

Headteacher