

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please see this week's news and information below.

End of Term arrangements

Tuesday 20th December will be the last day of the Autumn Term. This will be our Christmas Jumper Day where students will be able to wear their own clothes with a Christmas Jumper with a £1 donation that will go towards Charity. This will also be a half day for students. Lunch will be provided and students will be dismissed as follows:

12.10pm - Year 12 and Year 13

12.30pm -12.50pm - Year 7 and Year 8

12.50pm -13.00pm - Years 9, 10 and 11

Safeguarding the School Community

The safeguarding of our school community being our primary concern, we have made a change in relation to arrival at school each morning this will allow to ensure that we consistently preserve the security and safety of everyone in the school. Please note that these changes will apply from Monday 5th December 2022.

Morning arrangements:

Students who arrive before 8am will need to enter the school via Reception, signing in when they arrive. The student gate will open at 8am so students will no longer be able to use it before that time.

Bespoke Extra-curricular Opportunities Beyond the Classroom - The Ambit Programme

The Ambit programme will provide students with a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities to complement the range of clubs already offered. They will be an interest led compendium of experiences taking place on Monday afternoons, after the school day. First offered in 2019, the programme is currently being re-developed and with this in mind, students were recently invited to participate in a student survey on their participation in extra-curricular clubs both in and out of school. As we are committed to offering the widest range of experiences to our students, we thought this would be an ideal time to contact our parents and carers as initial analysis of the data has identified non-European languages as an area of interest to the students. With a proudly diverse community we would like to ascertain interest, skills and expertise of our wider community that is currently untapped. If you would like to find out more and become involved in offering your expertise, whether language related or other, please contact Ms Johnson directly on the following email address: jjohnson@townleygrammar.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Week Reach Out Competition

Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to our winners!!

The Reach Out Competition winner was Aditi K 9 Hestia - for her wonderful Reach Out Poem.

The Reach Out Raffle winners were Tara T-O 7 Aphrodite, Milcah D 7 Persephone, Kaela O 8 Art Avani K 9 Athene and Nnemdi A 10 Aphrodite

Art Department Competitions

The Art Department have organised some competitions. The Christmas Cards House Competition received over five hundred entries. Twenty-six cards were selected and the five winners are Sofia 8 Hera, Miyara 9 Athene, Ashna 9 Artemis, Zofia 9 Per and Agata 9 Hera.

The "Drawcember" competition began on 1st December. Students are being given a daily prompt to draw every day of December. This is open to students and staff. Three winners will be chosen based on the effort and commitment to the challenge.

Book Fair

A Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Thursday 1st December to Wednesday 7th December. There will be a range of books and stationery to purchase. The Book Fair will be held in the Piazza during lunchtimes. Parents can pay to the book fair for their child using this link:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1198238>, or students can pay via a QR code or with cash at the fair.

Computer Science Competition

This half term, Key Stage 3 students and students who study Computer Science in Year 10 and Year 12, took part in the Bebras Challenge. Bebras is a set of computing competitions that takes place every year to challenge students' computational thinking skills, split according to age group. This year 102 Townley students achieved the Gold Award (top 10% in the country), which means they qualify for the Oxford University Computing Challenge in January. They will be receiving a certificate shortly – please see the attached list.

Particular congratulations go to the following students: Amara D - & Hera, Francesca G – 8 Hestia, Sophie L – 9 Persephone, Oluwafeyidara A – 10 Aphrodite, Katharina P – 10 Demeter and Federico Parisella – 12.10

PTA and Parent Forum

Townley has both a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and a Parent Forum. The PTA is composed of parents, teachers and staff with the intention of fundraising and running events, the proceeds from which are used to support the school, often by purchasing items which are non-essential but enriching. The Parent Forum is a group of parents that meet to discuss matters relating to the school.

The next meeting of the PTA is this coming Monday, 5th December, in Room 6A (next to the Main Hall) from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Any parent who wishes to come to the meeting is more than welcome. PTA meetings are usually held in school on the first available Monday of the month.

In January, we will have our first meeting this school year of the Parent Forum. This meeting will again be held on a Monday and it will take place virtually. Any parents who wish to join the existing group on the Parent Forum, including our new parents for Year 7, should email Mr Kent (mkent@townleygrammar.org.uk). We do not yet have an agenda, but if you have any requests for agenda items, please email those too, again to Mr Kent.

Ambassador Training

This week we welcomed Pascale, Public Health Advisor for Children and Young People for Bexley, to school where she delivered training for our new cohort of Year 8 and Year 12 Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors. Supporting students' mental health and promoting positive wellbeing is at the heart of what we do at Townley and the new Ambassadors will now join our exiting Ambassadors to raise awareness, help others, promote and campaign for wellbeing and mental health awareness, act as role models in the school and support students.

Malicious emails

In our continued effort to educate and keep students safe on the internet, we have posted the following message on each of the Year group hubs. Please could parents/carers reiterate the importance of this at home:

In the unlikely event that you every receive a malicious email, it is important that you don't panic but know what steps to take to keep you safe and ensure your accounts are protected.

Emails can vary but may suggest that your devices have been duplicated to someone's personal storing, allowing them access to your computer system, your security passwords and access to your social media, contacts, etc.

These emails can be very worrying for the recipient, especially when demands are then made for money to avoid them sharing your personal information. If you receive an email like this, please rest-assured that this is likely to be a hoax and can be managed and rectified swiftly for you.

If this ever happens to you, please ensure you report this to the school immediately so that appropriate action can be taken to protect you and secure your school email account. If you ever receive a message like this on your personal email, please similarly let a parent/carer, the school or the Police know.

Miss H Mitchem
Deputy Headteacher