

The start of this academic year saw changes to the routines and protocols of our school community as students current and new walked through the Townley gates. Despite the changes, I continue to be impressed by the conduct of our students who have embodied our school values, shown resilience and perseverance and above all compassion in their day to day interactions with staff and each other.

WSLETTER

Although aspects of school life have changed, our community continues to adapt in order to collaborate and interact with each other in different ways. Townley@home, our virtual learning platform offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and events, not least the Townley Languages and Black History Month Celebrations, please do find more information about these events in our newsletter and on Google Classroom Hubs.

It is an honour for the school to have received the British Council International School Award (2020-2023) in recognition of Townley's drive to be a truly global community. I would like to thank the staff and students involved in receiving this award and look forward to future endeavours.

The 2019-2020 Year 13 cohort said goodbye to Townley in July and the school made a promise that as soon as it is able to do so, Year 13 will celebrate in the traditional Townley way. It was wonderful to hear from our former Gold Ties Shirley, Megan and Tabitha who are all studying at Oxford University and had met with another of our former students Baroness Valerie Amos as part of their matriculation ceremony.

This half term, staff and students said goodbye to Helen Morosini. Mrs Morosini has worked at Townley for 15 years and has been an absolute credit to the RS department and Humanities cluster. We look forward to saying farewell properly, as soon as we can!

Plans and arrangements for after half term are contained in this newsletter. Please do take the time to read the information and continue to access the school website for updates.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the Townley staff, including the Senior Leadership Team for their relentless commitment to our students. I hope the half term break allows for some much-needed rest and reflection for what has been an unprecedented start of term for all.

Do take care and stay safe.

Nevita Pandya Headteacher



<u>OUR</u> VALUES

Ability to Inspire

Compassion

Confidence

Courage

Integrity

Resilience

Social Conscience

Spirit

From here it's possible



## A HAPPY START TO TERM

The school gates opened to year 7 students on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September as parents and siblings wished their daughters well on the first day at Townley!

Students were greeted by the Senior Leadership Team at reception before joining their Houses and being introduced to their Form Tutors during Tutor Time.

A busy day followed for our Year 7s, who sat their CAT

Tests and took part in their first English and Mathematics lessons.

Miss K Brayton, the Year 7 Learning Manager, received such positive feedback from staff about the enthusiasm and conduct of our new cohort and it is such a privilege to see them settle and flourish this half term.



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## YEAR 12 TEAM BUILDING DAY

The first full day of school term, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, saw the sports field full of Year 12 students taking part in their first Year 12 Team Building Day. Hosted by WiseUp, students spent the morning getting to know newcomers to the Townley Sixth Form, reacquainting with school friends and building team work skills by taking part in activities.





# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME ASSEMBLIES

The school embraced the September start with resilience and adaptability to the 'new normal' our community has faced. Townley has adapted well to the changes and new routines brought on by Covid-19. One of the traditions that continued however was the formal welcome assembly conducted the Headteacher. Nevita Pandya welcomed each year group in the hall, with adherence to social distancing guidelines, with an inspiring message of optimism, focus and a commitment to Townley's Work Kindly ethos. Over the course of two weeks, a total of 14 assemblies took place in order for students to come together.





## GALACTIC CHALLENGE Digital Competition Results

The Galactic Challenge, is a national STEM competition for school children. At the end of the previous academic year, students from Townley Grammar School entered the Galactic Challenge Digital Competition. Students were challenged to produce a flight manual for a group of astronauts making a journey from Earth to Mars. Drawn from STEM and industry, the judges wrote feedback to all participants and have distributed electronic certificates. Results were announced to students in August and we are pleased to share in the success with parents. Congratulations to Thurayya, 8. Athene, for receiving the Silver Award for her flight manual 'Altair Martian Gateway'. More information, and the full list of winners can be found here: <a href="https://gchallenge.org/compete/digital-competitions/mission-ii/">https://gchallenge.org/compete/digital-competitions/mission-ii/</a>

## COMPUTING

#### Promoting Digital Literacy

This half term the Computer Science department announced an exciting new project for Year 7's. The organisation is called iDEA and is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Computer Science used an online learning platform to deliver our e-safety unit in Year 7 for this term and this project helps to promote digital literacy, digital citizenship and e-safety. Students have been invited to join the online learning platform and complete a series of units and challenges such as Cyber Spies and E-Safety. Each student will be able to achieve a digital badge award once they have completed a number of Units. Teachers have tracked their progress as well as having class discussions within the lessons to help promote positive use of technology.

#### Amazon Web Challenge

The Computing department are also delighted to be delivering the Amazon Get IT App Challenge to Year 8 students for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running, with some adaptations to follow government COVID-19 guidelines. All year 8 students across the school will participate in the Amazon web challenge, which must impact the community or the local school. Students will think of a unique idea for an App which can be used to improve or address a social issue that they feel passionate about.

### Digital Schoolhouse

The Computing department has run a program known as the Digital Schoolhouse for several years, the purpose of this program is to teach primary school children valuable skills and knowledge with an aim of ensuring students are more confident in this subject area before moving onto secondary school. Digital Schoolhouse workshops will run virtually this year, please contact <u>EOLeary@townleygrammar.org.uk</u> in the Computing department for further information if you are interested to find out more!

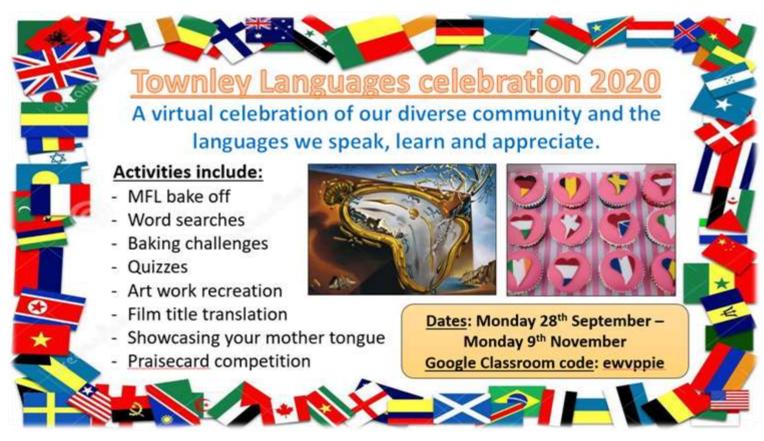






stem





# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AWARD

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world. Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're



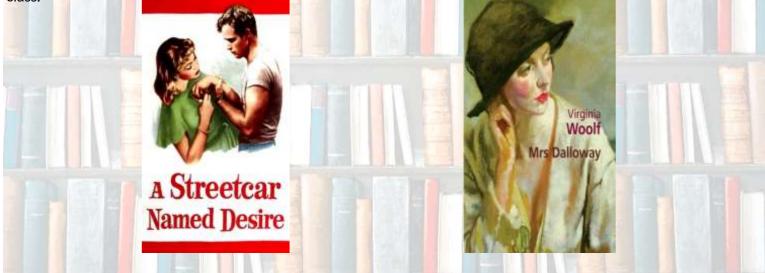
doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.' Congratulations to the students and staff who worked hard to receive this award.



## A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

### Curriculum Texts

Year 12 and 13 have been working hard on their new set texts this year; Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and Woolf's 'Mrs Dalloway'. It has been wonderful to have our students back and talking about the nuances of these texts in class.



# YEAR 12 FILM STUDIES

Year 12 Film students have been learning about Genre and Narrative in class, and also making some excellent film recommendations from their lockdown experience!







## ECONOMICS

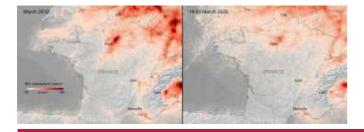
Mr Boulton's economics class have been learning about the economic impact of Covid-19 around the world. In response to in class discussions, Amy, 13.7, wrote this article.

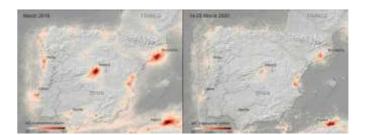
The coronavirus outbreak was first detected in China and has infected people in over 180 countries around the world. There have been over 5 million coronavirus cases globally and with the death toll still rising after months of its discovery, there has been and will be a detrimental impact on all areas of life.

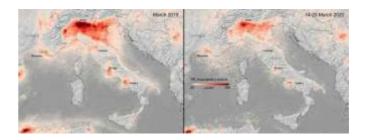
#### **The Economic Side of Things**

The spread of the deadly virus has left businesses and therefore economies around the world in a confused and un-confident state. There have been big shifts in stock markets, for example the STSE, Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nikkei have all seen large decreases since the outbreak at the end of December 2019. Central Banks in many countries worldwide (including the UK) have cut interest rates which would make borrowing cheaper to encourage spending and increase confidence thus, increasing aggregate demand and boosting the economy. However, the negative impacts of the economy still seem to be outweighing any positives with the UK having almost one million people applying for benefits in just two weeks at the end of March. The IMF described the decline as the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s, although it does expect global growth to rise 5.8% next year if the virus fades in the second half of 2020. The travel industry has been hit the hardest with empty flights and cancelled vacations. The coronavirus does have some positive impact to economies on the other hand, due to reduced pollution levels whilst citizens are in lockdown.

Images of air pollution in Europe March 2019 and March 2020 comparison.







Some positive outcomes of being in lockdown is that working from home has an increasing potential to improve productivity among workers in the UK. While fears of the economic impact of the crisis has also increased many employers have reported that remote working has positively impacted productivity according to Eden McCallum's third version of its COVID-19 survey series. Of 180 individuals polled, one fifth of companies had 100% employees working from home, of those 43% said that productivity had increased compared to 29% saying the opposing. The cause of this may be due to the fact that there is an improved work-life balance as workers may not have to spend time commuting to the work place. Another issue that has gained attention due to COVID-19 is the idea of a four-day working week. MPs and campaigners such as John McDonnell and Green MP Caroline Lucas have argued that reducing working hours will help by providing greater opportunities and tackle rising unemployment levels which is already at 2.8 million people. This idea initially gained momentum during the previous election in December 2019 where the labour party suggested a 32-hour working week with no loss of pay in the next 10 years. Many campaigners believe that this will help in restructuring the economy so that work can be shared more equally especially when its needed in these times where people are desperately looking for work.



#### **Social Life: The Impacts**

The coronavirus will undoubtedly increase suffering and poverty, especially for lower income households. Lockdown and demands from government to stay at home could have a huge impact on mental health as there are a number of different at-home situations, for example, domestic abuse. COVID-19 will also increase the angry populations (that do not want to be restricted at home) that will become fertile grounds for populist movements. Social distancing measures may also have a long term impact on social skills that students would have otherwise been developing at school. With these measures being put in place for the

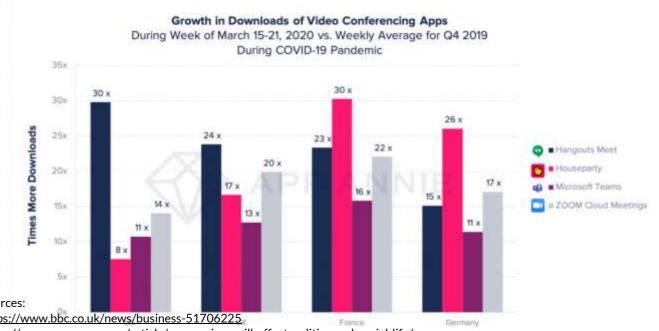
safety of citizens, many things, including political life, have gone virtual. Although this has been working for school work, work meetings etc. the cost of going virtual could be substantial, interactions are also less personal. There's also a problem with households which can't afford a stable Wi-Fi connection or even any

technology devices at all. These households may be hit the hardest as this digital divide may continue after 2020.

#### How COVID-19 Could Change History

During this crisis, there seems to be an emergence of more sophisticated and flexible use of technology, less polarisation and a revived appreciation for the outdoors. The year 2020 will most definitely be one that is written in all the future history textbooks and here are some reasons why it could change history. If the pandemic continues to affect the world longer than anticipated, many technology advancements will be necessary. For example, the use of virtual reality could be used to have the experiences we want whilst still be isolated. Although this has cost-associated problems, this could be effective for experiencing leisure such as holidays and hikes but could be even better for work experience placements for students and even open university days and taster lectures, the limit does not exist. Political life could also transform electronic voting could be pursued or there could be an election week/month instead of day to reduce health hazards. The changes that this virus will introduce to our lives will be unimaginable but very much possible.

Amy, 13.7



Sources:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51706225

https://www.neweurope.eu/article/coronavirus-will-affect-politics-and-social-life/

https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/19/coronavirus-effect-economy-life-society-analysis-covid-135579 https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/coronavirus-four-day-week-rishi-sunak-furlough-economy-a9573446.html https://www.consultancy.uk/news/24815/working-from-home-has-lifted-productivity-and-work-lifebalance#:~:text=In%20the%20third%20edition%20of,while%20their%20staff%20work%20remotely.&text=Of%20those%2C% 2043%25%20said%20it.just%2029%25%20saying%20the%20opposite



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Townley celebrates a month of diversity

This October. Townley celebrates **Black History Month** by holding a variety events of and assemblies including Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October's **Cultural Fashion Day.** This is a first for Townley and it is designed to be a day of celebration to mark the end of Black History Month. Students arrived at school wearing traditional attire that represents their culture or heritage.



7. Hera wearing Lengha dress with Charis bracelets, Nigerian patterned attire and traditional Chinese outfit



Christina, 7. Hera, wearing beaded Nigerian necklace





Laila, 10. Art, wearing African print headband



Shahrazad wearing a Kameez, Faridat wearing a Kampala and Bhavneet dressed in a Pajmysut (10. Hera)

Amrita, 11. Per, wearing a Saree





Susan in an Arabic Aabaya, Kiruthiga dressed in a Salwar, Angela in a Burmese dress, Ms Arthur in a long skirt Kaba and Egele, Bisola in an Ankara top, Diya and Afia wearing Salwars, Rere wearing an Ankara and Alainah wearing the Philippine flag (9. Demeter)

#### Charity - £1289.17 raised!

As well as raising celebrating diversity during Townley's Cultural Fashion Day raised money for a brilliant Black charity Black Minds Matter. Black Minds Matter's mission is to connect Black individuals and families with free mental health services — by professional Black therapists, specifically for Black trauma.

To make this happen, they want to make mental health topics more relevant and accessible for all Black people in the U.K., removing the stigma and remodelling the services to be relevant for the Black community. A total of £1289.17 was raised. Well done Townley!



BLACK BRITISH ADULTS HAD THE HIGHEST MEAN SCORE FOR SEVERITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS. THEY WERE THE LEAST LIKELY TO RECEIVE TREATMENT FOR MENTAL ILLNESS.

**RACISM & MENTAL HEALTH** 

RCPSYCH





#### Assemblies

Our 2020 Black History Month whole school assemblies focussed on how Black history and culture are intrinsic to what it means to be British and British society. Senior gold tie prefects delivered the assembly with a wonderful video from Townley Alumnae-Baroness Valerie Amos, Tolu Duckworth (Medic student at Oxford) and an introduction from Mr de Fabiani.



The events will be posted daily on your year group hubs

## Black History Month, October 2020



#### Virtual Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5°	6 <sup>th</sup>		8"	90
Book Recommendations for Black History Month	Townley 'Ted' Talk <u>The Significance of Black Ponther:</u> <u>Race and Cinema</u> (Re-run) Mrs Binks		Townley 'Ted' Talk <u>Ime Travelling through Black</u> <u>History</u> Anjola Akinduro (alumni)	Townley 'Ted' Talk <u>Block History in Numbers</u> Miss Orukpe
128-	130	145	54	160
Townley 'Ted' Talk	Townley's Black	Townley 'Ted' Talk	Museums celebrating	Townley 'Ted' Talk
What it's like being mixed race in a divided world?	Entrepreneurs	Is Colour-blind Costing a form of Recism?	Black History Month	BAME, a problematic term? Senior Prefects
Miss Gouldbourne	Townley Community: <u>"Why I'm proud to be Black?"</u>	Ms Melluish & Mr French		
performance	with the productor of plotse			
	Black History Month assembly	Black History Month assembly	Black History Month assembly	Black History Month assembl
198	204	21.9	22**	230
Townley 'Ted' Talk Black Composers in Music	Townley 'Ted' Talk African languages	Townley 'Ted' Talk Public Art: Monuments and our	Film recommendations for Black History Month	Cultural Fashion Day
Ms Magee	Ms Cheyns	colonial heritage	Disal difference Mary Planara	Cultural Showcase:
Black Olivia 12.10	Celebration of African and Caribbean Language	Miss Williams and Ms Chipol	Black History Key Figures Yr 12 students	Final Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12,
	21C: Townley's Black Lives	24/7) Temples's Plack   Line	StC: Tournay's Plack Liver	Year 13.
	Matter Documentary	21C: <u>Townley's Black Lives</u> <u>Matter Documentary</u>	21C: Townley's Black Lives Matter Documentary	21C: <u>Townley's Black Lives</u> Matter Documentary

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## NEW BEGINNINGS Go off and do something wonderful!

#### Townley Alumni

Shirley, 2019-2020 Head Girl, met Baroness Valerie Amos (also an ex-Townlev student) during her matriculation at Oxford University. Shirley secured three A\* at A-Level and is now studying Law at the University of Oxford. Shirley is joined at Oxford by Megan, reading English and Tabitha studying Spanish and Linguistics. The Townley Community is so proud of their achievements and each of them exemplify Townley's values. We wish them the best for the bright, new futures and remember:

Once a Townley Girl, Always a Townley Girl



**Baroness Valerie Amos and Shirley** 



## MEET THE GOLD TIES Welcome to the Gold Ties for the academic Year 2020-2021

**Evie Boswell** - Hi everyone! I'm Evie and I'm the Head Girl at Townley this year. Think of me as a bridge between the students and teachers who also works with the rest of the prefect team to coordinate assemblies and school events. I currently study Biology, Chemistry and French for A-Level and, whilst I feel like I'm betraying the other subjects for saying this, biology is my personal favourite. I have a real appreciation and fascination for the human body and its processes and so it doesn't come as too much of a shock to learn that I would like to study medicine at university. Hopefully, if everything goes according to plan, I'll become a doctor one day! What I'll specialise in remains a mystery but I look forward to exploring the diversity within the medical field.

**Ope Fariyike** - Hi, my name is Ope and I'm the Head Boy. I don't have a definite favourite subject of my 3 A-levels; but at the moment I would say that I am enjoying geography the most out of all my subjects. This is because it is very applicable to the world we live in today and helps me to understand why certain things are the way they are. In the future, I aspire to go on to study medicine at university and become a doctor. I would also like to help people even beyond the medicine profession and give people advice in general.

**Deborah Croos** - Hey everyone. I'm Deborah and my role at Townley is the Deputy Head Girl for KS5. This involves working with my peers in Year 12 and Year 13 and being a voice for all the students in KS5 whilst working alongside the entire Senior Prefect Team to listen to, feedback and fulfil any needs that have been voiced from our Sixth Form. I will also be planning and organising all the Sixth Form Events, whether that be sixth-form led charity events (Children in Need), assemblies or open evenings. My career aspirations for the future and life after school are either to become a fully qualified chartered accountant through an apprenticeship, or to study Economics at university as it is my favourite subject. I have an avid interest to study Economics because one of the many things I am curious about is why Inequality exists in both the developed and developing world.









**Shanaé Fuller** - My name is Shanaé and I am Deputy Head Girl for KS3. My role involves attending year 7, 8 & 9 events and speaking at year assemblies as well as carrying out my general gold tie duties with the gold tie team. My favourite subject is definitely biology as I love learning about the complexity of living organisms. I also enjoy studying German because learning about the history, culture and language of another country is fascinating. In the future, I hope to study biology at university and then to work either in the healthcare or science field.

**Charlotte Kemp** - My name is Charlotte and I am the Deputy Head Girl for KS4 this year. My role is to work closely with the Learning Managers for years 10 and 11, as well as the Silver Ties associated with the same year groups to organise events and provide support to the KS4 students. I am currently studying English Literature, Classical Civilisation and Sociology; I don't have a favourite because they are all so similar! But the best thing about all three subjects is how well they all link together, because it makes studying them a lot more interesting and a little easier, I think. I am aiming to go to university next year to study Law, and from there I plan to qualify as a Solicitor before moving to work in Criminal Law. I'm not sure what I will do from that point, or even if I will actually end up doing any of that, but I hope that whatever job I do end up with, it will be one I enjoy!

**Durotimi Oshin** - Hey, my name is Durotimi and I'm the Deputy Head Girl for 21c and the House System. My role mainly involves improving the 21c curriculum and working with the House Captains. My favourite subjects are Biology, Chemistry and Music (which happen to be my A-Level Subjects). My enthusiasm for helping people, passion for continuous learning and fascination with the human body is what drives me to pursue a career in medicine.

**KC Ugwu** - I'm KC and I am the new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer for this academic year. This is a brand-new gold tie role but I think it's so important to make sure everyone feels safe and listened to at school so I am really excited to work with both students and staff to make Townley more inclusive and make sure everyone has equal opportunities. My favourite subject at the moment has to be Film Studies because it incorporates the visual arts and English, both of which I love. I didn't expect it to be as enlightening as it is but through watching and analysing films made in different eras, I am learning so much about culture and society throughout history. After Year 13, I hope to continue my studies at a film university working more practically as to become a screenwriter and/or director in the future. I can't wait to capture more diverse faces and depict their stories onscreen.





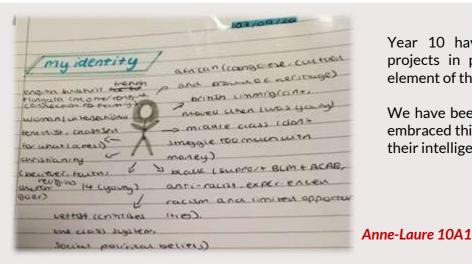




## LEGACY Gold Ties Make Their Mark

The Headteacher meets with the Gold Ties once a week and this half term the main focus of discussion has been the Legacy Project. Each year, Gold Ties decide how they will leave a legacy for the benefit and future success of the school community. This week, the Headteacher shared an article '15 Lessons in Leadership You Can Learn from the All Blacks', written by James Kerr and encouraged the Gold Ties to consider its inspirational message of self-mastery of leadership, teamwork, character, purpose and responsibility. The article is an insightful and inspiring read and gave the Gold Ties plenty to reflect on over half term.

## YEAR 10 AND IDENTITY



Year 10 have been working on their Identity projects in preparation for the creative writing element of their English Language GCSE.

We have been so proud of how our students have embraced this project and are (as usual) inspired by their intelligent and mature discussion.

#### being a black woman: reare to each other as i receive both sexism and rausen and duily basis. havder to ne that for a unite nomine encipies and according me. me. mese two aspects are important to me because these appace now , new mysels and also how sources view me isee nomenting me gerons kuiled authe the and it is xery and suit to me. I don't thinks to iwould be use land if not

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## MUSIC

Year 8 students have been enjoying using Chrome Music Lab to create variations on 'Frere Jacques' with some very creative work produced.





## Congratulations Royal Academy of Music Awards

Funto, 11. Aphrodite, was awarded Grade 4 Violin and Francis, 10. Aphrodite, was awarded Grade 3 Violin by the Royal Academy of Music. Congratulations to both girls.



# STUDENT WELLBEING

### Important Information for this Half-Term

With a half term complete and a two-week holiday, I felt it was important to write and provide further support on the importance of wellbeing over the half term.

It is vital that students get enough sleep to feel and perform their best, which makes a good night's rest, eating properly, staying hydrated particularly vital. Our expectation over the break is that students are not endlessly working, if they feel it necessary that this is for an appropriate length of time. We are asking that students to look at their habit of work and invest in themselves.

I have included below information about good mental health. The guide is for young people. Please take some time to read through it with your child as our mental fitness has a direct effect on how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Seven action points below can help take control of our whole wellbeing and develop healthy emotional resilience.

- Eat well; Sugary foods give us an initial surge of energy. It might feel good at first but you soon crash and feel tired and low. Arm yourself with Information on healthy eating, it is widely available.
- Sleep well; The teenage brain needs a minimum of eight hours' sleep a night. Sleep is vital for memory, performance and general wellbeing. Lack of sleep can have serious effects.
- Get real; when it comes to protecting our mental health, it is essential that we build social media hygiene into our lives:
  - Limit time spent in the virtual world.
  - Recognise the virtual world as not necessarily truthful.
  - Be careful who you link up with. Are they really friends?
  - Take steps against digital negativity, trolls or cyber-bulling.
- Get active; Good for body, great for mind. Exercise comes in all shapes and sizes so find something you enjoy

   any kind of sport, riding your bike, rollerblading, dancing, choosing to walk rather than getting the bus to school.
- Think positive; Positive thinking boosts self-esteem. Write down positive things about you. It's proven to help! Surround yourself with people who build you up and value you for who you are.
- Time to talk; Friends and family can help keep you smiling, even at times of stress.
- Chillax; Learn relaxation techniques and give yourself space just to 'chill'. Breathing exercises help the body relax. Get comfortable, close your eyes and take deep breaths. Imagine yourself in a beautiful place. Focus on what you might be doing there the sights, the sounds, the smells and the feel of being there. Enjoy the peace.



Should you have further worries please do contact us after half term – you may also wish to refer to the following link for getting support from a mental health charity: <u>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</u>



#### Covid-19 Update

Thank you for all your support over this half term with regards to our Townley Care Plan and building back better. Please note that if we were to have a positive case in school we would notify all parents and staff about this as per the protocols and guidelines provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England. We continue to follow all such protocols, together with our own stringent risk assessments to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students.

Please do ensure that students have a rest over this break, and that they balance their existing commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to wish students a restful break.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Totty Deputy Headteacher

#### Useful Links

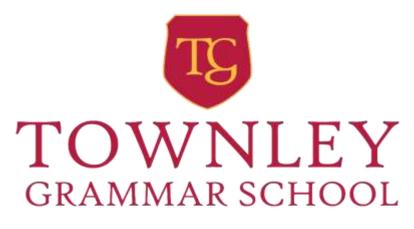
Please visit the school's website for further information:

Covid-19 https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/covid-19-response

Townley@home https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/our-community/ student-hub

Parental Information https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/our-community/ parent-hub





From here it's possible

https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/