



NEWSLETTER

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From here it's possible

Message from the Headteacher

I am both honoured and humbled to be appointed as Headteacher of Townley Grammar School. I look forward to continuing my work with an exceptional team of colleagues to lead our educational vision for the remarkable students we serve. Thank you for the number of good wishes I have received from parents, students and staff.

My journey as a teacher began at Townley over 15 years ago and therefore I have been privileged to be part of the Townley community, contributing to its many successes and endeavours over the years. This has included the introduction of our innovative 21c curriculum, the growth of STEM, our focus on leadership education and global learning, our bespoke curriculum offer in International Relations and our enviable international partnerships around the world, including our unique collaboration with some of the best tech firms in the world including Google, Adobe and Netflix.

My priority remains to provide the very best educational experience; grounded in character and values, focused on a holistic education including the exceptional academic outcomes our students will no doubt achieve. My own leadership journey is shaped by the same values that Townley stands for, with compassion and courage at the heart of every decision and the endeavour to ensure no student is left behind.

As we face our most challenging period in peacetime history, I remain optimistic and hopeful for the future, knowing our community is resilient and full of spirit - this too, shall pass.

Though our students may not currently be in school, I want to reassure you all that they continue to remain at the heart of every decision we make. Now is the time to reimagine our future, ensuring that coupled with opportunities to excel academically, we nurture and develop students' strength of character.

Ultimately our raison d'être and purpose is to help our students know that – "From here it's possible".

N Pandya
Headteacher





Reading for Pleasure

Since schools closed, 118 students have accessed Accelerated Reader and 500 books have been read which equals 31,871,330 words!

The English Department are incredibly proud and delighted with the amount of reading that is happening at home. It is lovely to see students continuing with their passion for reading and then sharing their recommendations with us and each other.

Six students have become word millionaires using only the books read since school closed so congratulations to: Chloe C (7art), Jashwini (7Ath), Klementyna (7Per), Ayesha M (8Art), Kathryn (8Dem), Maisha (8Per).

Well done to you all!

The variety of books read by students is impressive. Here some fiction reviews from our Year 8 and 9 students.

I am currently reading 'Restore Me', the 4th book in the Shatter Me series, and I would absolutely recommend it to fans of the Hunger Games or Divergent series, so this book has a similar theme to the books i have mentioned, far into the future, it is about a girl who has the ability to kill others just with one touch and her power is uncontrollable and her whole life she has never been able to touch anyone and society has been awful to her, because of her power and looks at her as a 'monster'. The whole series looks at how much she grows as a person and the people she meets along the way who have helped her be more confident in herself, and not to be afraid of her power, but use the gift she has, for good...

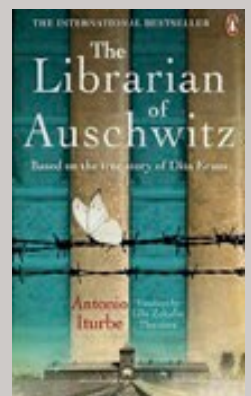
Grace D'Souza (8Art)

I am reading 'Dead at First Sight' by Peter James. It is part of the Detective Roy Grace series. It's a really good crime book about a group of Cyber Criminals from Ghana who take other people's identities and use them on dating sites. They then make people fall in love with them and take thousands of pounds of money from them. I haven't quite got to the end yet but I am currently at quite an interesting part of the story. I would recommend this book but only for ages 12 and over, (although it says 9 on the back of the book) as it has a few gruesome bits in it.

Amy Jackaman (8Art)

I'm reading The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe. It is about a girl called Dita who was a real prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau in the family block. There she helps to hides books which were used to teach children. This was a difficult job because of how the Nazis viewed books as well as them not wanting to educate the Jewish children in Auschwitz. I would recommend it because it highlights a different side of Auschwitz.

Frances (9Ath)





Townley Students have been busy at home discovering their artistry.

Thank you to all our creative students who are continuing to beat any boredom and keep their creativity going by drawing, painting and creating excellent art. It has been great to see so many of you producing artwork to support the NHS and to brighten up your streets by painting rainbows and producing posters to thank key workers.

We would love to see more of your amazing artwork, so please email them to Ms Chipol or upload them onto your Year group art Google Classroom

Don't forget that if you've not joined the classrooms yet all you need to do is email your art teacher and we will give you the codes.

Take care and stay creative!

Ms J Chipol



GET INVOLVED!

The Art world has lots of art resources and competitions to get involved with online. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills or show a new interest in creativity.

Some good places to start are listed - but please keep an eye on Google Classrooms for more opportunities - plus, please feel free to help each other by posting opportunities you see for others to get involved in.

Let's make the virtual 'classrooms' much more interactive!



A Year 11 student, who didn't have a canvas or a wooden board, got permission from her parents to paint on an old chopping board! Creativity at the highest level!

A perfect example of the resilience of Townley students in lockdown.



Charlotte in Year 9, pencil drawing inspired by Banksy and undoubtedly an artistic representation of the global situation we are all facing.



Grayson Perry

You might be interested to watch the artist Grayson Perry on channel 4. You can also watch it online or on catchup.

Grayson Perry is hosting a six-part series from his London studio, where in the artist will encourage viewers to get creative during lockdown.

Grayson's Art Club, including guests, a line-up of artists and comedians-cum-artists who will be interviewed via video call about their artistic practice. These include Antony Gormley, Tacita Dean, Vic Reeves, Chantal Joffe, Joe Lycett, Maggi Hambling, Harry Hill and Jessica Hynes.

Each episode will see Perry teach masterclasses on creativity and take viewers with him as he makes new artworks in his studio. "This series will be as much an act of spontaneous creativity as the stuff that usually happens here," he explains in a statement. "I hope we can make something uplifting in response to the crisis."

<https://www.itsnicethat.com/news/grayson-perry-art-club-show-channel-4-art-230420>



Noel Fielding hosts a daily and Art club on twitter that students could get involved in if they were on twitter, its aimed at children and students. <https://twitter.com/noelfielding11/status/1239130906452996096?lang=en>

"Hey kids I will be starting Art Club again! today at 3 o clock. There will be a theme and everyone is welcome to join in and submit a piece of art, kids especially. I will pick a winner at 5 and the Winner will be the first in the Art Club Gallery Hall of Fame"

- Noel Fielding.

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) is inviting young designers and creatives from Kent and Medway to enter our 2020 YouCreate Competition <https://www.uca.ac.uk/kamcop/competition/>

This year's theme is 'Change'. Your challenge is to think creatively when exploring what 'Change' means to you.

Artwork can be submitted in any medium, from film and photography, to sculpture or painting. Upload your entry before 31st May 2020 and you could be in with the chance of winning an iPad. Selected and shortlisted entries will be digitally exhibited by the UK's number one specialist university for the creative industries, UCA, in Summer 2020. The YouCreate Competition is open to students who are aged 13-18 years, living in Kent and Medway. For more information, to view the full terms and conditions and to enter, visit: [uca.ac.uk/competition](https://www.uca.ac.uk/competition). Please do contact us if you have any questions at kamcop@uca.ac.uk



Townley PE Teachers keeping fit during lockdown.

Exercise is beneficial not only for your physical health, but your mental health too.

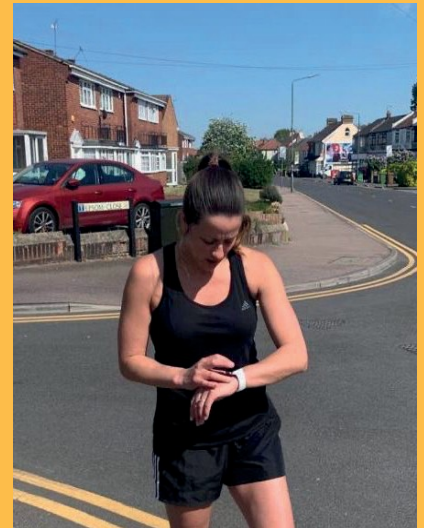
Over the last few weeks, the PE dept. has been setting students weekly challenges via Google Classroom. We've received some fantastic results and are very impressed with you all! Please continue to post your results and keep us updated.

Well done to Jessica B in year 10 who completed 97 sit-ups, 85 burpees, 161 squats, 138 press-ups, and 5 minutes' worth of plank in challenge 3 and Olivia in year 9 who completed Miss Brayton's plank challenge on twitter.

Here are some ways that the PE department have been keeping fit during lockdown:

Mrs Hawkey

'Looking after my physical and mental wellbeing during lockdown has been extremely important to me, and I have really enjoyed participating in various activities with my family. We have been walking, running and cycling as well as completing fitness challenges and circuits in the garden. I have also started a yoga course that I look forward to teaching you all when we return. However, it's not just the physical exercise that I have enjoyed, I have also found a new love for baking and gardening. Definitely not a pro, but everyone has to start somewhere!'



Miss Ford

'Despite the tracks being shut, I have managed to keep my athletics training going during isolation. I have been using my outside exercise allowance to do a mixture of grass interval sessions, steady runs and hills sprints. I have also been doing 15mins of yoga in the mornings as someone who can't touch her toes; I am definitely not a natural yogi. However, I have found it really useful for waking myself up and having a positive start to the day. I might even try yoga mornings with my form when we return to school (sorry girls).

I am definitely missing the dodgy sock tan from teaching outside in the summer term, hopefully it won't be long till we're all back enjoying some athletics and rounders!'



Miss Brayton

'I've been starting my days with a work out set by an online personal trainer.

My weekly routine is;

Monday-full body HIIT and abs

Tuesday- Lower body workout using body weight

Wednesday- Rest day

Thursday- upper body and abs

Friday- full body home circuit

I find that playing my music and getting active straight away starts my day off on a good note and gets me motivated to have a good day!

A big thank you to Miss Ford also who nominated me to run 5k and donate £5 to the NHS. '



Mrs Blazeby

'Physical fitness is good to try to focus on during school closure and important to support our wellbeing. There are so many programmes and advice currently available that I am hoping you have been able to find something you enjoy and can participate in depending on your personal circumstances. Many of you may have tried the Joe Wickes work outs in the mornings - I have, but found some exercises including the 'duck walk' extremely hard! I have managed to do 15 minutes work out on the family exercise bike in the morning and evening. My husband and I are monitoring our performance and secretly I am competing against him.

Please try to complete the weekly fitness challenges the department are setting. Take care of yourself, your family, friends and community the best you can'.

Mrs Greener

'During the lock down I have been enjoying doing Joe Wicks in the morning with my 8 year old son as well as taking my dog for lots of lovely walks. I am also trying to keep my fitness up by doing a couple of runs per week plus a couple of rows and a circuit or Pilates class. I have also started using Headspace into my daily routine, which I am finding very helpful to keep me calm when I find myself getting stressed or anxious. I am also trying (not very well) to home school my autistic son who is in Year 4; I'm very quickly realising why I did not become a primary school teacher!

This is a very difficult time for us all, but I have found comfort in the slower pace of life, having time to do all those jobs you never normally get around to, painting and decorating my house and spending more quality time with my family.

I am really missing being at Townley and all the exciting events that would normally take place in the PE department during this term; all the rounders matches and the athletic competitions. I hope you are enjoying the Townley Fitness challenges we are setting and it is good to hear how you get on with them. Well done to the PE GCSE students for their continued hard work - we appreciate all your time and effort.

So, for now, stay safe, stay home and keep yourself fit (mentally and physically) and I look forward to seeing you and teaching you out on the fields soon.' We really hope that you are all keeping healthy both physically and mentally. Please keep us updated via google classroom or drop us an email.





Impressed

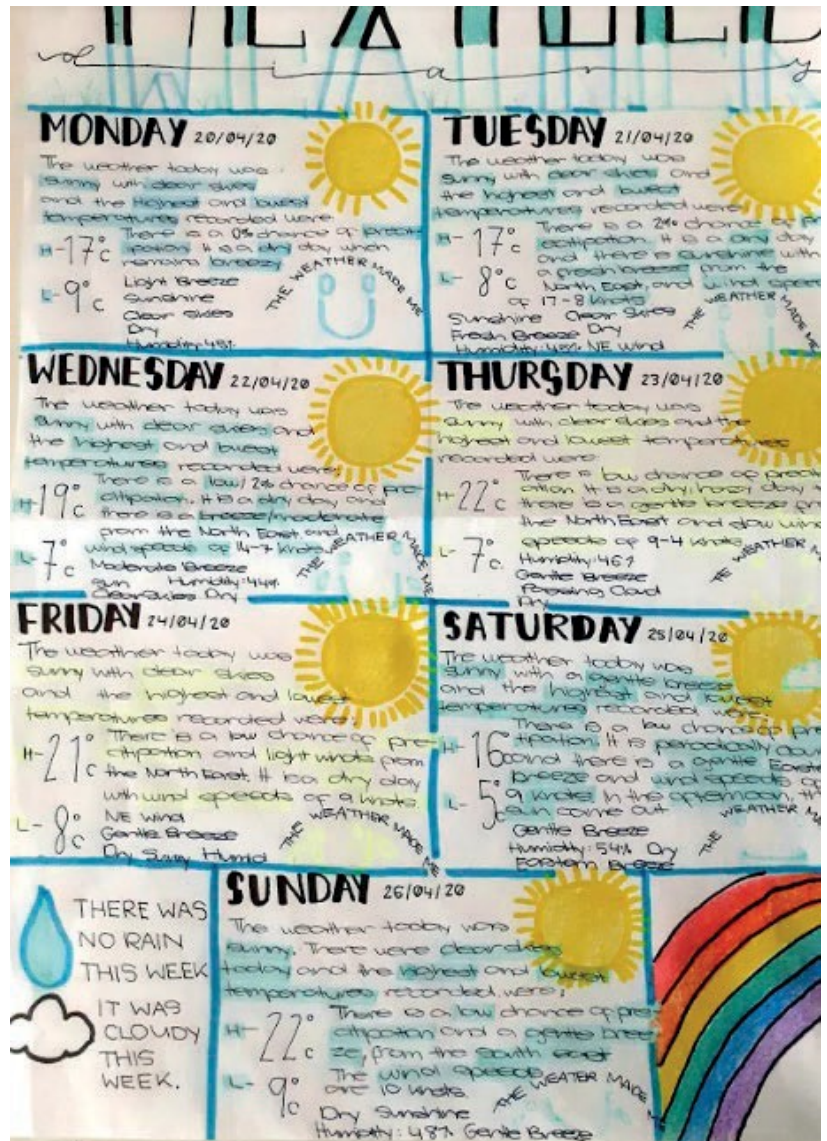
The Geography department are very impressed with how our students are embracing the online home learning activities.

This newsletter we would like to share some work from our wonderful Year 7 students.

Year 7 students have continued to study their unit on weather by completing some excellent weather diaries.

Well done Year 7!

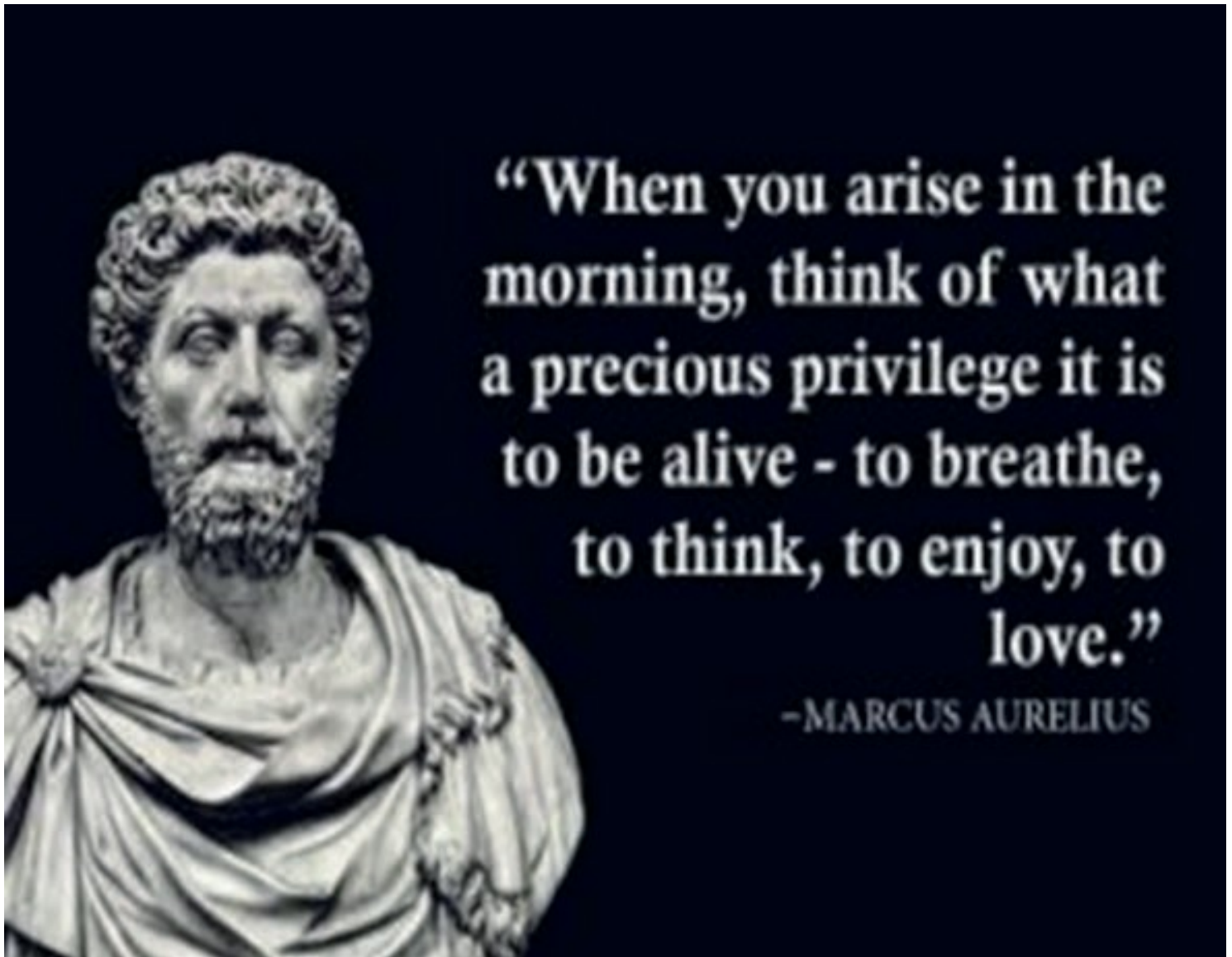
Keep smiling and keep safe.



6th Form

Year 12 students have been accessing some of the free courses offered by The Open University and some have already been completed!

Check them out here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts> Townley's very own James Omotosho, in the sixth form football team, has been called up for Kent Schools Under 18 team for next season. Congratulations James!



During these turbulent and difficult times, it is easy to become focused on what we do not have and the limits placed on our freedom. It is completely normal and natural to do so. It is important during this period of time to be grateful for what we have and remain as positive as we can about our situation. To be locked down safely in a home (However large or small) and wash our hands with clean water are privileges millions of people across the world unfortunately do not have.

It is our duty and obligation to stay strong not just for ourselves and our families but for those who have lost people during the COVID19 crisis. By staying positive together, we can help those going through difficult times to feel hopeful that once this crisis passes the world and our community will emerge more caring, compassionate, stronger and more united. We all live different lives with varying levels of comfort, yet as the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius said "Think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive, to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

Please stay home, stay safe and look after yourselves.

Mr de Fabiani- Assistant Headteacher



Inclusion & Support

If you want help related to bereavement and feelings of grief for you or a loved one you can contact the Inclusion & Support Team in Student Services by emailing senco@townleygrammar.org.uk Whatever you are going through, we are thinking of you here at Townley. There are also bereavement charities that offer helplines, email support, and online communities and message boards for children.

These include:

Child Bereavement UK – call 0800 028 8840 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or email support@childbereavement.org

Cruse Bereavement Care – call 0808 808 1677 Monday and Friday, 9.30am to 5pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 8pm, or email info@cruse.org.uk

Grief Encounter – call 0808 802 0111 Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm, or email contact@griefencounter.org.uk

Safeguarding

The safety of our students is always our priority whether we are seeing them face to face or not.

The Safeguarding Team in school is led by Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Ms Laura Page (Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo)
- Miss Hannah Mitchem (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mrs Linda Blazeby (Assistant Headteacher)

To contact the safeguarding team please email: mail-safeguarding@townleygrammar.org.uk

You can contact our safeguarding team if you are worried about a child and you can get further information and support on a variety of related topics such as domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health on the safeguarding area of the school website.

<https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

Support for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs

Bexley Local Authority have launched some useful additional support for home learning Is learning at home proving to be a challenge?

Are your child's additional needs making it hard for them to adapt to learning at home or to access the work set by their school at this time?

Is your child struggling academically or emotionally during the COVID-19 restrictions?

Are you having difficulties in getting your child to focus on their school work?

If you have a child with additional needs who is struggling emotionally or academically during this pandemic we may be able to help. We are Bexley Council's Early Intervention and Specialist Advice Service who normally provide advice and support to schools about children with additional needs. We can now provide advice, guidance and signposting for you as parents and carers, via phone or email, on how to support your children whilst learning at home and throughout this period where schools have partial closures.

Feel free to get in touch for a chat:

Telephone: 0203 045 3692

Email: parentsensupport@bexley.gov.uk

We are providing this service between 9am –5pm Monday–Friday (not including Bank Holidays).

Please do email at a time that is convenient to you and we will respond at our earliest opportunity.

If you would prefer a telephone call back please include your telephone number.





Inspirational



Stephen Last
@Penfolds_Beach

Just wanted to thank [@TownleyGrammar](#) [@TownleyDTandEg](#) for providing the amazing visors which they'd made to help us in these unusual days.



1:14 pm · 23 Apr 2020 from [Queen Elizabeth Hospital](#) · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Mr Quinn and Mr Meheux, from the DT and Engineering department at Townley, have been busy making visors for the NHS. 800 visors have already been distributed to local hospitals, hospices and care homes and a further 1000 are in production!

An NHS doctor at Queen Elizabeth Hospital tweeted a message of thanks to Townley Grammar School with staff proudly wearing the PPE equipment.

Mr Meheux and a team of staff volunteers are in school each week to hand craft PPE for the NHS- this week they hope to distribute a further 1000 visors! Mr Meheux has put the DT department equipment to good use during lockdown and the Townley community couldn't be prouder.

The school funded materials for the first batch of visors and, alongside Mr Meheux's own fund raising, have raised enough money for most recent supplies. Staff response to this news has been overwhelmingly positive and staff have been contributing via Squid.



Hannah Mitchem @HannahMitchem1 · 22 Apr
Another 500 visors in production to help protect our NHS. Will soon be ready for local hospitals and hospices. Thank you, Justin! [@TownleyGrammar](#) [@TownleyDTandEg](#) #nhs #savelives



9 25

Parents are also welcome to contribute or help raise money for such a worthwhile cause. This is entirely voluntary and parents should not feel pressured as we are fully aware that many people are coping with a significant change in financial circumstances at present. However, if you would like to contribute then this would be gratefully received and please know that any contribution, no matter how small, will make a real difference to someone working frontline in the NHS.

If you would like to make a Squid payment, please go to 'New Offers' and then pay into 'Covid-19 contributions'. If you have any technical issues, please email townleysupport@townleygrammar.org.uk with your query.

Thank you to Mr Meheux, Mr Quinn and staff volunteers. Your efforts are truly an inspiration.



Staff Quiz!

The staff community have also been busy over the past few weeks. Here is a roundup of what's been happening.

Mr M Kent has kept staff minds engaged with a weekly quiz. Congratulations to Ms E Groom and her family for winning the Easter quiz. Round 7 is already underway!

Congratulations!

Susannah Mary Emilia was born 28th March. Congratulations to Ms E Marsh and family at the birth of her baby daughter!

Ms C Sinden welcomed beautiful Ada on 29th March. Baby Ada and the Sinden family are doing well.

Mr Robinson and his wife are now the proud parents of Alexander William Robinson, born on the 30th April at 3:22pm weighing 5lb 10oz. The school is delighted for them both.

Maternity Leave

Ms L Dodds is leaving to go on maternity leave this week, and we would like to wish her and her family well. We would also like to thank her for all of her hard work and exemplary support of both the Teaching and Learning team, and English department. Hoping you manage to enjoy some well-earned rest before your family of three becomes four! We look forward to seeing pictures and hope you enjoy every minute of maternity leave with your little ones!

Welcome to our new SENDCo.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Alice Ogunsakin as our new school SENDCo. Mrs Ogunsakin's appointment represents our commitment to growing our expertise on Inclusion and Special Educational Needs. Mrs Ogunsakin will be working alongside our existing team in Student Services and our families. You can contact the SEN Team at: senco@townleygrammar.org.uk





Welcome

Introductions from new staff members

Dr Steven Berryman

Director of Arts and Culture *City of London School for Girls*

Dr Steven Berryman is currently Director of Music at City of London School for Girls, and since September 2019 has been seconded to the Education Strategy Unit at the City of London Corporation leading on cultural and creative learning projects across the family of schools in the City. Previously Steven taught at the Junior Departments of the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban and taught music at the North London Collegiate School. He has contributed widely to educational press, expert roundtables, examining and as an arts education practitioner including work as a composer; recent work includes projects with Royal Opera House, London Philharmonic Orchestra, NMC Recordings and Ofqual.

Steven is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London and Guildhall School. He enjoys leading professional development for teachers and is the subject lead for music at Buckingham University working with PGCE trainees, and the Curriculum Lead for the Music Teachers Association. He was granted Freedom of the City of London in 2018, is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Chartered College of Teaching and is a Chartered Teacher. Steven is very much looking forward to joining the Odyssey Trust for Education and working with colleagues across the two schools to ensure all pupils have an enriching and innovative arts and cultural provision.



Mike Ford

Chief Financial Officer, Odyssey Trust for Education

"I am highly experienced and have fulfilled Senior Finance management and Chief Finance Officer roles in Multi-Academy Trust (MATs) for over 12 years. My role is to support the OTE educational aims and objectives shape the financial strategy for the Trust with the CEO and the board of trustees and head teachers of Townley and King Henry. I will be working closely with these colleagues and the new COO also in order support these requirements

My role is also to ensure that the trust and schools are compliant with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as Academy Trust regulators". In fulfilling all of these requirements, I will be shaping the finance team accordingly in order to deliver these.



Adrian Pembroke Tallett

Chief Operating Officer & Compliance Manager, Odyssey Trust for Education

Born in Greenwich Adrian has lived in Eltham for the majority of his life and has worked in the private sector for the majority of his career holding senior positions in global business administration manager, global marketing, project management and business process reengineering. Adrian has worked in the Education sector for 10 years as a senior manager. As a consultant Adrian has provided strategic advice and work for a range of businesses, charities and the public sector - central and local government - often parachuted in to resolve governance issues where multi-agency boards were underperforming. For 6 years Adrian successfully turned around an underperforming charity in Greenwich, first as their Chief Operating Officer and then as its Chief Executive and for a time sat on Greenwich's Local Strategic Partnership. Adrian led a multi-agency team to secure £750k funding to establish a much-needed council for voluntary service in Greenwich!

Adrian has been a volunteer with the Scouts for 35 years and his last appointment was as County Commissioner responsible for 7,000 volunteers across 5 London boroughs, including Greenwich. Adrian has also been a Trustee all his adult life and until recently was a Chair of Governors at a Pupil Referral Unit. Before joining Odyssey Adrian provided governance management services to a number of local governing bodies, MATS, Grammar schools and maintained schools across the UK, including Odyssey, Trust Board, and the two local governing bodies at Townley and King Henry. Adrian is delighted to be joining Odyssey's team and looks forward to getting to know and support colleagues in the months ahead.

