



September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 7 Pastoral Evening Tuesday 24th September at 5.30pm**

As mentioned in the Year 7 Induction Booklet, we are holding an important Year 7 event for parents/ carers on Tuesday 24th September at 5.30pm. The evening will provide a valuable opportunity to speak to your daughter’s House Tutor, Learning Manager and members of the Senior Team but will also address two of the most pressing issues that affect 11 and 12 years olds today, namely social media and friendships. We encourage full participation from parents/ carers to support the work undertaken in school to keep young people safe online and build healthy relationships with their peers.

**Programme for the Year 7 Pastoral Event**

5.10pm	<b>Reception will open at 5.10pm, allowing parents/ carers enough time to be seated for a prompt 5.30pm start.</b>	
5.30-6.00pm	<b>Protecting Children in a Digital Age</b>	<i>Mrs Pandya, Headteacher</i> <i>Miss Mitchem, Deputy Headteacher</i> <i>Mr De Fabiani, Senior Assistant Headteacher</i>
6.00-6.40pm	<b>Girls on Board</b>	<i>Mr Andrew Hampton (FCCT), Founder of Girls on Board and experienced Headteacher</i>
6.40-7.10	<b>Q &amp; A Panel</b>	Mr Andrew Hampton, Girls on Board Mrs Pandya, Headteacher Mr De Fabiani, Senior Assistant Headteacher Miss Totty, Senior Deputy Headteacher

**Protecting Children in a Digital Age**

Our school has a clear no-smartphone policy to ensure our students can make the most of their education and the plethora of opportunities available to them during the school day. We are conscious that students spend more time at home than in school so we wish to support parents and carers in protecting children, particularly young girls in a digital age.



Children face numerous safety risks in the digital world, including:

- Online predators
- Cyberbullying
- Exposure to inappropriate content
- Privacy concerns.

Our pastoral event will help parents and carers better navigate the complexities of the digital world to support child safety and feel empowered to ensure technology serves our purposes.

### **Girls on Board**

We will be launching Girls on Board sessions for Year 7 in the coming weeks, designed by the organisation, *Girls on Board*, as an integral part of the pastoral provision we offer at Townley. Focusing in part on the complexities that occur in some friendships during these formative years and the individual decisions, actions and behaviours of young people when situations arise, the sessions are fundamental to ensure that all students act in a way that is aligned with our school values. The *Girls on Board* approach empowers girls to solve some of the friendship issues that they may encounter and recognises that they are the individuals that are best placed to drive and then seek such a solution. *Girls on Board* sessions are non-judgmental and reflective, designed to raise empathy amongst the students and it is that empathy that fuels the search for harmony and resolution.

We are fortunate that the founder of Girls on Board has offered to come to Townley to speak with parents/ carers in order to share his expertise and provide parents/ carers with the strategies and tools to address friendship issues at home, should they arise.

If you wish to read more about the organisation and approach, information is available via <https://www.girlsonboard.co.uk/>. We have also attached a parental pack which outlines some of the key ideas covered in the launch session and would urge parents/ carers to engage with this to provide additional support and guidance at home.

Please could parents click on the link below to indicate whether you are able to attend on the 24th. Please note that this event is for parents/ carers only; students should not attend. Please also note that the talks will commence promptly at 5.30pm so we ask that everyone is seated in good time before this:

[Year 7 Pastoral Evening Attendance Confirmation](#)

Yours sincerely,



Miss H Mitchem

Deputy Headteacher