



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As we reach the end of a busy and wonderful term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many opportunities and achievements we have celebrated as a school community. It has been a term filled with growth, creativity, and success for our students.

Firstly, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have demonstrated great determination and focus during their internal examinations. We are also delighted to share that over 230 students have sent off their university applications with offers flooding in already, these offers have included 20 students receiving Oxbridge interviews.

A testament to the whole cohorts hard work and ambition. Additionally, we are pleased to see how well our Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled into the school as they embark on the next chapter of their school journey.

This term has also seen our students enjoy a variety of enriching experiences, including theatre trips, art trips, and DT excursions. These opportunities have allowed our students to engage with learning beyond the classroom and develop their passions and talents. Our Christmas Concert and traditional Carol Service were particular highlights, showcasing the incredible musical talents within our school and bringing our community together to celebrate the festive season. We are thrilled to announce that auditions for our upcoming production of Frozen have taken place, and the cast

has now been confirmed. Excitement is already building for what promises to be a spectacular Summer production, and we cannot wait to see the talent and dedication of our students and staff come to life on stage.

Today, we bid farewell to some valued members of staff who have made lasting contributions to Townley.

Mr. Hancock-Jones leaves us after 10 years at Townley, having created a thriving Classics department and inspiring students to go on and study Classical Civilisation.

Miss Morant departs after 4 years, during which she has contributed significantly to the Mathematics department and developed outstanding leadership opportunities for our students. Mrs Walker, who established and grew our Psychology department, will also be moving on. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to Mr. Kinsey for his dedication in covering Physics this term. We thank them all for their committed service to the school and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

As a result of these staffing changes, some students may experience timetable adjustments in January in Maths, Psychology, and Classical Civilisation. However, we are

pleased to confirm that we have successfully recruited talented new teachers to fill these positions. We are confident that they will continue the excellent work of their predecessors and uphold our commitment to providing the highest quality education.

In January, we are delighted to welcome Mr. Webb as the new Head of Psychology and Sociology, Ms. Hurtt to the Classics Department, and Ms. Ali to the Maths Department. We are confident they will receive a warm welcome into the Townley community.

We are excited to look ahead to the New Year and the opportunities that a new term brings. It is a time to set fresh goals, embrace new challenges, and continue striving for excellence together as a school community.

The coming months promise to offer numerous opportunities for personal growth, collaboration, and success, as we work collectively to support and inspire one another in achieving our aspirations.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all members of our school community for your support, dedication, and hard work this term. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, and happiness.

*Warm Regards,
Miss S Totty, Acting Headteacher*



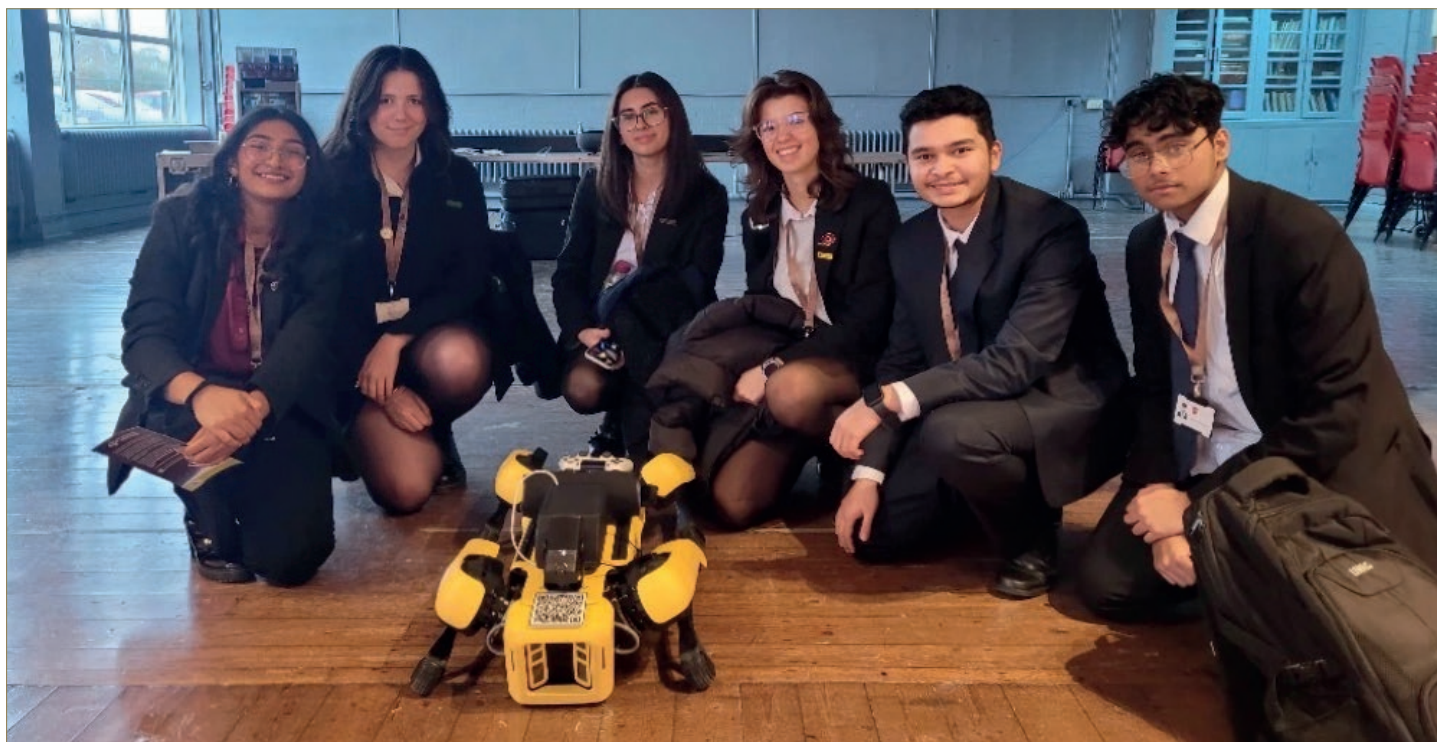
Chloe H, 9 Hestia.



Srishakthi V K,
7 Artemis.



Townley Grammar School Hosts the ACP Roadshow



On 8 November the Careers and Physics departments hosted the Aerospace Careers Programme Roadshow Team with 100 Year 12 students and staff from Townley Grammar School, Bexley Grammar School, Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School and Harris Academy Falconwood.

Starting with NASA's Artemis programme, the speakers introduced students to some of the technologies of the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, The Internet of Things, Robotics, Drones, Virtual Reality, Quantum Computers, Nanotechnology, 3D Printing and Blockchain + Cryptocurrency. These technologies were then related to the aerospace, space and aviation industries, with particular reference to current and



future career opportunities, plus future technologies up to the year 2050. This was then followed by a panel discussion about all aspects of the aerospace industry.

One of the highlights of the event was being introduced to Spot, the Boston Dynamics quadruped robot 'dog' who was able to answer all questions posed by the students, including some in a foreign language. One of the Townley students was chosen to dress in a replica NASA Shuttle EVA suit to the envy her peers and during the afternoon students had an opportunity to be 'hands-on' with drone flight simulators, VR flight experiences and Augmented Reality design plus 3D Printing.

Mrs W Williams
Director of Careers & Progression

Book Fair

We raised over £700 from the Scholastic Book sale which has meant we now have £288 to spend on new books for the library. It was lovely to see so many students engaged in buying books.

PTA Book Gifts

All year 7 received a welcome to Townley Gift book from the Library and PTA which we hope they continue to enjoy.
Ms M Fernandez, School Librarian



Harry Potter

On Tuesday the 10th December Year 10 students entered the winter wonderland of Harry Potter. During their time there, they saw design come alive and explored the career opportunities available to them.

*Mr J Quinn,
Director of Tech and Innovation*



Brilliant Bowling

On Wednesday 11th December a group of Townley Grammar students attended the Bexley Panathlon Bowling competition. The teams were formed of a combination of students from Years 7 to 11. Our students performed extremely well and finished in second place out of 15 schools. Congratulations to all involved. *Ms C Woodgate*



Experiencing Bengaluru's History and Healthcare



I recently went on a school trip to India - the focus of the trip was medical related, giving us a unique opportunity to explore India's healthcare system, especially in one of its most dynamic cities, Bangalore.

Bangalore, known as the "Silicon Valley of India," is also a hub for healthcare and medical research. Our group visited some of the city's top hospitals, such as The Narayana Health Hospital and Vittala institute of Ophthalmology. At Narayana Health, we had the incredible opportunity to hear from the heads of multiple departments, such as neurology, physiotherapy, pharmacology, ophthalmology, radiology and oncology. Not only this, but we were also allowed to use the hospital's state-of-the-art technology in the simulation room. Here, doctors have the opportunity to practice difficult procedures on 'living and breathing' mannequins. We had the opportunity to learn and practice CPR on the mannequins as well as listen to their heart rates.

What stood out the most during our visit was the quality of health care at these hospitals. Despite India being a developing country, these medical services were incredibly modern, innovative, and affordable. Patients from all over the world would come here, seeking high quality care in Bangalore. For example, the Vittala eye hospital created a 'mobile' healthcare service which provides free eye care directly to villages and areas with no access to hospitals, changing millions of lives every day.

We met many inspiring people, but the most impactful meeting was with a famous, renowned cardiac surgeon, called Dr Devi Shetty. He is the chairman and founder of Narayana Health, a chain of 24 medical centres in India. Through his compassion, he funded and opened these hospitals, ensuring that good quality healthcare is made available and affordable to all. During his lifetime, he has performed over 100,000 heart operations, many completely free of charge in areas of



poverty. We had the honor of meeting him in person and had a short Q & A session with him where he gave us lots of insightful knowledge and advice.

'My experience and interactions with successful doctors inspired and fuelled my passion for medicine. The incredible activities and workshops we participated in gave me confidence and knowledge I would have never received elsewhere.'

Nirali P

The 'Art of Living'

After receiving incredible work experience and knowledge from hospitals, we also had the opportunity to learn about alternative medicine in India, known as Ayurveda. We visited 'The Art of Living' ashram where people from all over the world came to experience herbal and ayurvedic healing therapies, such as yoga and meditation.

In addition to the medical aspect of our trip, we also explored the cultural side of Bangalore. We visited historical landmarks, explored local markets, and tasted delicious South Indian cuisine. Bangalore's vibrant atmosphere and mix of modern and

traditional elements made it a fascinating city to experience.

As someone who had never visited India before, I felt both nervous and a little apprehensive about being immersed in a completely new culture for two weeks. However, the experiences I gained and the memories I made while exploring the deep and diverse culture of India are ones I will always cherish.

One of the most incredible aspects of India was its stunningly detailed and intricate temples. We visited several of them, each with fascinating stories hidden behind the carvings and designs that adorned their walls. This part of the trip was truly breathtaking and gave me a newfound appreciation for the Hindu culture, which I had not encountered in such depth before. I left each temple with a richer understanding of India's history and cultural heritage.

The Jain temple in Shravanabelagola stood out as one of the highlights of my trip. With a daunting climb of 700 steps in the sweltering heat, we were all a little hesitant as we removed our shoes to begin the ascent. Yet, the stunning views from the top made every step worthwhile, instantly washing away any



fatigue from the climb. It was experiences like this—tough yet rewarding—that brought our group closer together. The shared sense of achievement in making it both up and down the steps created a bond among us that amplified the joy of the moment.

My favorite activity was the jungle safari. Zooming through the wilderness in Jeeps at 80 miles per hour, pausing to observe massive elephants in their natural habitat, and marveling at the beauty of untouched nature felt exhilarating. We even had the chance to meet two royal elephants at Mysore Palace! Although our group didn't spot a tiger, the safari was unforgettable, especially for me, as I had never seen an elephant before.

One of the most rewarding cultural experiences during my time in India was exploring the South Indian cuisine—something I absolutely fell in love with. Since the food was so different from what we eat in England, I wondered if, by the end of two weeks, I'd start craving the comforts of home. I couldn't have been more wrong. Eating the local food allowed me to delve deeper into the culture, and one meal, in particular, stood out: eating off banana leaves at a restaurant. I never would have guessed how enjoyable and unique such an experience could be. After all, who doesn't love good food?

Another unforgettable experience was our visit to a music museum, where we learned about the evolution of India's musical traditions—from ancient folk melodies to modern Bollywood hits. This rich musical heritage was fascinating, but what stood out even more was the intimate musical evening we had at Miss Shetty's uncle's house. All 23 of us, along with our three teachers, played various instruments together. The joy and harmony we created as a group that night were remarkable. It was our final activity before leaving India, and it left an indelible mark on my heart. The happiness and sense of togetherness in that moment were so vivid that tears were shed, and I know I will carry that memory with me forever.

Reflecting on my time in India, I realize how much this journey transformed my perspective and enriched my understanding of the world. The vibrant culture, the breathtaking sights, and the meaningful connections I formed along the way have made this trip an unforgettable chapter in my life.

By Keertana P & Aaliyah A (11 Demeter).



My Bengaluru experience

A bustling city-centre, filled with vibrant colours, magnificent aromas and intricate architecture. 24 Townley students, 3 teachers, all equipped with mosquito repellent, sunscreen, fans (and anti-diarrhoea tablets), set out to conquer it.

Landing in the Bengaluru airport, the atmosphere was alive as we absorbed the welcoming humidity; a sense of collective amazement at having braved a 10-hour flight and making it out all in one piece. With an entire 2-week experience in front of us, the excitement was hard to contain.

The first week saw us touring hospitals, making rounds, witnessing procedures, interacting with H.o.Ds, which, as aspiring physicians, both enthralled and inspired us. The infant cardiac I.C.U was in particular a heart-wrenching (pun not intended) experience, where we witnessed the highs and lows of working in medicine. A meeting with Dr. Devi Shetty enlightened us in a way no textbook or how-to guide could; what it truly means to be a doctor.

The second week was filled with sight-seeing and various different activities. After taking our daily dose of Vitamin C, we visited the temples of Halebeedu, constructed centuries ago, marvelling at the wondrous architecture, be it dancing maids or powerful gods and goddesses. From falling fast asleep during the intuition course in the Art of Living ashram, where even the guides couldn't shake us awake, to making music (or rather a cacophony) with the various instruments handed to us at the home of a renowned artist, or cruising through the ups and downs of the forests of the Jungle Lodges in safari jeeps, hoping and praying that we would witness a prowling jaguar or tiger (alas, to no avail), to meeting the eager young leaders of Indus International School, each day was jam-packed with things to do.

Departing was a bittersweet affair. Props to our teachers for somehow hauling a bunch of exhausted, dewy-eyed teenagers, all the way back, halfway across the Earth. This trip was truly unforgettable and once-in-a-lifetime, with both memories created and relationships forged (and a resistance to spicy food built).

By Aditi K (11. Hestia)

The Teachers Xmas Tea Party

On Thursday 12th December the Year 10 Event management students, held their first event. They held the 'The Teachers Christmas Tea Party' They organised the venue, the decorations, creating the menus and place names and cooking all the Food served, focusing on reducing highly processed foods. During the evening they presented a talk on reducing highly processed food, and delivered the evening entertainment for the teachers and themselves such as Ginger Bread men decorating, charades and Karaoke. It was a great night and it was inspiring to see the students vision come to life.



*Mr J Quinn,
Director of Tech and Innovation*

Success in Mathematics

Congratulations to the 81 sixth form mathematicians (and two year 11s) who entered the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a national competition containing intriguing and challenging questions designed to encourage mathematical reasoning and stimulate interest in maths. Each year approximately 80,000 students take part across the country. We were delighted that many students achieved certificates to reward their excellent performance: 5 Gold, 24 Silver, 38 Bronze.

Excitingly, Kathryn, Rooshil and Othniel qualified for a challenging follow-up round – the 'Kangaroo'.

We were also thrilled to learn that Edgar (Year 13) and Aaliyah (Year 11) qualified for the highly prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad; an outstanding achievement! The Olympiad is a gruelling three and a half hour examination for the top 1000 or so performers from the Senior Maths Challenge.

We are looking forward to the Junior and Intermediate Challenges for students in Years 7 to 11, and we hope they can replicate the success of the senior mathematicians!

Mr Clarridge

High Flying Achievement

'Last week, I received an award for my achievements in the Air Cadets. I was nominated for the Deputy Lieutenant's Award last year and have now become a successful recipient. This involved attending an awards evening at the Civic Offices, where I was formally presented with the certificate by the Deputy Lieutenant and the Mayor of Bexley. As a result, I will be attending civic and ceremonial events throughout the coming year, and I am really looking forward to it!

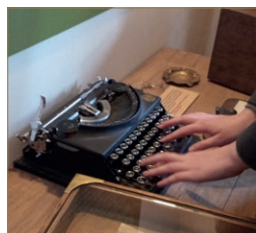
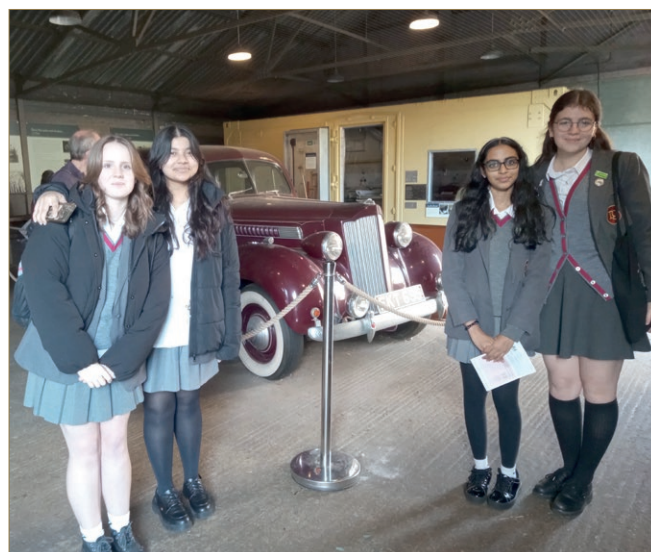
I have been part of the RAF Air Cadets since late 2021, and it has been an entirely rewarding and fulfilling journey, providing me with a multitude of brilliant experiences and opportunities. Whenever I mention Air Cadets, people often ask about flying, and yes—I have been lucky enough to go flying! It was an absolutely amazing experience, and as an aspiring pilot, it has been one of the highlights of my cadet

career. Beyond flying, I have completed radio and cybersecurity courses, which I now teach to younger cadets. I have also trained and shot with three different rifles at both indoor and outdoor ranges, and I've had countless other incredible experiences. Additionally, I've had the privilege of representing the RAFAC on both national and international levels. In 2023, I attended the annual trip to Ypres, Belgium, for Remembrance weekend.

Being in the cadets has helped me develop my leadership skills and has significantly boosted my confidence. I have done things I never thought were possible and pushed myself to limits I never knew I could reach. I wholeheartedly recommend joining the Air Cadets to anyone who's been considering it or is simply curious to see what it's all about!

Bethany M





Brilliant Bletchley

I had the incredible opportunity to visit Bletchley Park with my fellow Computer Science peers and some amazing teachers. The trip was not only fun, but also inspiring, as I learned about history, technology, and the role of codebreaking during World War II. Bletchley Park, located in Milton Keynes, is one of the most important sites in the story of World War II and was the center of British code breaking efforts during the war, where brilliant minds like Alan Turing worked in secrecy to crack the German Enigma code.

During our visit, we had the chance to explore several key locations around the park. One of my favourite highlights was seeing Hut 3 and 8, where thousands of codebreakers worked tirelessly to decode enemy messages. It felt surreal to walk in the same rooms where such important work was done, and the experience highlighted the value of teamwork and collaboration. We also visited the Codebreakers Wall of Honour and the Polish Codebreakers Memorial, which emphasised the crucial contributions of Polish mathematicians. Visiting

Bletchley Park taught me valuable lessons about the importance of teamwork and how the codebreakers worked in close collaboration with each person contributing their piece to the puzzle. It also gave me a deeper understanding about the role of technology in history, and the importance of cryptography in war. I had always known about the Enigma machine, but seeing it in person really conveyed my appreciation of the incredible achievements of the people who worked at Bletchley Park.

This memorable experience that I will never forget. I enjoyed every moment of it, from learning about the Enigma machine to exploring the huts where history was made. It was a fun and educational trip, and I would highly recommend Bletchley Park to anyone interested in history, technology, or just looking for a fascinating day out. It was so inspiring that I later watched 'The Imitation Game' to learn more about Alan Turing's contributions. Bletchley Park is a truly astonishing place and I am delighted to have had the opportunity of attending.

Valerie B, 10 Athene





London Youth Games Cross Country

Congratulations to the 15 students that presented their borough in the London Youth Games running at Parliament Hill in November. Year 7: Sienna, Peggy and Sonia. Year 8: Andre, Momore and Lucy. Year 9: Emily D, Emma P, Freya W and Adoara O. Year 10: Isabel B, Meredith, Evie F, Elodie V and Katrina T. We are all very proud of you. *PE department.*

SIX Theatre Trip

Year 9 Drama Students went to see the theatre production of SIX, plus see the Christmas lights in Covent Garden! *Mr French, Drama Dept*





Badminton Champion!

We are very proud to share that Vedanshi J, Year 9, Aphrodite has won three medals in U15 English Nationals this weekend. Vedanshi is a year younger for U15 age group and we are pleased to report her success in the U15 English Nationals Badminton championship: GS - Bronze, GD - Silver and XD - Bronze.

Rowing to Victory!



INTER HOUSE ROWING RESULTS 2024

	7	POINTS	8	POINTS	9	POINTS	10	POINTS
1st	Hestia	27	Hera	34	Athene	26	Demeter	33
2nd	Hera	26	Athene	23	Aphrodite & Hera	24	Hera	24
3rd	Artemis	21	Hestia & Persephone	22			Artemis	22
4th	Persephone	20			Artemis	22		
5th	Aphrodite	19	Artemis & Demeter	17	Hestia & Persephone	17		
6th	Demeter	15						
7th	Athene	14	Aphrodite	5	Demeter	7		

	2 MIN ROW		3 MIN ROW		4 MIN ROW		4 MIN ROW	
1st	Ive - Persephone	498m	Tamar - Hera	702m	Emily - Hera	1030m	Marie - Hera	1013m
2nd	Tia-Rose - Hera	468m	Ella - Hera	699m	Aoife - Athene	974m	Brenda - Demeter	991m
3rd	Iris - Hestia	466m	Isabel - Persephone	689m	Satvi - Athene	938m	Qiyamah - Demeter	907m
4th	Victoria - Artemis	453m	Greatness - Hera	686m	Ellie - Artemis	933m	Tehillah - Artemis	875m



Computer Science in Action Conference



On the 27th of November, 2024, our school had the intriguing opportunity to attend the Computer Science in Action, held in Westminster. It was a day dedicated to discovering the latest ideas in the world of computer science, featuring world-class speakers who shared their expertise on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to cybersecurity.

The conference began with a captivating introduction which set the mood for a day packed with vanguard insights. The line-up of speakers was impressive, each bringing a unique perspective on the evolving world of technology. Among the highlights was a session on artificial intelligence and its impact on our daily lives, where I learned how machines are shaping industries like healthcare and finance.

The day was also about the people behind it. Several speakers emphasised the importance of teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving in tackling real-world challenges. The event broadened my understanding of the diverse areas in computer science, from software development to ethical hacking.

Among the many inspiring sessions at the conference, my favourite was Amber Shand. She inspired me because despite the many setbacks she experienced, she never gave up and was finally able to reach her final goal. She achieved a bad grade at post 16 by failing AS Computer Science. Additionally, she didn't study computer science at university but was still able to end up

with a tech career. She encouraged us to study something we are passionate about at university and develop other skills during it like team building and time management. She then made it clear that we can pursue computer science after that.

What captivated me most was how different her story was to the rest of the speakers that we listened to. I also have doubts about studying computer science in university and she helped to console and assure me that anything is possible within my career and just because you experience failure it doesn't mean that you can't experience success.

This talk also informed me about the three monumental steps to pursuing a career in tech, whether that being cybersecurity or software engineering. These steps include: thorough and detailed research, intense job hunting e.g. Emily Vu's spotify CV and also constant interview practice to ensure that you never feel out of place in any working environment.

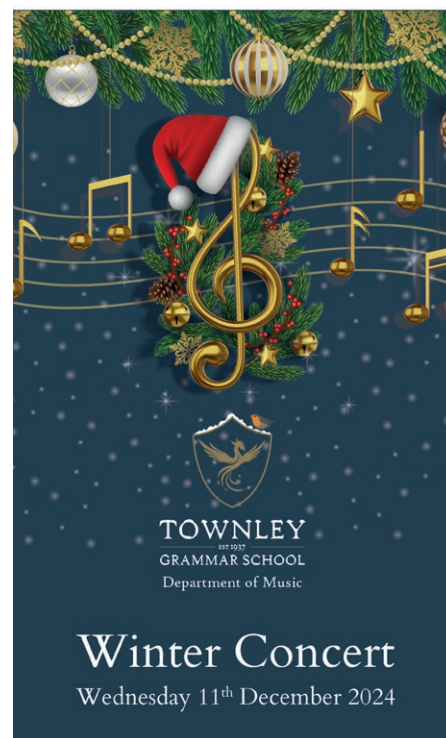
Attending Computer Science in Action was an unforgettable experience that left me inspired and motivated to explore the field of technology further. The event showcased the incredible potential of technology to solve problems and improve lives, and it made me excited to be part of this compelling industry in the future.

Devine I 12.10

Townley Grammar Winter Concert



Townley Grammar Students were in good voice earlier this month for our Winter Concert. Well done to all the students who took part, it was a wonderful occasion, here is a selection of photos from the dress rehearsals.



LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

STRENGTH COURSE

THURSDAY 30 JAN

5-6.30PM

6 WEEKS

FREE SNACKS, DRINKS
'N' STUFF EACH WEEK



BOOK IN NOW!

WHAT IS THE STRENGTH COURSE?

A FUN AND INTERACTIVE 6 WEEK PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR SECONDARY BOYS AGES 11-15. THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES, THE SESSIONS WILL HELP TO DEVELOP A STRONG SENSE OF PERSONAL IDENTITY, CONFIDENCE, PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE AND THE CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

📍 AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT [SIMON@BLACKFENCOMMUNITYLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:simon@blackfencommunitylibrary.org)

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



Mon 27 Jan for 6 weeks



5-6:30pm



**AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD
SIDCUP DA15 9LU**

A fun and interactive 6 week personal development course for girls aged 11-15.

Through fun activities, the sessions will help to develop a strong sense of personal identity, confidence, purpose for the future and the chance to make new friends.

Delicious drinks and snacks will be provided with a free gift each week.



**BOOK IN
NOW!**



THE SHINE COURSE

blackfencommunitylibrary.org



LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Dear Parent / Carer,

Please find below a letter from Kooth about wellbeing support for students and families during the holiday period.

With the winter break fast approaching, at Kooth Digital Health we appreciate there will be some young people who may struggle during the holidays without the access to the daily pastoral support, teaching staff and friends that the school community provides. Seasonal illness and the closure of many services at this time of year can also lead to extended wait times for support across both adult and young people's NHS and community services.

WE ARE STILL HERE.

Kooth Digital Health offers free and anonymous therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in South East London aged between 10-25. Funded and endorsed by the NHS, our services remain available over the winter period, offering 'on the day' wellbeing support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following website- www.kooth.com



Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self-help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from our non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer: peer communities.

With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people in Bexley can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include; body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc.

The registration process is quick, anonymous and safe, simply by registering at www.kooth.com using non-identifiable information.

Kooth delivers 1000's of online wellbeing sessions each year in Local Authorities across the UK. As 50% of referrals to CAMHS are unfortunately deemed inappropriate to their criteria, Kooth gives schools, professionals and families an alternative way of ensuring children and young people can access free support when they need it, in a way that they find comfortable to access, via any web-enabled device.

If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact Kooth directly, simply email parents@kooth.com. A selection of Parent/Carer resources can be accessed using this link: [Kooth. Parent & Carer resources](#)

Kind regards

Vanguard Team

Christmas Artworks!

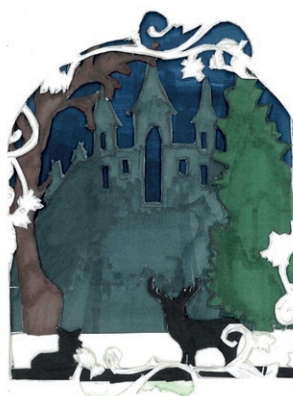
A selection of the winning entries from our annual Christmas Card competition, well done to everyone that entered!



Chloe H, 9 Hestia.



Ella H, 7 Persephone.



Isabella N, 8 Aphrodite.



Leila G, 7 Demeter.



Liya K, 8 Athene.



Srishakthi VK, 7 Artemis.



Eleanora R, K 7Artemis.



Kaitlin H, 9 Pershephone.



Natalia S, Z 7Athne.



Marley P, 8Athne.



Olivia G, 9 Aphene.



Inayah J, 9 Artmis.

