

Spring Into Learning: A Season of Growth and Discovery!

As the daffodils bravely push through and the days lengthen, we reach the end of another busy and rewarding spring term here at Townley. It's been a period filled with hard work, dedication, and some truly memorable achievements, and it feels a privilege to reflect on them with you all.

One particular highlight that brought immense pride to our school community was the fantastic triumph of our Under 12s Football team, who have been crowned Kent Schools FA Champions! It was truly wonderful to witness their skill, teamwork, and determination culminate in such a well-deserved victory. The atmosphere at their matches was electric, and the sight of so many staff and parents cheering them on from the sidelines was a testament to the strong sense of community we cherish here at Townley. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support – it truly made a difference.

This term, we also have the pleasure of celebrating four exceptional students who have received the Headteacher's Award for their outstanding contributions:

Edgar (Year 13) for his remarkable achievement of a Gold grade in the prestigious British Physics Olympiad, placing him amongst the top 600 students out of a staggering 3777 participants. A truly exceptional accomplishment!

Max and Joseph (Year 13) for their outstanding initiative and dedication in promoting the study of philosophy within the school. Their creation of a thought-provoking podcast and the establishment and sustained success of our Philosophy Club, with its engaging interdisciplinary approach linking philosophy and the social sciences, has been truly inspiring. It's been fantastic to see students from Key Stages 3 to 5 regularly attending and being stimulated by their debates and insights.

Emilia (Year 12) for her consistently outstanding academic achievements across the board. Her dedication to her studies is truly commendable.

We must also extend a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for their continued hard work and dedication in fostering our school community spirit. This term has seen some fantastic PTA events, including a very popular Year 7 & 8 Disco, a highly entertaining Year 9 & 10 Lip Sync Battle, and a lovely Mother's Day Fayre, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed. Your efforts in organising these events are truly appreciated.

As we reach the end of term, we also bid farewell and extend our sincere best wishes to Mrs Amodu, Ms Houghton, Mr Goakes, and Mrs Keleher, who are embarking on new chapters in their careers. We thank them all for their hard work, dedication, and significant contributions to the Townley community over their time with us. They will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead, we wish our Year 10 and Year 12 students all the very best as they prepare for their Internal Examinations in April. Following this, our thoughts will turn to Year 11 and Year 13 as they approach their crucial upcoming examinations.

To our Year 11 and 13 students as you approach your examinations, I wish you all the very best. Trust in the hard work you've put in, and remember that your potential is limitless. As the great poet, Rumi, said, 'What you seek is seeking you.' Approach these exams with confidence, knowing that you have the knowledge, the resilience, and the support to succeed. Remember to take moments to breathe, to reflect, and to believe in yourselves. Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, and your actions louder than your words. You are capable of achieving incredible things. Seize this moment, and let your brilliance shine.

Finally, we extend our warmest wishes to everyone for a restful and rejuvenating Easter break. Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement in the Townley Grammar School community. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for the summer term.

Miss S Totty, Acting Head Teacher





Spring Concert

It was yet another fun packed term for the Music Department ending with our Spring Concert. There was music from the sublime of Beethoven and Liszt, to the heady heights of Nirvana and Coldplay, and quite a lot of the "in-between". Three of our students were finalists in the prestigious Bexley Young Musician of the Year award - Eloise C, Jenny Y and Bella H,



with Jenny and Bella both performing some of their repertoire in the concert, so a massive well done to them for their achievements. The Senior Choir also took part in the Bromley Music Festival Choir Competition (inset photo), where they did us proud achieving a high Honours mark of 85, and we are planning on several other outings to competitions next year, so watch this space. **Ms C Troth, Head of Music**

Two times winner!



For second year in a row, the Art department is proud to announce that the winner of the Fourth Plinth Art competition this year is one of our Art students: Kaanchi J. 7 Dem and her winner piece is called Her piece is called A Peek into Storyland.

She was chosen among over 2500 submissions from students around London to this prestigious prize and we are very lucky to have another winner among our student.

She will be attending a ceremony on 8th May and a further event later in the year with various representatives of the London Council and the organisers of the competition”

Ms A Oña de la Blanca, Head of Art

A Huge Well Done

“A huge well done to our subject scholars Max and Joseph for receiving the Acting Headteacher’s Commendation for their outstanding contribution to the RS department through their Philosophy Club!



Their dedication has created an engaging space for students across Key Stages 3-5 to explore fascinating interdisciplinary topics, from religious arguments for God to AI, free will, and the problem of evil. Their passion for philosophy has not only enriched discussions but also inspired curiosity and critical thinking among their peers. Thank you both for being such positive role models and for making philosophy accessible and exciting for all!”

**J Kaur, Religious Studies,
Philosophy & Ethics Subject Leader**

Congratulations!

Townley Grammar School has earned a 2025 School Guide Certificate of Excellence.

As the UK’s leading school website – trusted by 20 million parents – we appreciate how hard it is to run a school with all the demands that the government and Ofsted place upon you. Your 5-star certificate is the result of your dedication to academic excellence and is a great way to show parents how much you have achieved in the last academic year.

Our School Guide star ratings are based on a unique combination of official performance data published by the Department for Education and Ofsted.



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Townley Grammar School

HAS RECEIVED A SCHOOL GUIDE RATING OF



AND HAS THEREFORE BEEN AWARDED A

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

FOR THE YEAR 2024 - 2025

Victoria Bond

Victoria Bond, CEO of School Guide

This School Guide star rating is based on official data. Visit [schoolguide.co.uk](https://www.schoolguide.co.uk) for more information

Students Work in Print!

Alexandra, 7 Artemis has an article in the First News newspaper published on the topic of mental wellbeing, well done Lexi! M Fernandez, Librarian.

Hobbies for mental health

LEXI wrote to us asking to write an article all about the importance of having hobbies to improve your mental wellbeing. Here's what she has to say.

by Lexi

Mental health is a part of everyday life. It affects various things such as feelings and emotions and can sometimes be difficult to manage, especially with rising expectations to always look and act happy.

This is why it is important to find hobbies that can positively

benefit us. Spending time in nature is fantastic for when we feel upset or down. Personally, I find that strolling through my local park helps me to feel relaxed and cheerful. I also like to learn the piano in my spare time, which is really fun, especially when I get to perform in front of family and friends.

There are endless possibilities for creative hobbies, ranging anywhere from reading to learning how to master the art of sketching or even writing a poem or book. Remember to find a hobby that you enjoy doing and find fun.

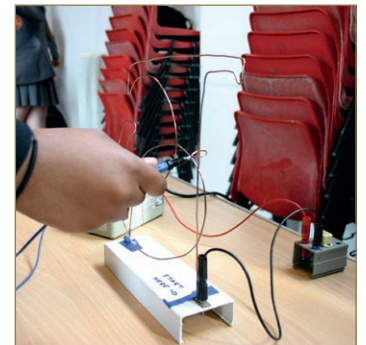
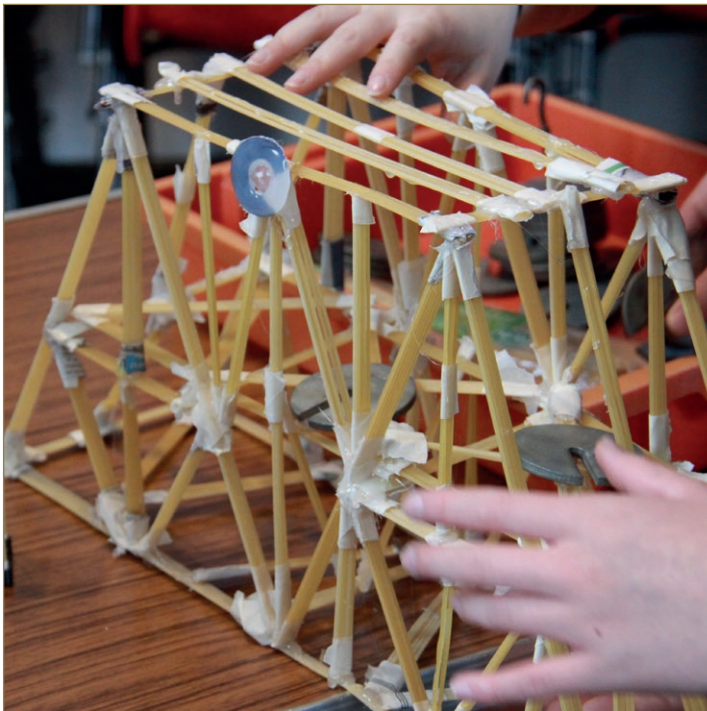
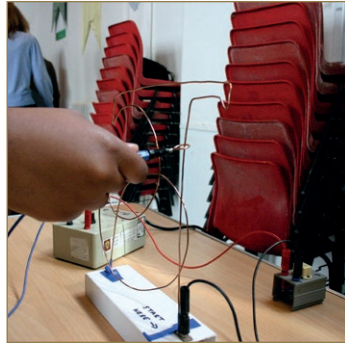


New Medical Website

We are excited to announce a new Medical Information page on our school website! We've designed this resource specifically for parents and carers to easily access and share important medical information about their children, enabling the school to offer and deliver the best possible care and support.

You will find updated care plan templates, details on vaccinations, and medication consent forms on this page. We will keep it updated with the latest medical news and school announcements. Please take a moment to explore it!

<https://sites.google.com/townleygrammar.org.uk/tgs-medical/medical>



British Science Week 2025

The theme for British Science Week 2025 was “Change and adapt” This theme was chosen to mark the start of the event’s third decade and offers a wide range of topics for exploration across various STEM fields. In order to celebrate, Townley’s brilliant Science team organised a show and fayre with the help of subject scholars. The event encouraged students to participate in a range of activities considering how change and adaptation play significant roles in science.

Thank you to the Science Team for such an inspiring and popular event!



Celebrating Our Exceptional Students: Success in the #700STEM Essay Competition

We are excited to celebrate the impressive achievements of two of our students who recently earned top honours in the highly competitive #700STEM Essay Writing Competition! This nationwide event, hosted by Sydenham High School, invited students to write essays on a STEM topic of their choice, with the aim of inspiring and informing others about the fascinating world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

We are proud to announce that Tolay D (Year 12) secured second place, and Janet A (Year 10) earned third place in this year's competition. Their thoughtful, well-researched, and engaging essays stood out among hundreds of entries, showcasing their passion for STEM and their exceptional writing talents.

Janet and Tolay's essays were chosen from a fantastic range of entries from Townley students and were put forward alongside others to represent the school. The standard of entry was exceptionally high and we look forward to sharing the essay's submitted by students from across the age range with you in the future.

Tolay D – Second Place Winner

Tolay tackled the topic of 'The Placebo Effect and its evil twin', exploring its complexities and potential impact on our world. Through their articulate writing and deep understanding of the subject, Tolay captivated the judges with a unique perspective and a clear, compelling argument. Their essay demonstrated not only their knowledge but also their ability to communicate complex ideas in a way that is accessible and engaging to readers in the KS5 Science category.

Janet A – Third Place Winner

Janet chose to write about 'The Science Behind Roller Coasters', offering an insightful exploration of the mathematics behind roller coasters. The judges were impressed by Janet's ability to balance technical detail with accessible explanations, making their essay both informative and thought-provoking. Their work reflects a deep curiosity about the world of STEM engaging readers in the KS4 Mathematics category.

C Robinson - Director of Maths and Computing



Kent Schools FA Champions



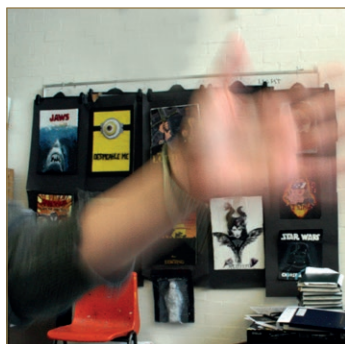
Congratulations to our Year 7 girls football team who were crowned Kent Schools FA champions at the Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone on Saturday 22nd March.

After beating a tough and determined Chislehurst side in the semi-final, our girls had one last hurdle to overcome. They played exceptionally well against a very strong Highworth Grammar School side. Lifting the U12 KSFA trophy was the perfect end to a very successful first season of playing together. The girls passion and commitment was evident throughout the tournament and they thoroughly deserve to be Kent County Champions.

We would like to thank their parents for their ongoing support as well as the staff and students who cheered them on at the final. This year group are full of talent and we hope they can continue to progress as a team throughout their time at Townley.

Mr R Tambling & Miss L Drew, P.E. Department

Investigating Images



Photography Club students have been investigating Composition (Viewpoints), Lighting, Shutter Speeds and Depth of Field (Focus) using 35mm SLR digital cameras with nature being the subject matter. They have also had experience using our traditional darkroom to make photograms.



Photography Club 2025

Townley Grammar School receives national recognition for performance

Townley Grammar School are delighted that their excellent outcomes have been recognised by SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) in this year's Educational Outcomes Awards. The award recognises that Townley Grammar School is among the highest performing secondary schools in the country, based on 2024 performance data and information from Ofsted.

Townley Grammar School was recognised for being in the top 20% of schools nationally for student progress in the 2024 end of KS4 exams.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England. To be recognised with an Educational Outcomes Award is a significant achievement and a testament to the work of the whole school community.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

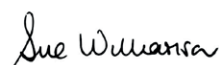
"Congratulations to Townley Grammar School on winning an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of staff. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."

SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2024 Exceptional Student Progress

Awarded to

Townley Grammar School

In recognition for being in the top 20% of schools nationally for student progress in the 2024 end of KS4 exams



Sue Williamson
Chief Executive

ssat the schools, students
and teachers network

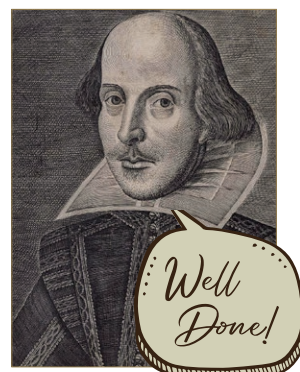


Oracy at Townley - a culture of positive talk outside of the classroom

This year, we have tried to offer a broad spectrum of opportunities for students to use talk as a tool to express themselves and understand others.

KS3 — The ESU's Performing Shakespeare competition

Students were tasked with learning and performing either a monologue or duologue from any of The Bard's famous plays. This challenging task required students to connect with a section of the text and see how they can bring this to life in the modern day — without any props or a set to help them. We watched a number of brilliant performances in the Townley inter-school round that saw Emma G, alongside Momore S.A and Elizabeth T. A, progress to the Regional Final. Emma's brilliant performance of A Midsummer Night's Helena was full of passion and confidence, and Momore and Elizabeth's Hamlet duologue progressed them to the next round. We look forward to following their involvement in this competition.



KS4 — Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

After 100 Year 10 students enjoyed a full day's workshop practicing skills, planning ideas, and performing speeches, six progressed to our Townley final. Here, Sarah A, Suki S. E, Meredith C, Maiah T, Kirpa N, and Immy C performed their brilliant, round-winning speeches once again, with Suki and Kirpa being selected to represent Townley at the regional final.



Kirpa said: *"It was a really nice experience and I met lots of new people.*

I've definitely got more confident at public speaking and encourage other people to embrace these kind of opportunities!"

The opportunity was an excellent spotlight on our students' perceptive ability to share stories, as well as a willingness to challenge themselves to perform for an audience. This is no mean feat, and every speech heard, from the classroom to the regional final, was a triumph.

KS5 — Talk the Talk: talk about the future

At the turn of the year, what feels like a lifetime ago now, 60 Year 12 students took part in a workshop that thought about the impending world of work. Students considered how they can make a strong first impression that culminated in mock interviews. Key takeaways from the day included how the day *"helped me practice not nervously laughing or smiling during interviews"*, as well as that *"oracy skills are not solely based on how confident a speaker you are, but also how important body language and facial expressions have a great impact."*

We have no doubt that the session had a positive impact in building confidence and preparedness for crucial next steps in the years to come.



Mr J. Mallinson, Deputy Curriculum Lead for English & Oracy Lead



Exciting Extensions

We are delighted with the progress on the construction of our two new extensions, which are now nearing completion. These fantastic new spaces will provide students with much-needed areas to enjoy their breaktimes and lunchtimes, offering a comfortable and welcoming environment for dining and socialising. We are excited about the positive impact these additions will have on our school community, giving students more opportunities to connect, relax, and recharge between their studies. These extensions marks an important step forward in enhancing the student experience at Townley Grammar!



**Save a life
Give blood**

Book to donate blood today

Please take time to watch this short video, which highlights the importance of donating blood.

Please watch Mike and Mabel's story:

<https://vimeo.com/1058300660/849ccf16ba>



From the age of 17, you can save lives by donating blood. It takes less than an hour in total and around 10 minutes to actually donate. It saves up to 3 adult lives or 6 children's lives. What's stopping you?

1. Use this QR code to visit blood.co.uk to book to donate
2. Please Follow @pintforMike on Instagram to show your support and to spread awareness of the importance of blood donation.
3. Please feel free to message us @pintforMike to share when you book and when you have donated a pint of blood. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you!

Lorna (Mike's wife) and Celine (Mabel's Mum)

Use this QR code to visit blood.co.uk to book to donate



Please Follow @pintforMike on Instagram



@PINTFORMIKE





In March, we held our annual Oxbridge evening for Year 11 and Year 12 parents and students, the purpose of the evening being to provide attendees with a holistic view of applying to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Mr Rouse, Head of Sixth Form detailed the Year 12 Oxbridge Elective syllabus along with the supportive programme in place at Townley for potential Oxbridge applicants. He was joined by Outreach Officers from Mansfield College, Oxford and Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge who covered preparing to apply, the application process, how to choose a college, admissions tests and interviews.

In addition, we had one of our current offer holders, looking to study Mathematics and Computer Science at Oxford, plus two alumnae in their first year at Oxford, one studying Classics and one at Cambridge studying Law. They all gave their personal insights into the application process, university life and studying at these most prestigious universities.

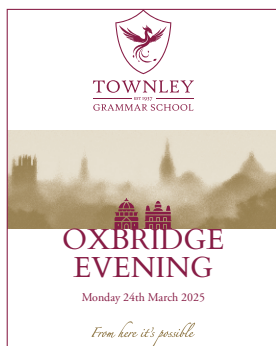
Feedback from some who attended:

"It gave me a good oversight to the application process and the steps I should take to prepare when I enter Year 12"

"I found it very helpful to outline what admissions tutors are looking for in your statement"

"It gave a real insight to what it was like to apply and to see how they are finding university life now"

The Oxbridge guide can be viewed/downloaded from our website: <https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/event-directory/oxbridge-evening/>



PiXL Parent/Carer Information Sheets

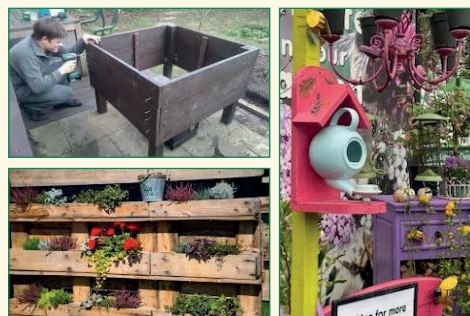


Townley Grammar have partnered with PiXL to provide a wide range of helpful resources, covering a wide range of topics from apprenticeships, handling exam pressure, social media to work experience we hope you will find the information sheets (pdf format) useful. Find all the infosheets on the school website:

<https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/our-school/our-community/parent-hub/pixl-parent-and-carer-info-sheets/>

Easter Fun Day

Bexley Targeted Youth Service Garden & Woodwork Project



Where: Welling Youth Centre, DA16 3JQ

When: Thursday 10th April **Times:** 11 - 3pm

Cost: Free and includes refreshments **Ages:** 11+

The aim of the project is to make garden planters and bird boxes for our hubs and other community venues in the Bexley borough.

You will be supported by youth workers and will have the opportunity to gain a new experience and meet new friends.

This youth offer is open to all Bexley young people.

If you would like to attend please contact your youth leader or Chris Lee to reserve your place. Or for more information call: 07792 661 364 or email: chris.lee@bexley.gov.uk

Careers and Futures Fair 2025

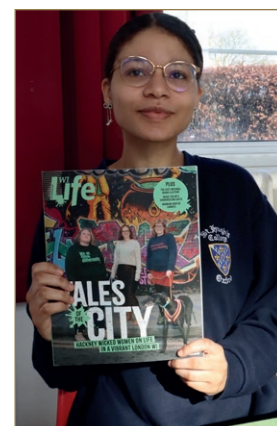
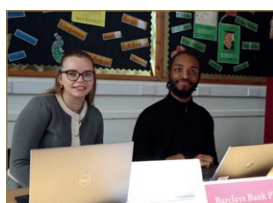
We held our annual Careers and Futures Fair entitled 'Inspire the next generation' with the support of our alumni, parents, employers and higher education providers earlier this month. Visited by everyone in the school from Year 7 to Year 13, both staff and students engaged with our visitors.

We want to offer our sincere thanks to those who volunteered their time: Arden University, Barclays Bank, Gallagher Insurance, Guy's & St Thomas' Pharmacy team, Metropolitan Police, Microsoft, Royal Air Force, Snap Inc., TG Baynes Solicitors, The McPin Foundation, The Women's Institute, Trinity Laban, and the Universities of Canterbury Christ Church, Kent, Leicester and Nottingham.



Friday 14th March, 9.05 am - 3.35 pm

In the School Hall





University Challenge

Over this half-term, the Year 13 cohort participated in truly epic University Challenge contest that saw intense heats, incredible displays of knowledge from our students, grit, determination, and one or two controversies along the way (thankfully all settled soon after, but the emotions were strong!)

Last week, 13.1 (the team of Caitlin, Kathryn, Keira, and Mahera) were crowned our Champions – having bested a very game 13.8 in a Final that was closely tied for a significant portion of the heat, before our would-be Champions made a break with a flurry of successfully answered ‘Starters for 10s’ followed by impressive conversions in their ‘Bonus Questions for 5 points’.

This week saw the Final Townley Heat – where our student Champions took on a team of staff members for all the glory. The staff team included Ms. Hurtt - an alumna of Townley whose team had won their year’s University Challenge contest and went on to defeat the staff team that faced them; now a staff member, she was vying to secure the first ever Grand Slam



in Townley’s University Challenge storied history, by adding victory as a staff member to her two previous accomplishments.

It was a magnificent battle of wits; the Townley staff - experts in their respective fields - put in a valiant effort, but 13.1 were battle-hardened, their reaction-times sharpened, hungry for the ultimate victory over their in locis parentum (though we shan’t pursue a Freudian analysis of the matter here!) – and they would not be denied!

When the last buzzer was sounded and the dust settled, 13.1 stood as our Ultimate University Challenge Champions of 2025 – remaining undefeated in their heats against peers and staff alike!

Ms. Hurtt would not realise (this year!) her ambition of becoming the First Ever Townley University Challenge Triple Champion, which leaves the honour still to be claimed. Perhaps in years to come, one of our 13.1 Champions might likewise return to Townley’s fold as a staff member and lay claim to that title. **Mr A Moustafa**

“ Out of all the outcomes of the university challenge, my team winning was certainly a surprise! This whole experience has been incredible, truly allowing me to test my general knowledge in a competitive environment. Being able to work with my amazing team members has allowed me to grow closer to them as we climbed our way through the tournament bracket. There were times when we fumbled a question or answered too slow, but by learning from our mistakes, we were able to build our confidence and get better alongside one another.

I’m grateful for my teammates’ intellect and am honoured to have been our team captain! **Keira F**

”

Argentina Exchange 2025

This January, a group of students and I had an amazing opportunity to visit and enjoy some of Banksy's artwork in London and take part in a street art workshop with Zincstyles. Initially, we were looking forward to the Argentinian exchange students joining us, so we could show them some of the diverse creativity in London, however, since they could no longer come, as their plans changed, the trip became an opportunity for us to take pictures and document a video. We also created a mural with a message inviting them to come next year. The message 'Together we can do great things' refers to humanity and teamwork, but also expresses our excitement to work together this March in Argentina, with St Andrew's Scots School.

During our trip, we started off by visiting one artwork from Banksy; Banksy's pelican artwork above Bonners Fish Bar, in Walthamstow and following this, we visited Banksy's tree mural in Finsbury Park. Both artworks were absolutely incredible and plenty of photos were taken.



One of the most fun and exciting highlights of the trip was when we all created a mural with graffiti after visiting Banksy's art. We each had our own letter to design and spray paint whatever we wanted, and our imagination was fueled by the many inspiring and creative artworks around us in the art tunnel where we created our mural.

For our mural, we worked with a workshop led by the artist Zincstyles. Danny (Zincstyles), the leader of the workshop, was very inspiring and taught us how to use spray paint. It was definitely an experience I would do again, and I really recommend it to anyone who has a passion for art, or even anyone looking for a fun activity to do with friends.

Despite how much fun we all had spray painting, I believe that the best part of the trip was the opportunity to get to know and connect with people you wouldn't usually talk to and make many new friends.

Elizabeth V, Year 10 Athene



GET INTO TEACHING
INFORMATION
EVENT 2025

Come along and meet our friendly team to find out about the different routes into teaching.

We have local primary and secondary schools offering school-based teacher training places for September 2025.

Unable to make the event? Please email Jo Fogg, our ITT Administrations Manager at jo.fogg@tkat.org for information and advice.

WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025 9.30AM - 12.00PM
Blackfen Community Library Blackfen Rd, Sidcup DA15 9LU



Please scan the QR code to view our booklet!

✉ scitt@tkat.org
☎ 020 3740 1808
🌐 www.scitt.tkat.org

FamilyFirst

Family First is a free publication that covers everything you and your family need in order to build a happier and healthier lifestyle. Family First is a quarterly magazine specifically designed to improve the health of over 6,000,000 families across England, Scotland & Wales. Working alongside major sporting governing bodies, Public Health England, leading food & drink brands, sportswear giants, and local authorities, Family First is helping to combat childhood obesity. Our aim is simple: to get children & young adults active, playing more sport, exercising regularly, and eating healthily.



Here's your free copy of the UK's largest parenting title - Enjoy!

<https://tinyurl.com/yzkfp6f6>

Why dementia friends cause is so important

Challenging Misconceptions: Dementia is often misunderstood and feared, leading to isolation and discrimination for those living with it. The Dementia Friends program aims to change perceptions by providing education and raising awareness about dementia, its impact, and how people can support those living with it.

Promoting Understanding and Empathy: By learning about dementia and the experiences of those living with it, individuals can develop empathy and understanding, leading to more compassionate and supportive interactions.

Empowering People to Take Action: The Dementia Friends program encourages individuals to take small but meaningful actions to support people with dementia, such as being patient, understanding, and offering assistance.

Creating Dementia-Friendly Communities: By raising awareness and promoting understanding, the Dementia Friends program helps create communities where people with dementia feel included, respected, and supported.

Improving Quality of Life for People with Dementia: When people with dementia feel understood and supported, they are more likely to remain active and engaged in their communities, leading to a higher quality of life.

Supporting Carers and Families: The Dementia Friends program also provides support and resources for carers and family members, helping them to better understand and support those living with dementia.

Global Impact: The Alzheimer's Society, which runs the Dementia Friends program, has set an ambitious target of creating four million Dementia Friends by 2020, demonstrating the global scale of the issue and the need for widespread change.

Dementia Friends sessions, run by dementia champions, are disseminating awareness about dementia

Jemma B, Year 8, Aphrodite



EASTER EVENTS WEEK ONE

April

Tue 8	Easter Fun Activity (Book EB) 2.30-3.30pm £2 Make an Easter Garden
Wed 9	Stay n Play Drop In 9.30-11am Free Lots of toddler fun, no booking necessary
Wed 9	Messy Church Easter Party (Book EB) 2-3pm Free Fun, food, games, craft and faith
Thur 10	Colouring Fun Drop In 10am-2pm Free Lots of colouring fun
Thur 10	Lego Fun Drop In 3-4pm Free With loads of lego, come and get creative!
Fri 11	Egg Lanterns (Book EB) 2-3pm £1.50 per child Come and decorate an egg shaped lantern

Book on Eventbrite

Blackfen Community Library

JOIN OUR EASTER FAYRE

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 10.30AM-3PM

Free Easter Treasure Hunt
Face Painting Tattoos Treats in the Cafe
Craft Raffle Biscuit Icing
Easter Bunny Saxofonic 11am
Easter Minute to Win It 11.45am and more...

10.30am Easter Bonnet Parade & Competition Bring your ready made bonnet no need to book	11am Guided Walk in Blackfen then get a Rooted Coffee Voucher
10.45am Fancy Dress Competition Wear your best Easter costume no need to book	12.30pm & 1.30pm £1 Mr Fruitcake Show Book on EB

Blackfen Community Library

New Generation Church

Book on Eventbrite

Social Media Online Safety

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – used by around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds. It may be one of the most familiar social media names around but features like AI-powered chatbots and Threads integration have added fresh challenges for families and schools to navigate. From worrying livestreams to issues like social exclusion and fear of missing out, Instagram isn't just about photos. As the platform evolves, so too must the conversations we have with young people about how they use it. The latest National College guide outlines what these new features involve, the possible risks they bring and how to make the most of Instagram's parental controls to keep children safe online.

Ms L Butler , Assistant Headteacher , Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mental Health Lead

Urban Classroom at the RIBA

Two year 10 groups of our Urban Classroom subject took a trip to the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects). First, students visited an exhibition about designing architecture in difficult places which was followed by a workshop where students created their own models of buildings within a given place.

Our students displayed an exemplar standard of behaviour, they were engaged and delivered articulate explanations about their projects. Overall, a fantastic educational and creative experience for our students

Ms Ona de la Blanca, Head of Art and Urban Classroom Curriculum Lead



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition



Today marks the start of an exciting challenge as we set off on the first-ever Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition run by Townley Grammar. Over the past few months, we have trained in first aid and developed essential expedition skills to prepare for this journey. Having already completed Bronze and Silver, we are eager to take on this next level of challenge. Carrying all our equipment while trekking for miles is no small feat, and we anticipate being tired—but we're also looking forward to testing our navigation skills and resilience as we make our way through Exmoor.

This journey will push our endurance, teamwork, and determination, but it also promises to be an unforgettable experience. From breathtaking landscapes during the day to roasting marshmallows around the Trangia in the evening, we can't wait to create lasting memories and strengthen our bonds as a group.

The DofE Prefects





Our year 11 celebration event is a traditional part of the school calendar as we celebrate the journey of our pupils. This celebration is not about GCSE grades but the contribution which they have made to our school community. They have faced challenges, overcome obstacles, and emerged stronger than ever. We are proud of them and all that they have accomplished. We were joined on the evening by Charlotte W, a former pupil, who gave a wonderful speech to the students.

Thank you to Ms Drew and Mrs Fitzgerald for all of their hard work to organise a lovely event. A special thanks to Mrs Avery for all of the beautiful programmes and Mr Carpenter for his technical support. We would also like to wish year 11 all the very best for their GCSE examinations

Mrs Franz, Assistant Headteacher

Our year 11 celebration evening was one filled with an excellent mix of reflection, recognition, and remarkable performances from friends. The evening started off with insightful and encouraging speeches from teachers before moving into an inspiring way to celebrate both academic and personal achievements, and it was heartwarming to see so many appreciated for their hard work and contributions to the school. The support received from students and teachers alike was unparalleled, and the evening was a true testament to the strong sense of community we have built over the years. It was a fitting tribute to our journey so far and a reminder of the bright futures that lie ahead.

Caitlin N, 11 Hestia



Familiarisation Tests

Townley PTA Familiarisation Mock Entrance Tests

Do you have a younger child that is sitting the 11+ this september?
***This is by far the cheapest Familiarisation Test available and
All the money raised goes back into Townley Grammar.***

The PTA at Townley Grammar School, in conjunction with Atom Learning, are organising familiarisation tests to give Year 5 pupils (or earlier!) the opportunity to practice the Bexley Selection Test (also known as 11+). While your child sits the test, Atom Learning will host a free Parent Information Session on 'How to Prepare for the Bexley Test', covering:

How to support your child's preparation
How to identify their areas for improvement
Key information on the transition to Year 7

Atom Learning produces the mock papers that your child will sit. The entire test experience is designed to closely replicate the actual exam, both in terms of the school environment and the content of the test. Following the test, we will provide a detailed report on your child's performance, including their placement within the cohort. This allows parents and carers to identify any areas where their child may benefit from additional support.

Your child's results will be sent to you via email by Atom Learning within 3-5 working Days. You will receive a report detailing your child's performance and where they place within the cohort. Similar to the real test, results will include your child's standardised age scores (SAS) for each paper and their overall weighted scores.

Please note: The Mock Tests are designed by Atom Learning but are organised and run exclusively by the Townley Grammar School PTA. Any queries should be directed to the PTA at contact@townleypta.co.uk, not the school or Atom Learning.

**BUY A BUNDLE
FOR ALL FOUR
SESSIONS WITH A
DISCOUNT OF**
25%

There are 162 seats available per session.
**The dates are: 26th/April, 17th/May,
14th/June and 5th/July.**
Morning sessions from 8:30 to 12:30.
Afternoon sessions from 13:30 to 17:10

Book seats from the Townley Grammar PTA Website:
<https://www.townleypta.co.uk/11-plus-mock-exams-2025>

CENTRE STAGE THEATRE ACADEMY
SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT 2025
MONDAY 28TH JULY - SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST

Footloose

THE FOOTLOOSE CAST IS OPEN TO ANYONE AGED 8 - 21 YEARS
 CONTACT US OR SCAN THE QR CODE
 TO BOOK YOUR AUDITION: **0800 058 2521**
WWW.CENTRESTAGETHEATREACADEMY.COM

CS TA

'FOOTLOOSE' A STAGE ADAPTATION BY DEAN PITCHFORD AND WALTER BOBBIE. MUSIC BY TOM SNOW LYRICS BY DEAN PITCHFORD

CENTRE STAGE THEATRE ACADEMY Act. Dance. Sing.

BECKENHAM ACADEMY THURSDAYS AT LANGLEY PARK SCHOOL FOR BOYS	MAIDSTONE ACADEMY TUESDAYS AT ST AUGUSTINE ACADEMY
BEXLEYHEATH ACADEMY THURSDAYS AT ST COLUMBA'S BOYS' SCHOOL	MEDWAY ACADEMY SATURDAYS AT BRADFIELDS ACADEMY
BROMLEY ACADEMY SATURDAYS AT HAYES SCHOOL	NORTHFLEET ACADEMY SATURDAYS AT NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
DARTFORD ACADEMY WEDNESDAYS AT REYNOLDS TRAINING ACADEMY	ORPINGTON ACADEMY TUESDAYS AT NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL
GRAVESEND ACADEMY MONDAYS AT THE WOODVILLE THEATRE	SIDCUP ACADEMY SATURDAYS AT BURNT OAK JUNIOR SCHOOL

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL **0800 058 2521**
WWW.CENTRESTAGETHEATREACADEMY.COM

BB Soccer Camps

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to announce that BB Soccer is hosting a series of exciting football camps this summer across various locations. These camps offer a fantastic opportunity for children aged 4 to 16 to develop their football skills, make new friends, and enjoy the game in a fun and supportive environment.

Camp Location: Hurstmere School Bexley

Special Offer: 10% discount on all bookings made before 9th April 2025.

To take advantage of this offer, please use the code YZR793 during the booking process.

Free School Meals Places:

We have a limited amount of free school meals places available for students which is part of our HAF program message us for more details about how to access your free spot.

Booking Information:

To secure a spot for your child, please visit our official website:

<https://bb-soccer.classforkids.io/camps>

For more details, please contact BB Soccer directly at

info@bbsoccer.net or call 07932 750 548

BB SOCCER

EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025

Book Early For Discount

SCAN HERE!

U7 - U16 (Girls) Development Days

U13 - U18 (Boys) Development Days

U5 - U16 (Mixed) Full Day & Half Day Holiday Camps

SITES:

- Caterham
- Purley
- Sutton
- Carshalton
- Bexley

DISCOUNTS:

- After School Club or Public Class member 10%
- BBFC U7 - U18 Team Member 20%
- Early Bird Booking Code: ZUW584 Expires 8th March 30%

Prices From £19.99 per day

info@bbsoccer.co.uk
 @bb_soccer
www.bbsoccer.co.uk

Rhineland trip

The Rhineland trip was not only a very interesting learning experience it was also lots of fun. We went to numerous museums and learnt a lot about Germany's rich history. The art museum tour was especially engrossing as we learnt about how the different art pieces were made. My favourite place that we visited was the Cologne cathedral which has an engrossing past; it is not only beautiful from the outside but also stunning from the inside. From the colourful stained-glass windows to the 44m high ceilings, it makes you feel a blast from the past. The Schokolade Museum in Cologne and the Haribo shop made the trip just that little bit sweeter. Practicing my German speaking skills as we roamed around Bonn city centre and Cologne city centre helped us to really get a feel for local life in Germany. It was a really fun trip and we all loved it!! Thank you to Herr Souris, Frau Houghton, Miss Spencer and Miss Mitchell for making this a highlight of our Townley journeys. **Rina B (10 Hestia)**



GAMING AND GAMBLING AWARENESS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS

Ygam are working with the Metropolitan Police to offer an online information session to help develop your understanding of gaming and gambling harms, enabling you to have open conversations with your children.

Workshop overview:

- Gambling: exploring the influences on children and young people
- Gaming: discussing the benefits and concerns
- The blurred lines between gaming and gambling
- How to spot the signs of harm
- Useful tips to create a healthy gaming balance
- Where to get help and support

WHAT
MIGHT INFLUENCE
A YOUNG PERSON
TO GAMBLE?

WHAT IS
A LOOT
BOX?

WHY ARE
IN-GAME ITEMS
SO IMPORTANT
TO YOUNG
PEOPLE?

We also have a dedicated Parent Hub which aims to provide information and guidance to help you safeguard your children against the potential harms of gaming and gambling. Find out more here: parents.ygam.org

Book your FREE place now!

DATE: Tuesday 6th May 2025

TIME: 19:00 - 20:15

VENUE: Online via Microsoft Teams

To register, please scan the QR Code or click [HERE](https://parents.ygam.org)

Family Easter Afternoon Tea

A selection of sandwiches and savouries, fresh scones with jam and cream, topped off with a variety of Easter treats and served with never-ending tea or a barista coffee and a juice or smoothie for the kids!

Wednesday
16th April
2pm

£12 per adult
£10 per child (under 16)

ROOTED
— COFFEE HOUSE —

Book via Eventbrite or the front desk

Blackfen
Community Library

**New
Generation
Church**