

# Rain or Shine - Our School is Storming Ahead!

As we reach the end of this half term, I am once again struck by what a busy and productive period it has been for the Townley community. It has been a term defined by a wealth of opportunities that allow our students to engage in so much more than just their academic studies, fostering the creativity and character that make our school unique.

From the stunning production of Macbeth, which showcased the incredible talents of our performers and technical crew alike, to various local and international



trips, our students have been busy exploring the world around them. We have celebrated sporting excellence, from Vedanshi J's double medal success at the U15 English National Badminton Championships

to our Sixth Form making history with their first-ever basketball fixture victory. Furthermore, our Year 10 students found their voices in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge, while others represented the school with distinction in the Articulation Prize regional heats.

Looking ahead, the next term is short but remains jam-packed with vital events.



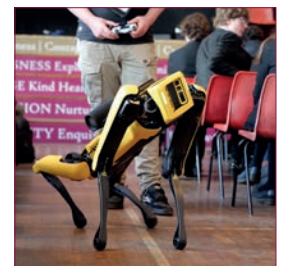
We look forward to our GCSE Options Evening for Year 9, a variety of cultural events, and the start of the building work for our brand-new science classrooms. We will also be celebrating World Book Day on 5th March, coinciding with the start of the National Year of Reading.

With the academic year moving quickly, it is a crucial time for our examination year groups. I encourage Year 11 and Year 13 to remain focused on those 'marginal gains' as they prepare for their summer exams. Similarly, Year 10 and Year 12 should now be turning

their thoughts toward their internal examinations. We were pleased to support this transition recently with Year 12 taster days for our Year 11 students and a highly successful Careers and Futures Fair, which provided invaluable insights into life beyond Townley.

I would like to thank our staff, parents, and alumni for their continued support in making these opportunities possible. I wish everyone in our community a restful, safe, and productive half-term break.

**Miss S Totty, Interim Headteacher**







## Articulation Prize Regional Heats: What a result!

A huge congratulations to Tokemi (12.4) who, following her winning at the Townley Grammar Articulation Prize internal heats, was awarded second prize in the regional heats that took place at Christie's. Further to this event, Tokemi has now become part of the Articulation Alumni Network. This community will provide Tokemi with future Articulation opportunities and potential collaborations with institutions such as the National Gallery.

The Adjudicator of the Prize was Rachel Dedman, writer, art historian and Curator of Contemporary Art from the Middle East at the V&A. Dedman's feedback on Tokemi's presentation was full of well deserved praise and complements:



*"What a brilliant and fun presentation this was. I like that you started with a wonderfully sumptuous description of the work, and kept up this rich forensic approach to its exploration. You gave such a strong and compelling reading of the painting, traversing us through its details and its symbolism, immersing us in Fragonard's world."*

*"Your analysis of colour, material, composition was sensitively done – I loved the way you described the man in the foreground "soaking up the light of the woman" on the swing. I appreciate that you gave us some biography of Fragonard, including a mention of the problematic nature of his relationship to his sister-in-law, and a solid context to Rococo style and hedonism. This set the scene for the analysis and argument that followed."*

*"You took a painting that appears playful and superficial on the surface, and revealed it to be the site of a rich psychological drama playing out before us! It was so cleverly done, with humour and verve, and felt like it was your personal take on the painting."*

*"You are a brilliant speaker, and the speech was very well-written. I found your PowerPoint fun and playful – it matched your style."*

We are immensely proud of Tokemi and of what she has achieved.

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

## Year 10 Students Find Their Voice in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge



On Friday 6th Feb, 90 Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge — workshops that look to build the confidence of our young people through public speaking and sharing a positive message.

We have worked with Jack Petchey for a number of years, with the trainers always commending our students' enthusiasm, eloquence, and courage. This year was no exception. All of our students stepped outside of their comfort zone and challenged

themselves across the day, embodying the traits that make our school so unique.

Six winners were selected to progress to the 'Townley Final', where they will have the opportunity to perform their speeches once again, this time for the entire year group. Two of these students will then move on to next stage, potentially building towards the summer's grand final at the Cambridge Theatre in the heart of London's West End.

**Mr J. Mallinson, Curriculum Lead for English**



TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRESENTED:

# MACBETH

by William Shakespeare



## Technical Team Reflection- By Antara K, 9 Hera

During the production of Macbeth, I served as a member of the technical team with a primary focus on lighting design and execution. My role involved managing complex transitions to mirror the play's sombre and supernatural themes, ensuring that each cue heightened the dramatic tension on stage. While rehearsals required intense focus and precision to coordinate movements in the dark, the technical booth also served as a space for high-spirited team collaboration.

Despite the high-pressure environment, the crew shared many light-hearted moments behind the scenes, balancing the rigorous demands of the script with a sense of humour. This experience allowed me to develop my technical proficiency in lighting while contributing to a cohesive and supportive production team.

## Macbeth A Narrator's Tale - Hamidah Manneh - 10 Athene

Being a narrator in 'Macbeth' was a gratifying role to play in the tragedy as I got to go on stage, provide ominous insight to the audience and vanish - much like the witches! The whole company was so talented, and it was a cathartic moment to see the fruits of our labour recognised by a standing ovation at the final show. I am very grateful to the production for allowing me to gain more insight into my acting and helping to expand my Shakespearean knowledge. I would 100% vouch for an Olivier Award, as our interpretation of the play was that great!



## Macbeth Review - Miss Mitchell, English Teacher

It's always a pleasure to see our students excel outside of the classroom, and Performing Arts is frequently where we see them shine brightest! As part of the GCSE Literature Curriculum, Macbeth is well known and well loved by the English department. To see our students- from all year groups- put such love into this show was incredible to see. This show so beautifully captured the complex emotions at play in this text: guilt, madness, shame, honour, pride - all such nuanced and adult experiences conveyed so impressively by students as young as year 7!

What blew us away was the sense of unity emanating from this production. Having had the opportunity to observe a few rehearsals, and to be backstage pre-show with students, I was heartened to see such strong friendships and working relationships formed- between students across all year groups- both on stage and off. Students weren't just acting- they were directing, running lines, producing, overseeing lighting and sound tech- this production rested on the shoulders of our students, and the results were incredible.

As always, leading these incredible productions are the department staff - who work tirelessly to create these incredible opportunities for our students, and put on a great show for our whole Townley community to enjoy! Thank you again to everyone who was involved in this production for a fantastic show!



# Knowledge That Protects: Knife Crime Awareness Day



## Hearing directly from our students: Year 8 participants share their experiences and learning from the recent Knife Crime Awareness workshop.

I applied for the Knife Crime Awareness event run by Bexley Council as I wanted to know why young people are the demographic most involved in knife crime. The event was not only informative and revealing but also engaging. I was taught why some young people are involved in knife crime but also that they rarely intend for the knife to be used. Furthermore, I learnt how it can deeply alter your life physically and mentally.

In a session, we explored the analogy of knife crime being compared to a game and for some teens it can feel that way, however, it has very real consequences. Street Doctors taught us how to aid someone who has just been stabbed. This was extremely helpful and made me feel as if I could make a change and use the information to educate others.

Therefore, If I ever come across a situation like that - I not only have the knowledge but also the confidence to help someone. This experience was incredibly advantageous and provided me with such a beneficial, unforgettable insight.

**Alexandra, 8 Artemis**



Something I found surprising is how many people can get injured from their own weapons as they carry it as a protection source. I found that having a speech from an actual person that experienced these things can actually prove how dangerous it is.

My key takeaways are how many people get injured from their own weapons, knife crime not only impacts you but everyone who is watching it and can cause PTSD. This workshop was important cause you learn a lot of information and now I know what to do if someone has been stabbed, how to not involve myself with violence, and how mental health can be impacted a lot.

**Yi En, 8 Demeter**

Something that really surprised me was how many people only carry a knife for defence, even though it can result in bad consequences. What I found powerful was the criminal who came in to talk to us and how he shared how knife crime ruined his life. What I learned from Street Doctors is that there is no "safe" place to be stabbed. Learning about

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## Knowledge That Protects: Knife Crime Awareness Day

knife crime is important because you can educate others as well as yourself and can prove how it can cause a big impact on somebody's life, shaping how they go about their day and limiting things they can do, like getting certain jobs.

**Anjolaoluwa, 8 Hera**

I applied for the knife crime awareness conference as I constantly hear about it happening in the UK and around London and I thought that some extra awareness may keep me and those around me safer in the future. I was surprised how interactive it was as I expected it to be a day full of talks but we got to make comics, try first aid, and hold police shields. I learnt why people actually turn to a knife, the lifelong consequences of it and how it affects people. I really didn't realise how life changing it was to know that someone was carrying a knife, yet alone getting into a knife fight. I found the message of the speaker (Shiv) really powerful as the way he explained it changed the way I thought of those that carried a knife. The way he spoke showed me that he never wanted to hurt anyone, it happened as he wanted to be respected and treated like a person and it was a series of bad decisions that led him to a point where he couldn't turn back. Out of everything that I learnt, the most important thing I took from this day is that a knife won't protect you, it will just harm your future.

**Eloise, 8 Hestia**

I applied for the Knife Crime Awareness because I wanted to know what to do if I'm in a situation related to it. There we learnt about why people carry knives around with them, what to do if you see someone stabbed and the consequences of a knife crime incident. What really surprised me is that the majority of teen deaths aren't actually caused by gang violence but by road accidents, highlighting how important it is to stay safe when crossing them. My key takeaway was that knife crime can affect you and people around you for the rest of your lives and how mental health can play a big part in knife crimes. This workshop was very important as we learnt key skills like saving someone's life and how to prevent knife crime.

**Simran, 8 Hera**

**Mr L White**

**Year 8 Learning Manager**

## Film Studies: Students Explore 'Amy' and Quiz Director at the BFI



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Year 13 Film Studies students were accompanied by Miss Welch to a Study Day at the British Film Institute focused on the documentary film 'Amy'. Students study the film, which chronicles the life of the singer Amy Winehouse, as part of their A Level course and so an opportunity to not only revise the key ideas of the film, but also take part in a Question and Answer session with the film's director was invaluable!

The day started with a recap of key documentary debates and a focused key scene deconstruction. We then had the opportunity to watch the film in its entirety in the BFI's state of the art cinema before breaking for lunch.

In the afternoon, we were treated to a Q&A session with the film's director Asif Kapadia who shared his story about breaking into the film industry and working with Amy's family and friends to create the film from archive footage of the singer. Suzanne asked a very pertinent question about working with the film's composer Antonio Pinto which Kapadia answered in great detail.

Overall it was a very useful trip for our upcoming A Level exams and even more importantly, an enjoyable day at an incredible venue. We even managed to grab some free film posters!

**Written by Year 13 Film Studies students**



# Careers and Futures Fair 2026



This year's Fair took place during the morning of Wednesday 4th February with every year group attending for a 25 minute slot. With 25 stalls and 38 people from different careers to meet, the Fair was quite busy. Aston, Kent, Leicester and UEA universities, LSEC college and Rose Bruford provided information on their courses with AIM London available to discuss apprenticeships.

We were delighted to have so many of our alumni and parents manning the careers stalls sharing their career insights and employers delivering advice on routes into their industry sectors. Four of our alumni on degree apprenticeship programmes in Project Management, Data Analysis and two in their first year as Solutions Architects represented Amazon, with others representing their companies, such as a student



Paramedic, Technology Sales Executive, Business Development Manager, Teacher of English as a second Language, a Postdoctoral Research Associate and a Commercial Rights and Business Affairs who works for the BBC.

We thanks to the London East Careers Hub, we had a Social Value Manager, an apprentice and T-Level student from WSP, a Community Investment Manager and Quantity Surveyor from Amber Construction, a Chartered Structural Civil Engineer, a Technical Consultant from Transport for London, a Principal Designer from GoConstruct and from our staff contact, a graduate Bridge Engineer from Mott Macdonald.

We welcomed back previous attendees McPhin, who were represented by a Peer Researcher and Public Involvement Officer and TG Baynes whose Trainee Solicitors had different pathways into their current

role. One parent from Fabriq UK Landscape Architects returned with her colleague as they were now offering apprenticeships in this industry. Another parent, an AI Enablement Advisor, really enjoyed talking with pupils about her job role.

An RAF Flight Lieutenant, like all the other stall holders, was really impressed by the questions raised by the pupils, in particular Year 9 who are about to consider their GCSE options. Each year we are fortunate to be able to offer a variety of career insights through the continual support of our alumni and parents. If you are interested in supporting the Townley Careers programme in any way, please get in touch.

**Mrs W Williams, Director of Careers & Progression**





# Aerospace Careers Programme 2026 Roadshow

**On 10th February we welcomed back the Aerospace Careers Programme Roadshow (ACP), who first visited Townley back in November 2024.**

Year 12 Townley students who either studied A-level physics or were interested in working in the

aerospace, space or aviation industries, participated in the event. They were joined by Year 12 students from Beths, Chis & Sid, Harris Falconwood and Leigh Stationers' Academy.

Introducing the ACP alongside the history of the aerospace industry, the speaker then presented on UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) operations.



This included the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, the Internet of Things, Quantum Computing, Nanotechnology, 3D Printing, Robotics and Virtual Reality. A key message being how these technologies are being adopted by these industries; and how to find out more about related careers.



Following on was an inspiring and engaging insight into future technology, blockchain and virtual reality. The third speaker gave an overview on the pathways into becoming a commercial airline pilot explaining his own career journey. The fourth speaker was notably the most popular-Spot, the Boston Dynamics quadruped robot 'dog' who was able to answer all questions posed by the students, including some in a foreign language.

During the afternoon students had an opportunity to be 'hands-on' with drone flight simulators, VR flight experiences and Augmented Reality design with 3D Printing, plus, new for this year, an aeroplane flight simulator. Year 12 enjoyed engaging with the high-tech equipment and have been given an

opportunity to complete an introductory aviation and technology course. This will provide a deeper insight into the history and science of aviation through the ages and is designed to stimulate student interest in new technologies and the opportunities they present for career development. <https://aerospacecareersprogramme.co.uk/>

**Mrs W Williams,**  
**Director of Careers & Progression**



新年快乐

# 2026

YEAR OF THE HORSE

## HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



Marking the end of the Lunar Calendar, Chinese New Year falls on the 17th of February. Chinese New Year is underpinned by sharing prosperity, luck and familial love along with sharing meals with loved ones and quality time. This year is the year of the horse, according to the Chinese horoscope, people born this year are natural born leaders who are tenacious and likeable in nature. Moreover, to share how they celebrate Chinese New Year, A Year 13 student, Isabelle has written the next section along with some pictures.

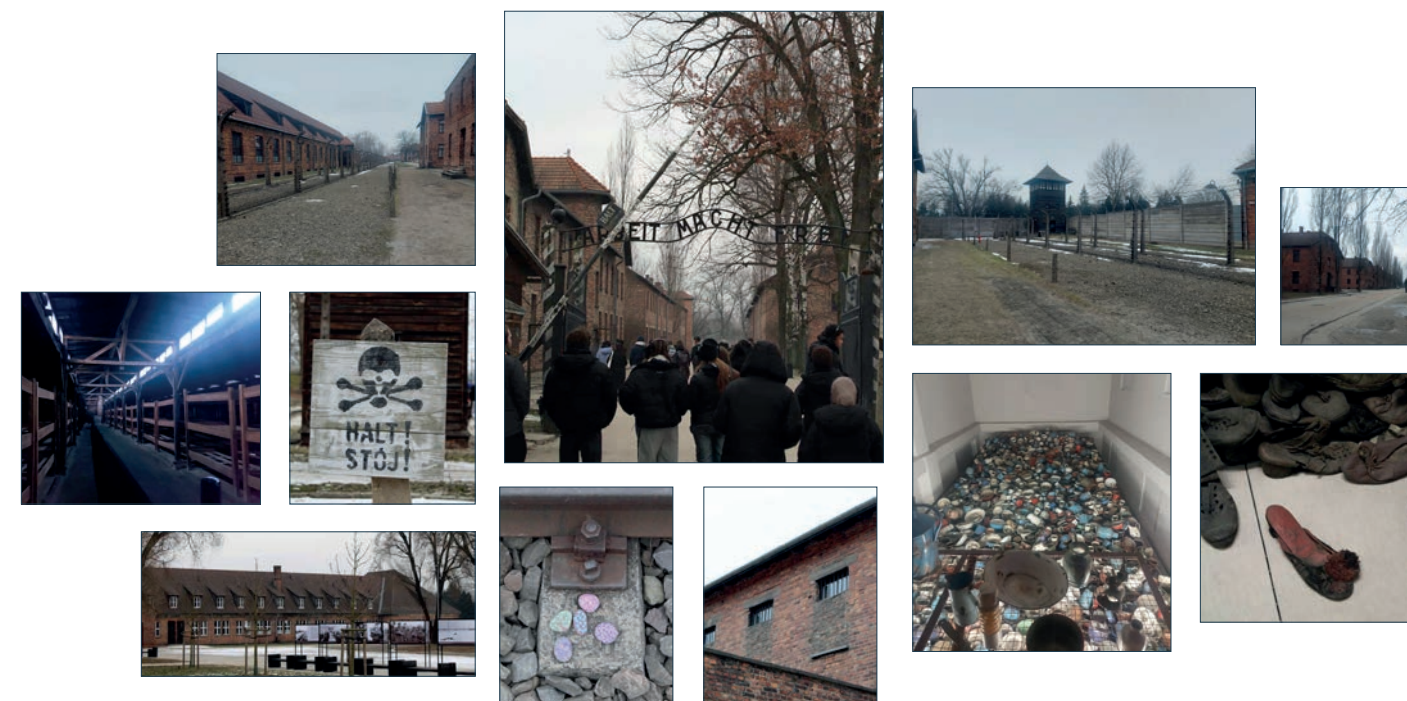
Traditionally, most people celebrate Chinese New Year Day by spending time at home with family. I spend my time at my temple, the London Fo Guang Shan Temple helping out. Usually my family and I will go there on Chinese New Years Eve, have hotpot with everyone there, symbolising togetherness/reunion and take part in a ritual that involves everyone standing around the table with chopsticks, mixing and lifting (an action known as *lǎo qī/lo hei*) a shredded vegetable dish called 'yúshēng (mandarin)/yu sang (cantonese)' as high as possible whilst saying auspicious phrases which symbolises prosperity and success.

Towards midnight we take part in a Chinese New Year chanting service, wishing those around us and those in the Fo Guang Shan Headquarters in Taiwan, a Happy Chinese New Year. Then in the morning, we take part in another chanting service, before watching a lion dance performance that represents protection, and driving away bad fortune, where everyone will give red packets filled with money and eat a sweet, sticky dessert made from glutinous rice flour and brown sugar called *nián gāo/nin gou* which symbolises moving up in life and unity.

The day is very busy but full of joy, with lots of people coming to visit the temple to receive lucky fortune bags (usually containing a red scroll of new year calligraphy, fruits and sweets), buy items from the food and temple offerings stalls which I help out at, selling items such as buddhist bracelets, incense sticks, auspicious keyrings, all which have been offered to the Buddhas. And whilst I may spend Chinese New Year Day at the temple, I still make sure to celebrate with my family with a nice meal around the same time, and that balance is really heartwarming as the temple is also a place that feels like home and family to me.

Isabelle C, 13.7

# Lessons from Auschwitz



Visiting Auschwitz was not just a trip, but an experience that required us to stop, listen, and reflect. We were able to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau through the Lessons From Auschwitz programme, which is a programme which aims to deepen our understanding of the Holocaust while encouraging reflection on the dangers of hatred, discrimination, and silence. To get into the programme, we had to write an application and then attend a seminar in which we were able to hear a testimony from a Holocaust survivor John Dobai Janos, followed up by a group discussion about specific cases which occurred during the Holocaust, to show us it's not just a story of death, but destruction of real, vibrant lives and communities.

We started our trip at Auschwitz at 2:30 PM. We got to visit each individual block which contained real images from inside the camp, real accessories such as luggage, shoes and clothes (which were still preserved in very good quality) and even human hair. Throughout this, we had a tour guide which explained every sight in detail, giving us information about what we were seeing. We later drove over to Birkenau, and upon entrance we saw the huge gates with the train tracks that led into the camp. This was a very emotionally heavy moment for all of us. We were able to see the absolutely horrifying conditions that many of the people had to endure; including the bunk beds they'd slept in and the washroom. We ended off by taking the same journey as those who were sent to death, from the selection process at the wagon to the gas chamber and held a memorial service led by Rabbi Akiva Rosenblatt.

This was a sobering experience that made the reality of the Holocaust impossible to ignore. The visit was also very emotionally challenging not only because of what was said, but also because of what needed no explanation. Walking through the camp encouraged quiet reflection and deeper understanding of the human impact behind historical facts. The experience was difficult to process, but it was an important opportunity to reflect and learn, and although emotionally heavy, the visit highlighted the importance of remembrance and education.

Zuzanna Year 12

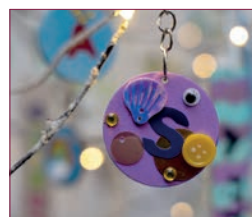




## Double Medal Success at U15 English National Badminton Championships

We are proud to share that Vedanshi J, Year 10, Aphrodite, has achieved an excellent milestone by winning two medals - Gold and Bronze in the Under 15 English Nationals Badminton Championship held in December 2025 at the University of Warwick. This remarkable achievement reflects her dedication, hard work, and commitment to the sport. Vedanshi's family are so proud of her and wanted to share the winning news with the whole school community, well done Vedanshi from everyone at Townley Grammar School! **Manish J, Vedanshi's Proud Father**

## Children's Mental Health Awareness week



This week, our school community took a meaningful pause for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. It was a week dedicated to shifting our focus from the "to-do list" to the "well-being list." Through a series of activities and workshops, we explored how grounding and mindfulness can provide a sense of calm in our busy lives, photos above shows Townley students that have been doing arts and crafts in the Pastoral Hub.

From creative sessions that sparked new ideas to collaborative spaces that encouraged honest communication. A huge thank you to everyone who participated with such openness. Let's keep these conversations going and continue to prioritise our mental health throughout the term.

**Mrs Johal, Assistant Learning Manager Years 7-9 and Ms L Butler, Assistant Headteacher**



## Year 10 Climbers Rise to the Challenge at The Reach

On 26th January, 37 Year 10 GCSE PE students attended The Reach climbing centre to complete part of their final practical assessment. They learned how to harness, belay, boulder, grip and follow a wide variety of routes and challenges. The students worked extremely hard to complete their assessments to an exceptionally high level. They were supportive of one another throughout and were a credit to themselves and our school community.

**Mrs S Hawkey, Curriculum Leader of PE**

## Townley Sixth Form Makes Sporting History with Dramatic Basketball Win



The Sixth Form students that took part in the historic victory were: Maciej Max, Iker, Murray, Emmanuel, Osagie, David and Tariq.

On Wednesday 4th February a group of sixth form boys made Townley Grammar School history by competing in the first sports fixture ever for the sixth form team. The boys competed against Trinity C of E School in a Basketball match as part of the U19 Bexley Secondary Basketball League

The boys showed outstanding quality in the match and demonstrated an amazing team effort with all of the Townley values on display. Their hard work and commitment in the last 18 months paid off as they beat Trinity 37-33 in what was a physically demanding and challenging game. A show of sporting brilliance and teamwork from the boys to win the game. Well done to all the boys that played in the match and represented Townley to the highest standards.

**Mr R Tambling, Teacher of PE**



World sleepDay

On the 13th of March it  
is world sleep day!!!!

So as an accessory  
alongside your uniform  
feel free to wear a sleep  
mask and/or fluffy  
socks to school!



'Have a Nice Dream'



## Revolting Rhymes Come to Life in Annual Year 7 Drama Showcase



The Annual Samantha Lovell Inter-House Drama Competition saw seven Year 7 forms competing for the coveted trophy in a celebration of creativity and teamwork. Inspired by Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes, students presented imaginative performances that reworked classic tales with humour and originality. Each group was judged on creativity, exciting use of space, and how effectively they collaborated to tell their story. The competition was an entertaining showcase of developing performance skills and provided a wonderful opportunity for students to build confidence on stage. **Mr French, Curriculum Leader of Drama**



# Bullying Awareness Champions Training - Year 8

On 13th January 2026, two students from each tutor group in Year 8 came together to learn about a vital aspect of our school's wellbeing and pastoral strategy, they were trained by Kidscape to become Bullying Awareness Champions. Throughout their time at Townley they will act as role models and work with their year group, as well as other year groups to promote a community that tackles bullying head on. Please see their initial reflections below.

**Dawn** - I applied because I wanted to learn how to protect myself and my friends and develop new skills that could benefit me for a lifetime — in school, in the workplace, anywhere. During this training, we learned how to identify bullying and its various forms, so we can provide everyone involved with the right support they need to thrive in a safe and happy community. We discussed ways to spread awareness in the school and help everyone understand that they can talk to both teachers and students. We also discussed some ideas to make the school environment more inclusive, ensuring that everyone feels comfortable to share their thoughts and feelings. Now, our goal is to offer support and advice to all our peers and educate people about the effects of bullying and how we can work together to overcome it. I believe this is important, as reducing its impact on young minds can enhance mental wellbeing and maximize our ability to learn at school.

**Shree** - I felt this was an important opportunity to learn more about how we can look after one another and make our school a better place for everyone. During the training, we learned about bullying and the different forms it can take, including things that might not always be obvious. We discussed how to recognise when someone may need help and what steps we can take to support them. We also talked about how important it is for students to know that they are not alone and that they can speak to both teachers and other students if they are worried about something. We shared ideas on how to

raise awareness around the school and encourage people to be kinder and more respectful. Our aim is to support our peers, give advice when needed, and help educate others about the effects of bullying. By working together, we hope to reduce bullying, improve mental wellbeing, and create a safe, happy place where everyone can learn and feel confident.

**Iris** - I chose to apply because as someone who faced bullying for a long period of time with no help whatsoever, I wanted to make sure no one else would face what I had experienced and I also wanted to show that anyone could reach out for help when they needed it. During our training, we learned: the different types of bullying, how it can occur, the roles in bullying, how we can strive to be great Anti-Bullying Awareness Champions and how we can promote to prevent bullying from occurring at Townley. All 14 of us worked together by discussing ways in which we

could stop bullying and how we could support everyone. Now, we're trying to spread awareness and understanding of bullying by using each and every one of our amazing ideas to make sure everyone recognises the message of how bullying is never okay. With all of this determination and hard work, we hope to make Townley a safer community for everyone, no matter what difficult and unique forms of bullying they take.

**Riya** - When I was chosen to be the bullying awareness Champion I was delighted to be given the chance to be able



to spread information about bullying and how it is caused. We learned about how bullying affects other people, what to expect from a bullying, banter and so on. The session was fun and interesting because we got to meet new people and the Kate (from Kidscape program) and I personally was delighted by what we did and I feel confident on the topic of bullying.

**Siheli** - Being Chosen as an antibullying awareness champion was wonderful, as I learned so much more about bullying than I ever had. I believe this opportunity was also as beneficial to others as it was to me, as, through perseverance and a bright mind, throughout the span of 3 hours, we helped, learned and contributed towards our school to make it an even better place for all students (including ourselves). We worked together, answering questions and brainstorming new ideas to make plans for this school year on what we should do if we see any bullying as Bullying Awareness Champions, and how we can spread awareness through enjoyable and reassuring activities. I find this a new step to Townley, as now every student has many people to talk to if they are being bullied, because everyone should know that bullying is definitely not a good thing, and it should be stopped immediately. We already have ideas on how to get rid of bullying in our school, and there is much more to come for a better school community, so every student can truly thrive.

**Aadriti** - Time was spent looking at the different roles people play—like how "bystanders" can accidentally make things worse by staying silent—and why it's so vital to be

an "upstander" who speaks out. Honestly, being chosen as a champion for this feels really proud but also responsible; I love knowing that I'm someone my peers can actually come to if they're struggling. It was great working with students from different year groups to solve scenarios, and it definitely made the team stronger. Now, the plan is to set up peer support hubs and run workshops so no one has to deal with stuff alone. This matters so much to the school because it's all about the culture of care and I want to make sure the school is a place where you can just be yourself without any stress.

**Millie** - When a student is cyberbullied, the usual relief of the end of school and the comfort of your own home is

taken away from you. Cyberbullying can take place any time, any day on any device with internet access. It can be in forms of mean comments of posts, anonymous threatening messages, and anything taking place online that impacts a student's mental health negatively. Cyberbullying can often be overlooked as banter, and is also extremely hard to spot unless

a student's devices are looked through thoroughly and regularly. However, most messaging apps allow students to delete/hide messages, preventing the bullying from being addressed. It is important to make students aware of the ways of seeking help, by talking to a trusting adult, or reporting the messages via the site's reporting function. Cyberbullying feels like there's no escape, it travels to school with you, goes home with you, is there from when you wake up to when you go to sleep, even stopping students sleeping in some severe cases.

**Mr White - Year 8 Learning Manager**





# Pedestrian Safety & Distractions

We are seeing an increase in students crossing roads while looking at their phones or wearing earphones. Please remember that if you are listening to music, you will be unable to hear approaching traffic or emergency sirens. We ask that families discuss the importance of putting phones away and removing earphones whenever they are crossing a road.

Please remember you should not try to cross a road between parked cars; drivers cannot see you and vehicles may begin to move unexpectedly. If there is no other place to cross, you should:

- Always cross the road at pedestrian crossings
- Choose a space with a significant gap between two cars.
- Check for signs that a car is about to move (drivers in the seat, lights on or the sound of engines).
- Follow the Green Cross Code.

## The Green Cross Code & Parked Cars

- The Green Cross Code itself is a short step-by-step procedure designed to enable pedestrians to cross UK roads safely.

### 1. Think

- Find a safe place to cross the road such as a pedestrian crossing, an underpass or a footbridge.

### 2. Stop

- Just before you get to the kerb, stop.
- Stand on the pavement near the kerb and make sure that you can see the traffic. DO NOT step on to the road.

### 3. Look

- Look all around you for traffic. Make sure that you listen carefully for traffic that you can't see.
- Check to your right hand side first, then check to your left and then to your right again before you cross.
- Beware that some roads ( named one-way streets) have all of the traffic moving in the same direction.
- Watch out for bicycles or people on e-scooters. You often don't hear them but they travel very fast.

### 4. Wait

- If traffic is coming, let it pass.
- If you are waiting at a crossing then wait until the cars have stopped or the green man shows, before you cross.
- If you are not at a crossing wait until it is safe to cross.
- Once the traffic has passed look around again and listen.

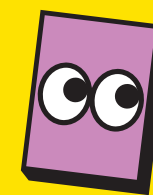
### 5. Look and listen again

- When it is safe and there is no traffic, walk straight across the road.
- Keep looking and listening while you cross the road. Watch out for cyclists, motorcyclists, e-scooters and horse riders.
- Always walk straight across the road, don't walk diagonally. Never run across the road in case you fall over and you might not get up in time.

### 6. Arrive alive

- Look and keep looking while you cross the road.
- The Statistics
- The Direct Line Group report that 1,200 children are injured every month in traffic related collisions within 500m of a school.

In urban areas, a high percentage of child pedestrian accidents occur because a child's view was masked by a parked vehicle. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our school community safe. By following these rules, we can ensure that every student arrives at school and returns home safely.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
**5 March 2026**

*Dress Up Day!*



To celebrate World Book Day, and in addition to literary activities, we are allowing all students and staff to dress up as favourite book characters for the day. We encourage students to create literary costumes, which could include characters from novels, myths, legends, folklore, comic books and Manga.

Students will be in costume all day so do plan accordingly, if students have dance, drama or PE they will need to change for those lessons. There will be photos taken to commemorate the day and

acknowledge the creativity of stories and our students and prizes for the best homemade costume and best-dressed forms. We will also be collecting book donations during the World Book Day week. Please donate any children's books that are in good condition and these will go to children in the community who need them. A collection box will be in reception and in the library. We look forward to celebrating this event.

**Ms M Fernandez, School Librarian**

## What does 2026 hold for the library?



The government has designated 2026 as the National Year of Reading, not just for schools but for the whole country.

At Townley we have lots of events planned but we also hope to enhance what we already offer across all our departments in terms of reading. Reading ability and being information literate is vital as our young people learn and grow.

Parents/carers - Why not start your own reading journey too? It can be difficult to find time to read but if we are serious about our children reading then we need to look at what we are doing in terms of reading. Join a local library together:

**Library links:**

**Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running!**

Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-T21JBPJS> to browse the latest books and order children's books online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club catalogue, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your order online by March 9th, 2026.

Adult reading ideas - why not take a look at 40 of the best new books in 2026 for adults <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/>



# Art Department Visits Eltham College for 'Memories of Drawings' Exhibition



The Art Department was delighted to offer students the opportunity to attend an art workshop at the Gerald Moore Gallery, Eltham College, alongside a visit to Georgia O'Keeffe: Memories of Drawings, a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre, London.



The trip was aimed at students with a passion for Art and provided an enriching, gallery-based learning experience. During the session, students took part in an Indian ink drawing workshop inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced beautiful, thoughtful artwork in response to the exhibition, gaining a hands-on creative experience at Eltham College.

**Ms L Imbert-Alverson, Teacher of Art**

## Year 9 Bexley Netball Tournament Runners Up



Congratulations to the following players; Jayani, Gretchen, Maysa, Chidimma, Kyra, Alexandra, Sienna, Tamar, Ayla and Aimee who represented Townley Grammar at the U14 Bexley Netball tournament coming 2nd overall out of 9 teams! Well done - we are very proud of you! **Mrs Greener, Learning Manager Year 9**





**TOWNLEY**  
— EST 1937 —  
**GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

# Townley School Fund



## Support Townley Grammar School

At Townley Grammar, we are proud to offer more than just an excellent academic education - we provide a vibrant and enriching school experience where students can grow, thrive, and feel truly inspired.

Many of the activities and opportunities that make Townley so special are not covered by standard funding. That's where the Townley School Fund comes in. With your support, we can continue offering the extras that bring learning to life and build a strong, supportive community.

**Thanks to the School Fund, we can provide:**

- ✓ **Better Resources** – from textbooks and classroom equipment to materials for practical subjects.
- ✓ **Celebrating Achievement** – awards and prizes for our incredible students at celebration events.
- ✓ **Inclusion & Support** – initiatives like peer mentoring and personalised student support.
- ✓ **Student Voice** – funding for projects led by our School Council.
- ✓ **Clubs & Co-Curriculars** – a wide range of enriching clubs and activities beyond the classroom.

These are the experiences that shape confident, well-rounded students - but they are only possible with your help.

### How You Can Help:

We are asking families to contribute £10, £25, £50 or £100 this year. You can also choose to pay termly. Every donation - big or small - makes a real difference.

### How to Donate:

Simply log in to your Arbor account, go to the Shop, and select School Fund to make your donation.

If you would like to give more, or support a specific area (like library books, celebration prizes or equipment), we would be delighted to hear from you.

*Thank you for helping us keep Townley Grammar a place where every student can truly flourish.*

<https://www.townleygrammar.org.uk/our-school/our-community/support-us/>