TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
Spring Term 2 2026
From here it's possible

From Spring Success to Summer Aspirations

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we reach the conclusion of what has been a truly remarkable Spring Term, I wanted to take this opportunity to share my reflections and express my deepest gratitude to the entire Townley community.



First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for the incredibly kind messages of congratulations I have received following my recent appointment as substantive Headteacher and CEO of Townley Grammar School. Having served this school for some time, I already knew what a special place it was, but the strength of support from our parents, staff, and students over the past few weeks has been truly humbling.



It is an absolute privilege and an honour to be entrusted with the leadership of this exceptional school. As I look toward the future, my commitment is to lead Townley forward with a clear vision: ensuring we continue to grow and develop while providing an ambitious and inclusive education for all. We remain dedicated to fostering a learning environment where our students can become change agents - confident, resilient young adults who are not only ready to achieve their future aspirations but are also prepared to make a meaningful difference in the world.



Central to this journey is our unwavering commitment to our core values. As we evolve, we must continue to live and breathe ***Consciousness, Courage, Compassion, and Curiosity.***

- Consciousness in how we reflect on our impact on the world.
- Courage to stand up for what is right and embrace new challenges.
- Compassion in how we support one another within our diverse community.
- Curiosity to never stop asking "why" and seeking new horizons.



These aren't just words on a wall; they are the character traits that will empower our students to lead meaningful lives.

This newsletter serves as a wonderful showcase of everything we have achieved together over the last few months. It has been a fantastic term, filled with a wealth of opportunities that define the Townley experience. The vibrancy of our school life is clear, watching our students engage in a vast array of opportunities with such passion and curiosity is what makes our community so unique.



As we look ahead to the summer term, our thoughts naturally turn to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as their examinations approach. This is a significant milestone in your educational journey, and I want you to know that the entire school is behind you.



I want to leave you with the same message I shared at the very start of this academic year, taken from the film The Pursuit of Happyness:

"You got a dream... You gotta protect it. People can't do something' themselves, they wanna tell you you can't do it. If you want something', go get it."



Year 11 and 13, you have worked incredibly hard, and you have the talent and the tenacity to succeed. You've got this. Go out there and let your brilliance shine.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful, restful, and happy Easter break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term of the year.

Warmest regards,

Sarina Totty, Headteacher



Student BOOK REVIEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 March 2026

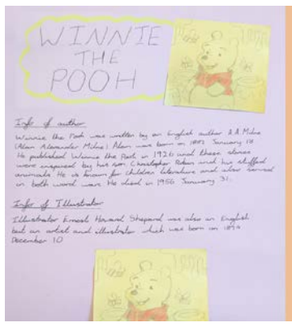
It's truly inspiring to see how students have channeled their creativity into such thoughtful book reviews for this year's World Book Day celebrations. Far from just summarizing plots, these young readers have dived deep into the emotional cores of their favorite stories, articulating how characters' journeys mirrored their own experiences or challenged their perspectives.

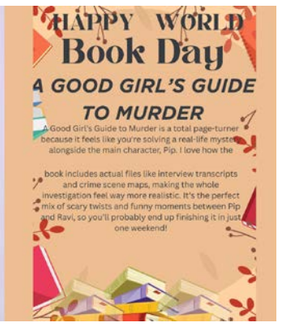
Using vivid language and genuine enthusiasm, they've managed to capture the "magic" of reading, turning their critiques into heartfelt recommendations that have sparked a literary buzz across the classroom. Their ability to balance critical thinking with pure, unadulterated joy for storytelling proves that when students are given the space to celebrate books they love, they don't just read - they become passionate ambassadors for the written word.

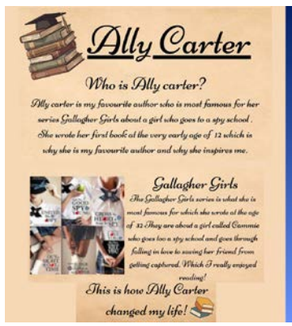
Scan QR Code to read the reviews!

Dr M. Finch,
Assistant Curriculum Lead for English

See all the Student Book Reviews in detail on our website









Swimming gala vs Dartford Grammar



Congratulations to the following students that took part in the Year 7 & 8 Swimming gala on 11th March. Swimmers competed in at least two individual races and a further two relay races showing determination and team spirit. They all did extremely well and were rewarded with squash and biscuits afterwards. Well done to:

Year 7 Team:
Amelia W - 7 Per
Ariana - 7 Athene
Isabell K - 7 Athene
Adriana - 7 Hera
Raeesah - 7 Athene
Aaliyah - 7 Hera
Matilda - 7 Athene
Fateenah - 7 Per

Year 8 Team:
Milena - 8 Per
Jaleesa - 8 Athene
Florence - 8 Artemis
Ciara - 8 Dem
Eleanora - 8 Art
Leila - 8 Dem
Aarshi - 8 Art
Avani - 8 Athene

Mrs J Greener, Deputy SENDco



March Bexley Young Carers Newsletter is now online to read and the March issue has loads of really helpful advice, links to free workshops and support groups, plus info on how to obtain a carers card, which gives discounts at many big retailers!

Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

Tate Britain Lee Miller Exhibition











On February 12, 16 Year 12 students from the Photography Elective class went to see the incredible exhibition of Lee Miller at Tate Britain. Her work is truly inspiring. The students who went on the trip were exceptional. They were all so amazing! They were punctual, and focused and so respectful inside the very busy gallery. It was indeed a pleasure to see. They were all so mature even when one particular room was showing the work of Lee Miller from the great war which depicted the horrors of war and dead bodies piled on each other.

Students also had the opportunity to explore the rest of the gallery featuring exciting artists work from Bridget Riley, David Hockney, Chris Ofili whose work pays tribute to Khadija Saye, reflecting on the tragedy of Grenfell Tower. The gallery resonates quality with so many fantastic examples of artists work on display. All the students told me they really enjoyed the trip and asked when was the next one..

Mr K Douglas, Art Teacher.

Email: admin@townleygrammar.org.uk Tel: 020 8304 8311 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk

ECONOMICS DEBATE SERIES CHAMPIONS!

Huge congratulations to Year 12 for clinching the title in this year's high-stakes Economics Debate Series! After a masterclass in market analysis and policy defense against Year 13, the Year 12 squad has officially taken the crown.

A massive round of applause for our individual award winners who dominated the floor: John (Year 13A) – Best Speaker for the Proponents, Christian (Year 12S) – Best Speaker for the Opponents and Isabelle (Year 12S) – Speaker of the Match. Well done to all participants for such sophisticated and a masterclass display of economic discourse.



















Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB

Success at the Annual Bexley Book Quiz

We were delighted to host the Bexley Book Quiz on Thursday, 26th February. It was a day of intense literary trivia and wonderful sportsmanship.

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 representatives - **Shalom, Tanya, Garvika, Emma, Gia, and Chimdi** - who achieved a highly respectable **4th plac**e against tough competition. The top prize went to Chislehurst & Sidcup, with Leigh Academy Bexley taking second after a dramatic tie-break finish. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, describing the day as "absolutely fun" and a highlight of the term.

Mrs M. Fernandez, School Librarian













Email: admin@townleygrammar.org.uk Tel: 020 8304 8311 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk

SCIENCE Fayre



Science at Townley has had an eventful term celebrating British science week including visits and meetings from successful alumni, the impactful year 9 STEM day within careers week and raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital ! There have been some excellent results from recent competitions, here are some accounts from our students highlighting their experiences and achievements.







Our recent school science fair was an exciting and insightful event to celebrate creativity, curiosity and discovery. This event was held in honour of British Science Week and the theme for this year was "Curiosity: What's your question?". The fair consisted of an assortment of engaging and educational stalls, each managed by friendly staff and students. Different departments came together to proudly present their works, which included everything from colourful experiments and fascinating dissections to impressive engineering designs and robotics displays. The atmosphere was bright and lively, with students moving around, asking questions and learning new things at every stall.

A big thank you to all the students, teachers and technicians who helped organise, prepare and showcase such a successful event!

Vaanya B year 12

The British Science Week fair was planned with the aim to engage the students and inspire them to develop their interest in science. Our stalls ranged from biology and chemistry to physics and computing with several engaging stalls where we carried out experiments, dissections and demonstrations. For our biology stand we carried out a rat, heart and eye dissection to give the students a bigger picture of organisms, we also had microscopes set up allowing them to observe the tiny details of biology up close from a range of specimens. The chemistry stands grabbed lots of attention with the colourful flames, elephants toothpaste eruption and most of all the ethanol rockets. And the physics stand created sparks with the Van de Graaff generator. Altogether, the fair was an engaging, interactive and fun event which sparked curiosity and allowed students to explore a small part of the large world of science.

Maya S-Z Year 12

"As the leaders representing the engineering society, we found the science fair to be a fun, educational, and incredibly rewarding experience for everyone involved. It was a fantastic way to engage with students from the lower years—whether they were just starting to explore their options in STEM or looking for a place to channel an existing passion. We had the chance to showcase our club's student projects, which included mechanical hands, catapults, and spaghetti bridges. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing our knowledge of engineering and physics, hopefully inspiring the younger students to pursue these fields in later life. Beyond providing the younger years with insights into their future options, the event was highly valuable for our fellow Year 12s. Discussing our interests allowed us to hone our communication skills, providing excellent preparation for our post-18 pathways."

Engineering society leaders















Graffiti and Street Art Workshop









On Monday 9th March, thirty year 9 Art students had the opportunity to participate in an immersive Graffiti and Street Art Workshop. This fantastic educational event was provided by the acclaimed artist Zincstyles at Allen Gardens (Spitalfields), prime location of London's urban Art scene.

During the session, students worked and communicated as a team, built their technical skills as graffiti artists and created a mural using impressive combinations of spray paint to complete the quote by the artist Pablo Picasso: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life".

In this context, students had the chance to experience art beyond the classroom and to understand how empowering can be for individuals and communities. Special thank you to all the teachers who made this educational experience possible: Mr Cowper, Miss Venuso and Ms Ona de la Blanca

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

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

Lights, Camera, Literature! Students Explore the World of Wuthering Heights

Our recent school trip to watch Wuthering Heights at Cineworld was both an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for our students. As this novel forms part of our programme of study, the opportunity to see the story brought to life on screen helped deepen their understanding of the themes, characters, and dramatic atmosphere of the text. While the movie strayed considerably from the novel, it did offer us the opportunity to have many constructive conversations about narrative adaptation.

A group of 24 students attended the screening, and they represented the school superbly throughout the trip. Their behaviour was impeccable, and they were a credit to the school at all times. Staff at the venue also commented on how polite and respectful the students were.



Watching the film adaptation allowed students to engage with the story in a new way, sparking thoughtful discussions afterwards about how the director interpreted key moments from the novel. Despite the many disparities between the movie and the text, It was rewarding to see students making connections between the film and their classroom learning.

Dr M. Finch, Assistant Curriculum Lead for English

High Notes and Honours: Senior Choir Triumphs at Bromley Music Festival



The Senior Choir ventured to Bromley High School on Friday 13th March, to compete in the Bromley Music Festival Competition. They competed in the U18s category for the Harvey Grace Shield, and won with a score of 85/100, leading to an Honours award from the adjudicator.

Ms CTroth, Head of Music

A behind-the-scenes look at the Broadway Shopping Centre







On 11th February, sixteen students from Urban Classroom were offered the opportunity to visit all the areas of the Broadway Shopping Centre that were hidden from the sight of the general public. Students visited the loading and unloading bays, the CCTV and security command room, top terrace where students appreciated further development of the shopping centre related to residential and open areas.

The day concluded with an assignment that students created and delivered during the Urban Classroom session. The standard was impressively high, with students offering fresh perspectives on how to bring communities together, development stakeholders and how to keep the high street vibrant in an era of online shopping. Managers were particularly interested in this last one which they were hoping to find a way to implement in their own strategy. This immersive experience provided the students with a genuine taste of the diverse career paths available within their own community, from high-tech security to corporate strategy.

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

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

World Book Day: Sharing the Magic of Reading



Our community's generosity has truly been on display this week. We are delighted to announce that, thanks to your kind donations, we have collected eight full boxes of beautiful books for the Children's Book Project. These stories will soon be in the hands of children who need them most. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed!

https://childrensbookproject.co.uk/

Mrs M. Fernandez, School Librarian

Jack Petchey : Speak Out Challenge



I delivered my Jack Petchey speech titled A Piece of Fabric and a Flag, focusing on empowering women who have faced challenges due to their racial or religious identity. I was proud to win my school's internal assembly, which gave me the opportunity to share my message with a wider audience. My speech aimed to challenge stereotypes and encourage confidence, resilience, and pride in identity. Reaching the regional finals was a huge achievement and showed the impact my message had on others.

Khadra A, 10 Hera.

Bexley District Champions: Year 10 Netballers Crowned Undefeated Winners

Congratulations to the Year 10 Netball team who won the Bexley District Netball tournament on 17th March. They were undefeated throughout the tournament, winning 6 and drawing 1. The girls played exceptionally well throughout. They were a credit to themselves and our school community. They should be exceptionally proud of this fantastic finish to the season. They have been committed and dedicated to training every week since September. They thoroughly deserve this win and they have been a pleasure to coach. Well done Alicia, Mofi, Omo, Darasimi, Faith, Emily, Annabelle, Riya and Victoria.

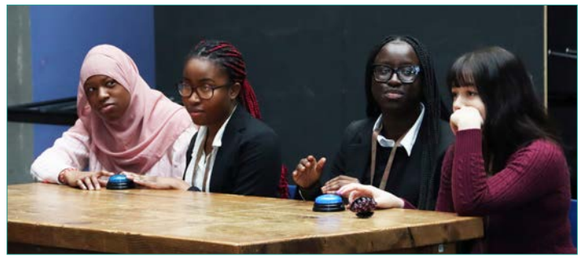
Miss C.Woodgate, PE Teacher



University CHALLENGE










Year 13 competed once again in the Inter Form University Challenge. With questions on themes such as IATA airport codes made from chemical symbols and kitchen utensils and counties in Morse Code, the students displayed some incredible general knowledge and lateral thinking.

For the record books:

Quarter-Finals:

13.2 beat 13.7 by 115 points to 35
13.10 beat 13.11 by 90 points to 80
13.8 beat 13.5 by 130 points to 60
13.6 beat 13.3 by 100 points to 35

Semi-Finals:

13.2 beat 13.8 by 90 points to 75
13.6 beat 13.10 by 80 points to 65

Final:

13.6 beat 13.2 by 85 points to 60

In the exciting Race for Ninth, 13.9 with 100 points triumphed over 13.1 and 13.4, both with 65 points, so no form came eleventh.

We also had a team in the Bexley Grammar Schools' Inter-School University Challenge competition. After 49 Starters and Bonuses out of 50, Townley were still in position to claim the victory, but the competition was won by the reigning champions Chislehurst and Sidcup.

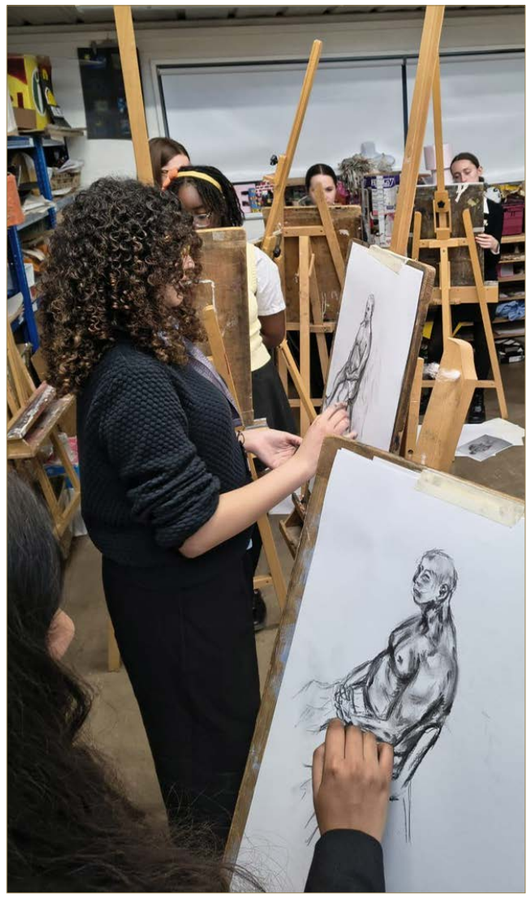
Mr M Kent, Classroom Teacher

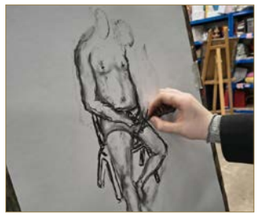
Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

From Anatomy to Artistry:

Elevating A-Level Portfolios with Life Drawing





On the Tuesday 17th March our Year 12 and some Year 13 A level Art students participated in a life drawing class, honing their muscle memory and observational skills by working directly from a professional model. Students practiced simplifying complex forms to capture the subject's essence, producing high-caliber work that will count directly toward their final portfolio submissions. Following the success of this Art Department-funded session, we are already planning to offer more of these opportunities in the future.

Ms Imbert-Alverson, Art teacher

Email: admin@townleygrammar.org.uk Tel: 020 8304 8311 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk

WORLD BOOK DAY

5 March 2026

Dress Up Day!

The creativity of our students was on full display this year for World Book Day. It was wonderful to see so many thoughtful costumes and such a vibrant energy throughout the school.










Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE















Hand-Made Costume Winners (£10 Book Token): Tinkerbell (Saatvika 7 Dem), Avatar character (Alina 8 Dem), Mr Bobinsky (Oyinda 8 Dem), Paddington Bear (Ihanya 9 Dem), Rainbow fish (Rose 10 Aph), Jayce Tallis (Huma 11 Dem), Mel Merdada (Kelechi 11 Dem) Iliad soldier (Emily 11 Hestia), Megamind (Sharini 13.10), Very hungry caterpillar (Jasmin 13.5)

Group Effort Awards (Treats & Chocolates): Form groups 7 Demeter, 8 Artemis, 8 Hera, 10 Athene, 11 Demeter and 12.1, and Mixed fairy tale characters: Mikayla 13.7, Mithushiga 13.4, Lea 13.8, Leah 13.7

Well done to everyone who participated and made the day such a success!

Mrs M. Fernandez, School Librarian

Email: admin@townleygrammar.org.uk Tel: 020 8304 8311 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk

April is Stress Awareness Month

April is Stress Awareness Month, a time to increase our understanding of stress and learn practical ways to manage it, especially for our young people. Stress is a normal part of life, but learning to cope with it is crucial for mental well-being. As parents and carers, you play a vital role in helping your child navigate stressful periods, particularly during exam season or times of change.

Practical Tools and Support:

NHS Every Mind Matters: Stress

This excellent resource offers advice on spotting the signs of stress, immediate ways to cope, and longer-term strategies for managing pressure.

https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/stress/

Kooth: The Exam Stress Collection

If your child is facing exams, this collection provides articles, personal stories, and tools specifically designed to help young people manage exam-related pressure and anxiety.

https://explore.kooth.com/the-exam-stress-collection/

Encouraging Open Conversations:

A few minutes of focused, non-judgmental listening can make a big difference.

Ask open-ended questions like, "How are you feeling about [event/schoolwork] right now?"

Validate their feelings: "It sounds like you're feeling a lot of pressure, and that's completely understandable."

Share a simple coping mechanism you use, modelling healthy behaviour.

We encourage you to explore these resources and start a conversation about stress and well-being with your child this month.

APRIL STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

WELLBEING AMBASSADOR

kooth

Video: exam stress and managing change. Watch this 18 minute Exam stress support clip
Find a mini-moment of calm with these soothing 1-minute meditations, designed to help you relax your body.

Relax your body (a 1-minute meditation)

Go somewhere good (a 1-minute meditation)

If you could use some more support, remember that Kooth is here to listen without judgement

Spot the signs

Physical
Headache
Sleep problems
Constant tiredness

Emotional
Overwhelmed/ anxious
Irritability
Feeling low

Behavioural
Avoiding people
Hard to concentrate
Changes in eating

Dont ignore them!

Toolkit for diffusing stress...

- Connect & Talk
- Be Active... Go for a walk
- Take a break & breathe
- Watching a show
- Do some colouring
- Read a book
- Play a board game
- Bake something
- Play some sport
- Have a nap
- Seek support (You're not alone)

"Remember: your wellbeing comes first. It is a strength to manage stress, not a weakness. Let's talk about it!"

THE READING AGENCY

Reading Well supports you to understand and manage your health and wellbeing using helpful reading.

https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/our-programmes-and-campaigns/reading-well/

NHS

We all have times when we feel low, anxious or overwhelmed and it's not always easy to know what to do to feel better. Here, you can find what works for you. We'll show you simple and practical ways to ease anxiety, manage stress, lift your mood and sleep better.

Spend some time completing a Mind Plan
https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/your-mind-plan-quiz/

Breathe through stress. No matter what you are doing, pausing for a few minutes to breathe can help you feel calmer.

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Action for Happiness is a charity that promotes a happier and more caring society. We promote how to be happy, kindness, connection & wellbeing.

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

Beyond the Page: Celebrating World Book Day and International Women's Day

Staff and students came together this half-term for World Book Day in an eclectic, vibrant, and unforgettable celebration of Literature. The range of costumes, as always, demonstrated the diverse and imaginative community within the school.

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 March 2026
Dress Up Day!

Our focus this year also tied in with International Women's Day, with performers sharing beautiful original poetry, short stories, and spoken word in assemblies throughout the week. These assemblies also included student speeches exploring inspirational women on and beyond the page, championing the revolutionary female writers who paved the way in Feminist Literature. We delved deep into the women of Ancient Greek Myths, while appreciating more contemporary characters from progressive children's stories or graphic novels.

Exploring the journeys of influential female authors and characters not only deepened students' appreciation of literature but also sparked thoughtful conversations about equality, resilience, and the importance of diverse voices in storytelling.

Mr J. Mallinson, Curriculum Lead for English

Meningitis awareness and guidance

This letter was originally sent to parents and carers on 17th Mach 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today because we are aware of concerns regarding confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease (meningitis) within the Kent area. We understand that hearing this news can be very worrying for any parent or carer; please be assured that your child's health and wellbeing are our absolute priorities, and we are sharing this information to help keep our families safe and supported.

Meningitis can affect individuals of all ages, including primary-age children. Because the onset of the illness is often sudden, early diagnosis and immediate treatment with antibiotics are vital.

Signs and Symptoms to Look For

Early symptoms can develop quickly. Please note that these may not all be present at once:

- **A rash that does not fade when pressed with a glass (the 'tumbler test')**
- **Sudden onset of high fever**
- **Severe and worsening headache**
- **Stiff neck**
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea**
- **Joint and muscle pain**
- **Dislike of bright lights**
- **Very cold hands and feet**
- **Seizures**
- **Confusion or delirium**
- **Extreme sleepiness or difficulty waking**

What to do in an emergency

If you suspect that you, your child, or someone you care for may have meningitis or sepsis, do not wait. Call 999 for an ambulance or go to your nearest A&E immediately if you think someone you look after could have meningitis or sepsis. Your nearest A&E

Prevention and Further Information

A number of vaccinations are available to help protect against meningitis. We encourage all families to check that immunisations are up to date. You can learn more about these on the NHS website.

You can also find specific updates regarding the local situation via GOV.UK: Cases of invasive meningococcal disease notified in Kent.

How we can help protect each other

To help reduce the spread of many common infections, including those that can lead to meningitis, we are encouraging some simple but effective habits at school and at home:

- **Hand Hygiene - Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water remains one of our best defences.**
- **Personal Items - To prevent the exchange of saliva, please remind your children not to share drinks, water bottles, or cutlery.**
- **A note for older students - It is also important that items such as vapes or cigarettes are not shared, as these can easily spread the bacteria from person to person.**

We recognise that this may cause anxiety, but please be assured that we are monitoring the situation closely to keep our school community safe. If you have any immediate concerns regarding your child's health, please contact your GP or NHS 111.

Kind regards,

Miss S Totty, Headteacher

From Brandenburger Tor to Bowling:Exploring Berlin

When we got to Berlin we had to go straight to our language lesson which turned out to be pretty okay and a little bit fun . The hostel room was modern, but tiny and the bathroom was weirdly shaped so it looked kinda goofy. Luckily, I slept very well in my cozy sleeping bag.

The next morning we woke up quite early but breakfast made it all worth it since it was so good. We did a bit of exploring and during our walking tour we visited the Brandenburger Tor, the Check Point Charlie, the Portrait Gallery, the Memorial for the Murdered Jews in WW2. We tried new restaurants such as munchies, curry and burger and even German McDonald's which actually turned out to be very tasty we even went bowling.

Brianna A, 10 Hera



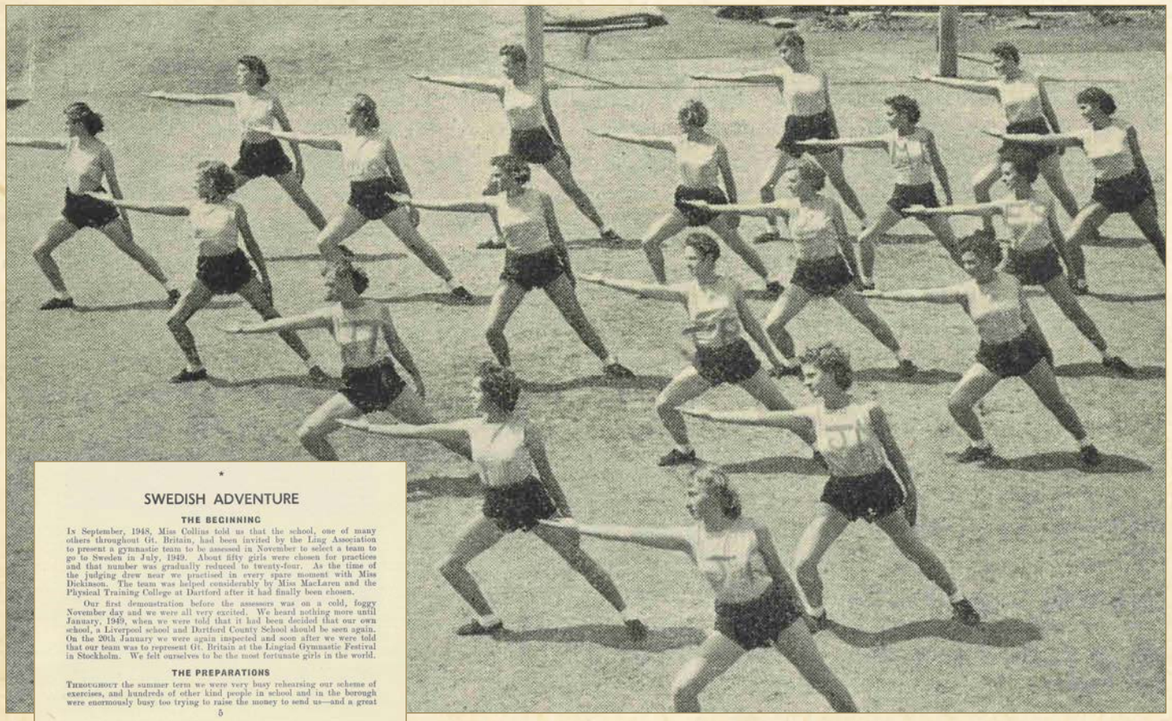


World Sleep Day

On the 13th of March, Townley celebrated world sleep day. Everybody came to school with a sleep accessory- whether that be an eye mask or fluffy socks, every student was engaged. It was quite amusing to walk down the hallways and see everyone in bedtime attire and yet still be in school uniform. The event raised awareness on the importance of sleep and gave students and staff an opportunity to reflect on their sleeping habits. I hope this day returns next year as it was an important day for the Townley community to celebrate sleep and the significant lack of it that many people have. What a wonderful day and please remember to sleep more! **Bella R 8 Art**

From Air Raid Shelters to the Olympic Stadium: Sheila's Journey

We are deeply honored to share this vivid trip down memory lane from Sheila Owers (née Brennan), and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to her for reaching out and gifting us with such a spirited account of Bexley Tech's post-war history.



SWEDISH ADVENTURE

THE BEGINNING

In September, 1948, Miss Collins told us that the school, one of many others throughout Gt. Britain, had been invited by the Ling Association to present a gymnastic team to be assessed in November to select a team to go to Sweden in July, 1949. About fifty girls were chosen for practices and that number was gradually reduced to twenty-four. As the time of the judging drew near we practised in every spare moment with Miss Dickinson. The team was helped considerably by Miss MacLaren and the Physical Training College at Dartford after it had finally been chosen.

Our first demonstration before the assessors was on a cold, foggy November day and we were all very excited. We heard nothing more until January, 1949, when we were told that it had been decided that our own school, a Liverpool school and Dartford County School should be seen again. On the 20th January we were again inspected and soon after we were told that our team was to represent Gt. Britain at the Lingiad Gymnastic Festival in Stockholm. We felt ourselves to be the most fortunate girls in the world.

THE PREPARATIONS

Throughout the summer term we were very busy rehearsing our scheme of exercises, and hundreds of other kind people in school and in the borough were enormously busy too trying to raise the money to send us—and a great

5

Bexley Tech....as we called it...was a fairly new school when I became a Prep. In 1945, which was the year The Second World War ended, but you'd know that! Miss Dora Collins was the terrifying Head Mistress, wearing black, ankle length, floaty gowns and lace up shoes with a slight heel. She presented a daunting figure to an 11 year old who had spent her very young years, from 5 - 10, in and out of air raid shelters and being evacuated to northern relatives; out of danger, at varying times, so experiencing erratic schooling, as did many others.

The only excitement was watching the warring aircraft getting tangled in barrage balloons floating in the sky high above us, both during the day and at night. The night time skirmishes were especially exciting, being moonlit and a bit dangerous. My Dad had two tin hats, being a fire watcher where he was employed and an Air Raid Warden locally. He would sometimes pop one of these tin hats....so heavy.... on my small head and we would watch the planes diving about and see the sparks. When my Dad judged it to be getting a bit too tricky, we would take to the safety of the Anderson Shelter in the garden, out of harm's way until the All Clear sounded...a long, steady wail on a loud speaker system.

I am painting this wartime picture as a small build up to The Lingiad and what it represented to fun starved children of the 1940's. Details of The Lingiad are still on line, so I will leave you to chase that up, if at all interested that is.

A competition was mounted throughout the UK for schools wishing to take part and adjudicators would travel the length and breadth of the UK deciding on the ultimate participants to represent their country in Stockholm at The Lingiad in the summer of 1949.

Competition was high, not only among rival schools but within each competing school. A team of twenty girls about 15 years old was needed, of reasonable athletic ability....ie able to jump about a bit with enthusiasm and without falling over. Yes, there was a bit of gymnastics thrown in and lots of rhythmic exercises, if I remember. Every morning, those of us who were quite good at jumping about, and there were a lot who qualified, gathered outside the door to the Gym, to see if our name was still on the list...massive excitement if it was and, of course, deep disappointment if it had been eliminated. This went on for weeks and weeks and gradually the final 20,highly excited,young 'gymnasts' were selected (of which I was one ....phew). Then we watched with baited breath as the schools were deleted with The Tech still appearing strong on that highly competitive list..... along with..oh no...Dartford Grammar..our arch rivals.

The day came when the final selection had been made from dozens of schools and unbelievably it had come down to good old, reliable, Bexley Tech. and, yes, Dartford Grammar..unbelievable.

'The Gym Team' was summoned to the gym, by Miss Dickenson to be told if we were to be going to Sweden or had lost out to Dartford Grammer!? The hairy gym mats were taken off the wall for us to sit on and a stern faced Miss Dickenson appeared, clutching a sheaf of important looking papers. She had such a sad look and said nothing for a moment or two, just looking at all of us and building up the tension. She briefly went over how hard we had all worked; how proud the school etc. etc. BUT.....oh no, showed on all our faces.....her face broke out in a broad, excited smile as she relayed the best news ever,

that we had jumped about a bit better than Dartford Grammar..... hurrah. She brushed away some unashamed tears and congratulated us on a job well done.

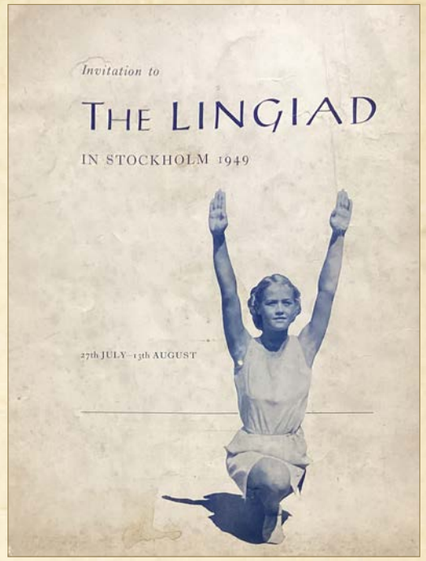
Now the reason for this diatribe. Ten of us appeared on the telly; A programme called Picture Page, with presenters MacDonald Hobley and Sylvia Peters and the other ten were filmed doing their stuff! We were well feted by the locality and the local paper took a photo of me.....I was really good at jumping about....doing a vault..oh yes.. called Long Fly. This photo was printed in the local paper and my parents, proudly bought a copy. Several years later a friend borrowed this photo and it was never returned to my deep dismay and I lost touch with said friend, my gym partner....as you do. I contacted the paper, but no luck in tracing a copy. I was hoping your school might still hold some records of this Event and could contact.

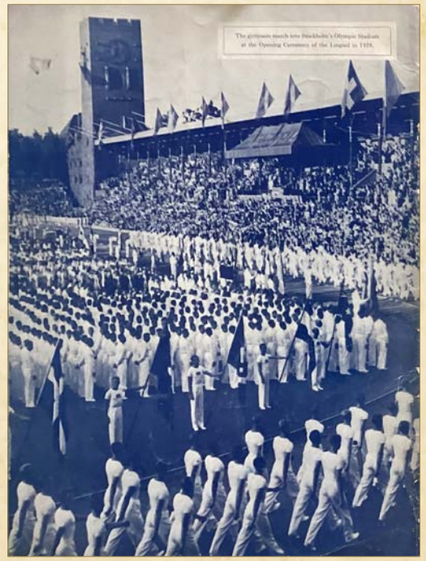
Incidentally, my name was Sheila Brennan and I was chosen to carry the Union Flag and to nervously, but oh so proudly, lead the team into the Olympic Stadium in Stockholm for The Lingiad..1949. I still have my tunic..with union flag on it..together with necessary matching big knickers.. oh yes I have!

My apologies if I have rambled on a bit.

Kind regards, Yours sincerely, Sheila Owers (nee Brennan)

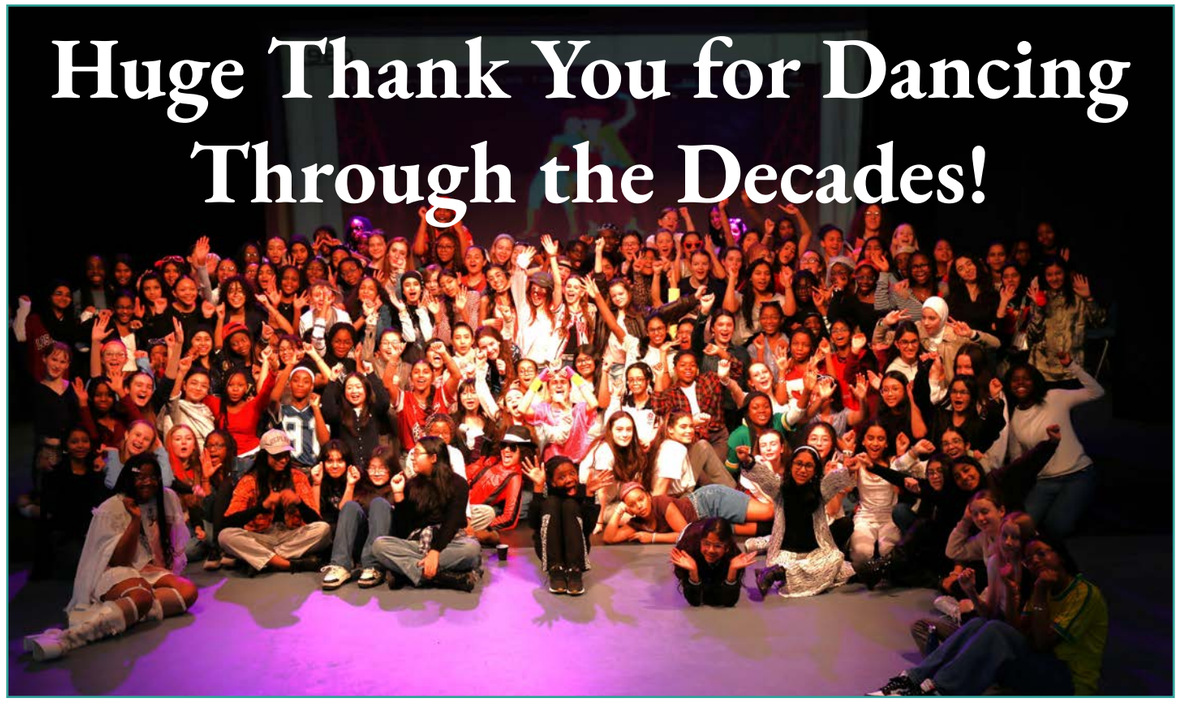
Read the original extract of the Swedish Adventure from our Bexley County Technical School Archive on our school website (Add Link).







Huge Thank You for Dancing Through the Decades!









Our school Theatre was transformed into a time machine this term as Year 7 and 8 students took part in our 'Dancing through the Decades' fundraiser! It was an absolute joy to see the energy and enthusiasm on display as our community came together to support the Performing Arts department.

The effort put into the costumes was truly spectacular. We were treated to a vibrant parade of history, featuring everything from the swinging 1950s rock and roll dresses and bobby socks. groovy 70s flares and glitter and neon-bright 80s leg warmers and iconic big hair.

The students had a fantastic time learning classic moves and showcasing their rhythm, all while raising vital funds that will go directly toward new equipment and production costs for our upcoming shows. A massive thank you to all our parents and carers for your incredible support, in total you helped raise over a £1000 —we couldn't have done it without you!

The Performing Arts Department

SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

Blackfen Community Library Courses

Mondays starting 20th April for 6 weeks

5-6:30pm

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

BOOK IN NOW!

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.

THE SHINE COURSE

For more info contact:
kaley@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

THE HUB

Foolproof Motivation Workshop

Don't fool yourself this April Fools Day let's find your real why — not your fake one.

What to expect?

- Challenges
- Fun & Games
- Tips on motivation
- Pizza

Wed 1st April 5-6.30pm

Just like one small slice makes up the whole pizza, motivation is achieved by breaking down goals into smaller steps. No lessons or grades, just real talk about what keeps you going.

School years 7-11

FREE EVENT Registration Required

Rooted Coffee House
7-9 Blackfen Parade
Blackfen
DA15 9LU

THE HUB

for school years 7-11

YOUTH CAFE
Every other Friday
March 6th & 20th
April 17th
May 1st and 15th

7-8.30pm

Hang out with friends
Discounted food & drinks
Free Wifi TableTennis
Virtual Reality Gaming Crafts
Games Consoles Nail Painting
Jewellery Making
Phone Charging
Pool Table

For more info contact:
kaley@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE
7-9 Blackfen Parade Blackfen DA15 9LU

STRENGTH COURSE

WED 22ND APRIL
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 KALEY@BLACKFENCOMMUNITYLIBRARY.ORG



Thank you- Koforidua Babiani School, Ghana

We are incredibly grateful to our students, parents and carers for the overwhelming number of books donated for the Koforidua Babiani School in Ghana, which were officially collected today. Your immense generosity means that children who currently lack access to such resources will now have the chance to discover the joy of reading, providing them with life-changing opportunities and knowledge. This incredible achievement is a true testament to the kindness and strength of the Townley community; we are so proud to see our collective spirit making such a tangible difference to the lives of others.

Empowering Voices: Larra on the Frontlines of Women's Safety



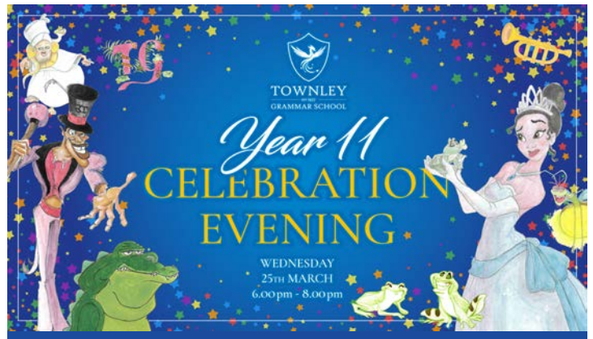




As a Mental Wellbeing Ambassador at Townley Grammar, I recently had the opportunity to attend an interview at New Scotland Yard with Clair Kelland- commander of public protection and works on issues in VAWG [violence against women and girls] in the Metropolitan Police. It was a really interesting experience that gave me a wider perspective on the importance of wellbeing, safety, and advocacy beyond school . Being able to ask questions openly and hear thoughtful, detailed responses made the experience even more valuable, as it allowed me to develop a deeper understanding of these important issues.

The Mental Wellbeing Ambassador programme plays an important role in supporting students across the school. Through training and ongoing work, we aim to raise awareness, encourage open conversations, and support others with their mental health and wellbeing . Opportunities like this help us better understand the impact of these issues and strengthen our ability to contribute positively to the school community.

Larra- 7 Athene



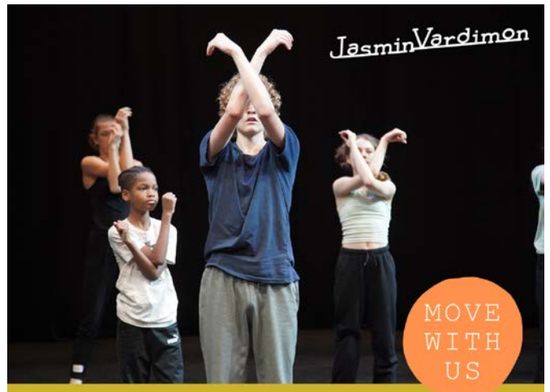
After five years together, it was fantastic to celebrate year 11 and everything that individual students and the year group as a whole has achieved, be it in academics, sports, music, or performance. After Ms Totty's speech full of cheers, we had the most inspiring performance of 'For good' by Mina and Elica, which reminded us all of the amazing friendships we've made during our time at Townley, and the memories we will carry forward into the future.

It was a great honour to receive the headteacher's award and to join my fellow prize-winners on the stage. It meant so much to all of us to hear the cheering and support from the rest of year 11 as we collected our awards, even though some of the parents seemed a bit surprised at the volume and enthusiasm!

Unlike many past teacher led assemblies, this evening featured many student voices. Sienna bravely remarked on the highs and lows of preparing for GCSEs, and Olivia reminded us all of the countless trips and experiences we were lucky enough to take part in, from PGL, to geography fieldwork. On behalf of the whole year group, Katelyn and Sophia thanked all of our teachers, especially Miss Magee, Miss Johal and Ms Fitzgerald, for supporting and guiding us over the last 4 ½ years.

Another highlight of the evening were the reassuring words of a past student and deputy head girl, Maryam Dabiri, our guest speaker, who offered advice on preparing for the challenges ahead with determination and an open mind, drawing on her own past experiences.

Suhani and Lana delivered possibly their best performance yet : 'When I'm gone (Cups)', and the ensemble piece: 'Slipping through my fingers' by Daisy, Francesca, Johanna and Mirelle ended the evening on a bittersweet note, reminding us of how much we've grown. We will all look back on our Townley memories with great fondness. ***However, once a Townley girl, always a Townley girl. Emily D***



YOUTH CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP

Join us this Easter break! Across two days, young people will dive into physical, engaging and creative dance activities, discovering the joy of movement while exploring Jasmin Vardimon's creative process.

This workshop encourages self-expression and imagination helping participants build confidence in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Ages 12 - 18:
Thur 16th & Fri 17th April 10:00am - 4:00pm

JV H.O.M.E. Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8FN



JASMIN VARDIMON COMPANY // CREATIVE DANCE CLASSES!

Let Your Imagination Move!
Our Children's Contemporary Dance Classes run every Saturday morning, and our Young People's Creative Classes take place on Thursday evenings. Don't forget - you can try a FREE taster class - please email classes@jasminvardimon.com to get your code.

Designed for fun-loving, free-spirited movers, these classes have no boundaries -just creativity, play, and self-expression, all led by our inspiring teachers.

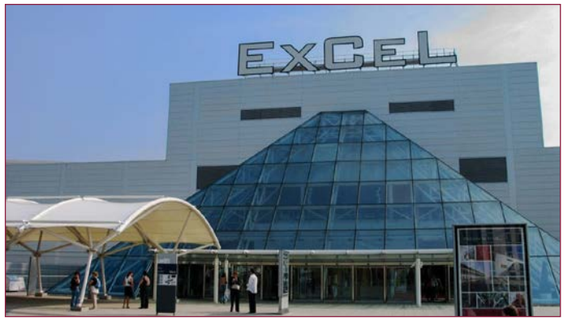
AGES 5-7: SATURDAYS 10:30AM - 11:15AM
AGES 8-11: SATURDAYS 11:30AM - 12:30PM
AGES 12-18: THURSDAYS 4:30PM - 6:00PM







Year 12 Post 18 Preparation



Post 18 support started in Sixth Form in the autumn term of Year 12 with sessions on career goals, employers and networking and a couple of talks on degree apprenticeships and choosing university level courses. Using Unifrog they were asked to record their current Post 18 intentions, how to research their future career options and when to ask for advice through the school's Careers Guidance Advisor.

In the spring term, we welcomed A Star Future who briefed students on the benefits of studying abroad and the process of applying. Our popular Oxbridge evening delivered a comprehensive insight into preparing to apply to Oxford and Cambridge universities and how students are supported at Townley. Another university talk delved further into graduate employability, including practical tips, advice and insights into developing employability skills and preparing for graduate roles, giving Year 12 a realistic and relatable perspective to support their career planning.

For our virtual parents' Post 18 Information evening in March, InvestIn Education gave advice on the benefits of work experience, how to decide what is right for you and how to strengthen your application for next steps and the job market. University applications and Student Finance were the topics covered by Aston and Nottingham universities with AIM London detailing higher and degree apprenticeships. The Sixth Form team summarised Townley's Post 18 support and are now planning a comprehensive programme of talks and workshops for the summer term which Year 13s found extremely beneficial in preparing for their post 18 applications last year.

To finish off this term's activities, Year 12 attended the UCAS Discovery Fair at the Excel centre where they were given the opportunity to talk to a variety of university ambassadors, apprenticeship providers and employers. To add an extra element to their trip, Year 12 were given three challenges to share on their return to school.

Challenge 1: The "Dream Campus" Snapshot

Find the stand of your dream university, take a selfie, after you've asked:

If I were to visit your campus, what is the one 'hidden gem' spot I absolutely have to see?

Challenge 2: The "Wildcard" Discovery

Find a university or employer that is located in a part of the UK you have never visited before.

Find out one unique "local tradition" or "city fact" that makes that location special.

Challenge 3: The "Expert Insider" Interview

Head to the UCAS Expert Advice zone and find a current student ambassador and ask:

What is the biggest difference between studying your subject at A-Level versus at University?

Voted most interesting insight shared:

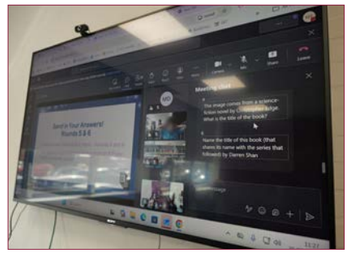
1. Gem spot was the 24 hour libraries which different colleges would have
2. Swansea University-beautiful campus and very close to the town
3. Spoke to both a careers and apprenticeship advisor at the hot seat stand.

Mrs W Williams, Director of Careers & Progression

National Reading Championship Success!







A huge "well done" to our two fantastic teams who competed in the National Reading Championship (Southeast London Regional Heat) on 25th March. Our students truly shone, proving not only their impressive knowledge of literature but also their genuine love for stories. Both teams achieved fantastic scores and represented the school with pride. Congratulations Team A: Al Hamdulillah, Amalia, Emma, and Team B: Eliza, Urwa and Feyza!

Mrs Fernandez, School Librarian



Thank You!

Dear Mrs Fernandez

From the entire team at The Children's Book Project, we send our thanks for your incredible support in hosting a Book Drive for us. Your community has demonstrated the power of giving and we hope enjoyed the process of selecting books they've grown out of to give to others.

Thanks to your support, we can provide books to so many more children with few, or in some cases, no books of their own. Each book donated will be gifted onwards in the near future with an invitation to that child to go on an adventure and become lost in a book they can own and love. They will be distributed via schools and prisons and will help each setting to foster a real sense of themselves as a reading community. Many of them celebrate their book gifting events on social media. We'd love you to follow us on Twitter and Instagram to see these posts.

Scan QR Code to see the Thank You Video

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie McAllen
www.childrensbookproject.co.uk



Townley Students Achieve Success in the 2026 National #700 STEM Essay Competition

The results are in for the highly anticipated 2026 #700 STEM Essay Writing Competition, and students from our community have demonstrated exceptional talent and intellectual rigor! This competition challenges young people to think critically and creatively about the future of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and the quality of this year's entries was truly inspiring.

A Commitment to Excellence

We want to extend our sincere congratulations to every student who took part. Entering a national competition requires significant dedication, research, and the courage to articulate complex ideas. Your efforts in tackling subjects from climate change to astrophysics are a credit to your commitment to learning.

Celebrating Townley's Achievements

We are especially proud to celebrate the success of our students from Townley, who achieved outstanding results in the highly competitive Under 14 Science Category.

Under 14 Science Category Winners

Two students from Townley secured top spots, showcasing their profound understanding and communication skills:

Rank	Recipient	Essay Title
1st Place	Farah-Michelle L	Physics of a Black Hole
3rd Place	Nasya Z	The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Farah-Michelle Lemus secured First Place with her compelling essay, "Physics of a Black Hole," a piece that impressed the judges with its clarity and depth of understanding of complex astrophysical concepts.

Nasya Zang earned a well-deserved Third Place for her thought-provoking essay, "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch," which offered an insightful analysis of marine pollution and potential sustainable solutions.

"The achievements of Farah-Michelle and Nasya are a wonderful testament to their hard work and the excellent STEM education they receive," said Mr Robinson, the school's STEM coordinator. "They have made the entire school community incredibly proud."

What's Next?

We encourage all students to continue exploring their passion for STEM.

The competition archive containing all winning essays, including those from Townley students, are available via the competition's official website: *https://www.sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net/news/sydenham-high-ninth-700stemchallenge/*

Congratulations once again to all participants for a truly phenomenal effort!



Staff Book Club: Cultivating a Culture of Reading

To celebrate the National Year of Reading, our staff launched their very own book club this term. It was a fantastic opportunity for staff to model the love of reading we encourage in our students every day.

Our first meeting was a hit, featuring a lively discussion of the psychological thriller The Housemaid by Freida McFadden. Beyond the "whodunnit," staff shared their favorite recent reads. We've compiled a list of staff-recommended titles below—perfect for parents and our older students looking for their next page-turner!

Mrs Fernandez, School Librarian

Gold Standards and a National Champion:

Physics Students Defy Gravity in Senior Challenge

A group of Year 12 Physics students sat the written Senior Physics Challenge paper in mid-March. Of those that took it, nine achieved a creditable Bronze Award, while two students excelled themselves in getting Gold Awards: Maria M and Aaliyah A. Maria's score was notably the highest of all 4388 students in the country who entered! **Mr Llewellin Head of physics**

Thank You!

'Thank you to all of the students, staff, and teachers who supported the Medical Society's recent charity events! We were able to raise over £250 from a Valentines Bale Sale, Movie Night, and a Jelly Bean guessing game! All proceeds from the event will be donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital to support the vital work they do for children and their families. It was wonderful to be able to come together to organise this fundraiser and see everyone come together!' **Medical society**



Science Olympiad

We also had great successes within the British Biology Olympiad, a further four bronze awards achieved with Aaliyah again scoring another Gold award to put her in the top 5% of the 18800 students who participated across the country. **Dr J Ward, Head of biology**

San Francisco & Los Angeles

Future Leaders in the Valley: Townley Takes on Google and Apple

On the 17th of March several of our students and staff embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. We explored San Francisco and Los Angeles and experienced days full of sunshine and laughter.

San Francisco and LA was a trip that really shaped us as people. It taught us many things about independence, and definitely patience, especially when we waited for our food at dinner every night. We have never laughed harder, never slept better, and we've never looked forward to each day more than we did during our time in the United States.

In terms of experiences, we have gained so much knowledge on not only American history, but also on subjects we learn in Townley now that we could pursue in the future. From: meeting students at high schools, visiting universities, taking a Silicon Valley guided tour, exploring cities and headquarters for key companies within the STEM program like Google and Apple. These opportunities helped us to widen our perspective of careers and our futures, while making memories that will stay with us forever. Thank you for sharing this amazing trip with us, and it is truly something we will never forget.

Matylda and Immy

Innovative and fun trip. Many opportunities for leisure and education, made new friendships too. Food was delectable and shopping is fun. Would do again any day.

Gloria

Our trip to San Francisco and Los Angeles was an unforgettable experience, filled with great memories. One of my personal favourite part was visiting Santa Monica Pier, where we got to enjoy the evening by the beach. I also loved going to Universal Studios, which was exciting and gave me the chance to experience behind the scenes of filmmaking and some amazing rides. Another highlight was visiting the American high schools, it was really interesting to see and was definitely a memorable experience. The trip overall was amazing, I got to enjoy so many new experiences and had the best time!

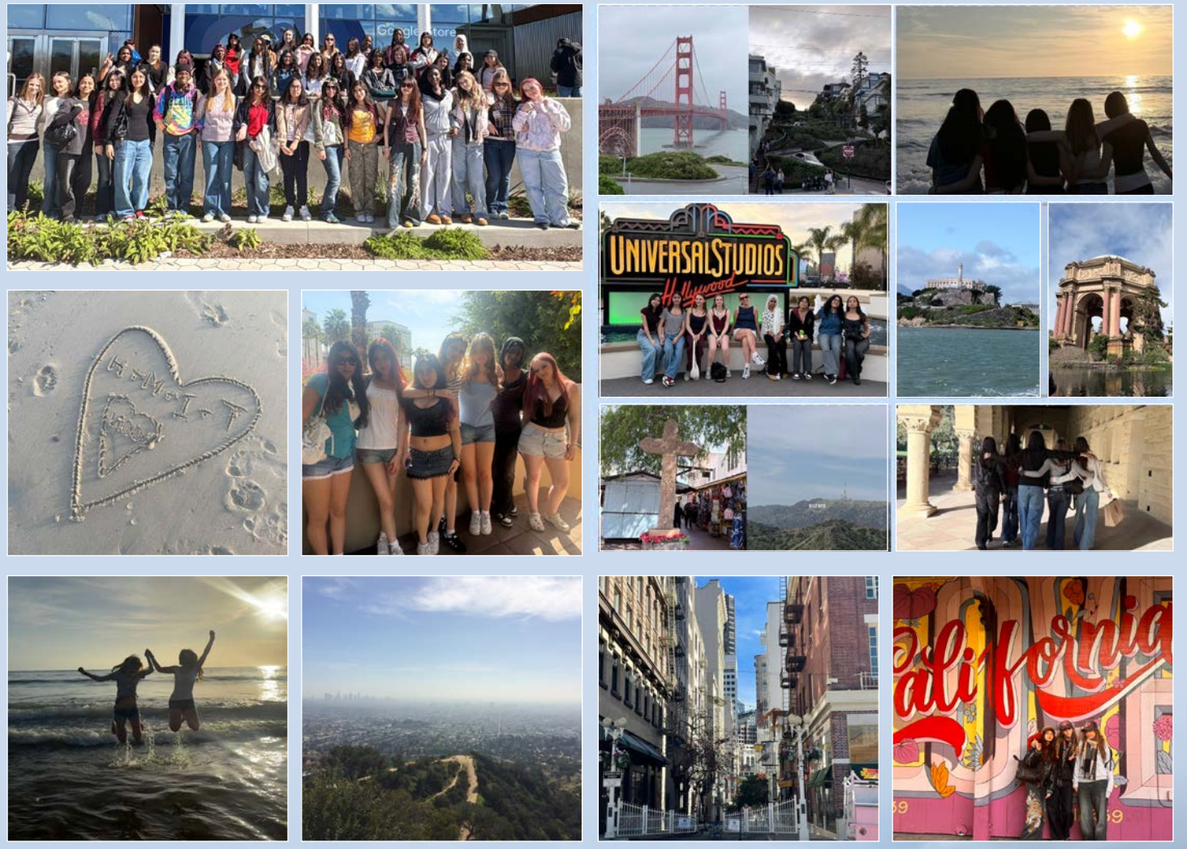
Alicina

Last month we were granted the trip of a lifetime to San Francisco and Los Angeles, one which was absolutely unforgettable and enriching. My personal favourite part of the trip was visiting the famous Exploratorium, a hands-on museum where we learnt about different concepts from mathematics, physics to even biology and philosophy through interactive exhibits. It was extremely fascinating and engaging and an experience unlike any.

We also had the opportunity to visit Alcatraz Island, which was both exciting and slightly eerie, but packed with a vast amount of history. Hearing the stories and experiences of famous inmates through the audio tour made me feel as though I had been there myself, and like I was stepping back in time.

Overall the San Francisco and Los Angeles trip was one we could never forget; combining adventure, education and friendship the trip will be something we remember for years to come, and we are all incredibly grateful to our teachers for organising such an amazing opportunity!

Zoe





Address: Townley Grammar School, Townley Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 7AB Email: admin@townleygrammar.org.uk Tel: 020 8304 8311 Website: www.townleygrammar.org.uk



Spring Concert 2026

Thursday 26th March, 7 pm - 8.15 pm

A Note of Thanks: Spring Concert 2026

Thank you for joining us for an evening that truly showcased the eclectic talent and dedication of our music department. From the haunting harmonies of Orlando Gibbons to the high-energy finale of Dolly Parton, tonight was a testament to the hard work of our students across all year groups.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to:

Our Ensembles: The Fusion Band for their versatile performances of Rodrigo and Journey; the Intermediate and Senior Choirs for their beautiful renditions of Danny Boy and Teenage Dirtbag; and our Orchestra for bringing the English Folk Song Suite to life.

Our Soloists & Small Groups: To Inayah and Rivika, Aster and Alice, and the various student-led bands from Year 9, Year 10, and the Sixth Form who brought such personality to the stage.

A Special Mention: To Maria M and our Senior Physics Challengers who we celebrated earlier this evening—your brilliance in the lab is matched only by the brilliance of our performers on stage!

The Final Bow: A huge thank you to the Big Year 10 Band and our combined Choirs and Orchestra for the spectacular closing performances of Billie Jean and 9 to 5.

Finally, thank you to the parents, staff, and friends whose support makes these performances possible. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



SPRING TERM 2 2026 TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM HERE IT'S POSSIBLE

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/