



Ewood Lane  
Todmorden  
West Yorkshire  
OL14 7DG

Tel: 01706813558

[www.todhigh.co.uk](http://www.todhigh.co.uk)

Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

#### Up & coming dates

Christmas Concert – 15/12/22 6-7pm

Break up for Christmas Holidays – 12.20pm 16/12/22

Staff CPD Day (school closed to students) – Tues 3/1/23

Students return to school – Weds 4/1/23

Headteacher's Breakfast Y11 – Weds 11/1/23

Year 9 Options Evening – Thurs 19/1/23

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below an important message from Calderdale Public Health regarding scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep. We also shared this message with parents and students on Class Charts this week.

'This year, we are seeing a higher number of cases of scarlet fever than usual. Scarlet fever is caused by a bacteria which generally causes a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. This bacteria also causes other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo.

Symptoms of scarlet fever include a **sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel**. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. **Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever**, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

Scarlet fever is highly infectious, so if your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

In very rare circumstances, the bacteria that causes scarlet fever can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness – called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases this year, particularly in children under 10.

If your child is showing signs of deteriorating after a bout of scarlet fever, a sore throat, or a respiratory infection, it is important that you speak to a health professional. As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement in seeking help.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable



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Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. Teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell will help reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.'

### **School news**

A reminder that our school Christmas show is taking place next Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. Please do purchase a ticket from our student office (adult £4, concession £2) and come to celebrate with us before we break up for the Christmas holidays on the Friday. There will be a variety of student and staff performances as well as some delicious refreshments for you to share in. I hope to see you there.

Our student Christmas dinner is next Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. There will be no other options available that day for students to purchase so if they do not want a Christmas dinner please send them in with a packed lunch to eat. Please ensure your child has money on their account for the day so that they can partake in the festivities.

In student news we have had a number of sporting events this term in Calderdale schools' competitions. Please see below an update on all the competitions that have taken place this term provided by Mr Duerden and our PE team. Huge thanks to Mr Duerden and the rest of the team for supporting our students with accessing these events.

### **Under 15 football team**

Congratulations to our Year 10 football team who have been playing in the Calderdale schools' league since September. The team has played extremely well and have won their half of the Calderdale league playing against Calder High, North Halifax Grammar, Ryburn and Crossley Heath. The team will play in the Calderdale final in the New Year. Well done to all players involved and good luck in the final.



### **Under 14 Cricket team**



Our Under 14 Cricket team have made a fantastic start to the Calderdale indoor cricket league over the last few weeks. The team has played exceptionally well to beat teams from North Halifax Grammar, Halifax High and Calder High. With three wins out of three, the team has a great chance of making the final in the New Year. Well done to all players involved.

If anybody would like to play indoor cricket for fun or to try out for the team a club is being held on Thursday in the gym after school.

## Cross country team



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 39 of our students from Year 7 - 11 took part in the Calderdale Cross Country Championships at the Old Brodleians' Rugby Club in Halifax. Despite the cold and wet conditions our students performed exceptionally well, and all competitors completed their races giving 100% for their teams.

There were some notable performances from Hannah in Year 7 who finished 12<sup>th</sup>, Rosie and Georgia in Year 8 who finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Ben who finished 12<sup>th</sup> in Year 8, Margot and Sophie in Year 10/11 who finished 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. In the Year 10 and 11 boys race our team consisting of Euan (5<sup>th</sup>), Lennie (7<sup>th</sup>), Toby (10<sup>th</sup>) and Thomas (11<sup>th</sup>) may also have a chance of winning the overall team event (results are yet to be confirmed by the organisers).

Twelve out of 39 students finished in the top 12 in their races. These students have now qualified to represent Calderdale schools in the West Yorkshire competition to be held in the New Year. This race is one step away from the National Schools' Competition. A massive achievement for all those who qualified (pictured right).



In music, huge congratulations to Iris Richardson-Foster and Emily Coates in passing their piano exams last week. Both students have worked incredibly hard and have shown real dedication and commitment in preparation for their piano grade exams. Well done to both students and your excellent results.

After Christmas, youth workers at Todmorden College are putting on a Climate Group for young people who are passionate about the environment to join. The group is on a Thursday afternoon and is completely free. Please see the attached flyer to read more about this club, we will be circulating the information in form time and consent forms will be available for students to collect from the student office towards the end of next week.

Please remember that we break up at the slightly earlier time of 12.20pm at the end of this term. Bus companies have been notified and we will all be outside to wave goodbye to our students and see them safely off site as they go home to celebrate the festive period with their friends and families. Students return to school for a slightly shorter first week in the New Year on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January due to Monday being a bank holiday and Tuesday a training day for our staff.

My next virtual parent drop in of the year is set for next Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 3.15-4.15pm on TEAMS. This is an opportunity to meet virtually with me to discuss anything school related. Meetings are held on a one-to-one basis, and you will be admitted to the meeting as another person leaves, so please be patient. More information, including the link to log in, will come out closer to the time. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our annual Presentation Evening will be a face-to-face event here in school for the first time this year since the start of the pandemic. Year 11 students from 2022 and their parents/carers will be invited to join us to celebrate their achievements and to formally receive their examination certificates along with other special awards. Please put the date and time - 6pm Thursday 5th January 2023 - in your calendar now if your child left in the summer of 2022.

Our next Todmorden Together meeting is arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> January from 5.30pm. The Todmorden Together group comprises of school staff, governors, parents, community workers, police and many other stakeholders from the wider Todmorden community. It is a platform for us to discuss our students' life experiences in the wider community and work together to make improvements and changes for our young people, and others. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this group, please email [e.womack@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.womack@todhigh.co.uk). Please do come and join us for the meeting if you are able to and add the date to your diary.

There has been some possible snow forecast across the next two weeks. While the weather outside is becoming colder please ensure that your child comes to school in appropriate footwear (for guidance on school footwear see our school website for details [School uniforms - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](https://www.todhigh.co.uk)). Please be reminded that, should heavy snow occur in Todmorden over the winter season, parents will be notified via official school channels including Class Charts, social media and our school website. We have a team in school who work extremely hard to keep the school open for our students, and we are prepared for every eventuality. I will continue to communicate with you as we move along through the season.

We held our invacuation and evacuation practices this week in school. All students behaved impeccably, and the practice drills were a great success. I feel confident that should a real-life situation ever occur our students would be fully prepared to keep themselves safe with the support of our staff. Thank you to all our students for their sensible and ARCH behaviour during these two exercises.

We currently have two vacancies for a Cover Leader and a Learning Manager to join our fantastic team at Todmorden High School. Working in education is an extremely rewarding, challenging and varied career where no two days are the same. If you want to help change young people's lives and be part of an innovative and welcoming team, please take a look at the recruitment page of our website <https://www.todhigh.co.uk/recruitment/>.

I am sure you will have received the message circulated earlier this week regarding reports of anti-social behaviour in Todmorden. To reiterate, we have been made aware that there have been reports of an alarming nature regarding anti-social behaviour in Todmorden. We are working with the police currently. It may not directly involve our students but please be aware that if your child is out at night, they could become involved. If you have any information, please contact the police.

Yesterday we held our Big Lunch event where approximately 50 guests attended from the local community and beyond. Students served our visitors a delicious two-course Christmas dinner cooked by our catering team and our students also put on entertainment for our guests. Ben Thorne (a previous student) attended the event to compere and a great time was had by all. Take a look at our social media to see some more images from the event.



From the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January we will be encouraging students to sit down and eat with a proper plate and a knife and fork in our dining facilities. New tables and additional seating will be provided for this purpose. We will also be phasing out any covid restrictions that we had in place. Wednesdays will become a roast dinner day, with no other options served. Children will not be

allowed to take food outside to eat unless it is a packed lunch that they have brought from home on a Wednesday. This is something that we will be looking to implement full time moving forward, so that students are sitting down to eat every day in school.

Finally, a reminder that Monday is the last day for donations for our festive food drive. Please drop these off in reception or send them in with your student. Donations will be packed and distributed to families in the area to brighten up their Christmas. Details of what to donate feature in my previous letters which you can view on our website [Autumn 2022 - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](http://Autumn 2022 - Todmorden High School (todhigh.co.uk)).

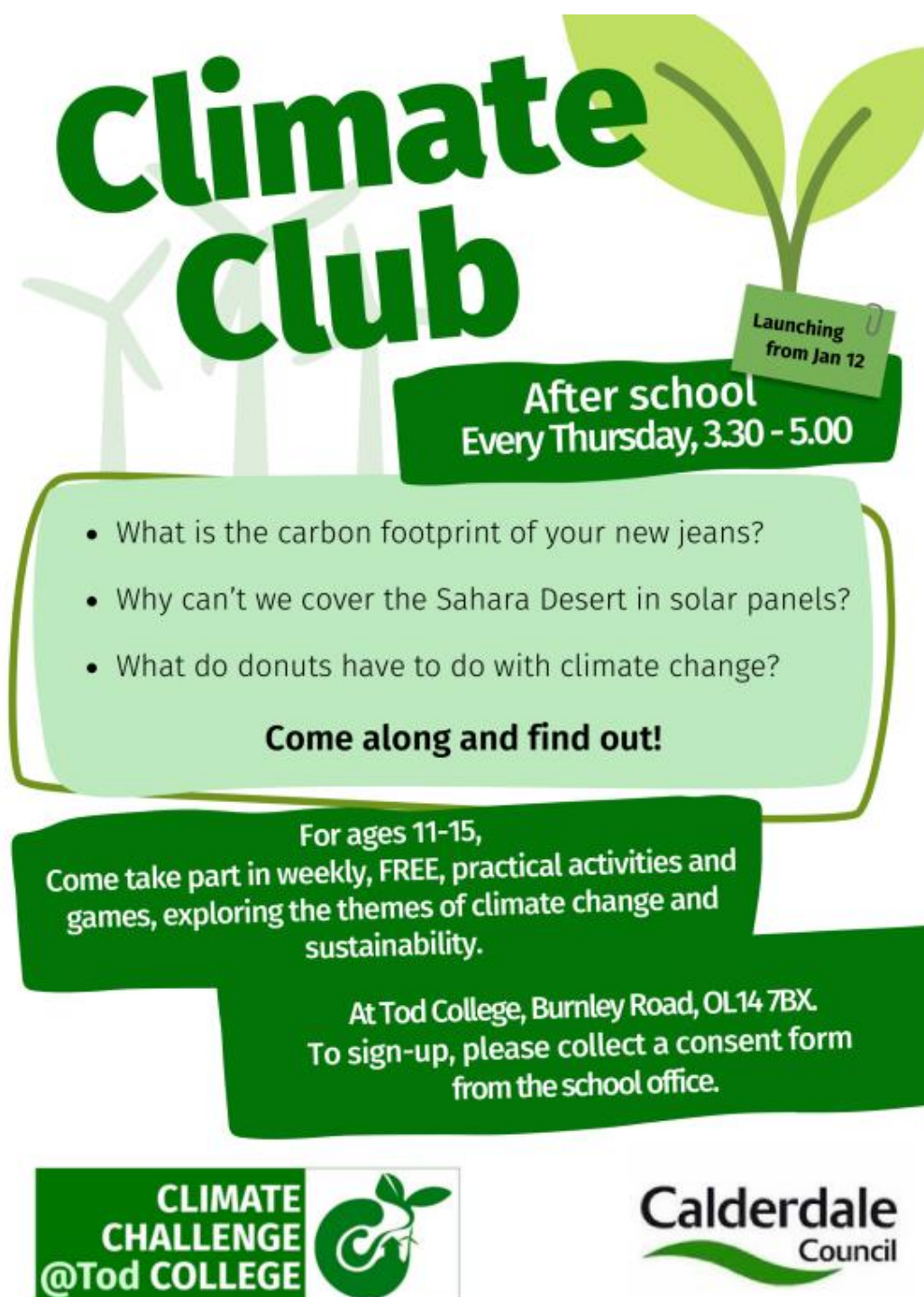
Have a lovely weekend with your families and we will see all our students on Monday at 8.40am.

Yours sincerely,



Gill Shirt

Headteacher



# Climate Club

After school  
Every Thursday, 3.30 - 5.00


- What is the carbon footprint of your new jeans?
- Why can't we cover the Sahara Desert in solar panels?
- What do donuts have to do with climate change?

**Come along and find out!**

For ages 11-15,  
Come take part in weekly, FREE, practical activities and games, exploring the themes of climate change and sustainability.

At Tod College, Burnley Road, OL14 7BX.  
To sign-up, please collect a consent form from the school office.

**CLIMATE CHALLENGE @Tod COLLEGE**



**Calderdale Council**