



Ewood Lane
Todmorden
West Yorkshire
OL14 7DG

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www.todhigh.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

Up & coming dates

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 16th, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the tragic news story about a number of children who have sadly lost their lives after falling into a frozen lake, our colleagues at West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue have asked that we share the following resource with schools. [Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#). Please impress the importance of staying safe near open water and frozen water on your children and ensure that they are aware of the dangers of playing in these areas. Students have been spoken to during focus time this week.

Thanks to your generous donations, and the proceeds from Mr Keane's advent raffle, our student leaders have been able to make up 35 festive food hampers again this year, and these will be delivered to some of our most vulnerable families over the next few days. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of our community. This year, more than ever, people are faced with hardship and uncertainty, and these gifts of festive food will at least help a little. It is lovely to see our value of care brought to life so vividly.

On Thursday 5th January, we look forward to welcoming our year 11 Leavers 2022, and their families, into school for their Presentation Evening - the first of these to happen in person since the start of the pandemic. They will receive their examination certificates and we will present a host of other awards in what promises to be a really lovely evening. The Mayor of Todmorden, Cllr Liz Thorpe, will be in attendance to present certificates and we always enjoy catching up with member of our extended THS family, 6 months on - they are always doing such amazing things!

Our next Todmorden Together meeting is arranged for 26th 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. Please do come and join us for the meeting if you are able to and add the date to your diary.

On Wednesday this week, Year 7 students were treated to an online discussion with AM Dassu, the author of 'Boy, Everywhere'. The book tells the story of Sami, a young boy who is forced to flee Syria with his family when war breaks out. Sami's experience is one of both danger and discovery as he arrives in Britain following a traumatic journey over perilous waters. Our Year 7 students have been gripped by the book and they were given the opportunity to ask questions about life in Syria and the inspiration behind the story.



Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential

THS has recently switched to using buff paper for printing services. Our paper is 100% recycled.

Last night was our Christmas show 'Rockin' Around the Toddy Tree'. Students performed wonderfully putting on musical and dramatic performances for all visitors to enjoy. I was so proud of all the students who performed, and we were even treated to some staff performances as well with a small collective performing a Christmas carol for us as a choir quartet. The atmosphere was brilliant and everyone really seemed to enjoy the show, well done to everyone who took part and huge thanks to Miss Brockman and Mrs Patchett-Byrne who always work so hard to make these events wonderful for all.

To allow for all students to show respect for our uniform policy we do carry a store of spare uniform in school. We do lend items out to students to support them in making the right choices and adhering to our school rules and values. During the course of this term, many items borrowed by students have not been returned. If your child has borrowed any items from school, please can these be brought back in when we return in January. Additionally, any donations of unwanted uniform in good condition would be gratefully received.

A reminder that when we return to school students should be in full and correct uniform wearing black shoes (no trainers) and no jewellery except for one pair of plain studs. To see the guidance on our school uniform and equipment please visit <https://www.todhigh.co.uk/key-information/school-uniforms/>.

I would like to congratulate all our KS4 students who showed ambition by making the most of an opportunity and applying to participate in the once in a lifetime opportunity of travelling to Eswatini on a cultural exchange programme. The quality of applications was excellent, shortlisting was a challenging process, but 18 students were interviewed for the 10 places on programme last Thursday. Governors were incredibly impressed by the quality and maturity of student answers, hearing stories and learning about how the artefact they brought to interview would be of benefit. The ten successful students are delighted to have been selected for the visit and are excited to travel to Eswatini next summer. It is important for those who just missed out at each stage to continue to apply for opportunities when they are presented. Hopefully, we will be able to run these visits again next year.

On Tuesday our students had their Christmas lunch. Students were offered a meat or vegan option roast with all the trimmings and pudding too. Our students really enjoyed the dinner and it was a lovely way to get into the festive spirit in school with staff and students sitting down to eat and celebrate together.

From the week commencing 9th 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.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year with your families and friends. Students return to school for a slightly shorter first week in the New Year on Wednesday 4th January due to Monday being a bank holiday and Tuesday a training day for our staff.

Yours sincerely,



Gill Shirt
Headteacher