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Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

#### Up & coming dates

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

HAPP Day (transition event) – Tuesday 17/1/23

Headteacher virtual forum – Wednesday 18/1/23

Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 19/1/23 4.30-6.30pm

HAPP Day (transition event) – Tuesday 24/1/23

Todmorden Together – Thursday 26/1/23

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our students following the Christmas break. We hope that they all enjoyed a lovely break with their friends and families. It has been a great pleasure to welcome our students back to school this week. Mrs Rawlinson and I have been delivering assemblies regarding the ARCH values to the students this week, to remind our students of our expectations of conduct and behaviour in school and in the wider community. Key themes of the assemblies have been concerning appearance and uniform, politeness, respect for peers and staff, calm corridors and always behaving in a caring manner. We have been impressed with the behaviour of our students this week; they have really hit the ground running!

Over the holidays we have installed new seating and tables in our canteen areas to allow for students to enjoy a sit-down meal. I have been working hard alongside our catering manager to make improvements to the way lunches are served at school and to improve the dining experience for our students. Part of this project has been gathering feedback from students themselves when I have met with them for student breakfast and around school, student voice is extremely important to us as a school. We are moving towards a food-free zone outside and all students who purchase a hot meal will be expected to sit down and eat together before going outside for their break (at present), excluding those students who bring a packed lunch with them to school. As of this week Wednesday's will be a roast only option, with no other grab and go choices, to encourage students to eat a well balanced and nutritious meal in line with healthy schools' guidance. I will keep you updated over the coming weeks, if you have any feedback that you would like to offer regarding our lunch service please do get in touch by email or by visiting my next virtual forum. We always provide a vegan/vegetarian option.

Last night was our Presentation Evening for the year 11 cohort who left us in Summer 2022. We had a great turn out for the event, and it was lovely to see some of our students and catch up with them regarding how they are doing on their college courses, apprenticeships, and other pursuits. Several awards were given to students to recognise their achievements throughout their time at Todmorden High School. Having held this event virtually due to the pandemic over the last two years I can't describe how fantastic it felt to be able to present these awards in person and to see our students back in the building. Thank you to all who attended and a huge thanks to Ms Wells for her organisation of the event. If any of our previous Year 11 students would like to come for another visit, we would be extremely pleased to welcome them. The mayor attended and so did many school staff. To have a look at some of our awards please see the rear of this letter.



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

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.

I would like to remind parents/carers with students in year 9 of the upcoming options evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January from 16:30-18:30. We are excited to be able to host the event in school for the first time since 2019. This is a very exciting time for our students in year 9 as it is the first time they have ever had the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they take, we are proud as a school to be able to offer a wide range of options subjects to suit all our learners.

We are very sad to announce that Miss Crowther, our Learning Manager for Year 8, leaves us next Tuesday to begin a new career. We have hired Mrs Townend to replace Miss Crowther who has started with us this week and has been spending some time getting to know the students in her year group, so if your child is in Year 8 as of next Wednesday you will need to get in touch with Mrs Townend on [a.townend@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:a.townend@todhigh.co.uk). We wish Miss Crowther all the best for her future.

We have a number of job opportunities available on our website to suit all sorts of working hours and lifestyles. If you would like to get into a career in education and have a desire to work as part of a values driven school with a values driven team, please do take a look at our recruitment page to see if any of these jobs appeal to you or visit TES to look at our available jobs [Recruitment - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](https://www.tes.com/jobs/recruitment-todmorden-high-school-todhigh-co-uk).

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child please get in touch with us at any time on [admin@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@todhigh.co.uk) or using the telephone number detailed above.

Yours sincerely,



Gill Shirt

Headteacher

