



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

Headteacher virtual forum – Wednesday 18/1/23  
Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 19/1/23 4.30-6.30pm  
Todmorden Together – Thursday 26/1/23  
Year 11 Mock exams – start 30/1/23

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9, 10 and 11 will be joining a presentation on knife crime on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January to raise their awareness around this topic. It is vital that we educate our students on all aspects of knife crime to provide support to any who may be feeling worried or concerned about what they have seen in the media, and to prepare them for the wider world. If any parents would like to discuss this with us please get in touch.

Our year 11 students start their mock exams on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. There are a number of documents that students can review on our website including revision, exam guidance and mental health resources. Students and parents can access these via the following links:

[Examinations - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](http://www.todhigh.co.uk)

[Revision By Subject - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](http://www.todhigh.co.uk)

[Mental Health & Exams - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](http://www.todhigh.co.uk)

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.

My next virtual parent drop in of the year is set for next Wednesday, January 18<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.



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

Some of our super ambitious students took part in the Y9 Forensic Science Day yesterday. This is the second time Mr Jon Bates from 'Sci High' has been to Todmorden High School. Once again, sharing his vast knowledge and experience, he engaged students through a series of realistic activities and role play. Students learnt not only about the science which underpins the evidence given in court, but the importance of planning how to work and sticking to that plan. This echoes the work we do in school to develop self-regulated learners.

The links made to the curriculum were superb, and included;

- kinetic energy in the role of blood spatter
- the role of evolution in developing fingerprints and other vestigial organs
- how the U.K. is a world leader in biometric science because the U.K. developed the science first
- microwaves used in mobile phones and how once phones are entered into evidence signals are blocked by Faraday cage bags
- the increased use of mobile data in the solving crimes and how this is a growth area for future jobs



The students worked brilliantly together as a team to collect and analyse footprint samples, fingerprints, DNA traces and blood spatters to gather enough evidence to reach a valid conclusion. Students then staged a full Crown Court trial, illustrating the roles of all the professionals involved, it was like a scene from Happy Valley! Students and supporting staff had an entertaining day of learning. We hope many of them are encouraged by this to choose separate science and take their learning further.

In the light of the cost and living crisis, during our ARCH Day 2-2-23, some children will study sessions on life skills relating to budgeting, saving energy and money and generally being wise with money. The sessions will be delivered by the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Calderdale Council (supervised by school staff). At 3pm there will be an open session for parents, carers, friends, relatives, staff – anyone who feels they would benefit. Topics covered will be bills, grants and debt management (more details to follow). There will also be a signpost to information on how to access the services should you need. School will provide a free light, warm meal for all attendees so it would be most helpful if you could let reception (01706813558, [admin@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@todhigh.co.uk)) know that you are coming before the event. Once again this event is open to all, you don't need to have a child at school to attend.

This week Year 11 EPR students had a visit from Bob Kibble who is a Humanist celebrant. Bob spoke on what it means to live life as a Humanist as well as giving Humanist responses to different philosophical and ethical issues. There was time for questioning and relating content to real life situations as well as gathering information for the EPR exam. Thanks to Mr Womack and Ms Wells for organising this for our students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Shirt".

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher

