



Ewood Lane
Todmorden
West Yorkshire
OL14 7DG
Tel: 01706813558

www.todhigh.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

Up & coming dates

Y9 DTP/Men vaccinations – 4th May and 11th May
Year 10 Raising Aspiration Evening – 4th May 4.30pm start
ARCH Day 3 – 10th May
DfE Y10 Bronze Expedition – 13th and 14th May
Todmorden Together – 18th May 5.30-6.30pm
Y8 HPV dose catch up vaccinations – 26th May

April 21st, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have an update regarding the strike action and how it will affect our students. A letter was sent to parents via Class Charts on 8th March with a follow up text message and it also went on our social media and website. The communication stated that school would be closed to **all** students Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May, excluding those who were specifically referred to in my letter. Following the provision of updated guidance by the Department for Education late yesterday afternoon, **we are able to open to Year 11 on both strike days**. We are delighted that the Department for Education and the unions have come to an agreement which allows us to put this provision in place and support our students, who have already missed so much of their education, without undermining the strike action. I will send a more detailed communication out on Class Charts early next week, **but for immediate information school will be closed to years 7-10 on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. We will be open for Year 11 on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May – their attendance is compulsory**. We will still provide supervision and education for vulnerable students, details as outlined in my previous strike letter, some year 10 have been invited in also.

I have had several parental communications regarding the installation of CCTV in the student toilets in school. The cameras in the toilets are currently turned off. When they are turned on they will only cover the communal areas and not the cubicles or the urinals - the cameras do not compromise students' privacy but safeguard students. The safety and happiness of our students is paramount to us and unfortunately some anti-social activity going on in the toilets by a small minority is affecting the wellbeing of the rest of our student body. We held three toilet consultation meetings prior to the changes coming into place. Our hope is that the actions we have taken will deter this antisocial behaviour and make our facilities more pleasant for our school community.

I had my virtual parent forum on Wednesday this week, thank you to all parents who visited. My next forum is on the 3rd May and you can drop in from 3.15-4.15pm to have a discussion with me if you have anything you need to raise. <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aef7915e0a547409eb1c21d7bc24f8f%40thread.tacv2/1681995122098?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e04fa957-592e-450e-98c1-6d3d3a481a58%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef25ef08-bf19-4062-8904-69d1b035001b%22%7d>.

As the weather improves and we move into the summer term please ensure that your child brings a water bottle into school with them so that they can access water from our drinking fountains throughout the day. Please



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

remember that we do not sell drinks in school any more so students will not be able to purchase a drink, we also do not provide plastic cups anymore in school. A drinking bottle is an essential piece of kit for your child.

Thank you for all the donations made to our "prom shop", your generosity has been overwhelming. There is no expectation for students to dress up, we want students to wear whatever they feel comfortable in, but having access to some beautiful dresses and accessories will be a significant help to our students who want that experience.

If anyone else can donate we are still accepting donations of dresses, accessories (shoes, bags, jewellery) and suits, shirts and ties for our students. Your support is very much appreciated. If you have any queries. please contact j.james@todhigh.co.uk.

On Thursday 4th May we are holding a Raising Aspirations event from 4.30pm for our year 10 students. At the event students will be able to delve into sessions around revision, achieving success at GCSE, destinations after school and much more. We will be sending out more specific information closer to the event, but please add the date to your calendar.

A reminder that we do offer a home learning club in the library. The club runs until 4pm every afternoon. Students can use the computers and work independently or in groups, as well as being able to borrow stationery such as pens, pencils and flash cards. If you feel your child is struggling to complete their home learning for whatever reason, please do encourage them to come along after school. Snacks will be provided. If you want to discuss this provision please get in touch with our home learning club lead Mrs Brown on a.brown@todhigh.co.uk.

Several parents have been getting in touch with us using the 'contact' page on our website. A reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness you must report this via the school telephone lines, open 8-4pm, directly to our attendance team. If you have an attendance related query other than illness you can get in touch with Miss Dearden on c.dearden@todhigh.co.uk. You can email our reception if you have an email to send to a specific member of staff admin@todhigh.co.uk. Your first port of call is always with your child's learning manager for any other queries, details are below.

Year 7 (and transition queries from year 6 families) – Mrs Thompson (p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk)

Year 8 – Mrs Townend (a.townend@todhigh.co.uk)

Year 9 – Mrs Kontogiannopoulou (d.kontogiannopoulou@todhigh.co.uk)

Year 10 – Mrs Stansfield (e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk)

Year 11 – Miss James (j.james@todhigh.co.uk)

We have launched our new 'You Matter' mental health campaign in school. Mr Starr is our Mental Health Lead and can be contacted on g.starr@todhigh.co.uk. Please follow our social media accounts by using the QR codes below:



Have a lovely weekend and we will look forward to seeing our students on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Shirt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gill Shirt
Headteacher