



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

Y11 Leavers' Assembly – 27<sup>th</sup> June  
Burnley College Trip (Y10) – 28<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 5 mornings – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 11 Prom – 30<sup>th</sup> June

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### School information

**Strike action** - I sent a strike action letter out to all parents yesterday detailing the school's plan for the upcoming strike days in July (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>). Just to reiterate that message I am sorry to inform you that Todmorden High School will be closed to all students in Year 7-10 on those two days, barring some exceptions. If the NEU give more guidelines after this letter and before the strike, we will contact you. The full letter is published in the letters home section of our school website and has been sent out on Class Charts.

**The school day** - As you will be aware we have been consulting on our school day in order to ensure that we are fully compliant with Government guidelines around school opening hours, to better meet the needs of our students and to respond to feedback. The consultation on the school day went to staff, parents and students and a working party was formed internally to support with its development. Following the consultation, the school day, from September, will now be 8:30am on site and 3:00pm finish. We will publish the school day plan shortly on our website and I will share it in my letter. Thanks to all who offered advice and ideas.

**Year 9 Learning Manager** - As of Monday next week Miss James is taking over the pastoral care of our Year 9 students who she will be taking forward into Year 10 and the beginning of their GCSE journey. Mrs Kontogiannopoulou will be focussing her efforts on our upcoming Year 6 students, who she will be looking after when they join us in September as the Year 7 Learning Manager. If your child is in Year 9 and you require pastoral support or would like to speak to a member of staff in school please contact Miss James on [j.james@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.james@todhigh.co.uk) from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Uniform** - The temperature is due to drop next week therefore we expect all students to attend school in their full uniform with blazers, top buttons done up and ties worn proudly. We will continue to monitor the weather and if we get another spike in temperature we will respond appropriately. Please continue to send your child in to school with a water bottle so that they can access our water fountains throughout the day.

**School rebuilding programme** - On 29 June 2020, the Prime Minister announced that the government would establish a 10-year school rebuilding programme. The school rebuilding programme (SRP) will undertake major rebuilding and refurbishment projects, with investment targeted at school and sixth-form college buildings in the worst condition across England. If you are not already aware we have been selected as one of those schools and will be having a new building at some point within the 10-year plan. I have attended some meetings around the process



Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential

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

and informal discussion has now begun within the Leadership Team and the wider school community about what our dream school might look like. I will keep you all informed as the process continues and if you have any ideas or want to have any input please don't hesitate to get in touch. For more information on the school rebuilding programme visit [About the school rebuilding programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk).

**Vacancies** - We have vacancies open for the position of Cover Leader and General Technician (Food). Both jobs would be excellent opportunities for any individual interested in becoming a classroom practitioner or Learning Support worker in the future. Opportunities for CPD and development come within the roles, if you or any family members or friends are currently seeking work this could be the role! Please share with those you know.

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

### School events

**Cricketing congratulations** - Congratulations to Isaac and Theo who have been selected for the second year running to play Interleague level cricket for Lancashire. Well done! Also well done to all our students who were involved in the cricket tournament last weekend, I am told they did brilliantly and had a fantastic day.

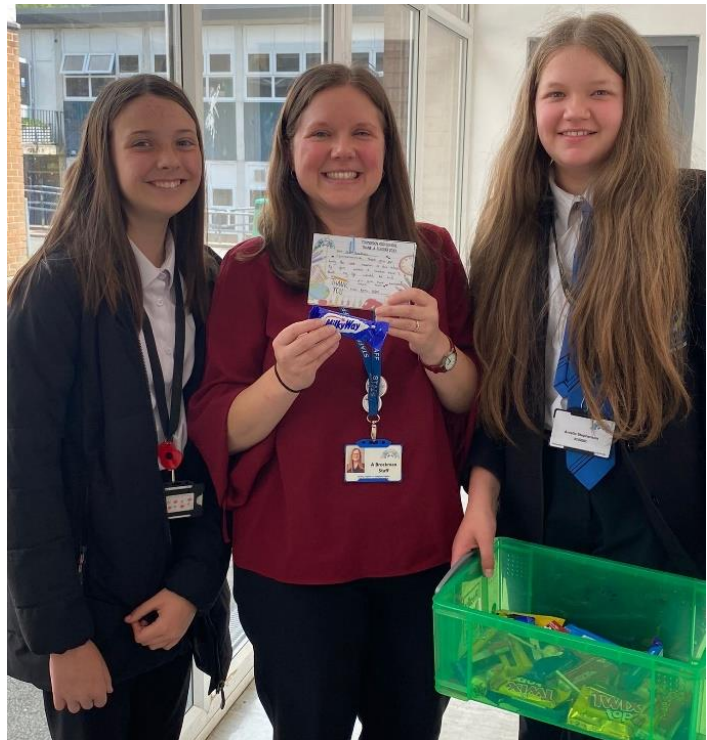


**Treewood and celebration event** - This Monday our Ewood centre celebrated 10 years since its opening as our nurture centre. As part of this celebration the Ewood team unveiled their brand new Treewood inside classroom. A place for students to engage with nature and learn about growing and sustaining. The Ewood team have worked extremely hard to get the garden room ready, led by Mrs Timewell and Mrs Stiff our students have contributed to its development and creation. It was a privilege to cut the red ribbon to Treewood and to open a facility that will be so beneficial to all.

**Allotment trip** - Last Friday Mr Starr and I accompanied ten students to a sustainable allotment in Burnley. The students were shown around the allotment, they learnt about different plants, watering systems and studied the solar electricity system. All the students found it really interesting and we all had a great time.



**Thank A Teacher day** - Wednesday was Thank A Teacher day and Ms Wells and our student ambassadors spent some time visiting staff to deliver personal thank you messages and well wishes written by our students. It was truly heart-warming to hear about and read some of the wonderful messages our students wrote for our teachers. It certainly brightened up everyone's day!



### Other information

#### **Important message from Calderdale Public Health and West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue**

*We have been made aware of an incident where a small number of children have become unwell after playing, swimming or paddling in local rivers and canals.*

*At this time of year, we respond to many concerns about young people swimming and jumping into open water.*

*Be aware! Open waters are exposed to the elements and may therefore contain bacteria/viruses from natural sources such as animal waste. This can make you extremely unwell.*

*Please tell your children to:*

- 1. Avoid drinking water from open water sources*
- 2. Wash hands thoroughly after playing in or near rivers, lakes, streams and canals*

*If your child becomes unwell after contact with open water, seek medical advice as appropriate.*

*Please also remind your children about the other hidden dangers of open water. There are many dangers when entering canals, rivers, and reservoirs, which have tragically taken lives. **The number of accidental drownings in our region is on the rise.** Even with all the hot weather we have been having the water temperature will be cold. Below 15°C is defined as cold water and can seriously affect your breathing and movement*

*If you get into difficulty in the water #FloatToLive:*

- 1. **Take a minute** - The initial effects of cold-water pass in the less than a minute so don't try and swim straight away*
- 2. **Relax and float** - on your back to catch your breath. Try to get hold of something that will help you float*

3. **Keep calm** - then call for help or swim to safety if you're able

*If you see someone in difficulty in the water call **999 and ask for FIRE!***

*For more information on keeping your family safe in, on and around water have a look at our website:*

[www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/water](http://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/water)

*Please #BeWaterAware*

It is our summer event this afternoon and I am very much looking forward to it. There will be a number of stalls and events taking place throughout the afternoon. Hopefully see some of you there.

As always if you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us on the details at the head of this letter, via your child's Learning Manager or through our school website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Shirt', written in a cursive style.

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher