



Ewood Lane
Todmorden
West Yorkshire
OL14 7DG
Tel: 01706813558
www.todhigh.co.uk
Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

Up & coming dates

Year 11 Mocks begin – Monday 30/1/23 (3 weeks)
Y9 HPV Dose 2 – Monday 30/1/23
Strike action – Wednesday 1/2/23 School closed to students
ARCH Day 2 – Thursday 2/2/23 & Cost of living crisis and warm space event 3pm onwards (open to all)

January 27th, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I sent a letter out earlier this week regarding the strike action and how it will affect our students. The letter came to parents via Class Charts with a follow up text message, it also went on our social media and website. School will be closed to students on Wednesday 1/1/23 excluding those who have been specifically referred to on my letter. Please ensure that you have read this letter and, if you have any questions, do get in touch. I will continue to keep lines of communication open for parents/carers regarding any upcoming strike action. The link to the letter is here [Strike-letter-Jan-2023.pdf \(todhigh.co.uk\)](#).

Please can you ensure we have accurate contact details for your child on the system. We are only able to contact parents who are named on your child's records. This information can be sent directly via email to r.ogden@todhigh.co.uk who will ensure this is updated on the system.

We are dealing with an increasing number of incidents relating to misuse of social media outside school. Please can we request that all parents regularly monitor their child's mobile phones and associated social media apps. We know many of you do this already in order to safeguard your child. Some of the main challenges we have been dealing with involve children being added to different groups on apps including Snapchat and Whatsapp. In many cases students know the other members of the group but not always. These groups can become toxic environments where online bullying takes place and even though often not all group members are involved, by being part of the group each member can be held responsible for what takes place in the group if they remain part of it. We are also aware of students using their mobile phones late at night, messaging group chats in the early hours of the morning. As I am sure you are aware this is hugely disruptive not only to their sleep schedules but also detrimental to their mental health. In many incidences children have no 'down time' from their devices, research shows that this can have a significantly negative impact upon their mental health and wellbeing. In light of this we offer the following advice:

1. Regularly check your child's phone - in most cases parents/carers will be the ones who pay for the phone and the contract, so it is essentially the parent's property.
2. Do not allow your child to charge their phone in their room at night. If they use it as an alarm clock, please look at purchasing a cheap alarm clock to do the same job. This will improve the quality of their sleep and also benefit their mental health by having a physical break from it.



Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential

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

3. Consider downloading one of the parental monitoring apps such as mSpy, eyeZy or Qustodio. There are numerous pieces of software that can be used to do this and many are free to download. These allow you to monitor your child's mobile phone use remotely.

We know this may seem like an invasion of your child's privacy, but it is becoming increasingly clear that many of our young people are not equipped with the necessary skills to safely manage mobile phone and social media use and as a result can become engaged in unsafe behaviour. As part of our ARCH curriculum we will continue to address the issues posed by social media and teach students how to manage these online environments safely, but we can only do this with parental commitment to supporting this outside of school.

My virtual forum scheduled to take place next Wednesday has been postponed. My next forum will be on the 22nd February 3.15-4.15pm on Microsoft Teams. More information will come out regarding this closer to the time.

Please can I remind you that we no longer sell drinks through our catering facility, therefore students need to bring a refillable bottle with them to school. We have several water fountains on school site that students can use during their breaktimes to refill their bottle. Thank you for your support with this.

Last weekend, the EPR team ran an informal trip to observe Christian worship. They visited St Joseph's Catholic Church and Northern Lights Pentecostal Church. This proved useful for our EPR students in developing their understanding of different practices. Next stop for the EPR students is the Buddhist Centre in York.

The Pride of Todmorden award nominees list has now been shared online with the Todmorden community. We are very proud to announce that several nominees on the awards list are previous students, current students and members of staff. Nominees linked to the school are: -



Teacher award

- Jake Womack
- Emily Stansfield

Teen award

- George Collins
- Lewis Collins
- Daniel Roberts
- Evie Hawksworth – prior student
- Emmie Dunlevy – prior student
- Noah Priestley – prior student

Sports team award

- Todmorden Stars U12 girls' football team – several of the team are members of our school community.

This is the link to vote for winners now from the nominees list, I encourage you all to put your vote in.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eHDH3QP0606Ayt0DunRZxHW5MbcarpOs2B0pBAmtq1UMkpBS0xMVjNCRzhDTTNaMFBQOUNPVkYxTi4u&origin=Invitation&channel=0>

Additionally I have been informed by the organisers of the event that one of our students, Harley Raison, designed the logo for the event (pictured) and that Ava Priestley along with some other members of our Year 11 Photography class are the official photographers for the awards event. I am very proud of our students' involvement in this important community event.



As I mentioned in my last letter, 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. 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) know that you are coming before the event. Once again this event is open to all and you don't need to have a child at school to attend.

On the same topic, we are currently holding a coat collection in school. If you, or any friends or family members, have warm winter coats (adult or child) that you are disposing of please do consider donating them to our school. Once donated we will then put these out for attendees of the warm space event on the 2nd Feb to peruse.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Shirt

Headteacher