

**Up & coming dates**

Todmorden Together- 6/10/21  
Year 6 Open Evening- 7/10/21  
Year 11 Mocks- 18/10/21  
Year 10 Parents' Evening- 21/10/21  
October Half Term- 2.50pm Friday 22/10/21  
Return to school- 8.40am Monday 1/11/21

Friday 1/10/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your undaunting support and patience this week while we have had to make difficult decisions to close year groups down to support with staff absence. We can appreciate the challenges that these actions present for parents and carers and we are doing everything we can in school to limit disruption for our students as much as possible. We have reintroduced face coverings in communal spaces and are encouraging all students, who are medically able to do so, to adhere to these temporary arrangements. We have also ensured all staff have hand sanitiser and are asking staff and students to sanitise their hands and the workspaces in classrooms periodically during the day. We appreciate your support with these decisions; please understand they have not been taken lightly and are designed to best protect our whole school community. Our Estates team have been working relentlessly to ensure areas are fogged, sanitised, and deep cleaned to attempt to limit the spread of the virus.

This week's visit from the NHS mass testing unit went well with hundreds of children and staff across the school receiving PCR tests. Students conducted themselves in a mature and sensible manner during the process, and we are sure that this process will enable us to further limit the spread of the virus by enabling us to identify those students and staff who need to self-isolate. We have remained in regular contact with Public Health Calderdale to monitor any in school cases and to discuss and consider actioning points from our 'Outbreak Management Plan'.

Several changes relating to isolation rules have taken place over summer; please see the NHS guidance, from the link below, so you can be sure you and your families are following the latest advice. Following this guidance will help keep individuals and the community as safe as possible. As part of the changes, we are no longer tracing contacts of individual cases; this will be done by NHS Test and Trace following a positive PCR result. The school is no longer responsible for reporting this. It is imperative you have a confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test for this reason. The isolation rules have not altered in relation those displaying one or more of the three main symptoms; please isolate immediately and seek a PCR test if you have any of these 3 symptoms, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child displays one of these symptoms whilst in school, we will contact home and ask for them to be collected and the guidance followed including isolating and undertaking a PCR test. Public Health Calderdale have recommended that whilst positive Covid cases in school are high it is worth seeking a confirmatory PCR if your child displays other symptoms, not listed above, such as vomiting and a sore throat.

[When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We are monitoring our current staff absence and will continue to make informed organisational decisions throughout the next week to ensure that the school is able to run smoothly. Please be assured that we will give you as much notice as we possibly can, should we need to communicate any extraordinary changes to the school day e.g. a year group closure.



**Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential**

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

Work for students who are self-isolating and well enough to complete work is currently being set on a weekly basis via email. As a school we are checking the work has been set but have been made aware that some of the work may be found in the 'groups' section of email on Office 365 as opposed to their inbox, please can you make students aware of this. A video has been created to show a walk-through guide of how to find this work, this is available on Class Charts.

Due to the emergency closures this week all students who were working from home were instructed to follow the same procedure. We are aware that this is a change to what would usually happen but are very thankful for both students and parents reading the information shared, showing resilience, and completing the work that had been set already. Please continue to follow communication from school and please ensure you feedback where you feel this is appropriate.

We host several Parents' Evenings throughout the year. Please do add any of the dates relevant to you to your diary.

- Y10 Parents' Evening- Thurs 21/10/21 4.30-7pm
- Y11 Parents' Evening- Thurs 25/11/21 4.30-7pm
- Y9 Parents' Evening- Thurs 9/12/21 4.30-7pm
- Y9 Options Evening- Thurs 20/1/22 5-7pm
- Y8 Parents' Evening- Thurs 10/3/22 4.30-7pm
- Y10 Parents' Evening- Thurs 24/3/22 4.30-7pm

My first Virtual Parent Drop-in session of the academic year has been scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 3-4pm. A link will be available on our website [www.todhigh.co.uk](http://www.todhigh.co.uk) to enable you to attend the event if you have any issues, concerns or feedback for me about the school. This event is run on TEAMS, and meetings take place one to one with me in an online format. You will wait in a lobby and be admitted as the previous visitor leaves, so please do be patient as I do my best to speak with every parent who visits the drop in but some conversations are longer than others. I hope to speak to some of you then.

On Wednesday the majority of our Y11 students showed their ambition by logging on to receive key information regarding their examinations and the options available to them when they leave us next year. This was followed up with staff running workshops to prepare and support our students for this exciting time. I would like to thank all staff involved in running these sessions and to students and their families who attended, I'm sure it was very a valuable experience. If you missed the event and would like further information, please contact Mrs Stansfield, [E.Stansfield@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:E.Stansfield@todhigh.co.uk) the Learning Manager for year 11.

Next week in school we have a number of our local Post-16 providers delivering virtual assemblies to our Year 11 students to show off the fantastic facilities they have as well as talking about the different routes and courses they have on offer. This will be followed up with a Post-16 Fair which is taking place for all Year 11 students during lunch time and focus time next Friday. This is an amazing opportunity for our Year 11 cohort to meet our Post-16 providers face to face and ask any questions they may have. We would also really recommend you attend as many Post-16 Open Evenings and Events as possible to really get a taste of what is on offer. If you do have any questions at all in regards to Careers or Post-16 Options, please email either Rob Stoakes or Emily Stansfield [r.stoakes@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:r.stoakes@todhigh.co.uk) [e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk)

It is with regret that I must inform you that our Open Evening scheduled to take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 has had to become a virtual event, despite our hopes that we could do this on school grounds. Our Open Evening will now be hosted online on our school website [www.todhigh.co.uk](http://www.todhigh.co.uk). Online you will be able to find a host of information regarding school life and the positive experiences that your child can have at our wonderful school. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help you with anything. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours Sincerely,



Gill Shirt  
Headteacher