

**Up & coming dates**

Y9 HPV 2 Imms: 15/2/22

Parent Governor Forum: 17/2/22

Spring Half Term: 19/2/22

Return to school: 28/2/22

2<sup>nd</sup> Covid Imms: 3/3/22

Careers Week: 7/3/22

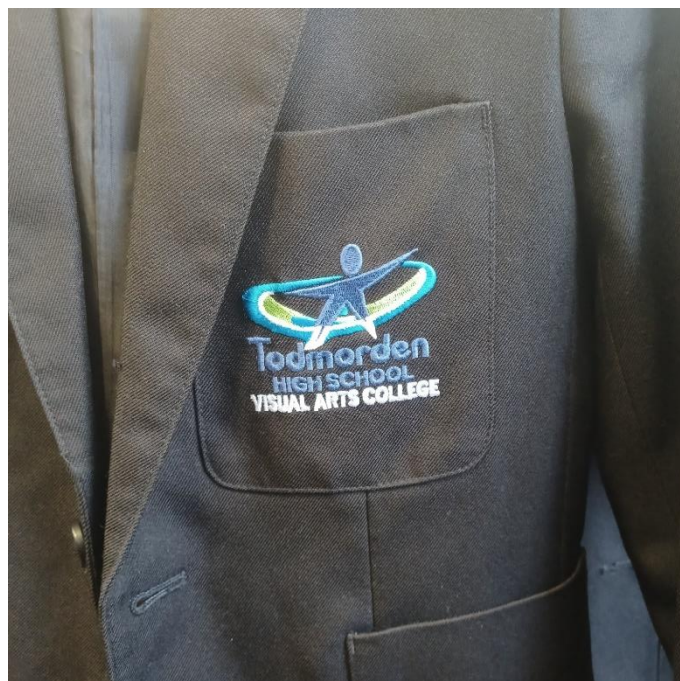
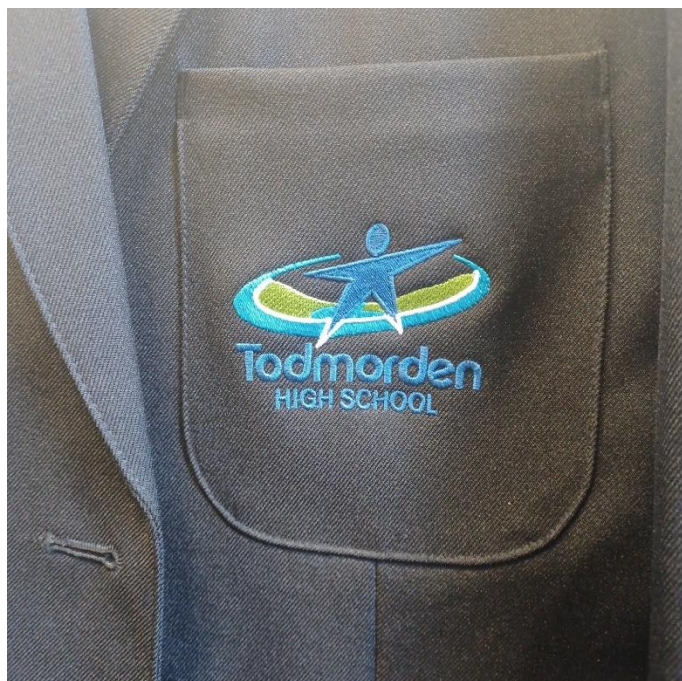
Y8 Parents' Evening: 10/3/22

Friday 4/2/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we held our third ARCH day of the year, Year 7 – Year 10 students covered a wide range of topics over the course of day including Road Safety, Human Rights, The Science of Sex amongst many more. As I detailed in my letter a fortnight ago, we deliver 'ARCH' days 6 times each year, students study a wide range of cross-curricular topics. It is within ARCH Days that much of the statutory content on Sex, Relationships and Health Education is delivered, and we also explore a range of other topics such as Personal Finance, British Values, Character Development, Careers Education and Drugs Education. These elements are an important part of educating our students and enabling them to develop important Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural skills for life. The day was very successful and widely enjoyed across the school. Should you have any further questions about our ARCH Days, or the Personal Development Programme in general, which is a real strength of the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Jake Womack ([j.womack@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.womack@todhigh.co.uk)) or Melissa Wells ([m.wells@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:m.wells@todhigh.co.uk)).

There are currently two logos in use on our school blazers and other bespoke uniform items. Both are equally acceptable and so parents and carers shouldn't worry which their child has on their uniform items. We have made this information clear to our uniform suppliers. Should we decide to phase one of the logos out completely we will make sure lots of advance notice is given.

**Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential**

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

We had the absolute pleasure of hosting John Bates (Forensic Scientist) at Todmorden High School last week, who provided a superb opportunity to learn about role of a forensic scientist. 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 professionalism in this role that supports the British justice system and human rights.

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

- Test for amylase first to see if saliva is there before testing for DNA;
- Kinetic energy in the role of blood splatter;
- U.V. LED lights developed by Japanese Scientists - Nobel Prize;
- The structure of DNA and genes and how they differ between individuals;
- Radio waves used in mobile phones.....and many more.



The students worked brilliantly together as a team to collect and analyse footprint samples, fingerprints, DNA traces and blood splatters to gather enough evidence to reach a valid conclusion. They then had to present and communicate all the information in a concise and clear way as part of trial. The students had a fantastic day!

One of our Year 11 students, River, is raising money for the CAMPS International trip to Peru by shaving his head for sponsorship. The hair (of which there is plenty!) will be donated to the Princess Trust, which I am sure many of you have heard of. At River's request, I am appealing to any parents or carers who can spare a few pounds to donate to this worthy cause. I have included River's appeal and link to his sponsorship page below.

*My name is River Friend and this year I will be going on a trip with CAMPS International to Peru. I've been growing my hair out since the beginning of Year 7. As part of my fundraising for this trip I will be cutting off all of my hair, and be going completely bald, with no hair at all (smooth as an egg). I will be donating all usable hair to the Princess Foundation, a charity that makes wigs out of real hair, for children and young people under the age of 24, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other hair loss conditions.*

*Going to Peru will be an amazing opportunity for me, and it will quite literally change my life. Whilst the other students and I are there, we will be having a hands on experience of teamwork; this could include anything from planting trees, collecting rubbish or building foundations for classrooms. This will be a brilliant way for me to explore different cultures and lifestyles and I will grow as a person immensely. As part of our trip we will be embarking on an expedition up to the top of Machu Picchu, a 46 mile trek. Again this experience will completely change my life and I will be ever grateful of it. Donate here: [Crowdfunding to Fund River Friend's trip to Peru on JustGiving](#)*

We are aware that everyone has had a challenging time during the pandemic, and some families have had more worries to deal with than others. We use our ARCH days, assemblies, and Wellbeing Wednesday inputs in school to reflect on our feelings and our personal development. Alongside all this work in school, we would like to encourage all families to make every effort to talk to each other as often as possible. Please set time aside each day or week, to talk through any worries or concerns your children have, or to simply share news with each other; often, a calm discussion, where worry or sadness is shared, can alleviate the situation. Please do remind your children, too, that normal life is never perfect, despite what they might see on social media! Real life is challenging, but worries might sometimes need keeping in perspective and, quite often, a bad day is simply that, and not necessarily indicative of any major issue or problem.

We are here to work in partnership with you to achieve the very best outcomes for your children and we are always happy to help and support where we can, either utilising staff in school or by signposting to other external services.

Next Wednesday 9/2/22 I will be hosting my fortnightly Virtual Parent Drop in on Microsoft Teams 3-4pm and would welcome any discussion there regarding covid-19 measures and any other school related issues. I had some insightful conversations with parents at my last drop in, thanks to those who attended. Please do drop in and speak with me on a one-to-one basis, virtually. The information will be circulated via ClassCharts and on social media on the day.

Our first Parent Governor Forum of the year is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 6-7pm. We are intending to hold the event on site, in our school hall. You will be able to attend via main reception. Tea and coffee will be provided. If the meeting has to be changed to a virtual format, I will ensure I notify you in advance. The Parent Governor Forum is an excellent opportunity to meet with Senior Leaders and members of our Governing Body to discuss school wide issues and ask any questions you might have. I look forward to seeing some of you there, we are really pleased to be able to host this event in person after a long time of meeting virtually.

You will notice in the up-and-coming dates box that our students are scheduled to have their 2<sup>nd</sup> covid vaccination dose in the first week back after half term. I will include some further information regarding this before we break up for half term. In the meantime if you have any questions please speak with your child's Learning Manager or with Miss Cooper.

A reminder that we break up for Half Term on Friday 18/2/22 at the normal time of 14.50pm. Students will return to school on Monday 28/2/22 for an 8.40am start as per their usual timetables.

As always, please do contact us if you need our support.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher