

Friday 5/11/2021

Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have spent some time in assembly reminding students about our uniform policy this week. Please do visit our school website if you need to refresh your memory about our uniform expectations [Uniform - Todmorden High School \(todhigh.co.uk\)](http://www.todhigh.co.uk). Just a gentle reminder that hoodies/jumpers are not allowed as part of school uniform, trousers should be full length (at least to the ankle) and jewellery is not permitted. We have a small stock of our new PE top in school. Price is £20 or £24 depending on size. Please contact Mrs Wrench at school if you require any further information or to order - email [j.wrench@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.wrench@todhigh.co.uk).

Our first Parent Governor Forum of the year is on next week, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November from 6-7pm. We are holding the event on site, in our school hall. You will be able to attend via main reception. Tea and coffee will be provided. 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.

Rochdale Sixth Form College are holding their final Virtual Open event of the year on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 between 16:00 – 19:00. This is the last event Rochdale will be hosting before their application deadline of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 12pm. This is an outstanding opportunity for students and parents to have a look at Rochdale Sixth Form and to get an insight into life at Rochdale Sixth Form College. During the event there will be an opportunity to hear Richard Ronksley, Principal, speak about the college and hear from their student ambassadors who can discuss their experience too. You will also be able to view presentations for each of the subjects you are interested in studying and have an opportunity to ask any specific questions. You can book your place on to this virtual event through the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rochdale-sixth-form-college-open-evening-2021-tickets-189545855757>

Thanks to all who attended my virtual parent drop in this week. It was a pleasure to speak to some of our parents and to answer queries or concerns that have popped up throughout the first term. I am hosting my next virtual drop in on the 17<sup>th</sup> November Wednesday 3pm.

Thank you to everyone who got involved with the bake sale in the last week of term. We raised a total of £228.05 for St Augustine's Centre in Halifax which will help make a difference for refugee families in the local area. Have a great weekend. I will look forward to seeing our students back in school on Monday morning.

We have some extremely exciting visits coming up! Todmorden High School has worked with William Hulme Grammar School in Manchester and we have secured the prestigious Turing Grant. As a result, we are very pleased to be able to provide opportunities for some of our students to have ambitious international cultural experiences. We have been awarded a prestigious Turing Scheme grant that will fully fund ten key stage 4 students (years 10 or 11) and one staff member to travel abroad on a cultural exchange programme to Ecuador and Eswatini in 2022. This programme is designed to provide young people the opportunity and experiences to expand horizons and develop educated, compassionate global citizens. This trip has already caused a great amount of excitement for students and staff alike. For more information on this please visit this webpage <https://www.kayavolunteer.com/turing-scheme-schools-2022>.



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As you will no doubt be aware Remembrance Day is approaching, next Thursday 11/11. We will be playing the last post in school and laying a wreath. Some chosen pupils will be reading a poem. On 14-11-21 students and teachers are meeting at 10.45am on Centre Vale Park (at the shelter near the bicycle track). If you would like to join us with your child, please do. We will be attending the service at the Memorial Garden and laying a wreath there.

To ensure no time is wasted it is critical students are on time to every lesson therefore maximising the retrieval and retention of key knowledge. Please can you support this by ensuring your child is on time at the start of the day. The school day begins at 8:40, this means students should be sat in their first lesson of the day at this time not arriving onto site at this time. Five minutes of lost learning time each day amounts to hours of lost learning time over the year. Students should arrive onto site no later than 8:35 where they will be dismissed promptly into their first lesson ready to be working from 8:40.

Students are not permitted to wear black trainers to school, including the popular Nike Air Force 1, all students must wear black school shoes in line with the uniform guidance on the website. Please be reminded that if their school shoes break mid-week, they will be offered a pair of our clean shoes to wear for the day. If this is unacceptable to you, please have a spare pair of shoes available at home.

**Examples of approved footwear:**



**Not approved:**



Despite annual safety warnings, firework celebrations still end in painful injuries for too many people, including very young children. I have spoken to students in their assemblies this week about being careful this weekend and not getting involved in any activity that may harm them or their peers. There is more guidance here ([Bonfire Safety – UK Fire Service Resources](#)) should you need to share it with them. Otherwise, have a lovely bonfire evening. Please have a safe weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher