

Up & coming dates

Virtual Parent Drop in- 17/11/21
ARCH Day 2- 24/11/21
Y11 Parents' Evening- 25/11/21
School closed (Jubilee holiday)- 26/11/21
Year 11 Data due home- 29/11/21

Friday 12/11/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I held assemblies about Remembrance Day to remind our students about the reasoning behind the day and what the minutes' silence is held for. Yesterday I met with a group of students and staff to lay a remembrance wreath in our gardens outside the Whirlaw building. All students in school observed 2 minutes silence, which was instigated by the last post playing over our new tannoy system and a poem read by a group of students for all to listen to. On Sunday 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. It is a full school uniform occasion.

Last night we hosted our first Parent Governor Forum of the year. It was great to be able to host this event on school site in our hall. Parents met with governors and a group of Senior Leaders to discuss school related concerns, positive feedback and any wider issues. The next forum will be in the spring term. Thanks to all who attended. If you were unable to attend and have anything to raise or discuss, please do attend my Parent Drop in online next Wednesday. If you are interested in feeding back on the wider community, we do have our Todmorden Together group, which meets three times a year, email Mrs Womack to join the mailing list e.womack@todhigh.co.uk.

GCSEPod are providing a series of free webinars on multiple GCSEPod features, these webinars will be for teachers, parents and carers. The webinars will provide an opportunity to have your questions answered by a GCSEPod expert and learn about the best way to make full use of the resource during this time, attendance at these events could help you to work with your child to enhance their experience of using GCSEPod. You can book a place on one of these webinars at the following web address: <https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/>.

On Thursday 25/11/21 there will be a Parents' Evening for year 11. This will be a virtual event run through SchoolCloud. All details will be shared with the parents and carers of students in this year group next week.

Whilst covid continues to cause student absence, we would like to remind you and your students that remote learning work is still being set weekly through student email. If your child is having to self-isolate and is well enough, there is still an expectation for them to demonstrate ambition by completing the work that has been set by our teachers. This completed work should then be emailed to the child's class teacher.

We are aware that many families have undergone significant challenges during the pandemic and that many of these challenges continue. As a school we want to continue to show our value of care and ensure that you are accessing any support that you are eligible for. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may now qualify for additional support, for example for free school meals, please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. If you would like additional support with this, please contact j.wrench@todhigh.co.uk.



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

In addition to this if your child does not have a device to access home or remote learning. We do have a small supply of laptops available for students to loan in a long-term capacity. If you feel that this is something that your child requires, please contact their Learning Manager in the first instance.

On Tuesday next week we have the Mayor coming to visit us. A small group of students entered a competition last year to design a Christmas light for Todmorden Town Centre, and last week I received notification that Erica (Y8) had won the competition. We are absolutely delighted that Erica's design will feature in the Christmas light display in Todmorden and the Mayor will be visiting school to congratulate Erica, and the others who entered designs, in person. Erica has also been invited to attend the lights switch on later on this month. We are very proud of Erica and her achievement, and of all the other students who entered.

Next week is anti-bullying week, we are joining thousands of schools worldwide, in celebrating diversity and intolerance of bullying throughout the week. We are very proud to have joined the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) this year and will continue to ensure that our students are safe and happy in school.

15th November : Odd Socks day (no other odd uniform will be allowed. The crazier the socks, the better!)
15th,16th,18th November : Anti-Bullying Focus time
15th-19th November : Anti-bullying Week Assemblies



I attach a link <https://www.kayavolunteer.com/turing-scheme-schools-2022>, and a poster at the rear of this letter, for the extremely exciting opportunities for the free two week visits to Eswatini and Ecuador for Year 10 and Year 11 students- 16-30th July 2022. The trip is run by Kaya travel and all insurance will be paid for. Please contact Mr Nalborczyk (a.nalborczyk@todhigh.co.uk) or myself for details.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact school should you need anything at all. Have a nice weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Gill Shirt
Headteacher

In Year 10 or Year 11?

Want to go on the trip of a LIFETIME? If the answer is YES, then get applying!



Visit Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) - 16-30 July 2022

In English-speaking Eswatini, we will be based in the royal vally of Enzulweni, where we will be housed at a camp and attend the local school each day.

You might not have heard of Eswatini before - until 2018 it was called Swaziland and borders South Africa, with which this nation has a very close relationship. The lush green valley is home of the Swazi royal family. Here we will learn about the local culture and tribal languages, visit traditional villages and craft markets and hike in the local hills to spot wildlife.

Visit Ecuador - 16-30 July 2022

In Ecuador we will be based in the seaside town of Puerto Lopez, where we will be housed together at a hostel and attend the local school each day.

Here we will work on our Spanish language, and also be invited to join local activities, such as cooking classes, salsa lessons, and visits to local beaches and national parks.



See Mr Nalborczyk if you have any questions.

Go to the website: <https://www.kayavolunteer.com/turing-scheme-schools-2022> or find the link on the school website for more details & the application form

Submit your application by **MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER** - online.



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