

Up & coming dates

October Half Term- 22/10/21 2.50pm
Return to school- 1/11/21 8.40am
Year 11 Mocks continue- 1/11/21
Parent Governor Forum- 11/11/21 6-7pm

Friday 22/10/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Students throughout the school are undertaking silent retrieval, at the start of every lesson and focus session, to support the retention of key knowledge; knowledge they need to progress in their studies. Students have practised silent retrieval since our return in September; I am pleased to see how well they are utilising this system across the school. 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.

Please be reminded of our uniform expectations as we approach half term. Students are permitted to wear a single plain stud in each ear, no other piercings are allowed. Please do not have any additional piercings undertaken over half term; they will not be healed and will not be removable for their return on November 1st. In addition, 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. As the weather turns colder and wetter, please encourage your child to wear an outdoor coat to school. Their outdoor coat should be worn over their blazer; please do not send your child into school wearing a cardigan, body warmer, sweatshirt or hoodie as they are not part of the uniform.

My first Virtual Parent Drop-in session of the academic year has been scheduled for Wednesday 3rd November 3-4pm. A link will be available on our website 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.



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Todmorden Book Festival: Melvin Burgess Visit

Year 9 were very lucky to be treated to a visit by the seminal young adult author Melvin Burgess this week. It was a fantastic event, and Year 9 have clearly been inspired as we've had a huge number of his books checked out of the library! A huge thank you to Todmorden Book Festival for organising and funding this, along with the brilliant blog writing workshops they hosted earlier in the term.

The English department are offering two sessions over the Half Term Break for all Year 11 students to attend. Miss Bradley and Miss Nuttall will be running one on Monday 25th October between 10 and 12, and Ms Scott and Mrs Keate will be running one on Wednesday 27th October between 10 and 12. Students are to meet the English department in the main reception on time, where the English team will then direct you to the chosen classroom. Students are requested to bring their copy of A Christmas Carol with them for this revision session. Students are more than welcome to attend both sessions however there will be cross over of content.

Sadly, due to covid-19 restrictions we have had to cancel our scheduled Halloween Showcase that was due to take place on the 4th November. Students have been rehearsing every week with Mrs Patchett-Byrne and really putting their all into preparing for the performance. We are terribly sad to have to cancel this event, but we intend to celebrate our students hard work by putting together something for parents and students to view. I will update you further on this in a future letter. We are currently unsure about the viability of running our Christmas Concert, but we are hopeful that this might be able to go ahead and will keep you posted.

We are running our annual pumpkin carving competition again this year, the entries last year were magnificent, and I can't wait to see what our students make this year! Students should bring their carved pumpkins to reception on Monday 1st November, clearly marked with their name and form, or email a photograph to their Learning Manager (the student must feature in the photograph with their pumpkin!) I will be judging the student creations in the first week back, the best entries will win prizes. Please do encourage your child to take part.

Have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to seeing our students back on Monday 1st November at 8.40am.

Yours Sincerely,



Gill Shirt
Headteacher