

**Up & coming dates**

Year 11 Data due home- 29/11/21

Year 9 Data due home – 3/11/21

Year 9 Parents' Evening- 9/12/21

Y7-11 Nasal Flu Immunisations- 15/12/21

Christmas Showcase (TBC)- 16/12/21

Christmas Holidays- 12.20pm 17/12/21

Thursday 25/11/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tonight is our Year 11 Parents' Evening, hosted on SchoolCloud. On Thursday 9/12/2021 there will be a Parents' Evening for year 9. 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.

In a weekly letter sent home last year, I shared with parents that Scott, one of our Year 9 students, had been spending time raising money to buy gift bags for children in hospital at Christmas time. Scott and his sister have managed to put together over 100 gift bags with loads of items in them to brighten up those who are spending Christmas in hospital. Scott wanted me to relay his thanks to everyone who donated to this worthy cause, there is still time to donate if you wish to, please visit the Facebook page 'Charlie's Christmas presents for children's ward' to find out how. This weekend on Saturday at the Rawtenstall Christmas Market, there will be a tombola which will also feed into this charitable effort. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, we are so proud of Scott, he is a true bastion of our values.

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, but for some families Christmas can be a difficult time, particularly financially. This year we are running our festive food drive once again to ensure that all families in the local area have the most wonderful time this Christmas holiday! Donations can be made during focus time to your form tutor and will then be collected from a central point. Suggestions for donations are as follows:

- Chocolates
- Fruit cake
- Crackers
- Biscuits
- Other festive items

If you can think of a family who may benefit from a food parcel, or feel that your own family might benefit, please get in touch with us via [admin@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@todhigh.co.uk).

I am very proud of all the year 10 and 11 students who have shown real ambition in applying to travel to Eswatini or Ecuador with the school in 2022. Over sixty students applied for this wonderful opportunity. Having read each application individually, the quality has been exceptional, with so many students clearly exhibiting our values in everything they do, both inside and outside of school. It is going to be a very difficult task to pick twenty students! I really hope we will be able to offer this opportunity again.

Thanks to all who attended my virtual parent drop in last 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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 3pm. The event is hosted on TEAMS, in response to some parent feedback on the last meeting, the link for the meeting will also be sent out via Class Charts on the day to make it easier for parents to access. Hope to speak to some of you there.



**Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential**

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

Mr Womack and Ms Wells took part in a community litter pick this month. Due to the weather, it was cancelled, but a very soggy Scarlett (Y11) turned up and completed an hour on the park in Portsmouth. Scarlett has been issued with a Woody's voucher, and she was also celebrated in Wellbeing Wednesday. We are very proud of Scarlett, who really is a model student here at THS. A direct quote from Mr Womack regarding Scarlett "She is such an asset and a glorious bastion of our values!", which I very much echo. Well done Scarlett, keep up the fantastic work.



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.

Moving forward from next week we will be closing and locking the school gates from 8.35am to further safeguard our students and site. Please do ensure that your child attends school on time by 8.35am ready to be dismissed to their lessons from their morning yard area. Any students arriving after 8.35am will need to use the pedestrian gate on Ewood Lane. Many thanks for your support with students' attendance.

Please be reminded of our uniform expectations. Students are permitted to wear a single plain stud in each ear, no other piercings are allowed. 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. As the weather turns colder and wetter, please encourage your child to wear a warm, outdoor coat to school and appropriate footwear. 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.

A reminder that in the case of extreme weather, parents will be notified via text, the school website, and social media if the school is going to be closed. We make every effort to avoid closing the school, and our site team are always here clearing the site in the early hours, if we do have to make this difficult decision parents will be made aware by 7.30am at the latest.

The Christmas break is fast approaching, we will close at the slightly earlier time of 12.20pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December this year. Please do ensure that you have planned for this. Students who catch the Bacup Bus will have arrangements made, I will be in touch with you again closer to the time regarding this.

Please don't forget that we are closed this Friday for an additional bank holiday brought about by the Queen's Jubilee. Have a lovely long weekend with your families and friends.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Shirt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher