

Up & coming dates

Break up for summer: 23/7/21 12.15pm



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Headteacher: Miss G Shirt

Friday 16/7/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news of the passing away of Councillor Steve Sweeney. Steve was a School Governor for years and he helped the school through a particularly difficult period in 2016 after the previous Head Teacher left. Steve was inspirational in his work to support the school. Through a very difficult time he could be relied upon to liaise with the Local Authority and community groups to ensure the provision for the students of Todmorden High School was as good as it possibly could be.

Our Chair of Governors, Governing and Staff bodies are deeply saddened by his loss, a nicer man we could never wish to meet. All our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Unfortunately, our kitchen provision has had to close for the remainder of this term. Please do ensure you send your child to school with a packed lunch. Students who are on Free School Meals will receive vouchers in order to accommodate this. Huge apologies for any inconvenience this may cause, it was sadly unavoidable.

At THS we adhere to strict guidelines around the safety of your personal information relating to Data Protection. Please see <http://todhigh.co.uk/data-protection/> to review all copies of all our Privacy Policies. Should you require a printed copy of any policy please contact our school office on: 01706 813558.

Last weekend a number of EPR students spent 3 days at Barmoor as part of their study of Philosophy. Mr Womack updated me on the trip and I wanted to share this with you. I think you will agree it sounds like a fantastic experience was had by all:

'Barmoor is an old Quaker house and walking inside is like taking a step back in time! It sits in isolation about 7 miles from Pickering in the beautiful North York Moors.

The first night began with getting everyone settled into their rooms, followed by an EPR based quiz with a live music round from Mr Womack and Ms. Wells. A hearty chilli was served by Mrs Womack and Mr George in order to sure up our energy levels for a demanding day on Saturday!

The students were awoken at 6.45 to the sound of Mr Womack and Ms. Wells singing a rustic rendition of Morning Has Broken. Breakfast was served and the boys provided the clean down and washed up in the scullery. This led into the first study session on Revelation. We considered if nature was sufficient proof for the existence of God and analysed evidence from St Claire and specific examples from our surroundings.

After a quick break, we hopped on the mini bus and drove to Runswick bay. The students grabbed their pilgrimage staffs and hiked down the coastline to Whitby. Along the way, students stopped to perform extracts from the Divine Office as well as taking shots for the Revelation Picture Competition. Upon the completion of their pilgrimage, students were given free time to buy fish and chips!

In the evening, we had another study session focussing on special revelation where God may have revealed himself to Moses and St Paul! Despite the long walk and the late study, students participated brilliantly, even engaging in another demanding round of Prayerobics. After tea, the students either participated in indoor team games or joined Mr Womack outside. Camo paint was donned, torches were gathered and a handful of rounds of ambush were played and greatly enjoyed!



Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential

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

On the final day, students were somewhat tired! We treated them to a late start at 8. this was followed by a final study session (but not before another visit to the scullery), a review of the weekend in pictures (which Mr Womack and Ms. Wells put together the night before) and awards!

Mr Womack then led a final walk, but alas, it ended at two miles due to us needing to find the owners of a lost dog! after trying to find signal, we called the number on the collar and returned the dog (names Midge) to Lownds Farm. As a reward, the Farmer's Wife (Ruth) gave us a tour of their restored 1700s water wheel (which was helping to power the house!

We returned to Barmoor (after what had now become quite the cross-curricular adventure) to do the final clean down! A prouder moment a teacher could never have, than to show their students how to use a vacuum cleaner! The students had a brilliant time and as a staff body, we could not be prouder of them! They were and are inspirational! We would also like to express our thanks to Mr George and Mrs Womack for supporting the catering! We will be looking to run the trip again in 2022 with the students that were unable to attend.'

THS EPR Dept: Mr J Womack

As you will be aware, we made the decision to trial tailored shorts for the remainder of summer term. The uptake has been minimal, but those who have taken part have enjoyed the experience. The shorts must be black and tailored; they cannot be cargo shorts, sports shorts or made from jersey, denim or leather look material. Shorts should be on the knee in length. The rest of the school uniform would be worn as normal.

Acceptable



Unacceptable



We are privileged that our students are an exceptional group of young people and we have very high expectations of the way in which they wear their uniform. As we approach the end of the academic year and you are perhaps looking to refresh your child's uniform, do take a look at our uniform guidance to refresh your memories on our expectations. www.todhigh.co.uk/school-uniform. We do still have our school uniform cupboard, so if you are getting rid of any uniform that your child has grown out of please do consider donating this to our stocks.

As we do every year, school will close early for the summer holidays. Students will finish lessons on Friday 23rd July 2021 at 11:45am and will then spend half an hour in form, for an end of term celebration, before they leave at 12:15pm. All buses have been arranged for this time. Any out of area students (Bacup) will leave school directly after registering at 11.45am. Staff will escort these students to Todmorden Bus Station where they will be able to catch the 12.22pm bus service.

Many thanks to those who attended my virtual parent drop in last week, the final parent drop in of the year will be on Thursday 22nd July 3-4pm on TEAMS. To join this meeting visit www.todhigh.co.uk and click on the Virtual Parent Drop in button. Hope to see some of you there.

We are now collecting our library books back in to get everything ready for next term. If you have borrowed a book from our library, please bring it back in and hand it over to Mrs Brown - students who get their books back quickly

I am delighted to share with you that we are launching a brand new website in the Autumn Term. Our new website will contain lots of valuable and useful information, and have a modern look. We are really excited to roll this out and will continue to update you as we make progress with it. The address for the website will remain the same www.todhigh.co.uk.

This week, Hayden Bailey and Ava Spence were chosen to take part in an online webinar with AM Dassu, the author of our Year 7 text, 'Boy, Everywhere'. Their questions about the Syrian refugee crisis and the conditions in detention centres were answered with enthusiasm. Well done!

Tomorrow, Saturday 17th July, is Todmorden College's open day from 11am-2pm. Todmorden college was taken over by Todmorden Learning Centre and Community Hub, and the open day is an opportunity for visitors to see what changes have been made and what is going on at the centre. The day will consist of guided tours, information about courses, entertainment, catering and a yard sale. Please do drop in and have a look round, to support our local community run centre.



We are playing host to a cycling event on our school ground over the summer '2 Wheel Tod', open for all cyclists and non-cyclists of all ages and abilities. The event is in aid of local charities. The event will include:

- Stunt Cycle Displays
- Static Cycle Fitness Classes
- Slow Cycle Challenge Course
- Silly Bike Trials
- Kids' Balance Bikes
- Guided Cycle Tours
- Classic Motorcycle and Scooter display

Do consider attending Sunday 22nd August, information on the event is available at www.todrotary.org.



If we can be of any assistance to you or your family, please don't hesitate to call us on 01706813558 or email admin@todhigh.co.uk and we will get back to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Gill Shirt
Headteacher