



12th July 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for reading and engaging with our school newsletter all year.

Another very busy week here at school. A number of school trips happened this week including myself taking 14 students to Manchester for the see Planit architects, which was a super and very informative trip, mock interviews for year 10, and preparation for our Sports Day.

We have received some lovely emails this week from parents and the wider community as our academic year comes to a close, for which we are very grateful to be recognised for the hard work all out staff do every day for our students.

We received the below email from a community member that we wanted to share.

"I walk my dogs at the park next to your school. None of your children know me as I am from out of the area, but my dogs enjoy Centre Vale Park . When the pupils are coming out of school I just like to say no matter what year group they are all so polite you should be very proud of your high school and I hope this gets mentioned to the children may be in assembly all the best. Have a lovely school holiday."

We held our transition day last week for all our new starters in September. This, as usual, was a very exciting yet nervous day for the young students, but days like this are so beneficial for the big step up to high school. We wish all our new starters a successful journey at Todmorden High School. Any queries, please do contact us to ensure the smooth transition for your child.

As you know school governors decided not to join the PALT group earlier this year. Since then we have been exploring other Multi-Academy Trusts to join. We are keen to retain our unique identity, our ARCH values and all our staff. We have had many positive meetings with SHARE Multi-Academy Trust and on Wednesday governors passed a resolution to join the group. Early in September I will lead a public consultation where all of you can have your say. In the meantime if you have any questions or queries email me on [g.shirt@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:g.shirt@todhigh.co.uk)

Just to re-iterate - We break up next Friday 19th July. Our Bacup students will be able to walk down into Todmorden, to catch the lunch time bus at 12:35pm. If you are concerned about your child, please email [e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk)

The First Bus will be departing at 12:10pm for a specially operated early service for us.

As always, if you have any other concerns or if you wish to speak with a member of staff please get in touch with us via the website, by emailing reception at [admin@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:admin@todhigh.co.uk) or by calling school Monday-Friday between the hours of 8-4pm.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Shirt

Headteacher

## Up and Coming Dates



16.7.24 - KS4 Youth Scholars' visit to Pembroke College, Oxford University LEM

17.7.24 - Sports Day - Moved from 12.7.24

17.7.24 - Yr 7, 8, 9 and 10 data to home.

17.7.24 – Miss Shirt's and Miss James' Student voice reward trip to Pizza Hut.

19.7.24 - Break up for summer @ Noon. Our Bacup students will be able to walk down into Todmorden, to catch the lunch time bus at 12:35pm. If you are concerned about your child, please email [e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk). The First Bus will be departing at 12:10pm for a specially operated early service.

## **Back to school**

Wednesday 4th September

## Transition Day

Last week we welcomed our new Year 7 students and parents for our transition day and evening. Transition evening was incredibly well attended and was an opportunity for both parents and students to learn more about our school vision, values and routines. We also repeated our messages regarding safe and responsible use of mobile phones and took the opportunity to share our experiences relating to the impact mobile phones have on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Students got the opportunity to meet their form tutor and learnt about the expectations and routines they will be part of in September.

Transition day was also incredibly positive. Students took part in a mixture of assemblies and lessons where they learnt about our values and routines, they also learnt a poem from the GCSE English Literature syllabus, Ozymandius. It was a great opportunity for them to experience our routines in action whilst also getting to know new staff and students who they will be working with in September. We have 86 of these students joining us in the first week of the summer holidays for summer school where they will take part in a variety of different activities again whilst getting to know members of the wider school community.

## Tesco and Todmorden High unite

Voting has started in local Tesco's for Todmorden High School to receive funding for the local food hampers for families in need. If you are passing or shop at Pike Hill Tesco, please take the time to vote for Todmorden High School to make a big difference. (Just ask for a blue token!) Thank you.



## Duke of Edinburgh - Year 9 - Bronze award

The Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students ventured out on Saturday with high spirits and heavy rucksacks due to the inconsistent weather.

The groups demonstrated great resilience and team work to complete challenges and tricky navigation along their route to camp. Tents up, football watched, food eaten and a couple more downpours, the students settled down for a well-earned sleep. The campsite at Old Chambers boasts some excellent facilities and was a great place to stay for our trip. With thundery showers forecast for Sunday, routes were altered and challenges reduced in order to ensure the students (and staff) made it back to school safely - even if very soggy!

The students we took out on the expedition were an absolute delight, a real credit to the school and wonderful embodiments of our ARCH values. It may not have been the sunny expedition we were hoping for, but we hope the students had a great experience and can share their stories for years to come. Roll on Silver!!



## Year 10 mock interviews

Our year 10 students had a very successful day this week doing mock interviews to prepare them for college interviews and the workplace. Such practice is priceless for their life journey. Thank you to all the people who came in from colleges, local businesses and our governors to conduct the interviews from their own free time. The students gave us such positive and thoughtful feedback. A successful event for all!



## Geography Field Trip

Recently the Geography department went on a trip to Stean Gorge to give students a first hand experience of seeing and feeling the effects of erosion as they abseiled into the 20 metre gorge and jumped, waded, slid and swam up and down the incredible landform. A great day out for all!







## EPR Trip

On Monday 7th July, the EPR department took their annual 'GCSE paper 1' trip.

To support their detailed study of Christian and Buddhist Practice, the whole Year 10 GCSE cohort visited Manchester Cathedral where we admired the detailed architecture and aids to worship. We then moved on to Manchester Buddhist Centre where we were led in a practical meditation session and encouraged to ask questions of the practising Buddhists we met there.

Our students were, as ever, a credit to Todmorden High School, conducting themselves in an exemplary manner, even on crowded trains and in the free time they enjoyed in Manchester city centre. The bright sunshine also blessed our trip! Mr Womack and Ms Wells thank our students for a brilliant day out, which really brought the GCSE syllabus to life. They also extend their heartfelt thanks to Miss James, Mrs Brown and Mrs Maude who so willingly accompanied the trip.











Introducing our new staff for next academic year



**Jen Ransom**

Hello everyone, my name is Mrs Ransom and I'm joining Todmorden High School as SENDCO. The subject I teach is history and my favourite topic is the Tudors. I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone.



**Donna Kendall**

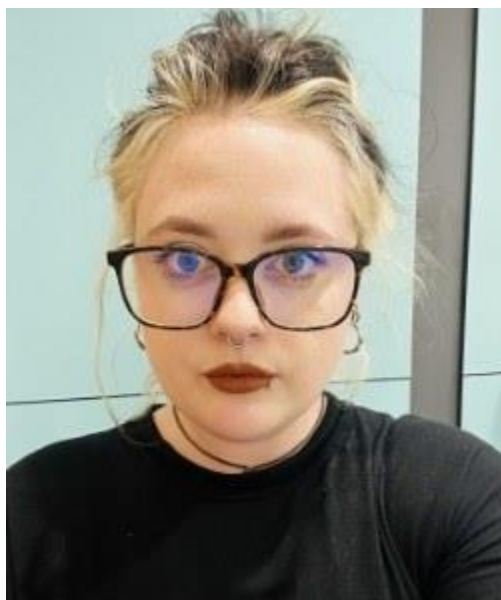
Hi, I am Mrs Kendall and I am really looking forward to joining the Science and SEN Team at Todmorden in September. I currently teach Science and I'm Head of Vocational Skills (6th Form SEN Provision) at Ryburn Valley High School so I am excited to continue with my passion for SEN and Science at Todmorden. I have been a teacher for nearly 20 years after being an ITU Nurse for 10 years before that - I am definitely a 'people person' and love making good and effective relationships with students, staff & parents. I especially love finding new ways and ideas for learning in fun and memorable ways to enhance not just Science skills and knowledge but life skills too.





**Amy Wood**

I am Mrs Wood who will become the Curriculum Leader for Art, Photography and DT in September. I am a proud Todmordian who cannot wait to join the Todmorden High School family.... again! I came here as a student, returned as the Art Technician after graduating, and went on to complete my teacher training here at Todmorden High School . Since qualifying, I have been at Sir John Thursby in Burnley, where I am currently a Curriculum Leader for The Arts and a Lead Practitioner for Teaching and Learning. I knew that one day I would come 'home', and always dreamed of taking this position. I really cannot wait to get started and work with students and families from my hometown.



**Seren Morley**



Hi, I'm Ms Morley and I have moved to Todmorden High from Calder High School in Mytholmroyd. Some of you may know me from my brief time with you as an ITT at the start of 2017 (some of you might have even taught me when I was a Y7 student in 2007!) I am going to be joining the English Department as Second in English and Coordinator of Key Stage 3 and honestly I cannot wait to start in September. I have loved all of my experiences with the staff and students at Todmorden High School - it will be wonderful to finally be part of the team and to learn from you all!



**Tom Bull**

Hi! I'm Mr Bull and I've moved to Todmorden High School from Trinity Academy Grammar. My position at Todmorden High School will be Teacher of English (and a little bit of EPR!) and I'm really looking forward to getting started and meeting you all!

My favourite thing to teach would probably be poetry or anything creative or expressive - I love how many different themes can fit into poetry and how many interpretations there can be!

I love teaching because I love English - and I think it's great when students grow to love it too! I'm looking forward to teaching students to enjoy the subject just as much as teaching them about the subject!



**Wendy Goldthorp**

Hi, I'm Mrs Goldthorp and I'm returning to teaching at Todmorden High School after 9 years away. I'm very excited to be 'coming home' and beginning my post of Teacher of Humanities. It is clear that lots of positive changes have happened since I last taught here but what hasn't changed in my passion for teaching and helping students reach their own unique potential. Without a doubt, my favourite topic to teach is Tudor England. However, I'm also looking forward to teaching the topics 'extreme weather' and 'climate change' in Year 7 Geography as there are current issues that are close to my heart.



**Scott Kenworthy**

Hi I'm Mr Kenworthy and I have moved to Todmorden High School from Colne Valley High School. My position at Todmorden High School will be Teacher of PE, I can't wait to get started and bring my energy, enthusiasm and passion for sport to Todmorden. I'm thoroughly looking forward to joining the PE team and engaging with the extracurricular programmes.



### **Mirren Sunderland**

Hi! I'm Miss Sunderland, and I'm going to be an English, ARCH and EPR teacher here at Todmorden High School.

I am so excited to come back, as I was originally a student here, and I loved the English department so much I went on to study Education and English at university. I absolutely love teaching English, and more so getting everyone up acting. The best part of teaching for me, is when students are really immersed and passionate about the books we read.

I can't wait to see you all in September!

### **Local buses**

We have been asked by Cllr Ken White to let you know about First buses proposing to make major changes to 590, 591 and 592 service. Essentially, Burnley and Rochdale will become an hourly service from 1st September 2024.

There is a consultation period, which runs from today until the 15th of July. Please could you take the time to review and feedback for this change using the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/halifax-calder-valley-huddersfield/about-us/proposed-changes-590-591-592#:~:text=We%20are%20proposing%20changes%20to%20bus%20services%20590%2C,and%20will%20end%20at%2013%3A00%20on%2015%20July>

## Todmorden Sports Centre's Summer Healthy Holidays Programme

Todmorden Sports Centre's Summer Healthy Holidays Programme aims to provide healthy fun based sessions. The sessions will be heavily sports based with additional fun activities throughout the programme. Each day participants will also be provided with a healthy meal.

Mondays - 11am-3pm - Will include swimming and sport based activities.

Tuesday - 11am-3pm - Will include sports based activities.

Wednesdays - 10.15am-4.30pm - Will be a day off site doing various activities including trips to the cinema and climbing.

Thursdays - 11am-3pm - Will include swimming and sport based activities.

Although swimming will only take place on a Monday and Thursday we request all participants to bring their swimming kit on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday as well as a spare set of clothing. If the weather is nice we may do some outside activities that include water.

For more information and to book children onto the Camp please use the link below:

<https://cmbcsportservices.coordinate.cloud/project/56901>

## Measles

There is a safety alert based on the latest guidance from the Council's Director of Public Health, which contains some practical advice on how to keep yourself, your family, and wider communities safe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEN-dYJ1e0I>

There is evidence of measles transmission in Calderdale at the moment. It's the most contagious of all the airborne viruses and can spread very quickly in groups of people who aren't fully vaccinated. You can help raise awareness of measles and the importance of vaccination by sharing information with family, friends and those who use our services. Please watch the video [here](#) to discover how you can protect yourself and your family and the signs and symptoms to look out for.

Many of us don't think about measles, we don't know anyone that's had it because it was almost eradicated in the UK due to measles vaccination being introduced in the UK in the late 1960s. We estimate that 20 million measles cases, and 4,500 deaths, have been prevented in the UK since the measles vaccination was introduced.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine gives lifetime protection against getting measles and passing it on. When fewer than 95% of the population are fully vaccinated, there's a risk measles will spread. The good news is that vaccination uptake in babies and toddlers in Calderdale is high. 94% of babies and toddlers in Calderdale have had one dose of MMR. Uptake of the MMR vaccine reduced for a time 20-25 years ago.

That means that some young adults in Calderdale could be at increased risk of getting measles and passing it on to others.

Some of our local GP practices are inviting people who aren't fully vaccinated to get the vaccine. Calderdale Council is recommending that you do take up the offer

if you're invited. It's never too late to get the MMR vaccine. Please check whether you and your child have had 2 doses. If you're not sure whether or not you/they have had the vaccine, your GP practice will know.

If you haven't had 2 doses of MMR, contact your GP practice to make an appointment. The team at the practice will be very pleased to see you!

The symptoms of measles start with a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough and red watery eyes. You may notice white spots in your/your child's mouth. A few days after the cold like symptoms a rash appears, usually starting on the face and behind the ears, before spreading to the rest of the body. Measles can be a very nasty disease and in rare cases can lead to more serious complications. It's very unlikely to be measles if you/your child has had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine.

If you suspect measles, contact your GP or the NHS on 111 and ask for an urgent appointment, telling them you think it might be measles. This is so that they can arrange for you to visit the practice in a way that reduces the risk of passing measles on to others.

## COVID Latest

There's a new variant of COVID-19 circulating at the moment. Now we don't have routine testing, we don't know how prevalent the variant is in Calderdale, but we all probably know somebody who has had COVID-19 recently.

Tests aren't widely available anymore and most people have to pay for them, so if you feel unwell with symptoms such as a cough, sore throat and high temperature, please stay away from the workplace for at least five days since the symptoms began, if you can. This will prevent you passing any viruses on to other individuals whether or not it is COVID-19. It's important to remember that many of us have colleagues who are immunosuppressed or who live with family members or loved ones who are.

You'll remember from the pandemic that there are a few simple measures which we can all do, which really can help protect ourselves and each other from infection:

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap.
- Remember to 'Catch it, Bin it, kill it' if you sneeze or cough.
- Avoid large indoor group sessions (where possible) and open windows to improve ventilation.
- Services working with vulnerable people should always implement infection control measures.



Don't come into work if you have any symptoms of respiratory illness including a cough, sore throat or a fever. Work from home if you feel well enough and if you feel too poorly, take sick leave. It's better to rest and recover quickly than share a virus with colleagues.

## Lost property

We have a large amount of lost property in Student Reception, including jewellery, which needs collecting before summer please.

## Learning Managers



Just to remind you all of our 5 Learning Managers and their contact details, should you ever need to email them.

**Year 7 - Mrs. Kontogiannopoulou**

**Email:** [demik@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:demik@todhigh.co.uk)

**Year 8 - Mrs. Thompson**

**Email:** [p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk)

**Year 9 - Mrs. Townend**

**Email:** [a.townend@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:a.townend@todhigh.co.uk)

**Year 10 - Miss. James**

**Email:** [j.james@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.james@todhigh.co.uk)

**Year 11 - Mrs. Stansfield**

**Email:** [e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk)