

Key DatesARCH Day 1- Tuesday 8th October 2019Todmorden Together Community Meeting- Wednesday 9th October 2019Friday 4th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Thursday saw our annual open evening where prospective students and their families get a chance to come and look around and experience what the Todmorden High family is all about. This event was a real success, including delicious samplings of our tasty food prepared by the catering team, a 'maths' quiz and a number of exciting activities within departments. I enjoy attending and speaking at this event every year, and meeting some of our future students and their families. Many thanks to all the staff and students who supported with the event of the year!

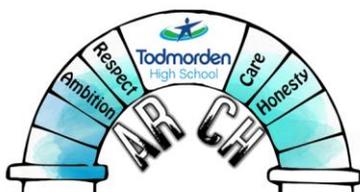
Next week we are holding our first 'Todmorden Together' community meeting of the academic year, 5.30-6.30pm at THS. The Todmorden Together group was formed last academic year, as a forum for interested stakeholders (including police officers, parents, members of our community and staff along with many others). We are working together to ensure that our students have a safe and happy school and community to live in. If you are interested in becoming involved in this scheme please don't hesitate to contact me. The Todmorden Together group now features on our school website <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/todmorden-together/>, please take a look.

Harvest food bank collections have been taking place this past few weeks to encourage our students to reach out and support our local community and others less fortunate than ourselves. This is the 4th year that we have supported the food bank appeal, and each year we gather more food than the last. This appeal fits in perfectly with the Respect, Care and Honesty values within our school and the appeal managers are always astounded and grateful for the amount that we manage to collect. Donations can be made during form time and are collected by student helpers, goods you can donate are: dry goods including packets and cartons, for example rice/ pasta/ tea/ coffee, tinned goods, for example meat/fish/soup/beans/spaghetti, toiletries such as soap/ shower gel/ shampoo/ toothpaste/ toothbrushes and packaged cakes/biscuits.

Many thanks for your support with this very much needed local charity, look out for updates on our website as to how our students are getting along with their collections. Notably, while on the SMSC agenda, the Mental Health Ambassadors raised £224.13 for Macmillan with our Bake Sale last Friday - so let's endeavour to give our full support to this charity close to home.

Home Learning is an important part of your child's development. On our website you will find a number of recently updated Home Learning Tasks. These are set by departments, to encourage students to engage in independent learning. Home Learning tasks vary in challenge, and can be selected at home by students to whichever level they should engage in. Teachers will ask students to complete an independent Home Learning task if they are not setting a specific homework task, at which point the student would be expected to select one of the activities from their journal. If you have any questions regarding home learning tasks please contact Mrs Connolly at c.connolly@todhigh.co.uk.

As the weather turns, please ensure that your child is adequately protected by making sure they have a warm and waterproof coat to wear to and from school. Winters in this part of the world are often quite harsh, and children who get wet and cold early in the day will struggle to get the most out of the learning opportunities offered in school. Please be reminded that hoodies are not permitted, and so should not be worn; if an extra layer is required, a plain black v-neck sweater should be worn under the blazer. If you need support to provide uniform, please do contact the relevant



Learning Manager for your child and we will be happy to support you via our pre-loved uniform store in school. Many thanks for your ongoing support in ensuring that all our children model our ARCH values by wearing our school uniform correctly.

The vast majority of our students wear the uniform correctly, showing pride in their appearance and respect for the school's rules. Thank you to all parents and students who support us with these high standards every day. Please do check your child's uniform and make sure every item meets our guidelines (available on our school website) which are available for consultation in the journal or on the website. Don't forget that we have a fantastic uniform shop on school site now, stocking many quality pieces of uniform that can be accessed daily via the student office if needed. Many, many thanks to all the parents and students who support us in maintaining high standards of conduct and behaviour throughout the school year.

On a serious note, we have been engaging with the West Yorkshire Police in training our staff around 'County Lines', a term you may have come across in the media, 'County Lines' refers to when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. Our first priority is the safety of our students in school, and in the local community. As this is a current, and troubling, issue in this country we need to work together in order to effectively safeguard and protect our young people from crimes of this nature. If you are concerned about your child some signs to look out for include:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at the house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out if you have a concern. You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999. If you would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/) on 0800 555 111.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns regarding our students or anything else school related please don't hesitate to contact me or another member of staff in school.

Kind regards,



Miss G Shirt
Headteacher

Student Profile

Friday 4th October 2019

Regular attendance at school gives you the best possible start in life and prepares you for the future.

Going to school should be interesting. Not only will you learn subjects but you will also learn new skills, including social skills.

The skills and knowledge that you learn at school will help you now and in later life as you start work. Good attendance shows potential employers that you are reliable.

We celebrate great attendance each week by nominating students for the Attendance Champion award. Students receive a prize and a certificate for having amazing attendance. These 5 students have been nominated this week. Well done to them all!

Year 7
Oscar

Year 8
Kendra

Year 9
Jade

Year 11
Sammy

Year 10
Callum



Todmorden
High School

Enabling individuals
to achieve their
unique potential