

Key Dates

ARCH day- 30/01/2020

Options Evening- 30/01/2020 5-7pm

Parent Forum- 13/2/2020 6-7pm

Todmorden Together- 26/02/2020 5.30pm

Friday 24th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ofsted

As you will be aware, we have been visited by Ofsted this week for a full two-day inspection. Inspectors were with us across Wednesday and Thursday, visiting a wide range of areas across the school. Our students behaved in an exemplary fashion and I felt very proud of our school. Thank you to any parents and carers who completed the parent survey, which formulates part of the inspection visit. Finally, thanks to our staff for their hard work day in day out to provide a strong educational and pastoral experience for our students.

We have been working hard alongside Hutchison's to develop our catering service this academic year. Feedback from our students and staff has been positive, with many students reporting that they find the food to be delicious and the portion sizes to be good. Serving times have improved immensely and the students have been enjoying eating in clean, spacious areas with plenty of seating. We will continue to work on our catering services as we move forward, and we do respond to feedback that we receive regarding this. On Wednesday this week we served our 'Chinese New Year' celebration menu, it was very well received by our students and the whole site smelled absolutely delicious! I have included some images in this letter as part of our special feature catering profile this week. If you have any suggestions or ideas for special menu days, or improvements to catering please get in touch admin@todhigh.co.uk.

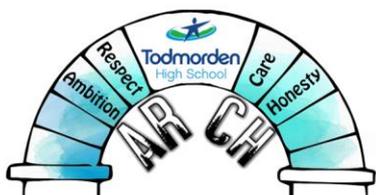
Our 3rd ARCH day of the year is approaching on the 30th January 2020. ARCH days are formulated based upon Government directives and local needs which are identified through the eHna survey (completed in Year 7 and Year 10), student voice and staff voice. ARCH days take place 6 days a year and allow Y7-10 students to cultivate our ARCH values and become fully formed citizens to successfully and harmoniously participate in society. Topics include:

- Online Safety
- Voting and Democracy
- Sexuality and Development
- Community Cohesion
- Drugs and Alcohol

It is our intention to keep school open during any periods of bad weather however, the safety of the site is paramount. When it has snowed before we have had site staff and senior school leaders on site as early as 5am clearing snow! If, however, we cannot make the site safe we will let you know via text, the website and radio (*BBC Radio Leeds, Pulse and Phoenix FM*). If you need any more information regarding how we manage the site in extreme weather, please consult our extreme weather protocol available on our website under information for parents.

Year 9 students choose their GCSE subjects in the spring term. In Year 10 students will study Core English (4 hours), Maths (4 hours), Science (4 hours), Core PE (1 hour) and their choice of 4 Options (3 hours of each). Students will also have six full 'ARCH' days covering aspects such as citizenship, sexual health, sex education, British Values, tolerance, extremism, mental health and preparing students for the world of work. This will also cover the computer science curriculum.

Year 9 parents' evening is the starting point for the Options process, this took place in November last year. Your child's subject teachers will be able to offer advice, based on their progress to date in each subject in order to help you and your child make an informed decision. Our upcoming 'options' evening (30th January 2020) is another opportunity to speak with subject teachers and other key members of staff to allow you and your child to make the best decisions for their future. Following the options evening, and the release of the options offer booklet, all students will be invited in to meet with their form tutor, head of year, SENCO or a member



of the Leadership team. This member of staff can offer information, advice and guidance based on your child's progress to date and their future ambitions to ensure that they are choosing the path that is right for them. If you have any questions about the process, then please contact the learning manager for Year 9 for more information. The curriculum offer is available on our website <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/gcse-options/>.

On Thursday the 13th February 2020 we will be holding a Parent/Governor Forum. We held a forum last year, and those who attended found it a useful event, giving parents an opportunity to discuss any school issues or direct any queries around their child's education and educational establishment towards our Chair of Governors and members of our Leadership team. I would like to encourage as many of you to come as possible and look forward to welcoming and sharing with you our current position and plans for the future. This event will take place in the LRC, 6-7pm. Official invites will come home with students over the following weeks, if you have any further queries please email e.ransom@todhigh.co.uk.

There are some planned roadworks taking place between Monday 3rd February 2020 and Friday 21st February 2020 between Rochdale Road and just west of Halshaw Clough. Bacup residents should have received a letter of communication regarding these roadworks. This may result in some delays on your school journey, please ensure that you allow enough time to travel to and from school. As always, any bus journeys disrupted by the roadworks resulting in your child being late, will be considered on an individual basis as your child signs in to school. Please see the letters home section of our website to read this letter in full <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/letters-home-spring-term-2020/>.

On the 26th February 2020 we are holding our second '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.

Next week you will receive a letter from our Clerk to the Governors, as we have a vacancy on the governing body for a Parent Governor. The letter will outline the requirements for the post and tell you how to apply. This will then be followed by a ballot to confirm who takes the position. Parent Governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school, I will look forward to meeting our new governor once the election has been held. Text message notifications will accompany the letters, which will come home via pupil post. If you have any questions about being part of the governing body, please contact our clerk Eve Ransom at e.ransom@todhigh.co.uk.

Our Library is in the process of being revamped to allow for a better experience for our student body. Mrs Brown, our new librarian, is working hard to make the space a peaceful, working environment in which our students can better expand their love of reading. In order to support this endeavour, we are asking if you have any old books (suitable for children aged 11-16), particularly practical skills books such as cookery or textiles, that you donate these to us in order to stock our library. The books need to be in a relatively good condition, and can cover a wide range of topics. Any donations would be gratefully received, and can be handed in at our reception.

As always if you need to speak with a member of staff please contact school on 01706813558.

Kind regards,



Miss G Shirt
Headteacher

CHINESE NEW YEAR



On Wednesday this week we served our 'Chinese New Year' celebration menu, it was very well received by our students and the whole site smelled absolutely delicious!

Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is usually referred to as the Spring Festival in mainland China, and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia. This year is the year of the rat.



Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential