

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well, and managing to cope during these difficult times. Thank you so much to all parents, carers and students for your continued hard work and support during this time. It has been amazing to see our community rallying together this past few weeks. We are all very proud of our amazing Tod High family.

Over the course of the next week, all school families will be receiving a welfare phone call; we want to establish contact with all our families and touch base during these testing times. As most staff are working remotely the call will probably come from a withheld number; if you do not feel comfortable answering you are encouraged to email a reply to the relevant Learning Manager. We know a great many families are enjoying this time positively and where there are any concerns, we can use the phone contact to offer reassurance and possible solutions.

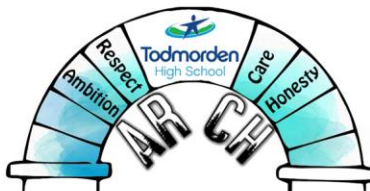
We have had a wave of excellent work emailed in following the Easter break. Please continue to remind your children to send this into their teachers and teachers will award ARCH points. Each week Learning Managers will share examples of work and reward the students with the most points.

You may be aware that a number of national lessons are being produced by BBC Bitesize and a group of teachers in 'The Oak National Academy'. Our teachers have been looking at the resources produced and considering how they fit in with our school curriculum. In the next few weeks, some departments may be setting work using, or linked to, these national lessons to support the learning of students from home. The links for these will be provided in Class Charts and instructions given in the normal way. There is no need for students to access these national lessons beyond what is set by our teachers.

We would also like to continue to encourage students to read for at least 20 minutes a day. Many free resources are available online - please email our librarian Mrs Brown at a.brown@todhigh.co.uk if you would like any help or book suggestions. In addition to this, Audible are offering children free access to audio books while schools are closed <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>.

Year 10

There will be an increased amount of online lessons - some will be live via Microsoft Teams and some will be pre-recorded. If students are invited to a live lesson, they will receive a message to their school email address and this will be mentioned on Class Charts. Please contact Mr Anderton on m.anderton@todhigh.co.uk if you need help accessing your school email account.



Year 11

You are not required to complete anymore work towards your exams. If you would like some additional work, please get in touch with your class teacher. We are currently working with post 16 providers to ensure you are supported in making a strong next step. Many of our staff have previously worked in post 16 so can suggest work that can be completed, please get in touch if this would be of help, we have already done this for a number of students. Please keep an eye on your post 16 providers website and social media for announcements. In the meantime if you need any support, please contact Mrs Stansfield on e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk.

Please don't forget that, even whilst we are away from school, we remain absolutely committed to the safeguarding of all our young people. Please get in touch with us if you are concerned about anyone's safety. You can email Mrs Pickles, our Safeguarding Manager, on s.pickles@todhigh.co.uk or you can email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Melissa Wells on m.wells@todhigh.co.uk. You can also ring Mrs Pickles direct on 07912978422. Either one of us will get back to you as soon as possible. In addition, don't forget to make use of the wealth of support available via our website. The 'coronavirus' tab has lots of practical information, including a directory of support services in the document entitled 'early help'. This includes support with family activities, mental health/wellbeing and contacts for the local children's centres. Finally, you can contact your child's Learning Manager at any time. A list of their email addresses is below, and don't worry if you contact the wrong one by mistake - they will be sure to pass on any messages!

Year 7: Mrs Thompson p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk

Year 8: Mrs Maude l.maude@todhigh.co.uk

Year 9: Mrs K demik@todhigh.co.uk

Year 10: Ms James j.james@todhigh.co.uk

Year 11: Mrs Stansfield e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk

We are aware that some families find themselves in different financial situations and may now be eligible for free school meals when they were not previously. We are more than happy to support you in your application for this or let you know if you would be eligible. Please contact Mrs Wrench on j.wrench@todhigh.co.uk. If you are having any issues in receiving the vouchers, please contact the relevant Learning Manager. There are also volunteers from the Real Junk Food Project bringing food over from Leeds most days – all the food given out would otherwise have ended up in landfill, despite being perfectly fine to eat. Have a look at Your.Tod.Squad on Facebook to find out when one of the distribution hubs, either next to the Vedas on Rochdale Road, or at Dover Court, near Castle Hill School, are open.

Aldi has joined the list of supermarkets that will redeem vouchers secured through the free school meals national voucher scheme. Supermarkets available also include Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, M&S, Asda and Morrisons. Schools will be able to order vouchers for Aldi through Edenred from the week commencing 27 April. The update can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aldi-joins-free-school-meal-voucher-scheme>.

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Please remember that we are here for you and your child, all the staff at Todmorden High School are committed to the safety, happiness and well-being of each and every student and this extends to students' families. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely



Gill Shirt

Headteacher

Tod's Got Talent

During these peculiar times, it's more important than ever that we stay connected and that we have a bit of fun! According to research, laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress, so it is **essential** that we find ways to have a giggle!

Each Wednesday, we will set a new challenge for you (and sometimes the people in your household) to have some fun with. Your entries will be shared via the school website and Twitter. Prizes will be awarded, not just for the winners, but for people who complete every task too.

The serious stuff:

Make sure that you don't disclose personal information such as names/addresses etc.

- Wear something appropriate.
- Get permission to submit your video from your parents/guardians.
- Send your video/picture to: talent@todhigh.co.uk by **3pm on Tuesday each week.**

Challenge #1

Burnley FC striker Ashley Barnes has introduced our first challenge for us, so head over to our Twitter page (@TodmordenHigh) to see the video clip.

The winner can expect to be personally mentioned in the next video from Ashley Barnes! We look forward to seeing your entries! #Teamtod

Additional support available from external agencies

- The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. Resources are currently available for KS3 (Y7-9) and can be used in various settings including schools and at home <https://e-bug.eu/>
- Shout: Free, confidential support via text, available 24/7 Text SHOUT to 85258 in the UK to text with a trained crisis volunteer who'll provide active listening and collaborative problem-solving
- The Mix: Free confidential telephone helpline and online service that aims to find young people the best help, whatever the problem · Call 0808 808 4994 for free (11am to 11pm daily) · Access the online community · Email The Mix.
- ChildLine: Confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem · Call 0800 1111 any time for free · Have an online chat with a counsellor (9am to midnight daily) · Check out the message boards
- Mental Health Foundation: Provides information and support for anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities Website: www.mentalhealth.org.uk
- Mind: A mental health charity Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm) Website: www.mind.org.uk
- POPYRUS: Youth suicide prevention society, Phone: 0800 068 4141 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 10pm, and 2pm to 10pm on weekends and bank holidays) Website: www.papyrus-uk.org
- Samaritans: Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline) Website: www.samaritans.org.uk
- SANE: Emotional support, information and guidance for people affected by mental illness, their families and carers Website: www.sane.org.uk/support
- YoungMinds: A charity dedicated to children's mental health Phone: Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm) Website: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Cruse Bereavement Care: Support for grief and bereavement Phone: 0808 808 1677 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm) Website: www.cruse.org.uk
- NSPCC: Child protection charity Phone: 0808 800 5000 for adults concerned about a child (24-hour helpline) 0800 1111 for children (ChildLine's 24-hour helpline) Website: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Refuge: Advice on dealing with domestic violence Phone: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline) Website: www.refuge.org.uk