

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the month of May, I am sure that many of you are beginning to feel the strain of the lockdown. I know that our staff body are really missing our students and can't wait to get back into the classroom with them once it is safe to do so. Rest assured that we are here to support you in any way we can during this difficult time, and many of you will have been called this week by a member of our staff to check in with you and see how you are coping. We are here to help you. Before the lock down began I wrote to you all and included a 'Guide for Parents' this is on Class Charts and it may answer a few of your questions/ help you.

To brighten your day, we have produced a 'Hello' reel where many of our staff send their well wishes to our students and their families and this will appear on our homepage of the website www.todhigh.co.uk - we hope it lifts your spirits as it did ours.

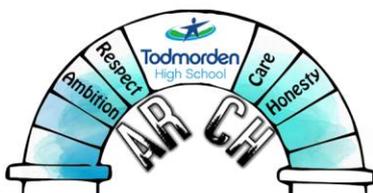
Todmorden High School will remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can attend where it is appropriate for them to do so. You must email s.pickles@todhigh.co.uk if you wish your child to attend. We are monitoring the Government's actions and advice, and will only re-open schools when the scientific advice indicates it is safe to do so. We will consult carefully on our approach to this. If you want to read more information about this, or are becoming anxious about what this might look like, please refer to the government website; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>.

You may have seen in the news that the government are providing access to devices to support home learning i.e. laptops or tablets. This must be processed by the school, rather than families themselves, and any perceived need for these has to fit with strict eligibility criteria. We are working as a school to draw up a list of who we think might qualify, from our detailed knowledge of our cohort and the conversations we've been having with all our families during the lockdown. We, as a school, will then apply for the number of devices we would like, and a contract will be put in place with recipients with regard to the conditions of use. Any devices of this nature would remain the property of the school and would be required to be returned to the school once we re-open. Please be assured that we will be in touch with you as soon as possible if we think your family might be eligible.

We have been advised about a new service which is offered. ChatHealth is an NHS-approved secure and confidential text messaging service for school-aged children and their families in Calderdale. This service is brought to you by Healthy Futures Calderdale, and allows you to get in touch with a healthcare professional, at the touch of a button, for advice and support about physical health or emotional wellbeing. To access the service: TEXT 07480 635297 (young people) or 07507 332157 (parents/carers) to start a conversation. From 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, they have experienced clinicians waiting to help. Messages received outside this time frame will receive an automated response letting you know when you will receive a reply, and who to contact to get immediate help.

Calderdale OpenMinds Partnership has changed the way it is working temporarily. Following instruction from NHS England they are prioritising help and support to children and young people in crisis, and those with eating disorders. If you feel your child is in crisis or has an eating disorder please do not contact 111 or go to your hospital A&E department. Instead, please ring the First Point of Contact (see below) where you will be able to speak with a clinician. If needed they will pass you to a Crisis/Eating Disorder worker for further advice or an assessment. The vast majority of Open Minds' work is now taking place by phone or on-line.

As their offices are closed, please don't contact them by post, particularly if you have an urgent referral or query. If parents, carers, young people or professionals have concerns about the emotional health of a young person, please contact the First Point of Contact on:



- telephone: 01422 300 001
- email: firstpointofcontact@calderdalecamhs.org.uk
- or make an online referral at <https://calderdalecamhs.org.uk/how-to-refer/>

As well as this critical work, the Open Minds Partnership are still accepting referrals and responding to queries linked to children and young people's emotional wellbeing, mental health, autism and attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). If your child or young person has been referred for an assessment linked to autism or attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), please be assured staff are continuing to complete as much work as possible, ready for when face to face appointments can take place again. Support will be offered on a face to face basis only where there is a clear clinical need to do so. Therapists will endeavour to contact you to arrange this. They will explain where and how this appointment will take place, to keep you and other people safe. These are temporary measures taken to ensure needs can continue to be met. It also supports the national efforts to encourage people to stay at home and maintain social distancing measures and ensure that people receive the best medical care while keeping front line staff safe.

We have been made aware of an amended offer from Noah's Ark who usually provide counselling support to young people in schools. Because they are unable to do this, they are offering a support service to parents, carers and school staff who will be able to contact them to request support. Please see the separate flyer at the rear of the letter for details on this, also included is a leaflet for local support should you need to access it.

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. One of them 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.

Mrs Thompson set her Year 7 students the task of competing in a bake off while they are in lockdown and we had an overwhelming response to this appeal for bakes and cakes. My brother, Neil Shirt and his wife Deirdre judged the competition. I had to draft in help as the entries were so good I just could not decide! Mr Shirt owns his own catering company so was the perfect judge for the competition. Neil Shirt Catering Ltd was founded in 2010. As a chef, Neil has over 25 years of experience, working in some of the most prestigious of restaurants, hotels, food halls and catering companies in Mayfair, Knightsbridge and Dublin. Please take a look at the news article (<http://www.todhigh.co.uk/school-news/year-7-bake-off-winners-announced/>) to see who our winners were, and what the students produced. I think you will be as impressed as we were! Thanks to all who took part.

Student workload and submitting work

We know there is an abundance of work provided for your child/ children to do, we can help and support via emails, however we cannot replicate the whole school experience in these circumstances. I would like to impress on you all that we do not want the schoolwork provided for our students to make the current situation more stressful than it already is. We do not want parents and students feeling overwhelmed or for the work to cause any conflict. Please do get in touch if you are feeling in any way concerned or worried about the work set and we will do what we can to alleviate your fears. Hopefully many of you will have had the opportunity to discuss this in your welfare calls this week. To clarify on submitting work, students are expected to submit work that they complete via email to their subject teachers. Students can do this by attaching a document to an email, taking a photograph of paper-based work and attaching this or embedding it into the email. Please make sure that work is clear and readable for your teachers to mark. There is a list of staff emails available on Class Charts for you to ensure that you can contact our members of staff. It is not compulsory that students send **all** work to class teachers, but please encourage them to share work they are particularly proud of or have worked hard on so that they can be awarded ARCH points.

We still celebrate our students' achievements weekly with our year groups virtual assemblies that are available on Class Charts, celebrating students' academic and personal achievements. ARCH winners are announced weekly, along with shared pictures of student's personal projects, competition winners and teachers' responses plus examples of great work etc. There is a £5 Amazon voucher awarded weekly for our overall ARCH winner (Class Charts points).

Don't forget to get involved with our Tod's Got Talent competition, occurring each Wednesday, offering up a range of challenges for our student body. More information regarding this is available in last week's letter.

We've also had a great response to our Positive Words writing competition, which asked students to write a story with a positive message or happy ending in either 25, 250 or 750 words. There's still time to enter before the closing date next week and you can find all the information you need on Class Charts.

I received communication from the family of Scott Tillotson who has been working really hard during the lockdown, he recently received his bronze award and has been spurred on to continue working really hard from home. He wrote this fantastic poem which I have permission to share with you, I think you will agree it is a very well written and touching piece of work. Well done Scott, keep it up!

*Corona, Corona.
Masks and hand sanitisers.
Wash your hands.
People are dying, shops are closing.
Stay at home.
Stay at home.

We are on lockdown and we are all bored.
Kids are starting home schooling.
The NHS are working hard.
Key workers as well, so stay at home and join us on Thursdays to clap for them all.

Stay at home and get talking.
They are risking their lives to prevent ours from ending.
They risk their lives so we can survive.
This may be a pandemic so we rely on our paramedics.

When this is all over and we are all allowed out, we can all raise our glasses and give the NHS a shout.*

Although the school year was cut short for our Year 11, Mrs Wrench wanted me to assure students that hoodies have been ordered and are in production. We will be in touch when we know how these are going to be distributed as this depends on when we re-open. The date for Year 11 results has been advertised on the homepage of our website and more information regarding what form this day will take will be released later on in the year.

In closing we are rolling out parent/carer and student surveys this week (at most 5 questions) in order to help us better support you in working at home. Please access these surveys at the following links, or via our website;

- Parent Survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V6IP4C5ZDkWYwW09OkgaWP-rj2BA6YJAK34Vo5kwyb9UMIBDQUhUWUFaWkhZMORFM0I2QkNYWURNRC4u>
- Year 10 Survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V6IP4C5ZDkWYwW09OkgaWP-rj2BA6YJAK34Vo5kwyb9UNjUyN0MySUU4UUtMRk9PNktWSElGMjE5OC4u>
- KS3 Survey: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V6IP4C5ZDkWYwW09OkgaWP-rj2BA6YJAK34Vo5kwyb9UOTRIVUxFSzJaSVJDTERTVEc3MIQ1V1E0OS4u>

A few parents have been asking this week about Microsoft Office. All students under our school Licensing agreement with a school email address can download and use Microsoft office for free. The version of office that they can download includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint to name just three. There are many other programs that come as part of Microsoft Office and they too can be downloaded and installed. This could potentially be a huge saving for you and your family. These versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc... will continue to work whilst your child is a student at Todmorden High School. It is available for different platforms and this information is included in the attached guide, which also talks you through how you would download the software to a computer or laptop.

There are lots of ways that you can keep in touch with us, but a great way is to familiarise yourself with our website and to sign up for our Twitter feed at @Todmordenhigh. Our Twitter feed is a great way of keeping up to date with school news, and the website hosts an abundance of material you can access to support you in home schooling your child. Remember that we are here for you and you can contact us if you need support.

Yours Sincerely,



Gill Shirt, Headteacher



Noah's Ark Centre's

Parent/Carer/School

Support Package

Summer Term 2020

Dear Calderdale Parents/Carers/Schools,

Noah's Ark Centre's staff, counsellors and therapists usually support many children and young people through counselling, therapeutic interventions, including play and creative therapies and group work. We do this at the centre but even more so in many primary schools and in the majority of secondary schools in Calderdale through a variety of projects and services many funded by Calderdale's Local Transformation Plan or funded directly by schools themselves.

We are currently unable to provide any services to these children and young people we would ordinarily see in schools, however, we would like to utilise our skilled professional staff team in supporting parents/carers and school staff during these rather uncertain and emotionally confusing times. Parents/carers and school staff are key to maintaining and enabling the positive well-being of all children and young people, now and in the weeks and months ahead. They need to be emotionally supported in order that they can provide the children and young people they care for with emotionally safe and healthy environment in which growth, creativity, opportunity and hope can be nurtured amidst a time of loss, change and uncertainty.

- **Phone support available for parents/carers and for staff working in schools Monday – Friday between 10am and 4pm – starting Monday 27th April 2020**

Parents/carers and schools' staff will be able to request a call back from a member of the Noah's Ark Centre staff team by sending their brief details and request for a call to the following email addresses depending on if children are at primary or secondary schools or which of these staff are working at.

Primary schools email: pri.sch.cal.support@noahsarkcentre.org.uk

Secondary schools email: sec.sch.cal.support@noahsarkcentre.org.uk

The support available will be for parents/carers and staff to offload their worries and concerns: a space to explore their situation a little and their thinking about their relationships with and support of their children and young people. We will listen, support, offer advice where we can and signpost to other services where appropriate. The calls will be kept confidential with the usual exception of significant safeguarding concerns which we will need to refer on to appropriate safeguarding teams and services if these were to arise. Our staff responding to requests for support are all experienced and trained in emotionally supporting children, young people and adults and all have experience of working in schools. Some staff have particular training and experience working with families and/or with children with special needs, learning difficulties, or who are on the Autistim Spectrum.



CORONAVIRUS

Help and support in your area



Helping Hands

We all find ourselves in very difficult times and many people are finding it hard to cope. But Calderdale is an amazing place and we help each other in times of need.

There are lots of brilliant volunteers working across Calderdale to help people that can't live their normal lives due to Covid-19.



We Can Help

If you need a hand with practical issues or are finding it hard and you want someone to talk to.



Support Available

- Shopping for essentials
- Food delivery to your door
- Food bank support (free food parcels for those unable to pay)
- Prescriptions collected for you
- Laundry service
- Dog walking
- Running essential errands
- Picking up newspapers
- Well-being and mental health support: friendly phone calls; pen-pals; on-line social events

Not all groups provide all of these services



Support Groups

Todmorden and surrounding areas - Your Tod Squad

Phone.....07951 445348 (Mon to Fri, 9 to 6)

Website.... tod2020.org.uk

Email..... your.tod.squad@gmail.com

Facebook.. Your.Tod.Squad

Hebden Bridge and surrounding areas - OPWC

Phone.....07903 452788

Website.... opwc.org.uk

Email..... isolating@opwc.org.uk

Facebook.. Hebden Royd Covid 19 Action Group

Heptonstall

Phone.....Jane Hartmann (01422) 846675

Mytholmroyd and surrounding areas - OPWC

Phone.....07506 114522

Website.... opwc.org.uk

Email..... isolating@opwc.org.uk

Facebook.. Hebden Royd Covid 19 Action Group

St Michael's Church (Mytholmroyd) and St John's Church (Cragg Vale)

Phone..... Rev Cathy Reardon (01422) 883944

Rev Daniel Miles (01706) 810041

Email..... reardoncathy@gmail.com

daniel.miles@leeds.anglican.org

Facebook.. Erringden Benefice

Midgley - Midgley Co-op

Phone.....Alistair Grant (01422) 886339

Luddenden and surrounding areas - Luddenden Mayor Group

Phone.....Jill Radcliffe 07787 537262

Facebook.. Luddenden Mayor

Luddenden and surrounding areas - St Mary's Church

Phone.....(01422) 884421

Calderdale Council Coronavirus Support Team

Phone.....(01422) 392890 (Mon to Fri, 9 to 3)

Website.... calderdale.gov.uk/v2/coronavirus

Office

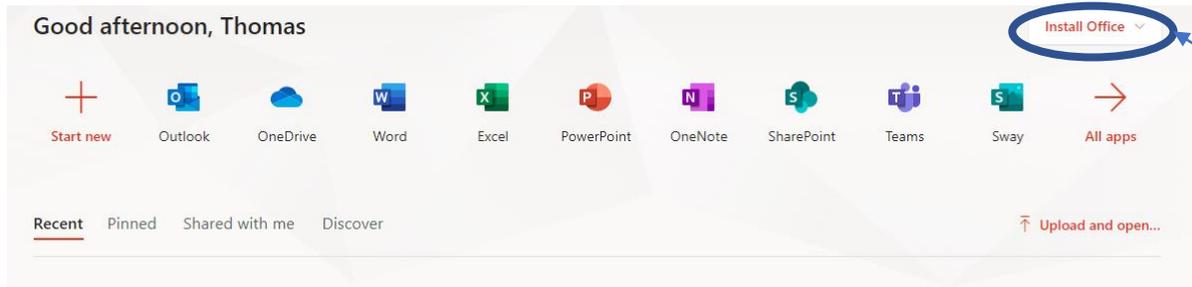


Downloading Microsoft Office from a student email account

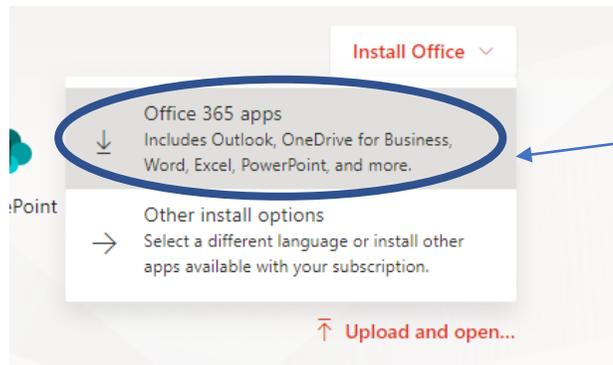


All students have the ability to download Microsoft office. Get them to go to www.office.com

Ask them to sign in to their account. They should see a screen like this.



Click Install Office



Click office 365 apps and the install/download should start.