

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start by thanking you all so much for your ongoing support for Todmorden High School over this academic year and the past few months, the positive comments we have received from parents, carers and students have helped us to formulate plans and have boosted staff morale during these difficult times. It really has meant a lot to us to have the positive support and backing of our parents, carers and students.

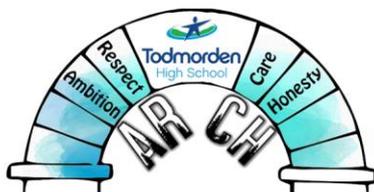
Now the Government guidance has changed, it is vital for all students to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on education, wellbeing, and wider development. **School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from September.** I have discussed the current government plans for the return of all students in September with my senior leadership team and the school governors. Our aim is to follow the government guidelines and produce and publish a robust risk assessment for parents to view on our website ahead of our opening. We will aim to keep our school community as safe as possible during the planned September return, and remain in touch with families to ensure clarity of information. I have to also point out, as I'm sure you are aware, the guidelines are changing all the time, so I am going off the current information.

School is incredibly conscious that the normally excellent year 6 into year 7 Transition Programme has been curtailed to virtual events and one to one arranged activities. Some children and parents are feeling naturally anxious that their child has not even visited Todmorden High School recently. We want to put these worries to rest. As a result, and as I mentioned in last week's letter, we will be opening school on **Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 to year 7 only**- it is essential that the year 6 into 7 children are introduced to secondary school in the best way possible.

We have also put plans in place for year 8 – year 10. In order to support social distancing, we have made a change to the structure and running of the school day. We are having a staggered start and end to the day, there will be a split Eat 2 and **no Eat 1**, we are introducing a new one-way system and implementing a system for pre-ordering food. When students arrive in school for their first day back, they should make their way to the assembly hall. Staff will be on duty at the front of school to direct any new or concerned students where to go. The school has **had** to introduce many new rules and regimes to keep students safe, these involve staff and student training, as such, to allow the very best and most positive start other year groups will have a staged return to school;

- Year 11 - Friday 11th September.
- Year 10 - Monday 14th September.
- Year 8 - Tuesday 15th September.
- Year 9 - Wednesday 16th September.

We realise this may affect the booking of any holidays and may also be inconvenient for you. Please be aware that it is not a decision we have made easily after the children have missed so much school. Every effort has been made to accommodate children in school and get all students back before September **following current government guidelines** and ensuring the absolute safety of all our students and staff.



The table below shows you how the students' day will look based on current plans. **I think it important to remind you that all of these plans are subject to change dependent on the latest government guidance.** Therefore, these plans are subject to change in line with government guidelines, advice and any changes nationally regarding the covid-19 pandemic. As always, we will keep families fully informed of any changes to this information that may occur over the summer. All being well the return to school will run as follows;

Y7- Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept onwards	Y8- Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept onwards	Y9- Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept onwards	Y10- Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept onwards	Y11- Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept onwards
<b>Lesson 1</b> 08:40-09.45 <i>5 min longer</i>	<b>Lesson 1</b> 08:50-09.45 <i>5 min shorter</i>	<b>Lesson 1</b> 08:50-09.45 <i>5 min shorter</i>	<b>Lesson 1</b> 08.40-09.45 <i>5 min longer</i>	<b>Lesson 1</b> 08:40-09.45 <i>5 min longer</i>
<b>Lesson 2</b> 09.45-10.45	<b>Lesson 2</b> 09.45-10.45	<b>Lesson 2</b> 09.45-10.45	<b>Lesson 2</b> 09.45-10.45	<b>Lesson 2</b> 09.45-10.45
<b>Lesson 3</b> 10.45-11.45	<b>Lesson 3</b> 10.45-11.45	<b>Lesson 3</b> 10.45-11.45	<b>Lesson 3</b> 10.45-11.45	<b>Lesson 3</b> 10.45-11.45
<b>Eat 2</b> 11:45-12:15 <i>Assembly hall with serving point Whirlaw yard</i>	<b>Form</b> 11:45-12:15	<b>Form</b> 11:45-12:15	<b>Eat 2</b> 11:45-12:15 <i>Canteen Full front of school</i>	<b>Form</b> 11:45-12:15
<b>Form</b> 12:15-12:45	<b>Eat 2</b> 12:15-12:45 <i>Assembly hall with serving point Whirlaw yard</i>	<b>Eat 2</b> 12:15-12:45 <i>Canteen Front of school and basketball court</i>	<b>Form</b> 12:15-12:45	<b>Eat 2</b> 12:15-12:45 <i>Jack's diner Y11 common room (inside and out) and MUGA</i>
<b>Lesson 4</b> 12:45-13:45	<b>Lesson 4</b> 12:45-13:45	<b>Lesson 4</b> 12:45-13:45	<b>Lesson 4</b> 12:45-13:45	<b>Lesson 4</b> 12:45-13:45
<b>Lesson 5</b> 13:45- 14:45	<b>Lesson 5</b> 13:45-14:50 <i>5 min longer</i>	<b>Lesson 5</b> 13:45-14:50 <i>5 min longer</i>	<b>Lesson 5</b> 13:45- 14:45	<b>Lesson 5</b> 13:45-14:50 <i>5 min longer</i>

I feel that this is best for the children of Todmorden High School, so, that when school does start for each year group it is focussed and meaningful and everyone knows what they are doing in order to keep things as safe and as orderly as possible.

If you do have any concerns or problems, as always we are open and willing to listen. It would be best to email your Learning Manager with any problems you may have so that we can sort these out in a positive and timely way. Contact details are as follows:

- Year 7: Mrs Kontogiannopoulou [demik@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:demik@todhigh.co.uk)

- Year 8: Mrs Thompson [p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk)
- Year 9: R Crowther [r.crowther@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:r.crowther@todhigh.co.uk)
- Year 10: Mrs Stansfield [e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:e.stansfield@todhigh.co.uk)
- Year 11: Ms James [j.james@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.james@todhigh.co.uk)

The school does have a complaints procedure, and very often the posting of comments on social media can interfere with the procedures as some comment trails started can result in upsetting and derogatory comments made against individuals. I would very much appreciate your support with this and again, thank you for all your support so far.

### **Transport arrangements- September 2020**

We have been working closely with the Local Authority and local bus services to support with students' transport requirements for September. The Department for Transport and Department for Education have issued guidance on the transport arrangements for September.

In brief the guidance states that:

- Dedicated school bus services will be treated differently to the public transport network, in that social distancing will not be required.
- Children who live within a two miles radius of school should walk or cycle where possible.
- On secondary school services, all children will be required to wear a face covering unless exempted for medical or other reasons. Travel Assistance Cards to show to the driver are available for download at [wymetro.com](http://wymetro.com).

I would like to thank Cllr Ken White for his amazing work in supporting Todmorden High School and the community with regards to all pupils' transport needs. This has been a slightly more complicated process having pupils travelling to Todmorden High School from Burnley, via First bus as well as children from Bacup via Transdev service as well as the locally based children using a variety of services within West Yorkshire transport network.

What we can now confirm is; duplicate services will run for the Halifax valley including Hebden Bridge. These will run under the service number 590 and the ones that apply to Todmorden High depart Halifax at 07.20, arrive at Todmorden at 08.15. Bus 2 departs Halifax 07.35 arrives at Todmorden at 08.30, the return journey only has one extra support bus, which runs under the 590-service number and departs Todmorden bus station at 15.25 arriving in Halifax at 16.25.

You can find the link here to further support. <https://www.wymetro.com/schools/changes-to-school-services/service-changes-and-extra-services-from-september-2020/todmorden-high-school/>

We are aware of the miscommunication and press releases that have gone out via Facebook and local news regarding the service provided by Rosso and the stress this will have caused. We have worked relentlessly with Lancashire County Council to ensure the matter is rectified and we can confirm the following: There will be a service 800 that will run between Rawtenstall, Stacksteads and Bacup to serve pupils attending Todmorden High School.

Andrew Glover (Transportation Officer, Lancashire County Council) has communicated the following to confirm any misunderstandings and further concerns that have been highlighted by parents via Facebook.

"Lancashire County Council provides school bus services for students that are entitled to transport assistance as set out in the councils "Home to Mainstream School Transport Policy".

In the main, this applies to those students that are attending their nearest school, which is over three miles from their home. The county council is not obliged to make any transport provision for those students that are not entitled to free home to school transport. However, where a LCC school bus service does exist, providing there is room, there are options to purchase annual season tickets for the service or pay a daily fare.

Lancashire County Council's school bus services network operate a flat fare structure.

Please see table below for details:

	Single	Return
Journeys up to 3miles	£1.60	£3.00
Journeys between 3-8 miles	£2.30	£4.10
Journeys over 8 miles	£2.80	£5.20

The 800 Service: Rawtenstall via Bacup – Todmorden, will be a Lancashire County Council subsidised service, provided as an emergency replacement for the No.8 bus which was operated on a commercial basis by Rosso – Trandev. Regrettably, this means that there will be noticeable differences in the ticketing options available and the fare pricing.

Unfortunately, as this is only an emergency replacement service, we are unable to facilitate the sale of annual season tickets, and those students who do not qualify for home to school transport assistance, will be required to pay the daily fare.

The 800 service will commence on 9<sup>th</sup> September until the October half-term and will be provided by Moving People. The service will follow the same route and timetable as its predecessor. During the forthcoming Autumn term, we will be able to ascertain where students are travelling from and arrange a more permanent solution to ensure our statutory entitled students have transport available.

If you believe you may be entitled to transport assistance, please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) for more information.”

Central Garage will be running their service as usual and have been notified of the times and start dates for pupils, face coverings will be expected to be work on this service.

Any further updates will be published via Class Charts, as we are aware there is a potential need for an extra service from Portsmouth to Todmorden. We are hoping to have confirmation of this shortly. Cllr Ken White and Claire Connolly will continue to work with the bus companies to support where we can, therefore please communicate any problems should they arise in the first week of term.

I must stress that the responsibility for ensuring adequate transport for our young people does lie with the Local Authority, while we will and have been doing all we can to support with this, it would be sensible to consult with the Local Authority or directly with the transport provider to alleviate any further concerns.

Some useful contacts relating to transport:

1. Rosso (Bacup) - 0345 60 40 110
2. First (Halifax, Calder Valley and Huddersfield) - Rochdale, Littleborough, Burnley - 0345 646 0707
3. West Yorkshire bus services: [restart2020@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:restart2020@westyorks-ca.gov.uk).
4. Rochdale: <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/publictransport>
5. Rossendale: [www.transdev.com](http://www.transdev.com)
6. Calderdale: <https://planner.wymetro.com/lts/#/travelInfo>
7. Burnley: <https://www.transdevbus.co.uk/burnley/services>

Should you require any further information or have concerns please contact Mrs Connolly at [c.connolly@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:c.connolly@todhigh.co.uk) , she will do her best to help wherever possible.

## Uniform update

Students will be expected to return in full school uniform, the guidelines for this are on our website. If you have any problems or concerns, contact your child's learning manager- we do have spare uniform in school- it would be much better to get any problems sorted out before the start of term as excuses for not being in uniform won't be accepted on return, thanks in advance of your cooperation with this.

A gentle reminder, prior to Summer, that no piercings other than single ear studs are permitted in school (these must be removed for PE). Any other piercings need to be removed ready for school in September. No nail varnish, false nails, gel nails or false eyelashes are permitted. Our uniform guidelines are available on the school website if you are looking to purchase new uniform for September. Please find a message from one of our uniform providers below.

Current ways of visiting our premises.



- Walk in 10:00 to 15:00 - No appointment necessary
- Appointments 15:00 to 17:00 - 15 min time slots, please call on number below.

Contact Details:

- Phone: 01706 875127
- E-Mail: [christine@anns.myzen.co.uk](mailto:christine@anns.myzen.co.uk)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/annsonline>

In positive news, Megan Shaw has made it through to Round 2 of the '500 Words' competition run through the BBC. Children write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 words or fewer and submit it online. Over 110,000 children took part in the competition last year, and the winners have their stories read live on Radio 2 by a superstar celebrity! Each year, 10 million Radio 2 listeners hear, read and love these stories. There are two age categories, 5-9 and 10-13. Last year's winners were announced at a fantastic live show at Windsor Castle. Their stories were read by a starry list of celebrities including David Walliams, Michael Sheen and Konnie Huq. This year, as well attending a spectacular 500 Words Final at Buckingham Palace, where superstar celebrities will read the winning stories live on the radio, six amazing illustrators: Tony Ross, Fiona Lumbers, David McKee, Sue Cheung, David Roberts, and Margaret Sturton – will each be set the task of illustrating one the winning stories. Mrs Keate was full of praise for Megan saying 'This is incredible! Well done you! I have also let the English dept know too as it is just wonderful that you have gotten this far in the competition! Fingers crossed for you!' We wish Megan the best of success for this.

Well done to Iris, Lennie, Lillie and Megan who have absolutely smashed their typing, and achieved a 'top typers' certificate. The certificate is achieved based upon keyboard coverage, average speed (WPM) and accuracy. Mr McDermott is very proud of these students for their hard work and determination to improve their typing skills. Keep up the great work guys. You can find out more at <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/school-news/top-typers/>.

**For attention of students moving from Y8 into Y9:** Students may have been expecting to move into new groups for Maths and Science lessons as per the school setting rationale. Due to students missing several key assessments we do not feel it is appropriate to stream these students at this stage. We have planned assessments to be completed during the first term to provide us with the necessary information and allow appropriate class changes to take place from January.

**For attention of Y8, 9 and 10 students:** Suitable work will be provided for these students for the time they are not in school during the first week. There will be 2 hours of work to complete for English, Maths and Science and one hour

of work for all other subjects. This work will be set on Class Charts and will require students to work independently to prepare them for returning the following week in school. Thanks in anticipation of your support on this.

As we break up for the summer, we have some farewells to make to some of our much-loved staff members. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them all the best with their future careers and plans. Leaving us are:

1. Mrs Crook
2. Mrs Kershaw
3. Miss Woodstock
4. Mrs Asim
5. Mr Looby
6. Miss Turner
7. Mr Roberts
8. Mrs Botterill
9. Mrs Wookey
10. Mr Heys
11. Mrs Maude

As such we have several new staff coming to join our team in September, and we are excited to have them working with us as part of our team. Joining us are:

1. Mr Bennett - Teacher of Design and Technology
2. Mrs Lampard - Teacher of Science
3. Ms Scott - Teacher of Spanish
4. Miss Hailwood - Teacher of Geography
5. Mrs Kewin - Director of English
6. Mr Beck - Teacher of Science
7. Miss Webster - Teacher of Art
8. Mrs Walker - Teacher of Science
9. Mr Roberts - Teacher of Maths

We are fully committed to the safeguarding of all children in our care, even though students have been away from school over the summer, we are still available operating on a rota basis. Do keep us informed of any safeguarding worries you may have, so that we can keep all our students, and families, effectively supported and safe over summer. You can email the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Melissa Wells, on [m.wells@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:m.wells@todhigh.co.uk) or our Safeguarding Manager, Sharon Pickles, on [s.pickles@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:s.pickles@todhigh.co.uk) if you have any concerns that are not urgent. If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, you can ring Mrs Pickles direct on 07912078422, leave a message if she does not answer and she will come directly back to you.

Please do make use of our Mental Health and Wellbeing page <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/mental-health-wellbeing/> which contains a wealth of information to support young people with any issues they may be experiencing. Can I also remind families to encourage students where possible to remain safe near open water, wear sunscreen during particularly hot weather and avoid using train tracks as a cut through while spending times with friends outdoors over the summer holidays. I look forward to seeing our students safe and well in the September term.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours Sincerely,



Gill Shirt

Headteacher

