

**Up & coming dates**

Year 11 enrichment week 1: 24/5/2021  
May Half Term: Friday 28/5/2021  
Return to school: Monday 7/6/2021  
Y10 Parents' Evening: 9/6/2021

Friday 14/5/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following National Guidance face coverings are no longer being advised for students and staff- however due to advice we have had from the Local Authority Public Health we ask that students and staff continue to wear them in communal areas. They can remove them for the classroom. If staff/ students/ visitors want to wear a mask all the time that is their choice and school will support this. We will continue to review this in line with local authority and national guidance. If you would like to read the full report on face coverings please click [here](#).

On this topic, we have had a communication from the local bus firm that the guidance continues to say that, "children and young people aged 11 and over **must still wear a face covering on public transport**. In accordance with advice from PHE, they **must also wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college**. This does not apply to children and young people who are exempt from wearing face coverings". Please do ensure, where you are able, that your child/children abide by this guidance.

This Wednesday I hosted the first session of a fortnightly parent drop-in session on TEAMS. The next time I will be live will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> between 3-4pm. Look forward to speaking to you there. You can the event via the homepage on our website and upon entering the meeting you will be held in the lobby as part of a queue until I can speak to you. Please do pop and see me online if you have anything you want to discuss.

We held our ARCH day on Wednesday this week. ARCH days are 'off-timetable' days which replace structured classroom lessons with activities used to strengthen students' practical application of skills and provide a deeper learning experience. ARCH days provide students with the ability to be equipped in valuable life skills which extend beyond the classroom context, serving to promote overall health and well-being, covering a wide range of SMSC related topics and issues. We hold six ARCH days a year, and we find them to be extremely informative and useful for our students. If you have any questions or feedback regarding ARCH days please email Mr Womack [j.womack@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:j.womack@todhigh.co.uk).

We are aware that many of our students' experiences of the pandemic will have been very varied. Some, despite restrictions, will be feeling safe and managing well but for others it may well have been extremely challenging or even traumatic. We are here to support our students through the challenges they face in their lives and we work hard to do so following our school values of Ambition, Respect, Care and Honesty. Please find attached here some useful flyers linking to Mental Health and Wellbeing, we have a number of provisions in school that we can offer to support our students, so please do contact us if you feel your child needs further support.

<http://todhigh.com/clickandbuilds/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Mental-health-leaflets.pdf>

As we move into the summer term, we will be looking at reviewing students' learning that has taken place over the past year. This will happen through a series of assessments that your child will sit in the upcoming weeks.

In years 7-9 these assessments will generally be taking place within lesson time, although all year groups will sit one assessment in the hall to provide an experience of a formal exam.

For year 10 a mock assessment timetable will be shared, together with more information to help students revise effectively.



Whilst these assessments will be providing teachers and school staff with great information as to the progress your child is making, they shouldn't cause any significant stress, especially when students have prepared thoroughly. We would like to see real ambition from our students and for them to show all their hard work both in school and during lockdown has been effective. Please can you support students in completing independent revision and preparation for these assessments at home, if this is causing your child significant stress, please contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance and we will support in whatever way we can.

As the assessments approach homework will have a greater revision and review focus, please continue to support your child with this, promoting the value and importance of revision earlier on in school can really benefit students when they reach GCSE years.

To celebrate the end of Ramadan, and to say a big well done to all that have completed the fast, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May we are holding a feast of authentic Indian cuisine and various accompaniments, please come along at lunchtime and join the celebration this will be available from all serving points.

Have a great weekend, and as always if you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G Shirt".

Gill Shirt  
Headteacher