

Key Dates

Year 7 Falconry Day (Attendance Reward)- Wednesday 17th January
Books Home Week- Monday 22nd January 2018
Year 11 Parents' Evening- 5-7pm Thursday 25th January
Year 10 Careers Event (Etihad Stadium)- Wednesday 7th February
Parent Governor Forum 2- 6-7pm Wednesday 7th February

Friday 12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Let me start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and that you all had a good break with your families. 2018 will be a very exciting year here at Todmorden High School. You will all have seen our new building, this is due to be opened in February/March. Some Year 7 students, Mrs Thompson and myself took a tour this week. The exterior and interior are very impressive. You can see an update and some pictures on the profile attached this week.

2018 will also be a vital year for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We are hoping for great sets of GCSE and A Level results from them. We have had the first set of examinations this week and we will soon be talking to the students about upping the ante on revision! There are some excellent revision resources on our website check out <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/revision/>.

Books Home Week

All of our students take their work or exercise books home periodically throughout the year, usually to complete homework or for revision. This year we would like to encourage parents to view the work that their child has done in their book so that they may get a better understanding of the progress they have made and what they need to do to improve. This will happen shortly after our STARS reports have been published and as such all students will be asked to take their books home during the week beginning the 22nd January. We would ask parents and carers to ask to see their child's books and if possible to sign the label that we have asked students to place in the inside cover of each book. Finally, we would ask parents to ensure that students return their books to us as they are our most valuable testament to the hard work they have undertaken this year.

We are looking to re-establish Parent Teacher Association to enable parents to get involved with forging links between our school and the Todmorden community. Are you;

- Innovative?
- Positive?
- Supportive?
- Realistic?
- An organiser of events?
- Creative with ideas?

Do you;

- Want to make THS an even better place for all?
- Want to make a difference?
- Want to work as a TEAM?

If so, we need you! If you are interested in becoming part of the PTA team and have any questions that you would like to ask please contact Mrs Connolly (Assistant Head for Community Engagement) at c.connolly@todhigh.co.uk.

I was proud to hear about how some of our students volunteered to perform at the recent Epiphany service at St Mary's on Sunday 7th January. Numerous rehearsals, including two coaching sessions with the local Vicar, enabled students to grapple with very demanding literature in order to deliver a real sense of involvement in the biblical story. Their account of the revelation of Christ to the gentiles made their in depth knowledge of the context of the characters clear, and they conveyed the emotions well including the thoughts and musings of the magi and shepherds. These exceptional students met with by me today and were rewarded with a free, early lunch.

On Wednesday 7th February 2018 we will be holding our second Parent/Governor Forum of the academic year. We held our first forum in October 2017, 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 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 Year 7 common room, 6-7pm. Official invites and letters will be coming home with students next week, if you have any further queries please email clerktogovernors@todhigh.co.uk.

Yesterday evening we held our annual Presentation Evening, celebrating the achievements of our students who sat their GCSE and A Level exams last summer 2017. Students and their parents attended the event at in the school hall. The Mayor of Todmorden, Christine Potter, attended and spoke at the event as well as our Vice Chair of Governors Steve Sweeney, and we also saw a number of students receive special awards for courage and altruism, anti-bullying, excellent performance in humanities and many more. This event is a pleasure to attend every year and I would like to thank Ms Wells and Mrs Womack for organising it, and thank all of our former students and their families for attending.

Just a reminder that we have now rolled out ParentPay, a more convenient way to pay for school meals, trips, after school clubs and much more online. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Letters detailing how to use this system and containing further detail about ParentPay have been sent home but if you have not received a letter, or have any questions regarding this system, please email admin@todhigh.co.uk.

Have a great weekend and, as always, if you have anything concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,



Miss G Shirt
Headteacher





New Building Update

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"The new building looks amazing, there is so much to see in there, and we can't wait until we are having our lessons in there!"



Work is well underway on the new building. The building contains 16 classrooms and some toilets, a lift and two staff workrooms. Some of our Year 7 students went for a visit with Mrs Thompson and Miss Shirt and here is what they had to say about our new building and how it is looking so far:

"It looks really good. There's more toilets and a lift."
"The classrooms look really bright and spacious"
"It looks amazing!"
"I am really excited to be going and learning in there soon"
"There are a lot of windows which make it look more open"
"There is a really nice view"
"There are storage cupboards that link the classrooms"
"I can't wait to see the rooms with furniture in them"

We are really pleased with the progress that has been made so far on the building. We hope to have relocated our teaching staff and students by Feb/March. Take a look at our website for more info.

