

**Key Dates**

Half term- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 3pm  
Return to school- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 8.40am  
Post 16 Marketplace- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 6-8pm  
Parent Governor Forum- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 6-7pm

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been another busy and exciting one in school. Representatives of the student council have now been selected and the Head Girl and Head Boy in each year have also been selected apart from Year 10 who will be selected soon. You can find out more about Student Leadership on our website and after the half term break we will be interviewing our candidates to find out a little more about them, and what their aims and wishes are while in this role. This will feature in our profile. Well done to all involved!

Our profile this week features our Duke of Edinburgh students who have shown real dedication and energy while completing their bronze award. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes are at three progressive levels which, if successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. With assistance from adult leaders (in our school these are Mrs Thompson, Mrs Lambert, Miss Mullarkey and Mr Adams), participants select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for, and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
- At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth **Residential** section, which involves staying and working away from home for five days, doing a shared activity.

To achieve an award, the participant must work on each section for a minimum period of time, and must be monitored and assessed by someone with knowledge of the chosen activities. Each progressive level demands more time and commitment from participants: Bronze 3–6 months; Silver: 6–9 months; Gold: 12–18 months. Participants are required to show regular activity and commitment to the award for the duration of their DofE programme, well done to our students for their resilience and determination.

Our House system is well underway with students achieving amazing results so far. Currently Bridestones are in the lead, with Stoodley in close pursuit. Recent events included an inter-house Football match, with Vale/Gaddings coming in as a joint first!

House	Total
Bridestones	25489
Stoodley	24109
Vale	23917
Calder	22153
Gaddings	24318

The Mental Health and Wellbeing agenda is a focus of ours at Todmorden High School, as such I would like to promote the new Mental Health and Wellbeing section of our website to students and parents <http://www.todhigh.co.uk/mental-health-wellbeing/>. As part of this we are running a 'Drop Box' service situated outside the administration office student window (blue post box), where students, and staff members, can post their worries. Mrs Thompson will then pick them up to see if she can offer advice and support for our students and staff in her role as Mental Health First Aider. We are also beginning to work towards achieving our 'Schools' Mental Health'

award, Mental Health Ambassadors will be selected for each year group and more information regarding these important roles will be communicated shortly.

Due to the postponement of our recent Parent Governor Forum, this has now been rescheduled for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 6-7pm in the LRC. We held a forum last year, 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 and educational establishment 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. Official invites have come home with students, if you have any further queries please email [clerktogovernors@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@todhigh.co.uk).

As you will be aware we recently held our Harvest Food Bank appeal. As a community school, we are always looking for ways to support our town, and we are delighted to be able to donate food to help others. We received the following communication from the drop in centre following the donations from our students and staff; "On behalf of all of us involved at Todmorden Food Drop-in I want to say a huge thank you to all of you at Todmorden High, students, families and staff, for the very generous donations of food you have made. Twenty large bags of food was really amazing. We appreciate every single donation and your work in promoting us within the school and pulling it all together. It was very generous and will make a real difference to local people who use the service. Please pass on our thanks to all concerned." Well done to everyone who was involved in this year's food donation, and a special thank you to Mrs Stansfield and Miss Smith, who did a fantastic job publicising the event, coordinating the collection and delivering the donations to the food bank this afternoon.

We are on a drive to promote reading with our students. THS needs your book donations! We are stocking up our library to further encourage our students to read. Please drop off any donations of books suitable for 11-16 year olds at Reception, any donations will be much appreciated. Thanks.

Our Year 11 revision event, originally arranged to take place on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 has been postponed to the evening after Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This will coincide with our Year 11 Parents' Evening, to make the event more focused on how to prep for exams and some great revision materials to help your child achieve the best they can come the summer term.

We had a great Year 7 Form Tutor Parents' Evening on Thursday evening, with an excellent turnout. Many thanks to all who attended, I trust that it was informative and useful for staff, students and parents alike. If you were unable to attend please do not hesitate to contact the school in order to have a discussion with staff regarding your child's performance. Additionally information has recently been shared with you regarding Y7 setting, this letter is available on the school website in our letters home section if you have not yet had chance to read it. If you need any support or have any further queries following Year 7 Parents' Evening please e-mail [p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk](mailto:p.thompson@todhigh.co.uk).

With Bonfire night fast approaching, the fire service have asked us to remind our students and their families of the dangers that Bonfire night can bring. On Bonfire night, it is important to remember the dangers and know the precautions to take in order to prevent accidents. If you are thinking of holding your own Bonfire night on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, please take a look at <http://www.bonfire-night-safety.co.uk/> for more information on staying safe. Most of all, enjoy the event.

Finally, thanks to all of you who contributed to our books home week, we find this a great success each year, allowing for parents to review what students are learning in their lessons. In closing, I would like to remind all parents that the school will close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm for the October half term break. We hope all of our students, and their families, have a lovely, safe half term and we will look forward to welcoming students back when we re-open on Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 8.40am. Have a great half term break,



Miss G Shirt  
Headteacher

# STUDENT PROFILE

## FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2018

### ASPIRATIONAL, INSPIRATIONAL, REMARKABLE

Year 10 students Sophie, Caitlin, Taylor, Jake, Lauren, Freya, Jago, Niamh, Kaspar, Sam and Amy have all completed their Bronze award on the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. Supported by Miss Mullarkey, Mrs Thompson, Mr Adams and Mrs Lambert the students have engaged in a number of tasks and challenges in order to achieve this. Between the students, they have done various volunteer work, physical activity and also developed a skill. This has included: becoming swimming instructors; helping at Rainbow groups; practising cooking skills; practising dance and drama; physical activities such as rowing/sailing, martial arts, free-running, netball and rounders; engaging in Youth Parliament; being Head Boy/Girl in school, environmental volunteers, playing musical instruments, pet care for others, and helping younger students around school. The students also completed their expedition part of the Award back in June and (in 2 groups), they created video blogs of the expedition to showcase the skills they had developed and their experiences along the way. The staff organising this have been very proud of our students maturity and committed approach to their activities and it is fantastic to note that some of the students already want to sign up to do their Silver Award!

