Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

**Face coverings:** Please ensure your child arrives to school with an appropriate face covering. Failure to do so will incur a sanction and £1 charge to purchase one for the day. All students should be reminded the advice: Face- always wear a face covering when moving around inside the building, on public transport and in shops. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

Our students will be running for head boy and head girl positions soon, as part of our student voice and leadership initiative. There is growing research demonstrating that students perform better academically, socially, and emotionally when they are meaningfully engaged, contributing members of a school with a positive and caring school ethos. At Todmorden High we recognise the influence and impact students have on their own school community, particularly when they are trusted and involved in school improvement efforts from the outset. Please encourage your child to be part of our school leadership community, in the form of a student council member, a subject ambassador or as head boy or girl. If they want to speak to someone in school about opportunities please direct them to Mr Nalborczyk (a.nalborczyk@todhigh.co.uk).

Our Year 7 and 10 students will be having their school photographs taken on the 15th October 2020. These photographs will be done with social distancing measures in place, and will be available to purchase after the event should parents wish to do so.

We have measures in place to protect our students should we ever require to invacuate or evacuate people from the building. We will practise these measures with our students the week commencing the 5th October, with a full evacuation at 2.35pm on Thursday 8th October 2020 and a full invacuation on the following Monday 12th October 2020.

**Students will go directly home from school at 2.35pm Thursday 8th October**, leaving school site behind them as they should during a full evacuation. The invacuation will be conducted within the school day therefore will not impact on the structure of your child’s school day. If you have any concerns or worries regarding these procedures please do get in touch at admin@todhigh.co.uk and we will do our best to alleviate your concerns.

It was great to see so many students borrowing library books either just before or during lockdown and we understand it might be tricky to hand them back in. There will be a box in each English classroom from Monday for students to drop their books in, so these can be quarantined then returned to the library. We would appreciate it if you could remind your students to bring back any books they have finished. Thank you.
**Hoodies:** Please ensure your child does not arrive to school wearing a hoody or branded non uniform sweatshirt. Hoodies and branded sweatshirts are not allowed in school, if your child is cold then a black school jumper must be worn under your child's blazer and an appropriate winter coat.

When it is PE, an appropriate underlayer can be worn under their PE top, but no branded sweatshirts or hoodies are to be worn. If your child is seen wearing a hoody or branded sweatshirt, they will be asked to remove it, and on a second warning a pastoral detention will be issued.

**Attendance:** Any unnecessarily missed days from school have a damaging impact on a child’s learning and progress, studies show there is a direct link between attendance and attainment and therefore vital your child attends school unless they are showing the following symptoms:

- high temperature and/or
- new continuous cough and/or
- loss or change to sense of taste or smell

Whilst it is essential that students follow all guidance about self-isolation if they or a member of their household has COVID symptoms or has received a positive test, slight sniffles and common cold symptoms are not a reason to miss school.

We now have in place an effective balance between safety and education. Please expect your child's learning manager to be contacting you if your child's attendance has become a significant concern.

**Open Evening for Year 6 students and parents**
We are hosting our virtual open evening on **Thursday 8th October 2020 from 6pm onwards**. Due to covid-19 restrictions we are unable to host this event as we usually would, so we are holding this virtually via our website. Tune in on/or before the evening at [www.todhigh.co.uk](http://www.todhigh.co.uk), you will find a wealth of information regarding school life and what it's like to attend Todmorden High School. Please do share this information with your family and friends and anyone else you know whose child is looking to attend high school in September 2021. We are disappointed that we are unable to host this event in person, as it is always one of the highlights of our year, but we hope that prospective families can get a flavour for our school virtually.

Have a restful weekend with your families, and as ever if you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Gill Shirt
Headteacher
Humaira (9MAS)
Archie (9CLA)
Thomas (10ABE)
Amilia (11JNU)
Jack (8LCU)
Edward (8LCU)
Ruby (8LCU)
Ali (8SDE)
Daniel (8THU/SIA)
Ruby (8THU/SIA)
Harrison (8SDE)

Rory (8THU/SIA)
Mahira (8THU/SIA)
Joshua (8SDE)
Charlotte (8SDE)
Edie (8LCU)
Lucy (8LCU)
Lewis (8THU/SIA)
Jake (8THU/SIA)
Lily (11PJD)

Miss Shirt’s Wall of Fame
Featuring students who have achieved amazing things this week. Well done and keep up the good work!

Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential