

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to welcome our students back to Tapton this year and see them return with renewed focus and an ambition to succeed in a calm purposeful atmosphere. Our Year 11s worked hard during their first assessment week. At this moment in time teachers are inputting UCAS progress grades and talking to students about destinations and next steps. Our Year 10s have also really matured over the summer and settled well into their new GCSE options. Meanwhile, our new Year 7s are gradually beginning to find their way around and get used to routines while building relationships with their peers and teachers. The new Year 7 separate queue into lunch has been working well.

Many students have joined clubs and are starting to get involved in the wide range of extra curricular activities we have on offer. We would encourage all to take part in at least one of these activities which are catered to the needs of all students from Y7 right through to Y13. These are a fantastic way to broaden horizons, pursue talents and passions while making new friends. Please see our extra-curricular timetable on the website: <http://www.taptonschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6247&type=pdf> for more details.

Summer Exam Results

Tapton has recorded another set of outstanding A level and GCSE results. Given the extra demand of the new qualifications we are pleased to announce that at GCSE:

- 68% of all students achieved grades 5 and above in both English and mathematics, with 83% achieving 4 and above in both subjects.
- Over a quarter of our students achieved one or more of the most difficult grade 9s. We have ten students who gained 9 or more of these including three who achieved the 'clean sweep' of straight grade 9s (out of only 732 across the country!).
- Early indications show that students at Tapton achieve GCSEs which are on average +0.7 grades higher than those achieved nationally.

We are also delighted with our A Level results which have allowed so many students to realise their life chances and dreams. The outstanding results at Tapton have opened the way to brilliant destinations for our students:

- 15 students to Oxford and Cambridge (An achievement that makes Tapton one of the most successful schools in the country for Oxbridge entry).
- 16 students to medical school
- 3 students to dentistry and 1 to veterinary
- 34% of all students achieving A A B including the most challenging facilitator subjects – opening the way to scholarships and entry into the most competitive universities in the UK and internationally.

This has confirmed that our commitment to a broad curriculum enables students to access courses as varied as International Relations and Spanish, Fashion Design, Architecture, Music, Liberal Arts, Bio Chemistry with a Professional Placement and Japanese. This in addition to the strong backbone of more traditional routes into Science, History, English, Engineering and Mathematics is truly impressive.

At a time of significant financial challenge, our commitment to the offer of four subjects in Year 12 has given students choice and opportunity. Alongside 71% A*B, Tapton students have achieved a 100% pass rate.

Well done to everyone in our outgoing Y11 and Y13. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and for the resilience you have demonstrated throughout the year. We also say a big thank you to our parents and carers for their amazing support.

Open Evenings

We look forward to meeting our new cohorts of students for 2019-20 this term at our open evenings. Parents and students have the opportunity to meet teachers, talk to students, sample learning, tour the school and listen to a talk in the main hall.

Our Year 6 Open Evening will take place on October 3rd between 6pm and 8pm. **This means school will be closing early at 2.30pm on this day to give teachers the chance to set up for the evening.**

Our Post-16 Open Evening is at 7pm until 9pm on the 20th November 2018 – school will finish at the normal time on this day.

Behaviour for Success

The initial behaviour focus for the year has been on punctuality to school and lessons and settling to work in lessons quickly to make 'every second count'. Attendance and punctuality are key future life skills. Every second of learning time counts. Please support your children getting into and maintaining good habits from the start. Students should be in school for 9.10am, ready for a prompt 9.15am start. Please help us to maintain the Schools average attendance, which has regularly been above 96%, by ensuring wherever possible no more than one day's absence per half term per student is taken.

Merits will continue to be awarded in recognition of great behaviour and work as well as verbal praise by staff. The form tutor role continues to be a vital one as it is central in guiding and supporting students to be successful as they progress through school. Any concerns will be followed up in school and staff will ensure parents/carers are kept informed, so that we can forge close relationships and work together to ensure your child's success.

Assemblies this Half Term

'Valuing everyone, caring for each other and achieving excellence' is the school motto and is the key theme that will run through the assemblies this half term. We began with a focus on pride in our community, our individual achievements and our form groups. Assemblies have also covered transition into each year group and a wider topic of the school community and race. Future assemblies will explore topical issues including: democracy; European languages; Black History Month in October; and mental health and wellbeing, giving a real flavour of the wider curriculum and broadening horizons.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

In school form tutors, mental health and wellbeing champions and/or year managers are available for students to talk to.

The mental health and wellbeing parent support group meet each half term. The group provides parents with a chance to meet, chat, ask questions and share experiences and ideas. Meeting dates can be found on the school calendar at <http://www.taptonschool.co.uk> The next meeting will take place between 4:30 – 5:30pm on Wednesday 21st November. We look forward to seeing you.

The Big Draw 2018

During the month of October Tapton School will join thousands of other schools, galleries, libraries and museums worldwide to participate in The Big Draw Festival 2018. The Big draw is a festival set up by a group of artists, designers, architects and educators aiming to champion visual literacy and teach children that drawing is a life skill: an essential tool for learning, expression and invention.

As a school we aim to highlight the importance of drawing for learning, teaching students to view drawing as a cross curricular tool for learning, not just an activity that takes place during art lessons.

Lead by the Art department there will be a wide variety of workshops and activities based around this year's theme of "PLAY". Workshops will include two life drawing sessions open to sixth formers, parents and staff, as well as sessions in *Drawing in Stitch*, *Drawing with Wire*, Human Spirograph, Fashion drawing, and many more.

Please join up to after school sessions and use this as an opportunity to highlight the skill of drawing across all subject areas, adding superb drawing examples to our cross curricular drawing gallery.



Developing Teaching and Learning

We continue to focus on keeping 'the main thing the main thing' - the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom. This month saw the launch of our Trust-wide 'Teaching for Success Series' with 280 teachers from Tapton, Chaucer and Forge Valley engaged in an introductory talk which focused on how we evaluate our impact on learning. The series is based on the work of influential writer and researcher John Hattie, whose 10

Mindframes for Visible Learning have shaped our programme at Tapton. Each Mindframe is evidence-informed and provides teachers with the opportunity to reflect on what works and what should be tweaked to improve learning.



Upcoming dates for your diary

Tuesday 2nd October	Y9 Immunisations
Wednesday 3rd October	School finishes at 2.30pm
Wednesday 3rd October	Y6 Information Evening 6-8pm
w/c Monday 8th October	Y7 Exam week
Thursday 18th October	Y11 PSHEE Day – UCAS Progress
w/c Monday 22nd October	Y8 Assessment Week
Wednesday 24th October	Post 16 Opportunities Evening 7-9pm
Friday 26th October	Y7 Homework reward party
Monday 29th Oct – Fri 2nd Nov	HALF TERM
w/c 5th November	Y11 Assessment Week
Friday 23rd November	Staff training day, school closed to students

Thanks for your continued support of our school,

Kat Rhodes and Adrian May