

## Year 8

### Your Child's Year Ahead 2025-26

We celebrate  
achievements and  
activities within our  
community on



Follow us at  
[@taptonschooolofficial](https://www.instagram.com/taptonschooolofficial)



**Valuing Everyone    Caring For Each Other    Achieving Excellence**

# Welcome to Tapton School

Kat Rhodes - Executive Director

Harkiran Grewal - Co-Head of School

Anna Siddell - Co-Head of School

Pedro Marques - Year Leader

Sue Allinson - Inclusion Leader



# Where you can find letters and presentations



In this section you can access the Year 8 Course Handbook

Use this section to access letters and presentations

In this area you can find the contact email addresses of key members of staff

This presentation will be put on to the school website after this evening for you to access in the News, Letters and Key Dates area.

# The purpose of this evening

To provide:

- an overview of the academic year; key dates and key points.
- an overview of our assessment processes and how we will report results to you.
- an outline of who to contact in school.
- an introduction to the important apps we use and other key information about uniform, equipment and punctuality.
- an explanation of our values and expectations.

**Tapton**  
SCHOOL

**Valuing Everyone**

**Caring For Each Other**

**Achieving Excellence**

Quality of Education

**Outstanding**

Behaviour and Attitudes

**Outstanding**

Personal Development

**Outstanding**

Leadership and Management

**Outstanding**

Sixth Form Provision

**Outstanding**

Ofsted - November 2024

"The school enriches pupils' lives with many opportunities beyond the curriculum. It offers a wealth of experiences beyond the taught subjects."

Ofsted - November 2024

"The school sets high standards for pupils' behaviour. Staff and pupils alike show respect, kindness and tolerance."

Ofsted - November 2024



"The curriculum is broad,  
balanced and rich in  
content. Staff bring the  
subjects to life."

Ofsted - November 2024



"The school's 'Tapton Seven' values underpin learning across the school. Kindness, hard work and responsibility are examples of these values"

Ofsted - November 2024

"Teachers' superb subject knowledge helps to ensure consistently high-quality teaching. Pupils approach their learning with great enthusiasm. Staff embrace this."

Ofsted - November 2024

"A reading book is never far from the hand of a Tapton pupil. All through the school, including in the sixth form, pupils read daily."

Ofsted - November 2024

"Pupils' calm behaviour enhances learning. In lessons, pupils are respectful and focused."

Ofsted - November 2024

"The staff at the school enjoy talking with the pupils. These interactions help pupils to feel welcomed and part of the Tapton family."

Ofsted - November 2024

**"Tapton is a school where  
pupils and staff are restless  
in their pursuit of  
excellence."**

Ofsted - November 2024

# The Year 8 Team

[year8@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:year8@taptonschool.co.uk)

Pedro Marques – Year Leader  
Sue Allinson – Inclusion Leader

This is the email address to contact school

X Band		
K Wood	8KW	S13
N Cavanaugh (H Jackson – Thurs)	8NC	SO3 (A103)
A Arrowsmith	8AA	105
Y Band		
E Cawrey	8EC	107
J Fogg	8FG	T14
A Eades (L Smith – Mon and Thurs)	8AE	116 (A103)
Z Band		
I Ayomidele	8IA	002
J Hufton	8HU	S06
A Sprenz (J Miller – Fri)	8AS	211

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# Mental Health and Wellbeing Team



**Mr Simpson**  
Health and Wellbeing  
Support Worker



**Mr Rippin**  
SENDCO and Senior  
Mental Health Lead

Mr Simpson supports students' mental health in school. He offers 1:1 wellbeing sessions to offer guidance or just a chat to those students who are struggling with their mental health.



Subject: English Ms Rhodes Headteacher	Subject: History Mrs Grewal Deputy Head	Subject: Geography Mr Rippin SENDCO	Subject: Sociology Mr Wright Head of 6th Form	Subject: MFL Mrs Morris Assistant Head	Subject: PE Ms Sharmam Assistant Head	Subject: Maths Mr Heath Assistant Head	Subject: PE Mr Subbigh Assistant Head	Subject: PE Mrs Poleyett Safeguarding	Subject: PE Miss Jackson Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Subject: PE Miss Mohammed Safeguarding Deputy
Subject: English Mrs Mitchell KSS Safeguarding	Subject: History Mrs Moonwood KSS Safeguarding	Subject: Geography Miss Lake Year Leader	Subject: MFL Mr Johnson Year Leader	Subject: Art Miss Fairhurst Year Leader	Subject: PE Mr Reed Year Leader	Subject: Science Dr Winters Year Leader	Subject: Science Mrs Allison Inclusion Lead	Subject: Science Mrs Easdown Inclusion Lead		
Subject: English Miss Ridal KSS Inclusion Lead	Subject: History Mrs Casademir Inclusion Lead	Subject: Geography Mr Simpson MHWB Worker	Subject: MFL Miss Jackson Teaching Assistant	Subject: Sociology Miss Ferreira de Paula Teaching Assistant	Subject: PE Mr Holt Assistant SENDCO	Subject: PE Mr Preston Teaching Assistant	Subject: PE Mr Kelly Teaching Assistant	Subject: PE Mrs Maril Teaching Assistant	Subject: PE Mrs Murphy Teaching Assistant	Subject: PE Mrs Tero-Blaahall Teaching Assistant

**Tapton**  
SCHOOL

HOME

JOINING OUR SCHOOL

LEARNING AT TAPTON

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

NEWS, LETTERS AND KEY DATES

POLICIES AND KEY INFORMATION

SAFEGUARDING

SIXTH FORM

CONTACT US



## Mental Health and Wellbeing Champions

Science Teacher	Science Teacher	Science Teacher	Science Teacher			Head of History	History Teacher	Head of Psychology	Library Manager	Inclusion Admin
Head of Design	Art Teacher			Maths Teacher	Head of Music	Head of Drama	Drama Teacher	Head of PE	PE Teacher	PE Teacher
Head of English	English Teacher			English Teacher	English Teacher	English Teacher		RE Teacher	MFL Teacher	MFL Teacher



Not syncing

+ QUICKLINKS



# **Upcoming Events:**

## **Your child's journey through Year 8**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
W/C 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 Assessment week
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 8 Tracking reports emailed and sent home
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 8 Subject Choices information presentation goes live on website
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 8 Progress Evening on School Cloud
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Deadline for submission of the Subject Choices Microsoft form
W/C 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 8 Assessment week
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 8 Tracking reports and form tutor comments emailed and sent home

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# Tracking Reports

Subject	Assessment %	Average Assessment % achieved by Year Group	Conduct	Meeting Your Potential Either 'Yes' or 'No'	Additional Comment
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Conduct	
Outstanding (A role model for other students)	This requires <u>exemplary</u> levels of behaviour and conduct, <u>setting a standard</u> for other students to follow.  As well as <u>routinely</u> meeting all behaviour expectations, the student <u>makes extra efforts</u> to be <u>helpful</u> to the teacher or to be <u>supportive</u> of their peers
Good	Routinely meets all behaviour expectations <u>without requiring prompts</u> ; they are on time, equipped, in full uniform, polite, respectful, listen, complete all work <u>including homework</u> and <u>never disrupt learning</u> .
Satisfactory	Meets basic classroom expectations, does not necessarily have behaviour reports such as cause for concern or on call, however, <u>may receive reminders/warnings/may be a passive learner/homework may be an issue</u> .
Requires improvement	There is <u>room for improvement</u>  Usually meets behaviour expectations but sometimes <u>needs prompting</u> to do so and <u>will</u> have received reminders/warnings/cause for concerns/on calls, incomplete homework and/or punctuality may be a <u>regular</u> issue.
Serious concerns	Does not meet basic classroom expectations, <u>persistently/frequently</u> disrupts their learning and the learning of others.

To reach a decision on whether your child is **meeting their potential** teachers will use their professional judgement alongside a range of information.

The following criteria will be considered; **conduct, work rate, learning behaviours, effort, attendance, prior attainment and assessment scores**. If your child is currently meeting their potential the relevant cell will be coloured green.

However, if your child is not yet meeting their potential the cell will be coloured amber. Additional comments will be given to provide feedback on how a student can meet their potential/improve their conduct.

# School Cloud - Progress Evening System

**Tapton School**

**Parents' Evening System**  
Welcome to the Tapton School parents' evening booking system.  
Appointments can be amended via a link from the email confirmation - please ensure your email address is correct.

**Your Details**

Title

First Name

Surname

▼

Email

Confirm Email

**Student's Details**

First Name

Surname

Date of Birth

1 ▼

January ▼

201 ▼

Log In



## The benefits of School Cloud

- A clear schedule of appointments with teachers
- No waiting for appointments that overrun
- Ease of access - laptop / phone
- Can be done from any location

## Y8 Course Handbook 2025-2026 Information for families and students

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### KS3 - Curriculum Overview

- Key Stage 3 students have 25 hours of lesson time a week.
- Year groups are split into three bands (X, Y & Z).
- Students are taught as a form group in Year 7 for Geography, History, Drama, Music, IT, RE and Personal Development. These classes will be slightly altered moving into Y8 and Y9.
- In Languages, students commence studying a language in Y7 and continue with that language until the end of Key Stage 3 and are strongly encouraged to continue it until the end of Key Stage 4.
- Y8 Subject Choices - students opt in January of Y8 for two subjects from the Arts and Technologies to study in Y9.
- Y9 GCSE Study - students select a set of subjects in January of Y9 to study at GCSE.

Subject Area	Number of weekly hours - Y7	Number of weekly hours - Y8	Number of weekly hours - Y9
English	3	3	3
Maths	3	3	3
Science	3	3	3
Languages	3	3	3
Geography	2	1	2
History	1	2	2
RE	1	1	2
PE	2	2	2
Art	1	1	2*
Music	1	1	2*
Drama	1	1	2*
Computer Science	1	1	2*
Technology	2	2	2*
Personal Development	1	1	1

\*Dependent on choice of Art and Technology in Subject Choice process

### KS3 - Homework

Homework set at Tipton is set in line with our touchstone;

"meaningful, manageable, and predictable".

**Meaningful:** Homework tasks are embedded into the curriculum and relevant to the learning in the classroom. All homework set supports students and facilitates their in-class performance or revision for assessments.

**Manageable:** Homework tasks are designed to be short and regular to encourage good study habits in preparation for later study and working life. To support the completion of homework, any student can go to the library before or after school any day of the week and there is a Homework drop-in on a Wednesday after school monitored by the Academic Mentor and Sixth Form helpers.

**Predictable:** At Key Stage Three we expect students to receive a piece of homework in each subject for every six hours taught. Homework should take approximately thirty minutes to complete per subject and students should complete around three hours of homework a week. Homework tasks do not have to be written and could take the form of reading, learning or revision and in mastery subjects (Maths and MFL) students will receive weekly homework to help with their proficiency in these areas.

Homework is set using the online platform Class Charts. Homework is shared by class teachers on this system on the day it is set before 5pm. Students will always be given a minimum of three rights to complete any homework set. Parents and carers can also access Class Charts to monitor their child's homework and deadlines.

#### Homework Monitoring - systems and procedures

All students receive feedback and praise for completed homework. Feedback may be verbal, provided as whole-class feedback or individual written feedback.

Classroom teachers will deal directly with any non-completion of homework by having a conversation with anyone who has not completed a task and logging it as a non-completion on Bromcom which will generate a negative behaviour point and create a text notification to parents and carers. Class teachers will set a detention for homework to be completed. Continued and repeated non-completion of homework will be addressed by the Subject Leader, Year Leader or Academic Mentor as necessary and a referral to the Homework Club may be made.

#### Homework Club

The library is open every day after school where students have access to resources to support them with their studies. Furthermore, the Academic Mentor and Sixth Form support will be available in the library for further assistance at Homework Club on a Wednesday after school.

### Maths

Subject Leader: Mrs A Jenkins

Email: [ajenkins@tipton-school.co.uk](mailto:ajenkins@tipton-school.co.uk)

Key Stage 3 Leader: Mrs R Gilbertson

Email: [rgilbertson@tipton-school.co.uk](mailto:rgilbertson@tipton-school.co.uk)

**Curriculum Intent:** We build confidence with mathematical reasoning which is essential for everybody's future. We ensure that all students have the mathematical fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving skills to not only excel in assessments, but to fulfil their hopes and dreams in the world beyond. We motivate, challenge, and inspire a very able cohort, whilst supporting and nurturing students who lack confidence and those that struggle with Mathematics. We deliver a curriculum which allows students to achieve the best they can.

Core Knowledge	Procedural Knowledge
Topics:	Students will:
Number	Become fluent in the basics of mathematics
Algebra	Be able to reason how and why the mathematics works (or doesn't sometimes)
Ratio,	Be able to apply their mathematics to solve problems which are both abstract and from the real world
Proportion & rates of change	Apply mathematical knowledge in Science, Geography, Computer Science and other subjects.
Geometry & measures	
Probability	
Statistics	

**Homework:** Weekly homework is set using predominantly MathsWatch & sometimes Dr Frost to practise the skills learnt that week. Revision tasks are also set as homework to prepare for the two main assessments.

**Assessment:** There are two main formative assessments during the year, assessing the skills taught and the student's ability to apply the skills to problem solving. Assessment for learning during lessons is key to assessing students informally every Maths lesson so teaching is tailored to the students.

**Links to Personal Development:** Mathematical knowledge, skills and their application to problem solving is key and requires resilience and the willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. The curriculum is linked to the real world wherever possible.

We make cross curricular links with Science, Technology, Geography, Food wherever possible. We support students to get the best grades that they can, so they have as much career choice as possible.

**How is my knowledge further developed in Year 8?** KS3 is the first 3 years of a 5-year curriculum of which the last 2 years are GCSE Maths. GCSE Maths content builds on all the skills learnt in KS3.

The Year 8 Course Handbook is available on the school website.  
Each subject has shared information covering the following topics:

- Core knowledge
- Procedural knowledge (how to)
- Assessment
- Homework
- Links to Careers and Personal Development
- How knowledge is further developed

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# Year 8 Subject Choices

- Students will make a choice of subjects to study in Year 9.
- In the process students will choose 2 subjects (from a list) and study each of these subjects for 2 hours per week.
- Choosing a subject for Year 9 is not a prerequisite for studying it at GCSE.
- Students will make this choice in January and begin their studies in these subject areas in September 2026 at the start of Year 9.
- Students will continue to study the core subject areas as normal (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, EPR, Personal Development, PE and their designated language).
- Students will also study an additional hour of EPR in Year 9 to ensure all content is taught for the GCSE.

# Year 8 Subject Choices

- Further information about the process will follow in our Year 8 Subject Choices online presentation, which will go live on the school website on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- Deadline for the submission of choices is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- Subject Choice forms will be shared electronically with parents and carers two weeks before the deadline.
- Forms will need to be completed by the student alongside a Parent and Carer to ensure a conversation has happened at home.
- Any Subject Choice forms submitted after this date may not get a first-choice preference if the subject is full.





**ClassCharts**

An Introduction

# Class Charts



## Our New Behaviour and Rewards System

We are moving to **Class Charts** because it will allow us to:

- Track **positive achievements and behaviour concerns** quickly and consistently.
- Share this information with parents in **real time** through a simple app.
- Issue and track **homework** so parents and students know exactly what has been set and when it is due.
- Celebrate success and address concerns more effectively.
- Support teachers with tools such as seating plans, making classroom time more efficient.
- This system is **simpler, quicker, and more effective** than our current approach, helping us work in closer partnership with families.

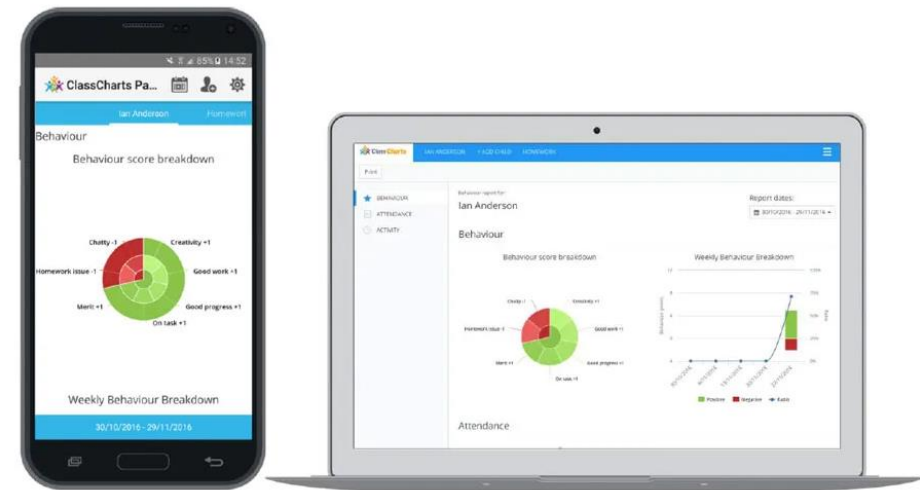
# How?

**On an app:** you can download an app on your phone to use Class Charts. This will allow you to easily check your child's progress. The app can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices

**Web based:** you can access Class Charts via the internet. You can do this on a computer, phone or tablet.

Your will receive details explaining how to sign up shortly.

If you have any problems, please email:  
[efinnigan@taptonschoool.co.uk](mailto:efinnigan@taptonschoool.co.uk)

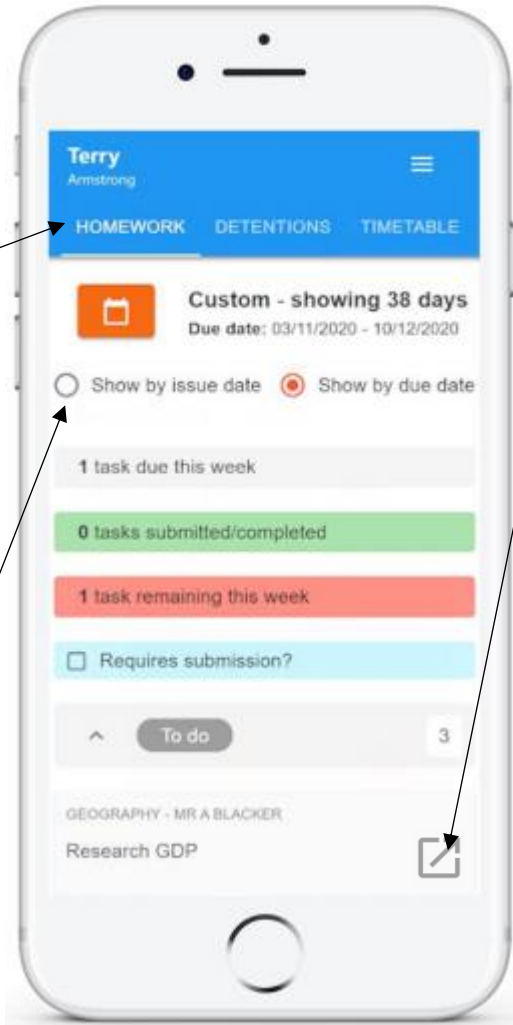


# Homework and ClassCharts

When you log in to ClassCharts - click on the homework tab at the top

Selecting this tab will display a list of homework tasks which your child has been assigned to.

To display tasks in the order they were set, click on the Issue Date button



To view a homework task in more detail, click on the expand icon in the bottom right-hand corner of the homework tile.

A popup will appear that contains a description of the homework task, the estimated completion time and any links or attachments that may have been included.

If you are viewing the Homework tab via a desktop or laptop, expanding a homework status category will display a table overview of each homework task for the selected date range.

A screenshot of the ClassCharts desktop interface. At the top, there is a 'To do' button with a count of '3'. Below it is a table with columns: Homework, Teacher, Lesson, Issued, Due, Estimated time, Type, and Feedback. The table contains three rows of homework tasks. The first row is 'Research GDP' by Mr A Blacker, issued on Monday 09/11/2020, due on Wednesday 11/11/2020, with an estimated time of 1 hour and type 'Blended Learning'. The second row is 'Write a soliloquy' by Mr J Kato, issued on Tuesday 10/11/2020, due on Tuesday 17/11/2020, with an estimated time of 30 minutes and type 'Homework'. The third row is 'Create a poster on French food' by Mrs A Abell, issued on Friday 06/11/2020, due on Thursday 19/11/2020, with an estimated time of 45 minutes and type 'Homework'. A yellow 'Feedback' button is visible next to the third row.

Homework	Teacher	Lesson	Issued	Due	Estimated time	Type	Feedback
Research GDP	Mr A Blacker	8F/Gg	Monday 09/11/2020	Wednesday 11/11/2020	1 hours	Blended Learning	
Write a soliloquy	Mr J Kato	8y/En2	Tuesday 10/11/2020	Tuesday 17/11/2020	30 minutes	Homework	
Create a poster on French food	Mrs A Abell	7YEL/Fr	Friday 06/11/2020	Thursday 19/11/2020	45 minutes	Homework	Feedback

# Homework

*Meaningful, Manageable and Predictable*

## KS3

- Homework should be set every 6 hours
- Each homework should be approximately 30 mins long
- 3 hours of homework a week

## KS4

- Homework should be set every 4 hours
- Each homework should be approximately 45 mins long
- 6 hours of homework per week

## KS5

- Homework should be set weekly from each teacher
- Approximately a minimum of 2 hrs 30 per subject per week
- A minimum of 9 hours of homework per week

**Mastery subjects such as Maths & MFL will set weekly homework at all Key Stages to ensure proficiency. English set a weekly reading homework and subjects with coursework may set weekly homework to keep on top of interim deadlines.**



**Mr Kelly**  
Academic Mentor  
KS3 and KS4



The Library is open to everyone before and after school every day and at break and lunch time, however, extra support is available on Wednesday after school from the Academic Mentor - Mr Kelly and Sixth Form Homework Heroes.

# Mobile Devices

Mobile phones, smart watches, tablets and other electronic devices such as earphones and wireless earphones are not allowed to be visible **on the school site at any time.** This means from the moment students enter the site to the moment they leave the site they cannot have a visible device; **this also includes at break and at lunchtime.** If students choose to bring devices to school, they must turn them off and put them into school bags before entry onto the site, so they are not at all visible, heard or accessible. Students cannot place devices in pockets. This policy extends to ear buds, earphone cables hanging from shirts and from pockets and headphones worn around necks. Any student found with a prohibited device will have it confiscated without discussion. First confiscations will go to the school office and can be collected at the end of the school day, all subsequent confiscations will be locked in the school safe and only returned following a meeting with parents and carers.

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**Caring For Each Other**

**Achieving Excellence**



# Our Expectations

- **Ready** to learn with correct equipment and uniform
- **Respectful** to everyone in the school community and our environment
- **Safe** and kind behaviour at all times





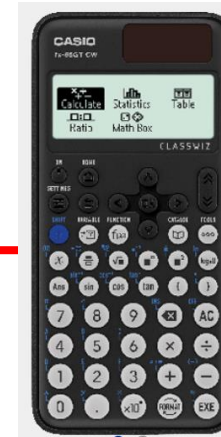
# School Uniform Expectations



Clothing and footwear students cannot wear	Jewellery students cannot wear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Lycra/sports material skirts/shorts.</li><li>• No leggings.</li><li>• No jeans.</li><li>• No jogging bottoms.</li><li>• No baggy trousers/baggy shorts.</li><li>• No combat/cargo trousers/trousers with pockets on the side.</li><li>• Footwear that is not entirely black.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any necklaces.</li><li>• Any bracelets (wrist or ankle).</li><li>• Any rings.</li><li>• Hoop earrings.</li><li>• Hoop nose rings.</li><li>• Multiple earrings.</li><li>• Smart watches.</li></ul> <p>Be aware new piercings will need to be removed, therefore, families are advised to leave these until the start of the summer holiday.</p>

# Tapton School Equipment

- A school bag.
- Pencil case with black pens, a green pen, HB pencils, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, protractor, pair of compasses and a calculator for Maths. Scientific Calculator – Casio Classwiz (fx-83GT CW or fx-85GT CW)
- Reusable water bottle.



# Our Values

## THE TAPTON 7

Tapton  
SCHOOL

1. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THE WORLD AROUND US

2. WE ARE KIND

3. WE WORK HARD

4. WE FOLLOW THE RULES

5. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR  
LEARNING JOURNEY

6. WE MAKE THE MOST OF THE  
RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US

7. WE BELIEVE WE ARE ALL CAPABLE  
OF EXCELLENCE

Tapton  
SCHOOL

# Praise and Reward at Tapton

## Flood the School with Praise

**Students at Tapton are rewarded and recognised for going above and beyond in demonstrating the Tapton 7.**

### **Types of Praise and Celebration:**

- Merit Stickers
- Praise Postcards
- Weekly Year Team Praise Events
- Weekly Departmental Praise Events
- Sixth Form Hot Chocolate Fridays
- SLT Pastries and Postcards
- Headteacher's Awards
- Assemblies
- Weekly Year Team Celebration Boards
- Social Media
- Newsletters and bulletins



## THE TAPTON 7



1. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORLD AROUND US
2. WE ARE KIND
3. WE WORK HARD
4. WE FOLLOW THE RULES
5. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR LEARNING JOURNEY
6. WE MAKE THE MOST OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US
7. WE BELIEVE WE ARE ALL CAPABLE OF EXCELLENCE