

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the second Tapton Update of this academic year. The return to school following the half term break has been happily busy and exciting so there is plenty to share in this Update.

### **Keep Tapton Talking**

We recognise the benefits that talking things through and sharing our problems can have on our mental health and wellbeing. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November all students will have an extended form time with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. The hour-long session will be led by form tutors and features a range of activities designed to raise awareness and give students the tools to talk about their own feelings, emotions and mental health and also how to listen to and support others. Please note that school will be closed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November for a staff and student wellbeing day. This is an important day in our calendar to pause, reflect and dedicate some time to our mental health. We look forward to hearing how this day was marked by both students and colleagues in order to keep alive the conversation about improving and maintaining our mental health and wellbeing.

### **Headteacher Drop-in**

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December between 3.45 and 4.45 with the last slot being 4.45. This is your opportunity to meet with Ms Rhodes, Headteacher and Ms Grewal, Deputy Headteacher, to talk through a specific question or concern. If you wish to use the Drop-in please arrive in school reception between 3.45 and 4.45. Please note that whilst no appointment is necessary, parents and carers will need to wear a mask and hand sanitiser will be available on arrival. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Contacting School via Email**

In the last Tapton Update we shared with you the various ways families are able to contact school. We value the excellent relationships we have with our parents and carers, however, it is important for all concerned that expectations are managed. Members of the Leadership Team routinely receive approximately 100 emails every day. It is important to have an appropriate amount of time to consider an enquiry and collect the relevant information to make an informed reply. Whilst all colleagues will always endeavour to respond to enquiries promptly, please be aware that our communications policy states that colleagues have 48 hours (two working days) to respond to emails.

### **School policies**

We regularly monitor and update our school website so that it is a valuable resource for families and students. All of our school policies can be found on the following link:

<https://www.taptonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Policies+and+Key+Information&pid=23>

### **Student Voice**

Before half term we invited all students in Years 7-13 to complete our student voice survey. We have been incredibly impressed with the maturity and detail evident in the student responses. The Leadership team are now in the process of meeting with small groups of students who expressed an interest in providing further detail to their responses. These conversations will be pivotal in addressing concerns and actioning change. We look forward to sharing details of our responses in our next Update in January.

### **School Car Park**

The car park continues to be an issue that causes concern. Every day we have pre-arranged transport arriving on site for students requiring additional access and community transport for our vision support students. There are already insufficient car park spaces for school staff, therefore, when parents and carers arrive on site this poses a significant challenge and a real risk to safety. We are therefore, once again, reminding families that the car park cannot be

accessed at the start and at the end of the school day. If you are dropping off or collecting your child or children please use one of the roads near to the school site whilst being considerate to residents. The school leadership team will be on duty at the entrance to the car park every day. If you have any questions about this please contact [enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk)

### **Lost Property**

We have a significant amount of lost property items which remain unclaimed. The items are not labelled so it has been incredibly difficult to identify the owners. On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December we would like to give students, parents and carers the opportunity to come into school and look through lost property to see if anything belongs to them.

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December lost property will be on display in the Main Hall between 3.30 and 4.30 pm. Students, parents and carers can go into the Main Hall during this time to locate any lost items. Please do remember to wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser provided.

**Additionally, please note that all items left over will be donated to charity after this event.**

### **Drama**

#### **Theatre Companies**

Our Theatre Companies have been thriving once again this term with students coming after school each night to take part in fun drama games, working with new scripts and devising creative ways to act out scenes and share their work for others in the group. It has been lovely to see the friendships developing in these groups and their passion for theatre being demonstrated each week.

#### **School Musical**

In addition to our Theatre Companies, we have launched our school musical this term. We shall be performing our version of West Side Story in July 2022. This term we have started the audition process and started to schedule in rehearsals. We hope to see many students from all year groups involved in our production as either actors, musicians, or crew. We are really looking forward to having the opportunity to share our play with our community after having two years of not having a whole school production.

### **Music**

What an excellent start to the year! The Music department at Tapton is as noisy and vibrant as ever with ensembles rehearsing every morning of the week before school. We are extremely proud of what we all achieved with the year group ensembles last year, but it has been great fun bringing the different years back together again to enable the return of some of our larger groups. The Senior Orchestra is now the biggest and strongest it has been for many years, the Brass Band are back to full force preparing to entertain the crowds, the Jazz Band are busy rehearsing show-stopping numbers, and our junior ensembles are sounding fabulous! Our choirs are also up and running again, plus we have a new guitar group.

It is not too late to join one of our extra-curricular groups. If your son or daughter would like to take part, then they can just turn up. There is something for everyone with a number of ensembles requiring no previous experience at all. All the information is below.

Instrumental lessons are also as popular as ever with our 12 visiting instrumental teachers teaching a large number of Tapton pupils each week. If you would like more information about instrumental lessons, then please send your son or daughter to the music office to collect a letter, or email me at [gpage@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:gpage@taptonschool.co.uk)

Music Technology – we are excited to be integrating some new, up-to-date music technology into our music curriculum this year. We have invested in a new app called Soundtrap and all pupils who have chosen music in Y9, plus a number of Y10 and Y11 pupils, have been given their own licence. This means that they are able to use the programme at home as well as in school, and they can access it on any device. All pupils in Y7 and Y8 will be introduced to the programme and will have a number of opportunities throughout the year to hone their skills in lessons. The quality of the work in Y9 so far has been outstanding – who knows, we may have the next big music producer in our midst!

Finally, we would like to invite you all to come along in person to one of our Christmas concerts to celebrate our fabulous students and share the joy of live music. Please see all of the information below.

## PE

It has been wonderful to see so many students taking part in extra-curricular clubs since September. We have over 100 students every morning waiting outside the Sports Hall at 8am to take part in an array of activities and the commitment and motivation of students is stronger than ever. The reintroduction of fixtures and competitions has been fantastic, and we have had many successes in badminton, hockey, football, basketball, netball and cross country this term. A special well done must go to Edward Hannay in Year 7 who won the Sheffield Schools cross country league meet in October with a stunning run! Well done to Edward and to everyone who has taken part this term!

## Christmas Card Competition

Once again, we have been overwhelmed with fantastic entries for our Christmas card competition. The students have really excelled themselves, demonstrating a broad range of talent, skill and creative styles. The judging was incredibly difficult, however, huge congratulations go to Olivia Marsden in 9MM for her winning entry pictured below. Congratulations Olivia! All of our finalists will receive an amazing art stationary pack to support them with their creativity in the future and the winning design will be printed onto cards which the school will send out. Well done to all the participants.



## Year 7 Transition

What a fantastic first term our Year 7s have had! We are incredibly proud of the resilience, hard work and enthusiasm all our students have shown. The move to secondary school can be a daunting experience, these students have faced extra challenges but have fully embraced their transition.

We had a fantastic Summer School, with over 85% of the year in attendance. Students were able to experience a small slice of 'real school life' before other year groups returned. Our Year 7 students were provided with a map and a mini timetable with activities that included pirate maths (a game similar to battleships), saving an egg from disaster in a STEM challenge, making nutritious and enjoyable food, reading a fantastical short story and reflecting on their life journey and where they wish to go next.

The first day was spent getting to know our 'Form Family'. We did lots of map reading, a treasure hunt, and shared ideas and strategies on common transition worries and anxieties. After the first week the maps were away, and the students were feeling much more confident about moving round the school.



Freshers Fair was an exciting event which involved Year 8 and Year 9 student ambassadors showcasing their extra-curricular clubs. Each club had a stall and sign-up sheets ready for the Year 7s to express an interest, giving them the opportunity to discuss the club and ask any questions. It is incredible to already see so many of our Year 7 students involved in the wider life of our school.

Our most recent transition event was the Year 7 Values Morning. Our students took part in six different sessions that discussed our core values and gave students ideas on how to embody these in their actions. Students are now trying to get their passports signed off by many members of our community, including parents and carers, relatives, teachers, form tutors and others in school. We cannot wait to celebrate the successes of the passport at the end of term.



### **Sixth Form Open Evening - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 5.00-8.00pm**

We are delighted to welcome prospective sixth form students from all over Sheffield to our Open Evening, where we will showcase our broad curriculum offer and all of the opportunities available at Key Stage 5.

The evening will comprise of a presentation from Ms Rhodes and Mr Wright, Head of Sixth Form, followed by an opportunity to meet Departments.

To enable us to carefully manage numbers in the building, visitors will be required to book in advance via the school website. In addition, there will be a capacity limits in classrooms ensuring numbers are safe.

We look forward to meeting our new students!

### **Sixth Form Guidance Programme**

We were delighted to launch our Sixth Form Guidance Programme last week, with a focus on healthy relationships and sexual health. The programme will continue throughout the school year and is deliberately designed to help our students make a safe and effective transition to adult life.

### **Habits and Routines**

We continue to work hard with our Sixth Formers to develop good habits and routines – such as arriving to school on time each day. Although we understand that it can be hard to exercise self-discipline when it comes to making a habit of being punctual or developing an effective sleep routine, we cannot stress highly enough how important these habits and routines are, not just for our transition to adult life but for our mental health and wellbeing.

The next Tapton Update will be available on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Important forthcoming dates for your diary:

22/11/21	KS4 Music Trip this week
23/11/21	Keep Tapton Talking Day Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm-8pm School closes for students at 2.30
26/11/21	School closed - Staff and Student Wellbeing Day
29/11/21	School closed - TSAT Teaching and Learning Day
02/12/21	Y10 PSHEE Day - Resilience and Problem Solving Year 11 Parents' Evening - virtual
06/12/21	Christmas Concert (two sittings) 5.30-6.45 and 7.30-8.45
08/12/21	Y10 Art Trip to Liverpool and Manchester
09/12/21	Y11 English Exam PM
14/12/21	Ranmoor Church Concert 7pm.
17/12/21	Year 7 - Celebration Event for Development and Responsibility School closes for Christmas holiday at 12.30
04/01/22	School re-opens for all students
18/01/22	Y11 PSHEE Day - Exams and Managing Stress
19/01/22	Year 8 Subject Choices Evening Year 9 GCSE Information Evening
20/01/22	Y9 GCSE Options Pathway meetings with members of the Leadership Team
21/01/22	Y9 GCSE Options Pathway meetings with members of the Leadership Team

# Tapton Music Ensembles 2021-22



WHAT?	WHEN/WHERE/WITH?	WHO CAN JOIN?
Wind Band	Mondays 8.30-9.10/119 Mrs Page	Wind, brass, and percussion players grade 2-4
Brass Band	Wednesdays 8.30-9.10/119 Mrs Philips	All brass players – see Mrs Philips or Mrs Page
Guitar Ensemble	Wednesday 1-1.30/118 Mr Walker	All guitarists – See Mr C Walker, Mr K Walker or Mrs Page
Senior Orchestra	Thursdays 8.30-9.10/119 Mrs Page	All orchestral instrumentalists grade 5+
Junior Strings	Thursdays 8.30-9.10/118 Mrs Threlfall	Y7, Y8 and Y9 string players grades 2-4
Junior Choir	Thursdays 1-1.30/118 Mrs Threlfall	Anyone in Y7 and Y8
Staff Student Choir	Thursdays 1-1.30/119 Mrs Page	Y9-Y13 students and all staff
Jazz Band	Fridays 8.30-9.10/119 Mrs Threlfall	By invite
Ukulele Club	Fridays 1-1.30/118 Student led	KS3 students

# Tapton School Christmas Concerts 2021

Monday 6th December

Tapton School Hall

Sitting 1: 17:30 - 18:45

Sitting 2: 19:30 - 20:45

(2 sittings due to reduced capacity)

featuring: Brass Band, Jazz Band,  
Junior Strings, Guitar Group,  
Ukulele Group, Wind Band &  
Solos.

Tuesday 14th December

Ranmoor Church

19:00 - 20:30

featuring: Senior Orchestra,  
Staff & Student Choir, Junior  
Choir, Carols & Solos.

All of our concerts are free this year. Due to our need for reduced capacity, booking is essential. There will be **no** tickets on the door.

Please visit the school website for the link to the booking system.

Both concerts will be recorded and made available afterwards for those unable to join us in person.

