

Dear Parents and Carers

Every half term is always busy, however, this half term has already seen our Year 11s undertake examinations as part of their preparation for final GCSE examinations. Alongside this Year 12 AS students have completed trial AS examinations and Year 10 will complete their first round of trial examinations beginning on the 28th March. Teacher feedback will be shared with students in lessons and in the tracking, which will go home for each of these year groups in the weeks indicated below.

Year 11 – W/B 14th March.

Year 12 AS – W/B 28th March.

Year 10 – W/B 23rd May.

Ukraine

In the week beginning 28th February we shared with you our response to the situation in Ukraine detailing our approach in school. A number of students and families have spoken to us about the situation and wanted to share a fundraising initiative with the wider school community. This is detailed below:

‘We are raising funds for medical and essential supplies for Ukraine. We have direct contacts on the ground there with people who will receive and distribute the deliveries. We also have direct links with those in the UK who provide direct transport UK-Ukraine. Our contacts in Ukraine will use their experience for the most efficient way of delivering the medical supplies that we will buy here.’

If you would like to contribute, the JustGiving page can be found on this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/help-ukraine-kyiv>

School Uniform

In the last Tapton Update we shared the draft uniform policy for consultation. This policy has now been ratified by our governing body and can be found on the following link on our school website:

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

Please can we remind you that we have a uniform donation box located in the visitor reception area if any families wish to donate good quality, clean uniform items. We are currently taking donations for Tapton logoed sweatshirts, polo shirts, trousers, skirts and PE hoodies.

Cashless Catering

If your child uses the school’s catering facilities, please could we ask that you keep your child’s dinner money account in credit. You can check your account balance at any time by logging into your ParentPay account (www.parentpay.com). If you require login details, please email finance@taptonschool.co.uk or telephone the school office.

Non-payment for school meals affects the quality of service we are able to offer to the children; therefore, we need to ensure that all accounts are up to date. By keeping your child’s account in credit, you are helping to keep queues for food moving and this also prevents additional administration and telephone calls home.

If you have any queries regarding any arrears or if you have difficulty making payment, please contact the school office.

Year 7 and Year 12 Leadership Team Meetings

The Leadership Team will be meeting with all Year 12 and Year 7 students over this half term. Both of these year groups have moved into exciting new key stages and at the halfway point in the year it is essential for the team to meet with each student individually, discuss their tracking and celebrate their achievements. Some of these meetings have already taken place and the team have been inspired by the engaging, confident and mature conversations they have been able to have with students.

Year 10 Exam Week

Ofqual have already stated that full GCSE, AS and A Level examinations will go ahead in 2023 without any adaptations or changes. This will be the first time a full series of examinations has taken place since 2019. Preparing students for linear examinations has always been integral to our success at the end of Key Stage Four and Key Stage Five. The journey to the final examinations has already begun for Year 12 and for Year 10 the examination week will take place in the week beginning the 28th March. Details about revision and requirements in each subject area have been shared by Mrs Morris and individual timetables will also be sent to students. Students will also be guided through revision techniques in form time, however, Mrs Morris has included a few examples below for parents and carers.

Interleaving

Interleaving is studying by mixing different topics or practice methods to strengthen long-term memory of the material. Instead of revising one topic once (blocking) and not referring to it, interleaving ensures that you regularly go back to a topic and recall the information you have been taught, therefore helping it to stick in your long-term memory.

Blocking



Interleaving

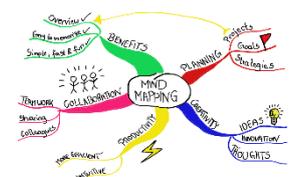


Flash cards

Flashcards are an excellent revision tool. They are sets of small, double-sided cards that can be used to learn and revise details, keywords, and vocabulary. They are especially useful for learning the relationship between two pieces of information. Write a question or key term on one side and then the answer or definition on the other. Research the Leitner System for how to use flash cards effectively as part of the revision process.

Mind maps and knowledge organisers

Mind Maps are an image of revision notes. The brain can process the information in a Mind Map much quicker than linear notes, boosting the efficiency of revision and the ability to recall topics. Mind Maps allow you to identify any gaps in your knowledge. Simply look for the emptiest parts of the Mind Map and this show where more time and focus are required.



Knowledge organisers are a way of collating knowledge about a particular topic. Students can populate this as a way of recalling what they have been taught or use a pre-populated knowledge organiser as part of their self-quizzing routine.

Self-quizzing

Self-quizzing is a powerful strategy to aid knowledge retention. Self-quizzing encourages students to recall information from memory which not only highlights to them what they do or don't know but also strengthens their ability to remember that information. Examples of self-quizzing exercises include cloze exercises, write lists, complete questions and answers, fill in missing letters.

Sixth Form Update

In Year 12 we begin our programme of support for Post-18 Destinations. From this half term onwards, there will be a focus on how to use Unifrog to support post-18 research and applications during Thursday morning registration led by form tutors.

On Wednesday 9th March Ms Waddoups will begin our Early Applicants programme to support students considering making an application to Oxford or Cambridge or making an application to medicine, dentistry or veterinary science.

On Monday 14th March and Tuesday 15th March Year 12 students will have an assembly focused on post-18 destinations. This will be in preparation for Wednesday 16th March where students will be off timetable from brektime onwards to allow them to attend the UK Universities and Apprenticeship Search Fair at the University of Sheffield.

In addition, all students in Year 12 and Year 13 will take part in our latest Guidance morning, part of which will focus on employment. We look forward to supporting all of our Year 12 students as they begin their preparation for post-18 destinations, including university, apprenticeships and employment.

Final GCSE, AS and A-Level Examinations

Students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 know that they will be facing final examinations this year and we have already shared a great deal of information with those year groups and families about the process. Final examinations begin on Monday 16th May and will continue for six weeks. The examination contingency day this year is **Wednesday 29th June**; families with examination students are strongly advised to avoid making any plans until after this date.

Congratulations to our year 12 debate team!

Our 8-person team – Roza Sanjari, Kai Mills, Izzy Patterson, Rowan Majeed, Izzy Cruddace, Jamie Johnson, Adi Prakash and Grace Morris – competed on Thursday 2nd March in the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Heats of the European Youth Parliament UK (EYPUK) debate competition. This is a prestigious annual competition, requiring students to prepare and take part in a series of debates on a range of topics, from whether fast fashion should be made more environmentally sustainable to what could be done to combat vaccine hesitancy, from the return of African artefacts to euthanasia laws. The team were tasked with defending a motion on passing new laws to regulate the gig economy, with well researched arguments on Uber Eats drivers working below the minimum wage and the laws of Denmark on this issue. All eight took an equal part in the debates, arguing forcefully and eloquently. Despite strong competition from local schools, our team were chosen as the winners by the jury and will therefore represent the Yorkshire region in the national competition later in the year. We wish them the best of luck!

Music

As you can appreciate, this continues to be a difficult time to effectively plan ahead, and changes are unfortunately inevitable. We have been having difficulty scheduling our Senior Leaver's Concert due to assessments and other school commitments and have regrettably had to change the date once again from the date published in the last Tapton Update. Therefore, the new date for our Senior Leaver's Concert is **Friday 25th March, 7pm at Tapton School**. Tickets are £6.00 and are available to book on Eventbrite-please see the link on our website (poster attached).

This is going to be an event not to be missed – a bumper concert featuring all of our senior ensembles (Senior Orchestra, Jazz Band, Brass Band, Staff Student Choir) and some outstanding solos from our Y13 students. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend, we will be recording the whole concert and this will be available to view via a link on the school website. We endeavour to make enrichment events accessible to all families. If there are any financial barriers to your attendance at this event, please do email me directly so that we can discuss further support. My email address is gpage@taptonschool.co.uk

It is not too late for any younger pupils to join our junior ensembles which will be performing in a concert in the summer. All the information about when each group rehearses is in the music department.

Mrs G Page, Subject Leader for Music

PE

It has been an incredible few weeks of sport with many winter leagues and competitions drawing to a close. Here is a summary of our successes.

Netball

The netball teams are having a fantastic season so far with outstanding performances and great results across all age groups. Well done to the Y9 team who came runners up at the recent SFSS Netball tournament and good luck to the Y7 and Y8 teams that are now on the verge of qualifying for the play off finals in April.

Girls' Football

Girls' football has flourished this year with over 60 students attended training and representing the school. The Y7, Y8 and Y11 teams have qualified for the city finals in March and we wish them every success. As a reward for a great season, we are taking a trip to Bramall Lane in July to watch the Euro 2022 round 3 match between Sweden and Switzerland which should be a fantastic end to the season.

Basketball

The basketball teams have enjoyed a remarkable season, qualifying for 6 of the 8 Sheffield City Finals. The Y7,8 and Y11 girls' teams were all crowned city champions. The boys also enjoyed success with the Y7 and Y8 boys winning and the Y11 boys coming 2nd.

In addition, the Tipton KS4 girls team reached the final 16 of the National Schools competition before a narrow defeat to Durham Johnstone School halted their progress. The KS3 girls eliminated Durham Johnstone in the same competition and will now play in the quarter finals.

Badminton

We still have over 200 students taking part in badminton practices across the week. In the recent Sheffield Finals, the KS3 girls and boys became city champions and the KS4 girls' teams came 2nd.

Trampoline

Molly Birch has qualified for the National Schools Trampoline Finals later in March. We wish her the best of luck in this prestigious event.

Mrs R Becks, Subject Leader for PE

Job Opportunities

The Headteacher and Governing Board are seeking to appoint an Admin Assistant-Inclusion Support to join the school. Further details can be found using the link below and the closing date for applications Monday 14th March 2022 at 9.00am.

[Tapton School - A Great Place to Work](#)

Mitie have posted the two vacancies below on the government job centre website. Further details can be found using the links below:

[Kitchen Assistant \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#)

[Kitchen Assistant \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#)

Headteacher Drop-in

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Thursday 24th March 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. We look forward to seeing you.

The next Tapton Update will be available on Friday 6th May 2022.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

Upcoming dates for your diary

07/03/22	GCSE 10-hour final piece for current project begins this week and will continue during the weeks beginning 14 th and 21 st March
14/03/22	Music A-level Recitals Y8 Parents Evening
15/03/22	Music A-level Recitals
16/03/22	Y12 University and apprenticeship fayre at Sheffield University
21/03/22	Y10 PSHEE Day
23/03/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork Y11/12/13 National Theatre Trip
24/03/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork Senior Leaver's Concert Rehearsals all day
25/03/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork Senior Leaver's Concert
30/03/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork
31/03/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork
01/04/22	Y12 Geography Residential Fieldwork
02/04/22	First day of the Easter holidays
19/04/22	School reopens A Level 15-hour final piece for coursework begins this week and will continue during the weeks beginning 25 th April and 2 nd May

Tapton School Senior Leaver's Concert

25th March 2022

7:00pm

**Tickets are £6 for all
and will be available via Eventbrite.**

**This link can be found on twitter and on the
school website from midday on 7th March.**

**featuring performances from our senior
leavers as well as our fantastic ensembles;
Senior Orchestra, Brass Band Jazz Band
and Staff Student Choir.**

**The concert will be filmed and made available
to watch afterwards.**