

Welcome to the first Tapton Update of the new school year. The Tapton Update is our school newsletter and will be published in the third week of every half term. The first Update of the new school year is always a busy one as we share with you some of our plans and policies for the academic year.

The Year Ahead

Thank you to all the families who were able to attend our Year Ahead presentations; we hope you found them useful in mapping out your child's forthcoming year. If you were not able to attend you will be able to access the presentations using the following link:

<https://www.taptonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Information+Evenings&pid=114>

Punctuality

School now starts at 9am; we expect students to be ready to enter the building by 8.55 so they have ample time to get to their form room or assembly by 9am. On a few occasions we have had parents and carers contact school asking for leeway due to traffic issues. Whilst we know bad traffic can be frustrating we have a responsibility to have the highest expectations of our students and therefore students who arrive after 9am will still receive a same day lunchtime detention.

Mobile Phones

As outlined in our earlier communications we have amended our policy on phones and devices. Mobile phones, iPods and other electronic devices such as wireless earphones cannot be visible in the school building at any time – this is non-negotiable. This means that students cannot have a visible phone/earphones/ear pods/cables inside the building at any point of the day from entry to leaving. Devices are also not allowed out during lesson changeover from the main building to the Geography block and the main building to PE. Until further notice students will be able to use devices outside at breaks and lunchtimes and in certain lessons under the supervision of their teachers. Sixth form students will be able to use their devices in the Common Room. If students choose to bring phones/devices to school, they will be encouraged to put them on 'airplane' mode and they must be put into bags before entering the building; students cannot put phones/devices in pockets, this policy also includes cables hanging out of shirts and from pockets, headphones worn around necks. If any student has these prohibited items on show, in pockets, or members of staff can hear them, they will be confiscated without negotiation.

Jewellery

We discourage students from wearing jewellery to school, however, if a student is going to wear jewellery it should be sensible and kept to a minimum in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Earrings should be small and studs only. Large hoops or dangly earrings are a health and safety risk, students are not allowed to not wear these items in school.
- No jewellery should be worn for PE or for out of hours PE activities.
- Please be mindful that if your child is having new piercings, these are done at the start of the school summer holiday; having these done during the school year will interfere with participation in PE and other practical lessons.
- Necklaces should be placed under the Tapton School polo shirt, they should not be visible.

Homework Drop Ins

We firmly believe in the importance of developing good learning routines here at Tapton. The Library is open every day to all students before and after school to support with this. Furthermore, there is extra support at our Homework Drop Ins available at the times advertised below. There will be one to one support from our Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four Academic Mentor, Mr Mekonnen and access to laptops, books and resources. For our Key Stage Three students who live in Netherthorpe and Upperthorpe we are also pleased to provide a minibus drop off service at Zest Community Centre on a Wednesday. If you would like your child to attend or would like to request a space on the minibus, please contact Mrs Barker on mbarker@taptonschool.co.uk

Monday 3:30-4:30	Tuesday 3:30-4:30	Wednesday 3:30 – 4:15	Thursday 3:30 – 4:30	Friday 3:30 – 4pm
Y11 Academic Intervention* *Invite only	SEND Homework Club	Key Stage Three Homework Drop In	Key Stage Four Homework Drop In	

Pre-Loved Uniform

We also 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 especially looking out for larger sized items.

If you would like to access our preloved items please email prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk stating your child's name, the items you require and a contact name and number. A member of the uniform team will then contact you to discuss sizes, availability and how items can be collected.

In addition to this we are hoping to run a number of pre-loved uniform events throughout the year.

Contributions to the Hardship Fund

Tapton School operate a hardship policy to provide opportunities to students whose families are experiencing genuine and unavoidable financial difficulty. We would like to offer parents the opportunity to contribute to this fund, making it clear that this is entirely voluntary and there is no obligation on you to contribute. However, if you wish to, you can do so using ParentPay, selecting the payment item 'Hardship' and entering the donation value. The funds will only be used to support students experiencing financial hardship and the senior leadership team will decide how the funds will be spent using their discretion and professional judgement.

Attendance to School

There is a direct correlation between excellent attendance to school and outstanding achievement. Now that we have largely emerged from the pandemic, we expect student attendance to be more consistent and to return to our usual high standards. Our school target is to ensure that all students have outstanding attendance with no student having lower than 97% attendance. Please refer to the table below which explains how each percentage attendance figure equates to missed days of learning. 97% attendance whilst seemingly high, is nevertheless five days of lost learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Leader if you need support or advice with your child's attendance. We regularly monitor attendance and we endeavour to empathise and reduce any barriers that may prevent your child from attending school.

Of course, there may be times when your child is too ill to attend school and, in those instances, please do contact school immediately so that we are aware and can support your child if necessary. The current information from the Department for Education advises that children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Tapton School Academy Trust – What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

If you or your child have symptoms and either have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to school or work, then try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature. If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

Tapton School Academy Trust – What to do if you have tested positive.

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 test if you have symptoms. But if you or your child test positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days** after the day of the test if you are **under 18** years old.
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **5 days** after the day of the test if you are **18 years old or over**.

- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, i.e., a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test.

We work in line with the Department for Education guidance and do not authorise absences from school during term time unless in very rare, exceptional circumstances. These would need to be discussed with your child's Year Leader and evidenced two weeks before your intended leave. A fixed term penalty notice may be issued if students take time off school during term time.

If your child is absent, please use the following school number to text the relevant detail every day of their absence; please note this is a text only service and not for calls 07860054089 or by telephoning school 2671414 if the absence needs to be discussed.

%	Days Absent
85	29 days off
86	27 days off
87	25 days off
88	23 days off
89	21 days off
90	19 days off
91	17 days off
92	15 days off
93	13 days off
94	11 days off
95	9 days off
96	7 days off
97	5 days off
98	4 days off
99	2 days off
100	0 days off

Lunchtimes

Please can we update you that the school meal deal is now priced at £2.54 along with the Free School Meal daily allowance. A new menu will be available to view on the website from October.

Join us for toast!

We continue to want to encourage as many young people as possible from our school community to come into school before the formal start of the day to join clubs, use the library and visit our breakfast club which begins at 8.30 in the morning. We continue to offer free toast to any students who attend breakfast club, and this is available in the dining room from 8:30 am. We will let you know in the next Tapton Update whether this is something we can continue for the rest of the academic year.

Headteacher Drop-in

The Headteacher Drop-in takes place once every half term and is your opportunity to meet with Ms Rhodes and Ms Grewal to talk through a specific question or concern. Parents and carers do not need an appointment to attend. The first drop-in will take place on Monday 16th October from 3.45 and 4.45, with the last slot being at 4.30. Please report to reception during this time and we look forward to seeing you.

Learning Support (SEND)

Tapton School is determined to ensure that students with SEND can achieve to the best of their abilities and can thrive in a mainstream setting. Further details about SEND can be found on the school website [Tapton School -](#)

[Learning Support Department \(SEND\)](#) and [Tapton School - SEND Information](#) If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the team using this email address - SEND@taptonschool.co.uk

Parking

Parking spaces continue to be limited on the school site; there are insufficient spaces for school staff. We have a parking barrier in operation at the front of the driveway into school. Please note if you need to visit school you will need to park considerately on streets in the surrounding area; please do not drive straight onto the drive assuming you will be able to park as this causes a blockage and potential hazard at the entrance and then onto Darwin Lane. Parents and carers who need to collect students with access issues will be given a pass by the school office upon request. Once again, we must urge families who are collecting children to make plans to collect them on streets away from Darwin Lane – this is a narrow road which must be kept free for school buses, coaches and of course, emergency vehicles. Families and neighbours who have concerns about parking are urged to contact the police.

Personal Development

This half term all students in Key Stage Three will be looking at Equality and Diversity in their Personal Development lessons. They will be studying the legal framework behind this and what this means for them during their time at Tapton. Year 7 students will be studying British Values, the Equality Act, and the protected characteristic of Race and Ethnicity. Year 8 students will study the protected characteristics of Sex, Gender and Gender Reassignment, and Year 9 students will be looking at the protected characteristics of Religion and Belief and looking at the difference between 'Free Speech and Hate Speech'. In Key Stage Four, Year 10 students will be looking at a variety of revision techniques during their form time Personal Development slot to help them with their upcoming assessments and Year 11 will be focusing on post-16 destinations.

The whole school we will be celebrating Black History month in October with the theme of 'Saluting our Sisters'. There will be assemblies to all year groups, displays around the school and students will be invited to take part in a national poetry competition honouring the amazing achievements and contributions of black women in various fields – from literature, music, science, politics, and social care to campaigners, nurses, and everyday heroes who have made a difference to our lives.

If you have any questions about any of this or have an emerging topic or issue you are concerned about and feel we need to address in Personal Development lessons please contact Mr Sabbagh at dsabbagh@taptonschool.co.uk.

Student Council

A fresh academic year ushers in a brand-new student council team, comprising a diverse array of students spanning Years 8 to 13. Together we hope to bring a wide range of perspectives to the table. The team includes Marium Ali, Ropafadzo Chikwa, Ruben Elliot, Tami Evans, Elizabeth Fielding, Sophie Honeywood, Rhiannon Jones, Sanuja Marambage, Rahwia Nasser, Yusef Nawasreh, Himaanii Ramnath, Jody Seda, Katrina Tutoveanu, Max Wilson, Amelia Yuan, and Zibei Zhou. In the foreseeable future, we hope to be assisted by form representatives who will serve as conduits for sharing any specific concerns voiced by their peers and relay updates on feedback aimed at addressing these issues. Our council convenes every three weeks to deliberate on ongoing projects, future plans, and emerging challenges. Over the course of the academic year, we will engage in delivering informative assemblies to the student body on a range of topics. Presently, our efforts are focused on revamping a display board located outside the reception area and curating an anti-bullying booklet authored by students to establish clear expectations for behaviour within the school. We are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to contribute towards making Tapton School an even more enriching and nurturing environment for all students to excel and flourish.

PE News

The PE department have been enjoying the warm start to the term and it has been wonderful to see over 300 students join us at before school, lunchtime and after school clubs. We would love to see even more students having a go at a new activity over the coming weeks. All clubs are open to anyone of any ability and it is a great way to make new friends and improve skills further. Please see the programme below and encourage your child to give something new a go!

Please could we also remind all parents and carers that students are not allowed to wear any jewellery for PE. This includes both ear and nose piercings. If piercing have recently been done and cannot be removed they need to be taped up with tape provided from home.

Drama

Matilda

We cast our play 'Matilda' in the summer term and have now started our rehearsals. We have a large and vibrant cast of very eager students. Please can we request that all those students involved check the Drama notice board each week to see whether they are needed for rehearsal; they must ensure that have collected a permission slip and returned it to the Drama office to be permitted to attend after school rehearsals. We are very excited about blocking the scenes, choreographing the dancing, and learning the songs. However, we must remind all students who have auditioned and got a part in the play that it is of utmost importance to commit to the rehearsals so that we have a successful show in January. The students who do not turn up for rehearsals will unfortunately be replaced by members of the cast that demonstrate commitment to the production.

Theatre Company

The Drama Department are delighted to offer all students who are interested in performance an opportunity to participate in our extra-curricular Theatre Companies. The Lower School Company will operate throughout the year. However, due to our commitments to rehearsal for the school play 'Matilda' The Upper School Theatre Company will not start until February 2024. The timings are outlined below:

Year Group	When	Where	Start time	End time	Teacher
7, 8 & 9 'Lower School Theatre Company'	Monday	117	3.45pm	4.30pm	Miss Milner
10, 11, 12 & 13 'Upper School Theatre Company'	Thursday This will start in February 2024	119	3.30pm	4.15pm	Mrs Gerrard

Our Theatre Companies are a great opportunity for students who have an interest in performing arts to enhance their skills in a fun, exciting, yet challenging setting. Students will develop their acting, directing, script writing, singing, filming, design, and group working techniques, and will be involved in creating and performing pieces of theatre.

Prior experience is not required, and our theatre companies welcome anyone with an interest in performing. Collect a letter from the Drama office if you are interested.

Music

Welcome back! We are extremely excited to get our music ensembles started again this week. Please see the table below which outlines when each ensemble is on and who can attend. Below you can also find information about our concert programme for the year. If your child would like to start lessons on an instrument or voice, we have a fabulous team of 11 peripatetic music teachers covering all instruments. Please get in touch with me if you would like more information or send your child up to the Music department to collect a letter. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.

Gemma Page

Subject Leader for Music

Gpage@taptonschool.co.uk

Tapton Music Ensembles 2023-24

WHAT?	WHEN/WHERE/WITH?	WHO CAN JOIN?
Junior Wind Band	Mondays 8.15-8.55/119 Mrs Page	Y7, Y8 and Y9 Wind, brass, and percussion players gd. 2+
Junior Strings	Tuesdays 8.15-8.55/118 Mrs Threlfall	Y7, Y8 and Y9 string players gd. 2+
Senior Orchestra	Tuesdays 8.15-8.55/119 Mrs Page	All orchestral instrumentalists grade 5+ (Y7, Y8 and Y9 must play in the junior ensemble too where possible)
Flute Choir	Tuesdays 12.50-1.25/120 Miss Smalley	All flautists – See Miss Smalley or Mrs Page
Brass Band	Wednesdays 8.15-8.55/119 Mrs Phillips	All brass players – see Mrs Phillips or Mrs Page (Y7, Y8 and Y9 must play in Junior Wind Band too)
Junior Choir	Wednesdays 12.55-1.25/120 Miss Ward	Anyone in Y7 and Y8
Staff Student Choir	Wednesdays 12.55-1.25/118 Mrs Page	Y9-Y13 students and all staff
Jazz Band	Thursdays 8.15-8.55/119 Mrs Threlfall	By invite
Ukulele Club	Fridays 12.55-1.25/118 Student led	Anyone

Tapton Concert Programme 2023-2024

Tues 5th December '23, 7pm – *Christmas Concert*

A Lively, fun concert featuring many of our school ensembles, a few solos, and a bit of audience participation! Come and enjoy a mince pie and hear the fabulous Brass Band, Wind Band, Junior Strings, and Jazz Band amongst others.

Thur 14th December '23, 7pm – *Ranmoor Church Concert*

A chance to stop and enjoy the serene and reflective nature of Christmas set in the beautiful surroundings of Ranmoor church. Starting with an unaccompanied solo of *Once in Royal David's City* in the darkness, this concert features our choirs, Senior Orchestra and soloists. Candles, exquisite music, and festive readings.

Tues 19th March '24, 7pm – *Senior Leaver's Concert*

That sad time of year when we say goodbye to our Y13 musicians. Come and hear them all play stunning solos and enjoy the music of our senior ensembles. Senior Orchestra, Brass Band, Jazz Band, and Staff Student Choir amongst others. Not to be missed!

Mon 1st July '24, 7pm – *Lower School Concert*

Enjoy a fun packed evening celebrating the amazing achievements of our younger pupils. We will hear from the fabulous Wind Band, Junior Strings, Junior Choir, Ukulele group, plus some truly inspiring solos.

The next Tapton Update will be available on Friday 17th November. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Important forthcoming dates for your diary

M	25/09/2023	Y11 Geography trip to Flamborough Head until 5.30pm
T	26/09/2023	Y11 Geography trip to Flamborough Head until 5.30pm
W	27/09/2023	Y13 Progress Evening
T	28/09/2023	Y11 Geography trip to Flamborough Head until 5.30pm
F	29/09/2023	Deadline for Y10 GCSE Option Changes Y11 Geography trip to Flamborough Head until 5.30pm
M	02/10/2023	Black History Month
T	03/10/2023	UKMT Maths challenge Y12/Y13
W	04/10/2023	Training Day - School Closed to Students Tapton Open Evening for Year 6
M	09/10/2023	Y7 SEND Key worker meeting 2-4pm
F	13/10/2023	London Museums and Galleries Y12/13 Art and Textiles
M	16/10/2023	Christmas card competition begins Restart a Heart Y7
T	17/10/2023	Geography trip to Kelham Island Y12
W	18/10/2023	University admissions tests 9am-12pm Y7 and Y12 Settling in meetings with form tutors 4.30-7.10 online
T	19/10/2023	University admissions tests 9am-12pm
F	20/10/2023	University admissions tests 9am-12pm School closes for half term
M	30/10/2023	Return to school
W	08/11/2023	Y11 Next steps and revision evening 6-8pm
T	16/11/2023	Y10 Next steps and revision evening 6-7pm virtual
W	22/11/2023	6th Form Open Evening 6-8pm
T	23/11/2023	Y11 English lit paper P4/P5
M	27/11/2023	Student and staff Wellbeing Day 27th-30th Nov Y9 Spanish Trip
T	28/11/2023	Training day
W	29/11/2023	Y11 Progress Evening
T	05/12/2023	Christmas Concert
T	07/12/2023	Y8 Science Fair in Labs - Parents and Carers visit
T	14/12/2023	Ranmoor Church Christmas Concert
M	18/12/2023	6th Form Charity Week
F	22/12/2023	End of term

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school 8-8.50am	<p>Y7-13 girls' Football (Miss Risby/Miss Meaden)</p> <p>Y10 – 11 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p> <p>Team Trampolining (Mrs Becks) (invite only)</p>	<p>Y7-13 Hockey (Miss Risby/Miss Meaden)</p> <p>Y7 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Elite Basketball Invite only (Mr Kelly)</p> <p>Y8 boys' Football (Mr Dunbar) (KES astro)</p>	<p>Y9 boys' Football (Mr Dunbar)</p> <p>Y8-9 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Y9-13 Netball (Mrs Wilson)</p> <p>Y10 boys' football (Mr Hooper) (KES Astro)</p>	<p>Y12-13 Football (Mr Johnson)</p> <p>Y10-13 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Y7-8 Netball (Mrs Wilson)</p>	<p>Y7-13 Clubercise (Miss Meaden)</p> <p>Y11 boys' Football (Mr Hooper)</p> <p>Team Badminton Invite only (Mrs Goodhead)</p>
Lunch 12:50-1.20pm	<p>Y7-13 Multi-sports (invite only) (Mr Dunbar/Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Y10-13 Table tennis (Mr Lunn)</p> <p>Y12-13 A level intervention (Mr Hooper)</p>	<p>Y8-9 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Y7-9 table tennis (Mr Scolah)</p> <p>VS Sports Club (new hall) (Miss Phipps)</p> <p>GCSE intervention (Miss Meaden/ Mr Dunbar)</p>	<p>Y7 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p>	<p>Y10-11 GCSE Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)</p> <p>Y7-9 Table tennis (Mr Hooper)</p>	<p>Y7 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p> <p>Y10-13 Table tennis (Mr Dunbar)</p>
After school 3.30-4.30pm (Climbing until 6pm)	<p>Y7 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p> <p>Y7-13 Trampolining (must sign up) (Mrs Becks)</p> <p>Climbing club (must sign up) (Mr Lunn)</p>	<p>Y8-9 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p>	<p>Y10-13 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p>	<p>Y7 boys' Football (Mr Scolah)</p> <p>Y8-9 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)</p>	