

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the penultimate Tapton Update of the school year. Term three is always a busy one with national examinations beginning on Thursday 8th May, Year 11 and Year 13 proms, Sports Day, transition visits for new Year 7s and Year 12s and much more!

Please remember that Friday 27th June is our Trust wide training day and school will be closed.

Final GCSE, AS and A-Level Examinations

Before the proms there are of course the national examinations for students in Years 11, 12 (AS) and 13. Students in these year groups have begun the final countdown to their examinations and we have already shared a great deal of information with those year groups and families about the process. Final examinations begin on Thursday 8th May and will continue for six weeks. The examination contingency days this year are the afternoon of the 11th June and all day on the 25th June; families with examination students are strongly advised to avoid making any plans until after this date. Ofqual has published guidance for families which can be found on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofqual-student-guide-to-exams-and-assessments-in-2025>

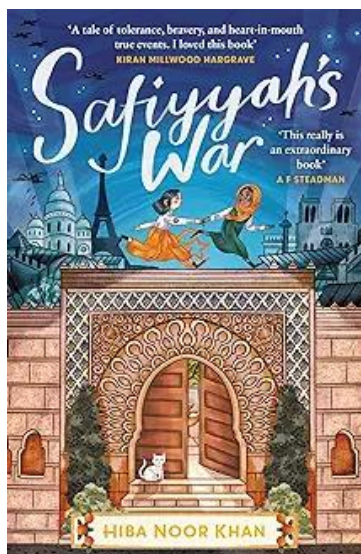
The final day for Year 13 will be Friday 9th May. Year 11 students will remain in school doing a combination of exams and lessons from the start of exams on Thursday 8th May to Tuesday 20th May. On Tuesday 20th May following the GCSE English Literature paper (completed at 11.15), students will go to break and period 3. At 12.00pm teachers will bring students to the front of school for our traditional goodbye and students will be sent home at 12.30. Students who have exams in the afternoon will return for their exam or stay on site for lunch. Details of the study room and revision sessions have already been shared with families.

Uniform Reminder

A letter was sent out last week clarifying our uniform expectations. Please refer to the table below for a further reminder:

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

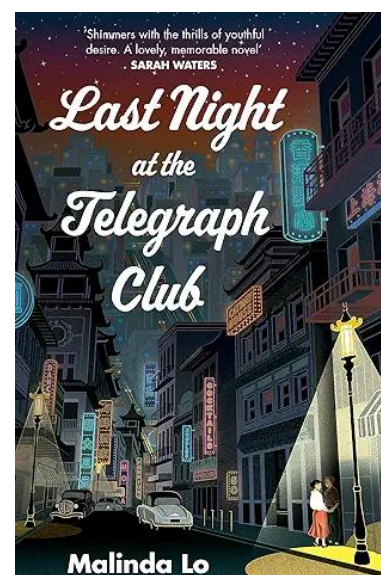
Book of the Month for May and June



May – Safiyyah loathes the brutal Nazi occupation of Paris, even though her Muslim identity keeps her safer than her Jewish neighbours. Violence lurks in the streets, her best friend has fled, and even her place of refuge—the library—has turned shadowy and confusing, as the invaders fear the power of books. And her father—who taught her to always do the right thing—is acting strangely and doing nothing to help them. Or is he? Unravelling the mystery of her father's odd behaviour draws Safiyyah deep in the heart of the perilous underground resistance to the Nazis, where her bravery is put to the ultimate test...

June – Seventeen-year-old Lily Hu can't remember exactly when the question took root, but the answer was in full bloom the moment she and Kathleen Miller walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club.

America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.



Personal Development

This half term all students in Key Stage Three will be looking at a variety of different topics. In Year 7 students will be studying families and consent. Year 8 students will also be looking at relationships and managing conflict. Year 9 students will continue with relationships and sex education which will include pregnancy, abortion, and infertility. At Key Stage Four, Year 10 students will be working on gaining meaningful work experience for our work experience week starting 30th June. 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@taptonschoool.co.uk.

Key Dates for Assessment and Revision and Reports

Year 8 Assessment Week is the week beginning Tuesday 6th May.

Year 7 Assessment Week is the week beginning the 19th May.

Year 12 Examination Week is the week beginning the 16th June.

Year 9 Assessment and Maths Examination Week is the week beginning 2nd June. Precise details of the Maths exams will be shared in due course.

Year 10 reports will be sent home during the week beginning the 19th May

Year 8 reports will be sent home during the week beginning the 9th June.

Year 7 reports will be sent home during the week beginning the 23rd June.

Year 9 reports will be sent home during the week beginning the 7th July.

Year 12 reports will be sent home during the week beginning the 14th July.

Specific assessment and revision information will always be shared by class teachers with students and families to ensure effective preparation and revision.

Work Experience

In preparation for students moving up to Year 11 in September and thinking about their destination after their GCSEs, All Year 10 students will be expected to take part in our Work Experience Programme from Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July 2025. Work Experience is an important part of the Year 10 Curriculum, and we are delighted to be able to run this again. It is an excellent opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the skills and qualities required by employers and start thinking about their careers in more detail. Hosting a placement can be great for employers because it provides an opportunity to 'give back' and support a young person, it might find the organisation a great future employee, and it allows existing employees to have experience managing people. If you, or anyone you know, would be willing and able to support our students during work experience by hosting a placement or would simply like further information about the process of hosting a placement could you please email me at dsabbagh@taptonschool.co.uk.

School Iftar

During Ramadan we were delighted to be able to host our 4th annual Iftar Dinner. We were happy to see so many of our students and families attend and gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance of Ramadan. The evening was fantastic with talks from students about the importance of Ramadan, quizzes, games, and conversations between different people in our community. We are already looking forward to being able to host this event again next year.

Year 11 Prom

This year's Prom will take place on Thursday 10th July 6.30pm – 10.00pm at Tapton Hall. Payment is due by **Tuesday 20th May 2025** and should be made using the ParentPay system or via Barcode letter if requested. Tickets will not be available after this date and entrance to the prom is strictly by ticket only. We are really looking forward to coming together to celebrate this special time with our students.

Sixth Form

Year 12

Our Year 12s are busily preparing for their Year 12 Trial Exams (week beginning 16th June) and their UCAS Applications. Next week the Year 12 Trial Exams Timetable and Revision Guidance will be shared with parents, carers and students and from the week beginning 12th May Form Tutors will be working with students to create a revision timetable and identify effective revision techniques. Please be reminded that the results of these exams inform the setting of UCAS Predicted Grades. Our Year 12s are also currently following a programme of Unifrog activities as they begin to identify their Post-18 destinations, whether university, apprenticeship or employment. There are a number of events on the horizon to support parents, carers and students. Firstly, thank you to those of you who attended the Post-18 Destinations Evening on Tuesday 29th June where key Post-18 providers from across the UK presented to parents, carers and students and engaged in Q&A, it was an exceptional evening. Next up is Destinations Day, on Wednesday 9th July where staff will support students to register and complete their UCAS applications, including personal statements. There will also be additional support for students applying for apprenticeships and employment. Finally, students will begin 1:1s with their Form Tutors to help them begin their references from 19th May.

Year 13

With study leave fast approaching (Friday 9th May 12:30pm) there are still a number of outstanding events and deadlines for Year 13. We have a final assembly on exam and leaving arrangements with the deadline for purchasing tickets for the Year 13 Leavers' Party, Friday 2nd May, with the Party taking place at The Victoria, Kelham Island, Thursday 25th June 6-10pm. We also look forward to saying congratulations and good luck to our Year 13s during their Leaving Assembly Period 3 Friday 9th May.

Please continue to check MCAS for our regular communications and for our weekly Sixth Form Bulletin published every Wednesday.

Music

Thank you so much to all the pupils and staff involved in the Senior Leaver's Concert last term, it was such a fabulous evening and a lovely celebration of our Year 13 pupils in particular. We wish you all the best of luck in whatever you are doing next year - please stay in touch!

Composition Club Continues!

We launched a new composition club last year for pupils in any year group who enjoy composing and would like some time to use our music software. It is open to composers of any ability. It will continue to take place on Tuesday lunchtime in 118.

Lower School Concert - Thursday 3rd July, School Hall, 7pm, tickets booked in advance

The Junior Concert is that lovely time of year when we feature our younger musicians. This is always a fabulously fun concert to get you in the mood for the summer. Ensembles performing will include Junior Wind Band, Junior Strings, Junior Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and Brass Band. Letters and ticket information will be making their way to you soon.

If your child is in Y7, Y8, or Y9 and would like to perform a solo in this concert, please ask them to speak to Mrs Threlfall.

As always, we love to hear about and celebrate all musical achievements. Please email musiccelebration@taptonschool.co.uk to share your child's achievement with us.

Remember that if you would like your child to have music lessons from September with a Music Hub teacher, they need to be signed up by half term. Please email DPhilpott@taptonschool.co.uk for more information about instrumental or vocal lessons.

Kind regards,

Mrs G Threlfall

Subject Leader for Music

GThrelfall@taptonschool.co.uk

Drama

Theatre Company

Our Theatre Company is thriving on a Monday afterschool with a large number of members joining us in 119 each week. The students are continuing to work on a performance of 'Alice' by Laura Wade which we will be showcasing this term on Monday 7th July. Letters will be sent out with Theatre Company members with the finer details nearer the time.

Year Group	When	Where	Start time	End time	Teacher
'Theatre Company'	Monday	117	3.45pm	4.30pm	Miss Milner

Our Theatre Company is 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.

Live Theatre

As a department we love to experience live theatre and feel it is vital for our students to experience a breadth of live theatre to support their study of Drama and Theatre Studies. This term we have two trips booked in so far, we will be going to see 'Steel' by Theatre by the Lake at The Playhouse and 'Bluebell' by Theatre RE at The Crucible.

PE

Our summer extra-curricular PE programme is well underway and we would love to see as many students involved as possible. Anyone is welcome to any of the clubs on offer and there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school 8-8:50am	Y10-Y11 Boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly) (Sports Hall) Y7-13 Athletics (Mrs Sherritt) (Long Jump Pits) Y8 Rounders (Miss Rodriguez & Mrs Becks) (Astro)	Y10-13 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall) Elite Basketball (Mr Kelly) (Gym) (Invite only) Y7-Y8 Cricket (Mr Norburn & Mr Dunbar) (Astro)	Y8-Y9 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall) Y7-Y13 Cheerleading (Miss Rodriguez) (Gym) Y7-Y13 Tennis (Mr Hooper) (Courts) Y9-Y10 Cricket (Mr Dunbar and Mr Norburn) (Astro) Y10-13 Rounders (Miss Wardle) (Astro)	Y7-Y8 Boys' Cricket (Softball) (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall) Y7 Rounders (Miss Wardle & Mrs Wilson) (Astro)	Badminton Elite (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall) (Invite Only) Y7-Y13 Cheerleading (Miss Rodriguez) (Gym) Y9 Rounders (Mrs Sherritt) (Astro) Y10 Rounders (Mrs Wilson) (Astro)

Lunch 12:50- 1.25pm	Y7-Y8 Girls' Cricket (Softball) (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall)	Y9/10 Boys' Cricket (Softball) (Mrs Goodhead & Mr Lunn) (Sports Hall)	Y7-Y13 Girls' Basketball (Mr Payne) (Sports Hall)	Y9-Y10 Girls' Cricket (Softball) (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall)	Y7 Girls' Basketball (Mr Payne) (Sports Hall)
	Y10-Y13 Table Tennis (Mr Lunn) (Gym)	Y8 Rounders (Miss Rodriguez) (Field) Y7 Table Tennis (Miss Wardle) (Gym)		Y12-Y13 Basketball (Mr Hooper) (Gym)	Y8-9 Table Tennis (Mr Norburn) (Gym)
After school 3.30-4.30pm	Y7-Y13 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead) (Sports Hall)	Y8-9 Girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly - Mr Payne) (Sports Hall)	Y8-Y9 Boys' Basketball (Mr Payne) (Sports Hall)	Y7 Boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly) (Sports Hall)	

Pre-Loved Uniform

At Tapton we offer a pre-loved uniform programme that is open to all families.

Depending on availability, one sweatshirt and two polo shirts will be issued per student. PE uniform items will be issued as and when they are available.

Families who make use of our pre-loved uniform will be asked, where possible, for a small donation to cover washing/packaging etc.

To request items please email: prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk stating the student's name, items required and contact name and number. A member of the uniform team will contact you to discuss sizes and availability.

The main office receives a high number of lost property items each day, any items that are labelled with a name are returned to students as soon as possible. Due to limited storage space, items will be held for 2 weeks, with uniform items then being added to our pre-loved stores and all other items donated to charity.

Headteacher Drop-in

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Monday 19th May 3.45 and 4.45 with the last slot being 4.30. 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 4.30. We look forward to seeing you.

The final Tapton Update of this academic year will be available on Friday 20th June.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

Upcoming dates for your diary

08/05/25	Start of National Exams
09/05/25	Year13 Leaving date
13/05/25	A-Level Art/ Textiles evening
14/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Exp. 2 Year 10 Conisborough Castle History Visits
15/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Exp. 2
16/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Exp. 2
19/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Exp.
20/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Exp.
21/05/25	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Exp. National video game visit Computer Science Year 10 and Year 12 Brilliant Club Graduation for Year 9s
22/05/25	German Trip Year 9 departs
02/06/25	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
03/06/25	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
10/06/25	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
11/06/25	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
18/06/25	Year 10 Progress Evening
24/06/25	Year 12 Welcome Evening
25/06/25	Year 13 Leaving Party
26/06/25	Year 10 English exam 1.30pm
27/06/25	Trust Training Day
30/06/25	Year 10 Work Experience
01/07/25	Year 7 Maths Challenge all day
02/07/25	Year 6 Transition
03/07/25	Year 6 Transition Lower school concert
04/07/25	Year 6 Transition
07/07/25	Year 10 Mock oral MFL exams this week
08/07/25	Year 13 Year Ahead
09/07/25	Sports Day Destinations Day Year 10 Personal Development Day
10/07/25	Year 11 Prom
14/07/25	Sports Presentation Evening 4.30-6.30pm
17/07/25	Year 12 Art residential departs
18/07/25	End of the school year