

# Tapton SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms Kathryn Rhodes

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21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May the government announced its COVID-19 recovery strategy which includes an intention for secondary schools to offer some students face to face contact in school with their teachers to support with their home learning.

Since then we have been working hard in collaboration with leaders across our Academy Trust and at the Local Authority to plan our strategy and ensure we have the correct resources in place to keep everyone safe. We are still awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education – you will see from this link that information for secondaries is scarce at the moment and the focus is mainly on primary pupils: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

Our intention at Tapton is to offer the following for Year 10 and Year 12 students:

When?	What and Who?
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	30 minute consultations with form tutors for Year 12 students and one parent/carer in school. Parental attendance is optional – students can come on their own.
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	30 minute consultations with form tutors for Year 10 students and one parent/carer in school. We strongly advice Year 10 students to be accompanied by one parent/carer.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	30 minute individual tutorial on destinations, including UCAS applications with form tutors for Year 12 students and one parent/carer in school. Parental attendance is optional – students can come on their own.

More details will come from Mr Stewart on how this will work for Year 10s and from Mr Wright for Y12 before we break for half term. These consultations are just the start of our wider offer of support for students at this point in their education – we will action what comes out of these discussions and plan our next steps.

Learning for all students will continue to be distance/home learning. Now we have a clearer idea of the timescales we are looking at we have reviewed our principles (see page 3 of this letter) and adapted them to ensure where possible our lessons are more interactive and include further opportunities for feedback.

As we move forward into this next phase it is important to remember that any adjustments made by government will be based on the scientific data at the time, and that they remain conditional and



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reversible. As a school we will perform weekly risk assessments and make any required adjustments to our approach as required.

We believe the best place for our children is to be in school and learning but our primary concern is to ensure this can be done safely and in a way that stays true to our core values of caring for each other, valuing everyone and achieving excellence. School remains open to vulnerable students and the children of key workers – numbers are rising here with more parents taking up this offer of additional support. If you are a key worker and wish to send your child into school after half term please inform our attendance officer of which days you require childcare for using this email address: [rshaw@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:rshaw@taptonschool.co.uk). Please can I remind you that we need confirmation of your key worker status and 48 hours notice in advance of your child attending.

We are also liaising with Hallam Primary School (a member of our Academy Trust) to provide support for their Year 6 students as we know that space is a challenge for them as they plan for re-opening. More details will come for Hallam parents after half term.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your patience and compassion during this time. As a profession, teachers are trying their best to adapt and learn new skills. We know you and your children are doing the same. We have been so impressed with all the hard work and levels of independence that Tapton students have shown since lockdown. I would also like to thank the many parents, carers and children who have been in touch to thank school for the work we have provided and the provision we have put in place. Your positive thoughts are warmly appreciated by everyone at school.

Yours faithfully



Kathryn Rhodes  
Headteacher



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## Updated Principles for Home Learning During COVID-19 School Closure

Whilst school is closed for the majority of students Taptan teachers will follow these principles to provide inclusive and meaningful distance learning for our students.

**Caring for each other** and **valuing everyone** remain at the heart of these plans. The government have now provided further clarity on the duration of distance learning for students in all year groups. In response to this we have refined our principles to enable teachers to collaborate and support all members of our school community.

The following principles still form the basis for our work going forward:

1. Young people continue to have an entitlement to learning, but this may look very different from normal school. The majority of students should only be working for around 3 hours a day, this may vary according to key stage.
2. There are many different ways to support our students with their distance learning – one model will not be appropriate or indeed manageable for all year groups. Students across the key stages and across departments may have different packages.
3. We accept that students and teachers will not be as productive in this environment.
4. We will aim to make learning as inclusive as possible. We are aware that many of our disadvantaged students will not have the technology or space to complete online activities – menus with both online and offline options can support here. Choices are made around file formats so that they can be easily viewed on a mobile device. It is unreasonable to expect that siblings living together will have individual access to tablets, laptops or indeed fast broadband. We still await the delivery of the laptops promised or our Y10 disadvantaged students, however we are working with families on a case by case basis to improve access to home learning resources.
5. It is not healthy or safe for students to be on their screens online all day. However, some use of screens is unavoidable. We have aimed to mitigate this by prompting students to use exercise books or paper where they can.
6. Our SEND and Visually Impaired students need to access the material provided which is differentiated and modified accordingly. For example, Visually Impaired students need to be able to stretch documents on screen or have enlarged print on Word PDFs.
7. We do not expect parents to 'home school' children, but we will try to provide activities, guidance and support that will help everyone to do the best they can within the situation as it unfolds.



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These further principles will also inform our strategy moving forward:

8. Year 12 assessment week will still take place online during the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June. Students will receive a timetable and papers will come through via the learning platform. This will allow us to provide summative and formative feedback on year 12 and will feed into our Year 12 reports and will form a central part of the UCAS reference and predicted grades.
9. We will now begin to introduce new content with at least 1 hour of new learning subjects delivered at Y12 each week followed by 2 hours on consolidation. Subject teachers may postpone this until after the assessment week. Y10 students will have at least 30 minutes of new content for English, Maths and Science each week and 30 minutes once a fortnight for other subjects alongside further consolidation of prior learning.
10. Year 9 students will now begin their transition to GCSE. Each subject (apart from English, Maths, Science and RE) will set a project for students who intend to take their subject at GCSE. If they wish to complete the projects for other subjects they are of course welcome to do so. The results of this project work will be celebrated widely.
11. Teachers will trial a number of strategies to provide in-depth explanation of new content. They will also offer some form of interactivity during the week and will provide feedback to students. Some may experiment with live lessons using Nearpod or Microsoft Teams but we have no expectation that all teachers will deliver in this way. Many teachers will produce 'talking PowerPoints' to guide students through new content.
12. Year 10s will not have a formal assessment week next half term – this will now take place in late September/October. Teachers will continue to set work, provide feedback and contact year 10s who have not responded in the lead up to the summer holiday.
13. Teachers will communicate with students in their class each week to direct them to the work on the learning platform using Bromcom and check in with them weekly via their school email.



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