

# Tapton SCHOOL

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

By Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March all consenting students will have had two COVID-19 tests in school. There has been an overwhelming response to testing from students with around 85% consenting to be part of this process. Therefore, from next week students will be returning to school in a phased return as detailed in our previous communication and in the table below. Please note the government has outlined that school attendance will be mandatory for all students. A third test will be carried out when year groups return to face to face lessons. In addition to this students will be given a home testing kit and further details about this will be sent to families in due course. Please note that if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days they are exempt from testing.

	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Test 1	Test 1					
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar			Test 1	Test 1			
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Test 2	Test 2					Test 1
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Return	Return	Test 2	Test 2		Test 1	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar			Return	Return	Test 1		
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar							Test 2
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar						Test 2	Return
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar					Test 2		
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar					Return	Return	

We are obviously tremendously excited about the return of all students. We hope that the return to school sees the beginning of normality with us all being able to enjoy our final term and a half in school together doing what we do best; valuing everyone, caring for each other and achieving excellence. Of course, we also have to remain cautious and vigilant as we all endeavour to do our part in ensuring infection rates remain low and a return to normal life can begin. Alongside this it would be remiss of us at school to lower our expectations of students and jeopardise the successful start everyone has made in school. Therefore, in order to ensure everyone remains safe we want to remind you of our expectations and routines so that you and your children are fully prepared for their return. Please do take some time to read through the information in this letter with your child.

## Prevention

### Masks and face covering:

Our community at Tapton is already accustomed to wearing masks in all communal areas – this is now a statutory regulation from the government. The government has also recommended that when students and staff return to face to face lessons they wear masks in classrooms except for PE. Students who have attended our key worker and vulnerable children provision have already practiced this expectation and demonstrated that it is eminently possible. Please ensure your child brings a mask to school so they can wear it in all classrooms, communal spaces from arrival to school, lesson changeover, transition to lunchtime and at the end of the school day. Please remember that the masks we have in school are of the disposable, single-use variety and of limited supply therefore please ensure your child brings one to school. If you are able to donate some reusable masks to school or if you are aware of anyone who would be willing to donate their mask making efforts to our supplies we would be very grateful. Any donations of masks can be made to the school office. Students need to remember the following guidance about mask wearing:

- do not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it
- dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin)
- place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them
- wash their hands again before heading to their classroom

### COVID-19 symptoms and self-isolation:

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms – a cough, high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) and/or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test.



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- They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:
- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

### Travel, hygiene and social distancing

We understand that the past year has meant unprecedented disruption to our daily lives and routines, however, a return to normal life will only be possible if we continue to follow the rules on hygiene and social distancing. Hand washing remains absolutely essential. Students will be reminded once again to use hand sanitiser throughout the school day; when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. In order to limit transmission, we need to remind families that they cannot come onto the school site without an appointment and must not congregate outside the school gates. Students travelling by public transport must remember to wear a face covering. Where possible students should walk or cycle to school. We understand that students have missed daily contact with friends, however, they must adhere to the rules of social distancing and not hug, shake hands or high five each other. In addition to this we encourage all families and students to limit their contacts particularly as they travel to and from school.

### Uniform, School Equipment and Lunch

Please let me remind you that all students in Year 7-11 need to wear full school uniform and 6<sup>th</sup> form students must wear their lanyards. Students no longer need to bring in their coloured wristbands. When students return to school we expect them to wear their full school uniform and arrive on time; students who do not will be in a same day afterschool detention and you will receive a text notification informing you of this. A reminder of our uniform is detailed below. If you need support with additional uniform please contact your child's year manager who will check on our spare supplies.

- Tapton logoed polo shirt in white or black or a plain white or black school wear polo shirt.
- Tapton logoed black sweatshirt or Tapton logoed black cardigan.
- Flat black full-length trousers (not jogging bottoms, not leggings) or black tailored knee length shorts or skirt (not inappropriate miniskirts).
- All black shoes or trainers without any logo and without different coloured trim (not sandals).
- Flat all black below the knee boots.
- Outdoor clothing (such as coats or fleeces) are not worn in classrooms.
- No hoods or hats in the building

Windows and doors will be kept open in order to ensure ventilation therefore students must remember to bring in their school uniform jumper and if necessary an all-black or Tapton fleece.

Students need to bring their bags to school with full equipment including the mini whiteboards, pens and glue sticks issued in September; in order to reduce transmission of the virus this equipment should not be shared. Alongside this we encourage everyone to limit the number of things they bring in from home. Students who need additional resources will be provided with the relevant equipment. In a change to our usual routines please note that students will not be using the PE changing rooms. On days where students ordinarily have PE they will be able to complete it in their normal uniform. If any student wishes to bring shoes **to change into** they will be able to leave their school shoes at the side of the gym/sports hall. **We must however stress that students must not come to school in alternative footwear for PE, leggings or jogging bottoms – this will still incur a detention for failing to wear the correct uniform.**

All students will continue to spend break times in their period 2 classrooms supervised by their period 2 teacher. This is to ensure we do not jeopardise the year group bubbles. Students can bring in small items to eat during break and we strongly advise these items to be healthy snacks such as fresh fruit. **Students must bring a packed lunch to school as the canteen will not be available.** Students must also take home all of their rubbish at the end of lunch so we expect all students to bring a container for this waste. Families in receipt of free school meals will be able to receive a grab bag. Further communication will be sent to all families in receipt of free school meals. Please note water fountains will still be decommissioned to reduce the risk of infection, therefore, please send your child to school with a bottle of water. We will continue to disallow soft and fizzy drinks being consumed in lessons. Sixth form students who have permission to go home at lunchtime can continue to do so.

### Arrival and Dismissal Times and Timings of the Day

When students return to school for their phased return our arrival times for all year groups will remain the same as outlined in the table below. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March up to and including Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March the timings of the school day will also remain the same as they have been during this remote period. This is to allow for the combination of both in school face to face teaching for some year groups and the remote offer for those still learning from home. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March students who are accessing our Key Worker and Vulnerable Children provision will go to their normal classrooms for registration and lessons.

The day plans for the weeks beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March are detailed in the following table. Please ensure your child knows their arrival time and entrance for their first day back at school. Members of the Leadership Team and Year Managers will be ready and excited to greet all students on arrival.



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**Timings of the school day – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

Year Group	Entrance and Time from	Period 1 (50 mins)	Period 2 (50 mins)	Break	Period 3 (50 minutes)	Lunch 12.20-12.50pm	Lunch 12.50pm – 1.20pm	Period 4 (50 minutes)	Period 5 (50 minutes)	Dismissal Time
7	9am - Front of School	9.30 - 10.20	10.30 - 11.20	11.20- 11.30	11.30 - 12.20	Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside – front of school	1.20 - 2.10	2.20 - 3.10	3.10
8	9.15am Back Lane - Middle Maths					Outside - quads	Lunch in period 3 classrooms			
9	9.15am End of Science near Astro					Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside - quads			
10	9.15am Back Entrance near Sports Hall					Outside - back of school	Lunch in period 3 classrooms			
11	9.00am Back Entrance near Sports Hall					Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside - back of school			
12 and 13	8.30am - 8.45am Sixth Form stairs at front of school					Students have a 1-hour lunch – they can go to 6 <sup>th</sup> form café and common room or home if they have the relevant permissions				

**Timings of the school day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March onwards**

Year Group	Entrance and latest arrival time	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Lunch 12.30-1pm	Lunch 1pm – 1.30pm	Period 4	Period 5	Dismissal Time
7	9am - Front of School	9.30 - 10.25	10.25 - 11.20	11.20- 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside – front of school	1.30 - 2.30	2.30 - 3.30	3.15pm
8	9.15am Back Lane - Middle Maths					Outside - quads	Lunch in period 3 classrooms			3.10pm
9	9.15am End of Science near Astro					Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside - quads			3.20pm
10	9.15am Back Entrance near Sports Hall					Outside - back of school and astro	Lunch in period 3 classrooms			3.25pm
11	9.00am Back Entrance near Sports Hall					Lunch in period 3 classrooms	Outside - back of school and astro			3.30pm
12 and 13	8.30am - 8.45am Sixth Form stairs at front of school					Students have a 1-hour lunch – they can go to 6 <sup>th</sup> form café and common room or home if they have the relevant permissions				3.30pm unless in a twilight lesson



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## Perimeter Fence

From the first day of their return to school students need to ensure they arrive promptly for their arrival slot and ensure they are using the correct entrance to school as outlined in the day plan table. Students will be marked late and in after school detention if they arrive after their specific times, therefore, your child needs to be in school at least 10 minutes before their latest arrival time. There is now a perimeter fence around the school site. **Students and families need to note that the entry point of the fence at the rear of school will be locked at 9.10 every day.** If your children usually use the rear entrance of school to access the site they need to ensure they leave in plenty of time to arrive to school on time. The only way to access the school site after 9.10 will be via the gate entrance by the Geography block at the front of school. Therefore, students who arrive to school after 9.10 will need to walk around to the front entrance of school in order to access the building. In addition, please note that there will be no vehicle access to the school site whatsoever, other than for those in our community who have disabled badges or temporary site permission from the school office. There is a newly installed gate on the back lane of school which is only accessible by school staff.

## GCSE, AS and A-Level Awarding of Grades

The government consultation on the awarding of grades is now complete with details released at the end of last week. Schools are expecting to receive further guidance on grading and information around moderation and quality assurance from examination boards before Easter. We absolutely understand that the uncertainty around awarding has caused anxiety for students and families in examination year groups. We will be sharing information with Year 11, 13 and Year 12 where appropriate as soon as we can. It is essential that the information we share is both accurate and provides certainty and clarity about the plans for the next few months.

As we approach the return to face to face teaching I want to thank all the families and students for their kind words and support during this year, but particularly since January. I also want to acknowledge the work of the wonderful team at Tipton School who have made online learning possible for all students and also enabled testing to take place in an efficient, supportive and rigorous manner. I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher of this wonderful community of students, families and school colleagues.

We will continue to work hard to ensure our school remains a safe, happy and successful community and look forward to your continued support. Above all we look forward to reconnecting and recovering together.

Yours faithfully



Ms K Rhodes  
Headteacher



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