

### Dear Parents and Carers

This half term we are continuing our focus on kindness by encouraging students to feel a sense of gratitude for all they have. Form groups will be planning a number of charitable endeavours to 'give back' and show their appreciation to others. Firstly, form groups will be raising money for a charity which helps to fund projects in poor communities around the world that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. More details can be found at <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

Secondly form groups we will once again be conducting a reverse advent calendar scheme where students bring in donations to a local foodbank during the month of December.

Finally, we will celebrate the end of term with our annual sixth form charity week in aid of Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sea Changers and The Snow Drop Project.

We really hope these activities will give students a chance to reflect and feel the mental health and wellbeing benefits of caring for each other, supporting those in need and being kind.

### Admissions Consultation

Tapton School Academy Trust are consulting on its proposed Admission Arrangements for Tapton for the 2021/22 academic year. The consultation period will run from 4 November to 16 December 2019. Further details are provided in a dedicated area on our website which can be found here:

<http://www.taptonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Admissions+Consultation&pid=428>

### Music Alumni Concert

Tapton School will be hosting its first ever Music Alumni Concert on the 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7pm. The pupils, staff, alumni, and community are coming together to shout about the amazing things that Tapton Music Department does, has done in the past, and will be continuing to do in the future. The event is a 'pay what you feel' concert with all proceeds going towards the Tapton GCSE Music Crowdfund. If you would like to attend the alumni concert, then please book your seat by contacting

[msimms@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:msimms@taptonschool.co.uk)

### Care in the Car Park

At Tapton we value being part of this wonderful community. Our aim is to be a positive influence on our neighbours, living and working in a safe environment for all. Hazardous parking has become a danger around many schools in many communities and we therefore please ask that you make mindful decisions regarding how and where you park. We do not want to prevent residents from accessing their own properties and we do not want parked cars to become hazardous for students or adults. As always, we are very grateful for your support with this.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening

School will close early to all students on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm as staff prepare to welcome hundreds of prospective A-Level students to Tapton for our Open Evening. For those year 11 students who wish to attend, the evening will begin at 6pm and finish at 8pm. We look forward to celebrating all that we have to offer and seeing lots of parents and students at the event.

### APPs Every Parent Should Know About

As social media has become such a big part of the lives of our young people we have compiled a list of the most popular APPs our students are using at the moment, which is attached. It is vital that we understand what children are accessing and consider different ways of keeping them safe online. We hope parents and carers find this useful. Our advice would be to have an open and honest conversation as a family about different APPs.



MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the App's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including 'stories' allow users to view content for up to 24 hours.



GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.



SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17-years-old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.



LIVE.ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn 'coins' as a way to 'pay' minors for photos.



WhatsApp is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, make calls and video chats worldwide. WhatsApp uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed 'addicting' video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content and more.



TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos, with very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to bullying and explicit content.



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.



BADOO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.



CALCULATOR% is only one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.



BUMBLE is similar to the most popular dating app 'Tinder'. However, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use bumble to create fake accounts and falsify their age.



HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

## MCAS

We are increasingly moving towards MCAS as our primary method of communication with parents. All of our forthcoming tracking will be sent exclusively through the MCAS system. If you have any issues with logging into the system, please contact [ssimmons@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:ssimmons@taptonschool.co.uk) The tracking added to the system this half term will be Y10 in November and Y8 in December.

## Year 11

We were delighted to see so many students and families attend the Careers and Revision event on the 23rd October 2019. We would like to thank everyone for their support and attendance at this important event.

Year 11 have completed a week of assessments including a full GCSE English Literature paper on Thursday 7th November. Their next English exam is on Thursday 14th November. We look forward to the same level of resilience and hard work they have already shown.

Year 11 parents' evening is on Wednesday 11th December. We look forward to seeing all parents and carers in order to discuss your child's progress and achievement in the build up to the trial exams in February next year. All parents evening appointments need to be made through the MCAS parents app. Appointments will open from 9.00am on Monday 25th November and the system will close at 9.00 am on Monday 9th December. If you have not accessed MCAS then please contact [ssimmons@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:ssimmons@taptonschool.co.uk) who will be able to supply you with your login details.

## Behaviour around school

Tapton students have responded really well to our renewed focus on behaviour and expectations. We look forward to students continuing to work hard, follow the rules and being kind. Please remind your child that mobile phones and other electronic devices including earphones are not allowed in the building between 9.10 and 3.30 and should therefore not be visible during these times.

## Contact Details

Please remember to update your contact details with school if you move house or get a new mobile phone number. It is important that we up to date details so can contact you in an emergency.

**Thanks for your continued support of our school.**

**Kat Rhodes**  
**Headteacher**

## Upcoming dates for your diary

11/11/19	Y8 Assessment Week- This will be a two week process Y10 Data Track available to Parents
12/11/19	<b>School closes at 2.30pm for Students</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening 6- 8pm
14/11/19	Y11 English Mock Exam
18/11/18	Y11 Geography Field Trip Y11 Music Ensemble performances
21/11/19	Music Alumni Concert 7pm
25/11/19	Y9 Assessment Week- This will be a two week process Y10 PSHEE Day
27 - 30/11/19	Y9 Spanish Trip to Valencia
28 - 29/11/19	<b>School Closed to Students. Staff Training and Wellbeing days</b>
W/C 02/12/19	Y11 Catering Practical Exams – This is a two week process
3 - 5/12/19	Y7 Parent Review Afternoons

<b>4/12/19</b>	Y10 Art visit to Manchester
<b>11/12/19</b>	Y11 Parents Evening
<b>12/12/19</b>	Music Christmas Concert 7.30pm
<b>13/12/19</b>	Y11 GCSE Art deadline
<b>W/C 16/12/19</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Charity Week Y8 Data Track available to Parents
<b>18/12/19</b>	Ranmoor Christmas Carol Concert 7pm A - Level Certificate Evening (To Be Confirmed)
<b>19/12/19</b>	Headteacher Parent Drop In 3.30- 4.45pm New Hall
<b>20/12/19</b>	<b>School Closes for the Holidays- 12.30pm Finish</b>
<b>06/01/20</b>	School Re-opens for the Spring Term