

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our second Tapton Update of the year!

Early Closure Dates

Please can we remind you of the following early closure dates:

School will close at 2.30 on Wednesday 22nd November.

School will close at 12.30 on the final Friday of this term, Friday 22nd December. This is also a non-uniform day with money going towards a star at Sheffield Children's Hospital. Please make your contributions via ParentPay.

751 Bus

You will no doubt be aware that there have been some significant issues with the 751-bus service arriving promptly to school. We have been working hard with the First Bus group to rectify this and have some positive news to share with you.

With effect from **Monday 13th November**, the 751 will follow a new timetable. The new timings will mean students arrive to school with enough time to comfortably get to their form rooms and start their day calmly and punctually. The new timings will also support our examination year groups who will be able to arrive to school and their exams on time.

Please discuss the new timetable with your child and ensure they are aware of the changes. Please also note that students who do not arrive on time to get the 751 and are therefore late to school will be in a same day lunchtime detention.

The timetable for the 751 is below; please note the timings are location times and not stops. The 751 will collect at Netherthorpe, Bolsover Street and then go directly to the turning circle on Darwin Lane. Students will be met by a member of Leadership Team who will direct students into school.

Netherthorpe – Tapton School: Monday – Friday

Service Number:	751
Netherthorpe, Bolsover Street	08:10
Turning Circle, Darwin Lane	08:40

Upcoming Assessment Weeks

Please note the upcoming dates for assessments for the following year groups. Students will receive their assessment guidance on Satchel:One and revision guidance from their class teachers.

Year 9 Assessment Week – Week Beginning 4th December.

Year 12 Assessment Week – Week Beginning 8th January.

Year 7 Assessment Week – Week Beginning 15th January.

Year 13 Examination Week – Beginning Wednesday 31st January.

Exam Contingency Days

All examination students are required to remain available for examinations up to and including the national contingency date of Wednesday 26th June. There are also examination contingency afternoons on the 6th and 13th June; students are advised not to make any other plans for these dates. These dates are set aside by JCQ as contingency in the event of national or significant local disruption.

GCSE and A Level certificates

Our A-level and GCSE certificate collection evening will take place on Tuesday 19th December beginning at 4pm. To assist in managing the number of visitors on site at any one time, please ask your child to arrive at their allotted time relating to their month of birth. If your child is unable to attend and wishes you or someone else to

collect the certificates on their behalf, they need to provide the person collecting with a signed letter authorising us to release the certificates to that named individual. Authorisation letters must be signed by hand: emails and e-signatures are not acceptable. Whoever is collecting the certificates must bring photographic ID with them (even the child themselves).

It is vital that certificates are collected as they are legal proof of qualifications held and may be requested by academic institutions and future employers. Where it is not possible for certificates to be collected on the evening of Tuesday 19th December, they may, on request, be made available at a later date, during normal school opening hours. Any such request should be submitted to examsoffice@taptonschool.co.uk.

Time	Month of birth
4.00pm	January-March
4.30pm	April-June
5.00pm	July-September
5.30pm	October-December

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 next drop-in will take place on Monday 11th December 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.

School Closure in the event of Severe Weather

We will only close the school during the day in very rare circumstances such as very severe weather conditions, power outages or health and safety issues. Should this occur, families will be notified by text, email and via the MCAS system.

When we make the decision to close the school early we do so in the best interests of student and staff welfare. Should the school close for severe weather we are primarily concerned that everyone can get home safely. In the event of an early closure most families have already authorised for their children to make their own way home immediately. However, some families have expressed their wish for students to remain in school and await collection. Whilst we understand this request please be aware that this can be particularly problematic if conditions worsen.

We have collated the information to identify which children need to remain in school in such circumstances. If you have reconsidered your plans and would like your child to leave with their peers, please do contact us at enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk stating your child's name and form and your updated preference.

If you wish your child to remain in school and await collect, please be aware of collecting them in a timely manner as school staff will need to remain in school until all children are dismissed.

Revision Guides

Do you have any unwanted Key Stage Three, GCSE or A Level revision guides that you would like to donate to Tapton School? We would be grateful to receive any revision books that we could loan out to students to support families in our community. Revision Guides can be handed in to form tutors or to the main reception.

Personal Development

This half term all students in Key Stage Three will be looking at a variety of different topics. All students in Key Stage Three have looked at the dangers of social media and how to use social media safely and effectively. Year 7 students will be looking at Mental Health and Wellbeing, and specifically at how to cope with setbacks in life, become more resilient and a range of coping strategies for them to use in later life. Year 8 students are taking part in the First Give Programme. This is an opportunity for them to pick a charity they believe in, run a social action campaign for that charity and deliver a presentation about what they have done. The presentations and campaigns will then be judged by First Give and one group will receive a £1000 donation to give to their selected charity. Year 9 students are taking part in the Bite Back programme which is looking at food choices and marketing techniques aimed at children and how they can make a difference to ensure all young people have a healthy diet. There will be an

opportunity for students in Year 9 to become a 'School Food Champions' at the start of next half term to look at changes that can be made within school, locally and nationally.

At Key Stage Four, Year 10 students will be working on gaining meaningful work experience for our work experience week starting July 1st 2024 and Year 11 will continue to focus on destinations after their GCSEs and making applications via Sheffield Progress.

As a whole school we celebrated Diwali last week which included assemblies to all year groups, Diwali craft activities and displays and we are looking forward to celebrating National Disability Day on the 4th December.

If you have any questions on any of the topics being studied or have an emerging topic or issue you are concerned about and feel we need to address it in Personal Development lessons please contact Mr Sabbagh via email dsabbagh@taptonschool.co.uk.

Lost property

We have a significant amount of lost property items which remain unclaimed. Unfortunately, the items are not labelled so it has been incredibly difficult to identify the owners. In particular we have a large number of coats and jackets which we would like to unite with their owners.

If your child has lost their coat or item of uniform, please ask them to come to reception during break, or before/after school to try to reclaim their clothing. This should not be done during lesson time.

Please be aware that due to limited storage space any unclaimed and unlabelled items we have had for 2 weeks will be donated to charity.

Pre-loved uniform

At Tapton we offer a pre-loved uniform programme. The programme is open to all parents and carers of Tapton students.

If you would like to request any uniform 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 then contact you to discuss sizing as needed and confirm how items are to be collected. This would normally be by the student at the end of the day.

We do ask for a small donation to cover the cost of washing of 50p/£1 per item, but this is a voluntary donation.

Key Stage 5

It is another busy half term in the Sixth Form. As we prepare for our annual Open Evening on 22nd November 6-8pm, we are also focused on preparing 1:1 meetings for our current Year 11s to help them make successful applications to the Sixth Form - these will take place week commencing 27th November. Please be reminded that the deadline for applications to the Sixth Form is 31st January 2024.

Having spent the first half term settling in, our Year 12s now turn their attention to teaching and learning and post-18 destinations. They are currently focused on our Becoming an Independent Learner Programme (BILs), which takes place during form time. Current topics include time-management and organisation and effective note taking. On the final Tuesday of the half term all students will take part in a presentation on University, Apprenticeships and Employment, delivered by the University of Sheffield. Year 12 deserve a huge well done for how they have acquitted themselves to their new environment, they are currently at 97% attendance and have engaged brilliantly with our Super and Extra Curricular offer, especially paired reading with our younger students.

Year 13 continue their focus on UCAS. We have submitted 50 early applications (Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science) and we are now focused on these students as they complete admissions tests and prepare for interview. Our early applicants have already engaged with an Interview Masterclass delivered by Magdalen College, Oxford and we have planned for the University of Leeds to provide further interview support for our students applying to medicine et al. Meanwhile, our equal consideration applicants all engaged with a presentation on Writing Effective Personal Statements delivered by the University of Sheffield. Please be reminded that the internal UCAS deadline for non-early applicants is 1st December 2023 - we have already submitted over 20 applications. Our Y13s are also engaged in a BILs programme during form time, focusing on Time Management and Organisation, Effective Revision and Looking After Yourself.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas break, both year groups are involved with planning our annual Charity Week, allowing us all to let off a bit of steam while raising money for local, national and international charities.

Music

Our pupils and staff have been working extremely hard in rehearsals since September and we are excited to invite you to our Christmas concerts 2023. We have two concerts showcasing our fabulous students and staff and you are all welcome to attend, regardless of whether you have a child involved!

Tuesday 5th December 2023 - School Christmas Concert – School Hall, 7pm

This is a fun, lively concert to get you in the festive mood. You will hear performances from our Jazz Band, Brass Band, Wind Band, Junior Strings, Ukulele Group, Flute Choir, and a fabulous selection of soloists. This concert will have an interval with refreshments.

Thursday 15th December 2023 - Ranmoor Carol Concert – Ranmoor Church, 7pm (no interval)

There is no better way to start the Christmas holidays than listening to beautiful music and singing along to some carols. This concert will include performances from our Senior Orchestra, Staff Student Choir, Junior Choir, and a number of soloists. There will also be congregational carols and Christmas readings from members of our school community.

For the finale of this concert, we are performing a selection of movements from Mozart's Requiem and we are inviting our whole musical community to join in. If you are a parent, family member, or alumni and you would like to sing in the choir or play in the orchestra for this item, then please email me on Gpage@taptonschool.co.uk for more information.

Tickets

Tickets for both concerts must be booked in advance via Parent Pay and they will be available from midday on the 20th November. Previously, we have not charged for the Ranmoor concert, however, we are now being charged to hire the church building and cover heating costs, so both concerts are ticketed. Tickets for one concert are £5 each, tickets for both concerts combined are £8.

We endeavour to make enrichment events accessible to all families. If there are any financial barriers to your attendance at this event, please email MBarker@taptonschool.co.uk and we can discuss further support. We look forward to seeing you at one of our concerts soon.

Mrs G Page, Subject Leader for Music

Drama

Matilda

Rehearsals are progressing really well for our whole school production of *Matilda*. The rehearsal space is full of vibrant and creative work from our large cast. In each rehearsal we are working on acting, dancing and singing and having lots of fun putting the production together. We are currently ordering hoodies for the cast and crew and working on publicity, collecting costume, designing the set and planning the set construction. We are excited to present our production in January.

We have cast tech and dress rehearsals the weekend of January 20th & 21st 2024 and the performances run from Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th January 2024 starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will be going on sale very soon with the information being sent out in letters to the cast members with details on how to book tickets. Information will also be available for the whole school on our website.

Theatre Company

Our Lower School Theatre Company is thriving on a Monday afterschool with a large number of members joining us in 119 each week. The Upper School Theatre Company will be back up and running in February 2024 once our commitments to rehearsal for the school play come to an end. A reminder of the timings are outlined below:

Year Group	When	Where	Start time	End time	Teacher
7, 8 & 9	Monday	117	3.45pm	4.30pm	Miss Milner

'Lower School Theatre Company'					
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. If your child is interested please ask them to collect a letter from the Drama office.

PE

It has been a fabulous term so far for the PE department. It is wonderful to see so many students waiting at 8am for clubs to start and we are always amazed how many of you take part. For anyone who is interested in joining a club you are really welcome to join. Please just turn up. The timetable for this term is included below.

Netball

Tapton's Netball season is in full swing – we have already had 4 league meets, 2 tournaments and 2 league matches and this is just the start of what I am sure will be another great year! Our u16's were crowned city champions at their recent tournament – fantastic achievement! And congratulations to the u15 who were runners up in their SFSS City tournament – Joint first place but sadly bumped down to runners up due to goal difference.

A special mention to the Y8's who have started their season in style. Undefeated at the moment, you have had some amazing performances, well done. The Y7's are showing so much potential – with over 40 of you regularly attending Y7 practice it is a pleasure working with you all on a Thursday morning.

Good luck to those students selected to play in the upcoming National Schools tournament (u14 and u16). Hopefully we can build on last year's success and qualify for the regional round.

Every netballer who has attended practice has already had the opportunity to take to court and represent the school at one of our league meets. We are so proud at Tapton that we can put out several teams in each age group.

Our annual Condover Netball residential on the 26th – 28th April is as popular as ever. This year it is open to players in years 8 to 10. If any player missed the deposit deadline they need to pop down and see Mrs Wilson in the PE office.

Remember practices are every Wednesday (Y9-13) and Thursday (Y7-8) mornings – everyone welcome!

Hockey

Hockey has continued to grow and develop this year with continued high numbers across all years, including the new Year 7 students. The Year 8 team have competed in a friendly tournament where they did not lose a game or even concede a goal. Similarly, the Year 9 and 10 team performed excellently well in a match against King Egberts earning a draw. The Year 11 team were winners in the Sheffield Federation Tournament, well done!

Boys football

Boys' football has continued to grow and develop this year with continued high numbers across all years, including the new Year 7 students. All year groups have had the opportunity to perform against other schools across Sheffield in both the Sheffield Cup and in League games. The year 9's have also had the chance to play in the English Schools National competition and have won the first three rounds so far.

Girls football

Girl's football continues to be incredibly popular at Tapton this year with over 70 girls from all year groups attending training on a Monday morning. Each year group have played their first round of the 5-a-side tournament at Goals, with some very successful results so far. In the English School's competition, the Under 15 team got through to the third round but sadly lost out to Wingfield Academy. We have lots more upcoming fixtures to look forward to,

including the Utilita Cup, all of our league and County Cup games, as well as hosting some Y7 and 8 friendly tournaments before Christmas.

A reminder regarding PE lessons

Please can we remind you that students need to remove all jewellery for their PE lessons. This includes earrings unless they have recently been pierced, in which case students must bring their own tape to cover them up. We are also having an ongoing issue with chewing gum. This is not allowed in school and poses a health and safety hazard in lessons. Thank you for your support with this.

	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 Trampolineing (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 Trampolineing (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>	

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary (until February)

22/11/23	6th Form Open Evening 6-8pm
23/11/23	Y11 English lit paper 9-11am
27/11/23	Student and staff Wellbeing Day 27th-30th Nov Y9 Spanish Trip
28/11/23	Cross-Trust training day
29/11/23	6th Form consultations (internal) Y11 Progress Evening
01/12/23	Internal UCAS deadline
05/12/23	Christmas Concert
06/12/23	Y10 Geography City Centre trip
07/12/23	Liverpool Galleries Y10 Art Y8 Science fair in labs
14/12/23	Ranmoor Church Christmas Concert
15/12/23	UKMT Maths challenge Y12/Y13
18/12/23	6th Form Charity Week GCSE Food exams this week
22/12/23	School closes for the end of term
08/01/24	GCSE Art and Textiles External Exam Begins
10/01/24	Y8 Progress Evening
11/01/24	Y8 Subject Choices Evening/Y9 Options Evening
17/01/24	Y9 Progress Evening
19/01/24	Preparation for school production
22/01/24	School Production
23/01/24	School Production
24/01/24	School Production
26/01/24	Y10 Personal Development Day
29/01/24	Y8 Subject choices and Y9 Options Week Y11 Mock Orals
31/01/24	External UCAS Deadline 6pm UKMT Maths challenge Y9-11
01/02/24	Y11 GCSE Exam Information Evening 6pm-7pm
02/02/24	Y9 Options Morning
05/02/24	AS Level Options Deadline A-Level C2 Performance devised and text-TBC by Examiner
06/02/24	Safer Internet day
07/02/24	Y12 Progress Evening
09/02/24	Y8 Subject choices/Y9 Options deadline End of half term