

## Dear Parents and Carers

We are now halfway through the academic year and it's always at this point that our examination year groups begin their formal preparations for national exams. Students in our examination year groups will be receiving their tracking during the following weeks.

Year 11 – W/B 18<sup>th</sup> March

Year 12 AS – W/B 25<sup>th</sup> March

Year 13 – This tracking has already been shared.

Year 10 students will also experience the challenges of an examination week – please see details below.

### **Closure for Adverse Weather**

Whilst there are signs of Spring around us, we must be mindful of the potential for adverse weather. In March 2023 Sheffield saw a significant amount of snowfall. Please can we remind families who have requested that their children stay in school in the event of a closure that this is for extreme circumstances only. On the snow closure day before half term a number of families insisted on driving to school to collect their children but were then stranded in their cars. The impact of this was that both children and staff were left in school and were delayed in making a safe journey home. Additionally, the resulting traffic chaos in and around Darwin Lane was both dangerous and avoidable.

Please can we ask you to review your permissions and contact school on [enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk) if your child is able to make their own way home in the event of adverse weather.

### **Punctuality to School and Late Detention**

We are sure you will agree that good punctuality is an essential life skill, one that we have built into the Behaviour Policy which has been ratified by our governing body. We expect students to be ready to enter the building from 8.55am and to registration by 9.00am. On a few occasions we have had parents and carers contact school asking for leeway and exemptions due to traffic/car/bus issues. Whilst we know bad traffic can be frustrating we have a responsibility to have the highest expectations of all our students. Therefore, students who arrive after 9.00 will always receive a same day lunchtime detention.

### **Reminder about School Uniform and Expectations**

We are a uniform school; please ensure your child is wearing their uniform every day. Failure to wear the correct uniform results in a same day lunchtime detention. In addition, notes will only be accepted for exceptional reasons.

All students must wear a Tapton logoed or plain polo shirt – this is not an optional item.

All students must wear a Tapton logoed jumper.

All students must wear all black shoes or trainers.

Students cannot wear jogging bottoms or leggings. Trousers (such as cargo trousers) with cuffed legs are also not allowed.

### **Pre-Loved Uniform Sale**

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

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 from 3:30 – 4pm. Students, parents and carers can go into the Dining Room during this time to purchase pre-loved uniform.

If you would like to request any uniform at other times, please email: [prelovedschooluniform@taptonschool.co.uk](mailto: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 also have a small number of Tapton Fleeces as part of this.

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

## Car Parking

Despite our pleas we continue to have significant concerns about families who choose to drive and park in and around the school site to drop off or collect their children. Whilst the majority of families are entirely considerate to school and our local community, unfortunately a significant minority continue to cause concern.

Please remember that Tipton School is a non-parking site. Do not attempt to drive onto the school site to drop off or collect your children; attempting to turn onto the site from Darwin Lane causes huge and potentially dangerous delays and hazards.

**The only exceptions to this rule are families who are dropping off or collecting students with access needs.**

If you are dropping off or collecting your child please remember to park considerately around the vicinity of the school; parking and waiting considerately maintains the good relationship we have with our neighbours. The Department for Transport advice states that whilst schools have control over parking on their grounds, they have no jurisdiction over parking outside the school. Nevertheless, when drivers are habitually parking in an inconsiderate manner, they often cause significant inconvenience and are a danger to themselves, other road users, residents and most of all, to the pupils and staff of the school.

We ask our families to follow and abide by the guidance below:

- Yellow Keep Clear markings must be kept free of parked vehicles during the following times - 8:00am to 9:00am and 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Waiting and parking on the Keep Clear Markings during times indicated is illegal.
- Do not park on the pavement either side of the school entrance, at any time. Parking on the pavement next to the school gates is extremely dangerous for those entering or leaving the school by the main gate. This is particularly the case on Darwin Lane where visibility is not ideal.
- Do not park your car where you will be blocking driveways, double parking or restricting space along the streets making it virtually impossible for other vehicles to pass.
- Members of the Leadership Team will ask you to move your vehicle if it is in violation of the guidance above.

## Year 10 Exam Week

When we return from the Easter holiday Year 10 students will have their first formal examination week. The exam week will begin the week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Further details have been shared directly with Year 10 families and students. Preparing students for linear examinations has always been integral to our success at the end of Key Stage Four and Key Stage Five.

Mrs Morris has already shared successful revision techniques with students, however, please see below some of the key techniques proven to be effective.

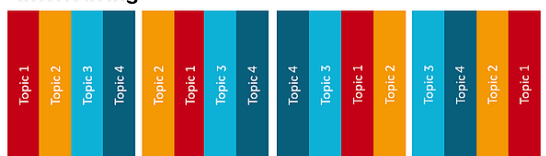
### Interleaving

Interleaving is studying by mixing different topics or practice methods to strengthen long-term memory of the material. Instead of revising one topic once (blocking) and not referring to it, interleaving ensures that you regularly go back to a topic and recall the information you have been taught, therefore helping it to stick in your long-term memory.

### Blocking



### Interleaving

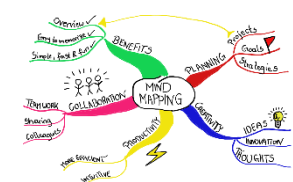


### Flash cards

Flashcards are an excellent revision tool. They are sets of small, double-sided cards that can be used to learn and revise details, definitions, keywords, and vocabulary. They are especially useful for learning the relationship between two pieces of information. Write a question or key term on one side and then the answer or definition on the other. Research the Leitner System for how to use flash cards effectively as part of the revision process.

### Mind maps and knowledge organisers

Mind Maps are an image of revision notes. The brain can process the information in a Mind Map much quicker than linear notes, boosting the efficiency of revision and the ability to recall topics. Mind Maps allow you to identify any gaps in your knowledge. Simply look for the emptiest parts of the Mind Map and this show where more time and focus are required.



Knowledge organisers are a way of collating knowledge about a particular topic. Students can populate this as a way of recalling what they have been taught or use a pre-populated knowledge organiser as part of their self-quizzing routine.

### Self-quizzing

Self-quizzing is a powerful strategy to aid knowledge retention. Self-quizzing encourages students to recall information from memory which not only highlights to them what they do or do not know but also strengthens their ability to remember that information. Examples of self-quizzing exercises include cloze exercises, write lists, complete questions and answers, fill in missing letters.

### **Forthcoming Assessment Weeks**

Details about assessment weeks will always be shared with families in order for students to have adequate time to plan, prepare and revise. Here are the dates for the assessment weeks for the remaining half of the school year:

Year 13 Assessment Week – Beginning Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Year 10 Exams – Week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Year 7 Assessment Week – Week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Year 8 Assessment Week – Week beginning Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Year 9 Assessment Week – Week beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Year 9 Maths Exams (in the hall/new hall) 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June, both in the afternoon.

Year 12 Exams Week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June (to be confirmed).

### **Sixth Form Update**

It continues to be a busy time in the Sixth Form. Year 12 have just completed their AS Trials and Intervention Exams and now turn their attention to Post-18 Destinations. Form Tutors have started a Unifrog Programme focused on preparation for University, Apprenticeships and Employment and Year 12 students are also preparing for the UK Universities and Apprenticeships Fair which they will attend on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Year 13 students have just completed their Trial Exams and now turn their attention to Assessment Week starting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Form Tutors have started a BILs Programme focused on Managing Exams and Revision. We also look forward to the Y13 Leavers' Party on the 28<sup>th</sup> June following the completion of the National Exams.

### **Music**

It is that time of year when we start to say goodbye to our Y13 pupils. We will be celebrating all of our Y13 musicians in our Senior Leaver's Concert on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, in the school hall. Tickets are £6 each and are available to book via Eventbrite by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tapton-school-senior-leavers-concert-2024-tickets-855856869937?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

This will be an exciting concert featuring solos from our Y13 pupils and performances from all of our senior ensembles including: Senior Orchestra; Jazz Band, Brass Band and Staff Student Choir. We hope to see lots of you there.

We endeavour to make enrichment events accessible to all families. If there are any financial barriers to your attendance at this event please email me and we can arrange to waive the fee/ cost of the ticket.

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument or develop their singing, we have an exceptional team of 12 peripatetic music teachers who come into school each week. Please send me an email if you would like more information.

It is not too late for any younger pupils to join our junior ensembles which will be performing in a concert in the summer. All the information about when each group rehearses is in the music department. If you have any questions about any of our extra-curricular opportunities or instrumental and vocal lessons, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs G Page

Subject Leader for Music

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

### **Drama**

#### **Matilda**

We had a fabulous school production of 'Matilda' in January; the cast and crew were outstanding, and we had wonderful support from staff, family and friends on each night of the performance. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved for their support, energy and enthusiasm that made it a great success.

#### **Theatre Company**

Our Lower School Theatre Company is back up and running on a Monday afterschool with a large number of members joining us in 119 each week. Upper School Theatre Company will be back up and running in April once we start the summer term.

Year Group	When	Where	Start time	End time	Teacher
<b>7, 8 &amp; 9</b> 'Lower School Theatre Company'	Monday	117	3.45pm	4.30pm	Miss Milner
<b>10, 11, 12 &amp; 13</b> 'Upper School Theatre Company'	Thursday This will start in April	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. Collect a letter from the Drama office if you are interested.

### Drama Trips

Live theatre experiences continue to be at the forefront of our offer in Drama. We have seen some wonderful productions already this year including *Life of Pi* at Sheffield Lyceum, *Metamorphosis* by Frantic Assembly at Manchester's Lowry Theatre, and *The Nature of Forgetting* by Theatre RE at The Crucible. Up and coming this term we have more fabulous opportunities for our Y9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students: including *Lines* at Sheffield's Studio Theatre, *Everyone's Talking About Jamie* at Sheffield's Lyceum and *The Crucible* at The Crucible! The opportunity to experience Live Theatre is so important as a student of Drama, we will have more productions coming up in the summer term.

### PE

It has been fantastic to see so many students take part in our extra-curricular programme this year. Please encourage your child to get involved if they haven't done already. We would love to have them along.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before school 8-8.50am</b>	Y7-13 girls' Football (Miss Risby/Miss Meaden)  Y10 – 11 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)  Team Trampoline (Mrs Becks) (invite only)	Y7-13 Hockey (Miss Risby/Miss Meaden)  Y7 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)  Elite Basketball Invite only (Mr Kelly)  Y8 boys' Football (Mr Dunbar) (KES astro)	Y9 boys' Football (Mr Dunbar)  Y7 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)  Y9-13 Netball (Mrs Wilson)  Y10 boys' football (Mr Hooper) (KES Astro)	Y12-13 Football (Mr Johnson)  Y10-13 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)  Y7-8 Netball (Mrs Wilson)	Y7-13 Clubercise (Miss Meaden)  Y11 boys' Football (Mr Hooper)  Team Badminton Invite only (Mrs Goodhead)
<b>Lunch 12:50-1.20pm</b>	Y7-13 Multi-sports (invite only) (Mr Dunbar/Mrs Goodhead)  Y10-13 Table tennis (Mr Lunn)  Y12-13 A level intervention (Mr Hooper)	Y8-9 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)  Y7-9 table tennis (Mr Hooper)  VS Sports Club (new hall) (Miss Phipps)  GCSE intervention (Miss Meaden/ Mr Dunbar)	Y7 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)  Y7-13 Girls Basketball (Mr Kelly)	Y10-11 GCSE Badminton (Mrs Goodhead)  Y7-9 Table tennis (Mr Khan)	Y7 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)  Y10-13 Table tennis (Mr Dunbar)
<b>After school 3.30-4.30pm</b>	Y8-9 Badminton (Mrs Goodhead) Y7-13 Trampoline	Y8-9 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)	Y10-13 girls' Basketball (Mr Kelly)	Y7 boys' Football (Mr Khan)	

<b>(Climbing until 6pm)</b>	(must sign up) (Mrs Becks)			Y8-9 boys' Basketball (Mr Kelly)	
	Climbing club (Must sign up) (Mr Lunn)				

Mrs R Becks, Subject Leader for PE

### **Headteacher Drop-in**

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March between 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 next Tapton Update will be available on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

### **Upcoming dates for your diary**

<b>T</b>	<b>05/03/24</b>	External Applicants Consultation Evening 4-7pm
<b>W</b>	<b>06/03/24</b>	Y7 Progress Evening
<b>F</b>	<b>08/03/24</b>	International Women's day
<b>S</b>	<b>10/03/24</b>	Ramadan Begins
<b>T</b>	<b>14/03/24</b>	Year 6 Welcome Evening 5pm
<b>M</b>	<b>18/03/24</b>	GCSE Art and Textiles Exam Week A-Level CI performance exam TBC
<b>T</b>	<b>19/03/24</b>	Senior Leavers Music Concert
<b>T</b>	<b>21/03/24</b>	UK University and Apprenticeship Fair Maths challenge
<b>M</b>	<b>25/03/24</b>	Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Lake District until Wednesday 4pm
<b>T</b>	<b>28/03/24</b>	School closes for holidays at 3.30
<b>F</b>	<b>29/03/24</b>	<b>Bank holiday</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>31/03/24</b>	Transgender Visibility Day EID 7-9April
<b>M</b>	<b>15/04/24</b>	School reopens Year 10 Exam Week
<b>M</b>	<b>22/04/24</b>	Passover A-Level Art exam week
<b>T</b>	<b>23/04/24</b>	Preloved uniform event 3.30-4.00
<b>T</b>	<b>25/04/24</b>	UKMT Maths challenge Year 7-8
<b>F</b>	<b>26/04/24</b>	Conover Netball leave at 12.50pm
<b>M</b>	<b>29/04/24</b>	Year 11 Oral Exams
<b>T</b>	<b>30/04/24</b>	Year 9 Vaccines
<b>W</b>	<b>01/05/24</b>	Year 8 Vaccines
<b>M</b>	<b>06/05/24</b>	<b>Bank holiday</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>07/05/24</b>	GCSE Art and Textiles final deadline Post 18 Destinations Evening
<b>W</b>	<b>08/05/24</b>	GCSE exhibition evening 4-6pm Year 11 Exam Leave begins at 3.30
<b>T</b>	<b>09/05/24</b>	<b>National Exams Begin</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>13/05/24</b>	Year 10 History Conisbrough trip A-Level Art final deadline
<b>T</b>	<b>14/05/24</b>	A-Level Art and Textiles Exhibition 5-7pm

<b>W</b>	<b>15/05/24</b>	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
<b>T</b>	<b>16/05/24</b>	Year 10 History Conisbrough trip
<b>F</b>	<b>17/05/24</b>	Year 9 Berlin trip until Monday 20th May