

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final Tapton Update of this year! Year 11 and Year 13 examinations have now finished; this year's total exceeded last years; last year our students completed 7980 papers, this year the total is 8362. Details about results days have already been shared with families, however, there is a reminder of collection times below.

A reminder that we have an early closure on Wednesday 3rd July at 2.30; all students will be dismissed directly from school.

Next year's calendar and plans for the end of term

The calendar for 2024-25 is nearly complete, we look forward to sharing our letter detailing the last day and first day back very soon.

Save the date 2024-25

Wednesday 4th September Year 7 Year Ahead 6-7pm.

Tuesday 10th September Year 12 Year Ahead 6-7pm.

Wednesday 11th September Year 10 Year Ahead and GCSE Examination Information Evening 6-7pm.

Tuesday 17th September Year 12 Form Tutor Consultations (in person) 4-6pm.

Wednesday 18th September Year 7 Form Tutor Consultations (in person) 4-6pm.

Thursday 19th September Year 10 Form Tutor Consultations (in person) 4-6pm.

Tuesday 24th September Year 11 Year Ahead 6-7pm.

Wednesday 25th September Year 13 Progress Evening (virtual).

GCSE and A Level Results Days

AS and A Level Results Day is on Thursday 15th August followed by GCSE results day on Thursday 22nd August; families in these year groups have received a detailed letter about these days. Results will be handed out in the Dining Room for GCSE students and in the Hall for A Level students; timings for each form are detailed below. We strongly advise families to be available in Sheffield on the relevant days in order to access the wider transition and careers support which will be on offer in school.

Arrival time	9.00	9.20	9.40	10.00	BREAK	10.30	10.50	11.30
GCSE								
Form	11KS 11ED	11HO	11HA 11MM	11LF		11FG 11RB	11PM 11AS	Y9, Y12 and Y13

Arrival time	8am-10am	10.00	10.15	10.30	10.45	11.00	BREAK	11.30	11.45	12.00	12.15	12.30	13.00
Form	Clearing only	13BW	13CR	13CW	13GD	13GH			13HN	13KN	13TP	13WA	13WL

Parent Voice

Thank you to all parents and carers who contributed to our annual Governor Led Parent Voice Survey. We always value the feedback that is shared with us through this process; 353 parents responded to the survey. We're delighted to share that the results show that the vast majority of families continue to believe that their child is happy and safe at Tapton and that our pastoral support meets the needs of their child.

We would like to thank all respondents for the extended responses. The Leadership Team have taken time to read these and have put together a 'you said, we did' below.

You Said	We Did
Some families would like further guidance on how to revise and prepare for assessments, particularly at Key Stage Three.	This is a whole school priority for next year. Departments are reviewing their current policies on assessment preparation and students will be taught more explicitly on how to revise.
Some families would like homework tasks to align with assessments weeks to further support students to revise.	We are exploring adjustments to our homework policy to accommodate more directed subject specific revision practices.
A few families raised questions about the quality of external cover supervisors.	We have appointed additional internal cover supervisors for September, the majority of whom are qualified teachers.
Some families would like more effective communication with home.	We introduced year group mailboxes for each year group in January. From September each year group will have a non-teaching Learning and Inclusion Coordinator who will work in partnership with the Year Leader to provide additional capacity.
A small number of families asked questions about social bullying.	We have changed how we record incidents to ensure social bullying is highlighted and addressed before it escalates. We have further developed our lessons on Bullying and EDI in all year groups in Personal Development. We will continue to have focused assemblies and form time on British Values.
A small number of families were concerned about the use of discriminatory language in school.	We have adapted our behaviour system to include a category on harassment to ensure we capture uses of discriminatory language and sanction appropriately.
Some families were unsure about the arrangements for access to toilets during the school day.	Students can always access toilets before school, at break, at lunchtime and at the end of the day. The toilets are always locked at lesson changeover to ensure students arrive promptly to lessons and are registered. Sixth formers have access to their own toilet in the Sixth Form area. Access to the toilets during lesson time is allowed in rare and exceptional cases. Concerns are only raised where students regularly ask to use the toilets during lessons because our priority is to maximise learning time. Students with a medical need are always given access to the toilets.
A small number of families asked about in-person Progress Evenings	Parent, carer and staff voice has revealed support for online Progress Evenings. In order to maximise appointment time, which has always been four minutes, teachers always offer the opportunity to ask questions at the start of each appointment. This year we have also introduced year group mailboxes to further improve communication.

Some families asked about the level of support for mental health and well-being.

From September 2024 there will be a restructure of the Inclusion Team, with a Year Leader and Learning Inclusion Coordinator attached to each year group to provide pastoral and emotional health and wellbeing support. Staff have a strong desire and wide range of experience to support students. As a school we do not offer a counselling service but do refer and work with specialist external agencies to ensure the best possible support.

Changes to our punctuality policy

For safeguarding reasons, the DfE has now advised schools to close registers 30 minutes after the start of the morning session. In line with this guidance, from September our registers will close at 9.30am; if your child arrives after the close of the registers (after 9.30) this will be marked as an unauthorised code in the register and will result in the whole session being marked as absent and a one-hour same day after school detention will be issued.

We will continue to work closely with families to ensure support is offered where punctuality is a concern.

The DfE guidance can be found here. [DFE guidance 'Working Together to Improve Attendance'](#).

Reading Volunteers Needed

Next year we will be continuing with our one-to-one reading programme for our students who need it most. This programme has worked very effectively this year and we would like to extend our offer. We are looking for enthusiastic, patient, and dedicated volunteers who are able to kindly dedicate up to three one-hour slots per week. You will be helping students build positive relationships with a variety of staff members and will be a vital part in building our reading community. If you would like to make a difference and help a child reach their full potential, then please email enquires@taptonschool.co.uk to register your interest. Please also mention the number of one-hour slots you can offer. Thank you in advance for your support.

Tapton Leavers

We have a number of colleagues who are leaving us at the end of the academic year. We know you will join us in wishing them well for the future and thank them for their hard work.

Our Business Manager, Debra Kirkham, will retire this summer after 21 years of service to Tapton. During this time, she has worked on countless projects to improve the school including our conversion to academy status and overseeing the construction of the new building in 2015.

David Dennis, our Academy Trust CEO, also retires this year after 20 years with us. A passionate scientist with a head for data, he has worked a number of different roles on the leadership team before moving on to lead all nine schools within our Trust.

Dave Neath is retiring after 21 years of teaching Mathematics at Tapton. Dave's love of Mathematics and enthusiasm for solving problems has shone through his career and he will be greatly missed.

Amy Meaden is moving to be Head of PE in Oxford this year after two years at Tapton. She has made a huge impact to the PE department in this time, inspiring our students to be the best they can be and been relentless in her efforts to provide opportunities for all. Her love of football has shone through and she has been a huge part of the successes our teams have had.

Paula Risby is moving to Oxford to continue teaching nearer her family. She has been with us for seven years and has been a strong member of the PE department, setting up girls' football and inspiring so many students to develop and take their sport to the next level. She is passionate about all aspects of PE and wants every student to have the opportunity to succeed.

Liam Scolah is leaving Tapton after five years to set up his own business. He has worked in a number of roles across the PE department as well as running a number of football teams and loves to see students do well. We wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

Charlotte Jones has been with us for a year but is moving abroad with her family to exciting new opportunities: she has been a wonderful, enthusiastic and engaged member of the English team.

Jack Perkins is moving to Spain this summer where his future wife will be working at a Spanish University. Jack has completed his ECT years with us and has been a dedicated, highly reflective and utterly lovely addition to the English team.

Rachel Gray has been a staple part of Team English for nine years: valued not just for her brilliant, thoughtful and engaging teaching style, but also for her kindness, sensitivity and support as a colleague. Having worked with 6th form and as an integral part of the Film Studies department, she will be very much missed.

Enrico Dalle Fratte. Enrico is off to the States where his wife has taken up a position at Harvard. The five years Enrico has been at Tapton have demonstrated his entirely unflappable nature in the classroom and his unconditional positive regard for everyone he teaches. He will be sorely missed!

Aimee Whalley is leaving us to take up a new post in the Lake District. She has been at Tapton since January 2022; first as a student teacher, then a Science and Form Teacher and more recently as the Year 6 Transition Lead. Her passion and enthusiasm have been evident in all aspects of her varied roles. She will be greatly missed by students and staff.

Anna Hormigo has been with the Geography Department since January 2018. Students and staff alike have enjoyed Anna's passion for Geography and her warm and conscientious approach to teaching. She has taught students from KS3 through to KS5, helping to develop the Geography curriculum and been absolutely brilliant on our many fieldwork trips. Anna's GCSE classes have really benefited from her high expectations and achieved excellent results. Aside from her teaching, Anna has also helped the PE Department with weekly netball practice and joined them on several successful trips to Condover. She will be missed by everyone here at Tapton and we wish her well for the future.

Anna Gilyeat started in September 2023, Anna slotted straight into the Geography department. Her passion for Geography, calm and consistent teaching has been warmly appreciated by the classes she has taught in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. She has contributed to the development of our department and brought fresh ideas to our curriculum. Anna is an accomplished rock climber and will be pursuing this by moving to Spain later in the year. Good luck Anna!

Year 10 Leadership Team Reviews

Year 10 students recently received their final tracking of the school year followed by appointments with teachers at Progress Evening. Before Year 10 go out on work experience each student will meet with a member of the Leadership Team to discuss their tracking; we will be celebrating areas of achievement and working on targets for improvement. Students will receive details about their appointments in form time.

Residential Trips 2024-25

We know that residential trips can really support the development of our students. They are a great way for them to see the world, increase their independence, meet new friends and build resilience. We want to support families to plan for these trips next academic year. In 2024-25 we are hoping to run the following residential trips. The figures shared below are estimates based on the cost of similar trips run in the past. They are not definite costings and places will be limited. More details will follow in the new academic year.

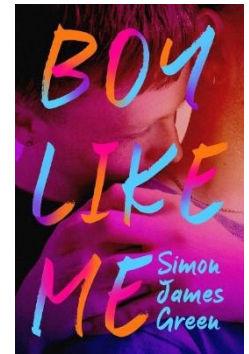
Year Group	Month	Trip	Department	Approximate Cost
13	September	Lea Green	Drama	£120
9	November	Madrid*	Spanish	£699
12	March	Fieldwork in Wales	Geography	£175
Key Stage Three	April/May	Condover	PE (Netball players)	£240
9	May	Berlin	German	£750

9	June	PGL Water Sports	PE	£410
12	July	Berlin	History and German	£700
12	July	Paris	Art and Textiles	£700

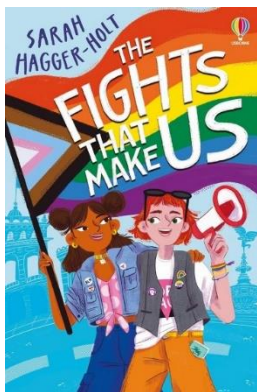
*This trip is already confirmed and all spaces have been allocated.

Book of Pride Month Key Stage Four and Five

It's 1994 and thanks to Section 28, there can be no mention of gay relationships in schools. When a school librarian leads Jamie to a disguised novel in the library that reflects his own confused feelings towards boys, he notices that he's not the only one who has checked the book out. In the margins of the pages, he and another student start to leave messages for each other, and Jamie starts to believe that he's not alone ... and maybe also has a shot at finding love. That is, until the secret novel is discovered by the head teacher and all hell breaks loose...



Book of the Pride Month Key Stage Three



“Maybe there was a place in history for people like me, not on the edges of the story, but right in the centre.”

Jesse has recently come out as non-binary, and is struggling to find their place at school, and ideas for their project on lost stories from history.

Thirty-five years earlier, Jesse's aunt Lisa is falling for her best friend, but with new laws being introduced to restrict LGBT people's rights, they'll have to fight for the world to accept who they are.

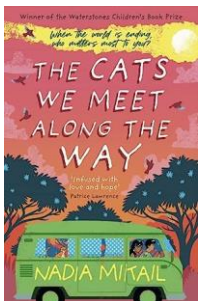
When Jesse stumbles across Lisa's teenage diary, they are fascinated and horrified by her stories of living a secret life and protesting in the streets. Now it's Jesse's turn to find a way to shine a spotlight on a history that mustn't be forgotten.

Book of the Month June

You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Opening of Sinclair's department store! Enter a world of bonbons, hats, perfumes and mysteries around every corner. Wonder at the daring theft of the priceless Clockwork Sparrow! Tremble as the most dastardly criminals in London enact their wicked plans! Gasp as our bold heroines, Miss Sophie Taylor and Miss Lilian Rose, crack codes, devour iced buns and vow to bring the villains to justice...



Book of the Month July



Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister June for two years. And now that a calamity is about to end the world in nine months' time, she and her mother decide that it's time to track her down and mend the hurts of the past. Along with Aisha's boyfriend, Walter and his parents (and Fleabag the stray cat), the group take a road trip through Malaysia in a wildly decorated campervan - to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and to hope for the future.

Sports Day

A reminder Sports Day for Years 7-9 is at the EIS on Wednesday 10th July. All students will be taking part in an exciting day of traditional athletics, wacky races and benchball. The timings of the day are detailed below. We know it will be a fantastic day to celebrate another fabulous year of Sport at Tapton.

Y7 – 8.45am – 11.45am

Y8 – 10.15am – 1.15pm

Y9 – 11.45am – 2.45pm

Drama

Theatre Company

Our Lower School Theatre Company is running on a Monday afterschool with a large number of members joining us in 119 each week, they are currently working on 'Alice' by Laura Wade and are coming up with creative ideas for different sections of the text. Upper School Theatre Company will be running again as we start the new school year

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

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

We are continuing our programme of live theatre visits in the department. Coming up in July we have two shows in Sheffield that we are going to see, 'Chariots of Fire' and 'Come from Away' and already students are getting their reply slips in. The opportunity to experience live theatre is so important as a student of Drama, if you, as a family are interested in watching streamed live theatre then you are welcome to use our Digital Theatre + access that both the Drama and English departments have invested in for this academic year to support our students, the website, user name and password is:

<https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com>

Username: user.tapton

Password: distant@5096

Music

As we come to the end of another fabulous year of music, we have one more treat for you. Our Lower School Concert will be on Monday 1st July at 7pm in the school hall. Tickets are £6 each and must be purchased in advance. You can order tickets via the link below. This link can also be found in the latest news area of the school website.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tapton-school-lower-school-concert-2024-tickets-902187285457>

This is always such a lovely concert featuring our junior ensembles plus solos from pupils in Y7, Y8, and Y9. This year we also have some Y6 pupils from our feeder schools joining our Junior Choir. We would love to see you there!

As always, if your child would like to start instrumental or vocal lessons, please get in touch. We have 11 visiting peripatetic teachers covering all instruments. Please note that if you are signing up for lessons through Sheffield Music Hub, the deadline is 30th June.

Thank you to all the pupils who continue to brighten our mornings by being committed to ensemble rehearsals.

Mrs G Page

Subject Leader for Music

Gpage@taptonschool.co.uk

6th Form Updates

As we enter the final weeks of the academic year, life in the Sixth Form is typically busy. First of all, we must say a huge well done to our Year 13 students who have approached their A Levels with real positivity and steadfastness. We now look forward to celebrating the end of the exams at the Leavers' Party at The Mowbray on Friday 28th June 6-10pm. On a more practical level, lanyards and textbooks can be returned to school, and deposits collected where appropriate, on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th June between 10 and 11am.

At the beginning of the term, Year 12 families were able to attend our Post-18 Destinations Evening, a hugely informative event supported by colleagues from around the country. We now move to Destinations Day on Wednesday 10th July, where admissions staff from local universities will support students as they begin to complete their UCAS applications and personal statements. Students will also have a presentation from InnerDrive, focused on stress management, as they make the transition to Year 13.

We also wish our Year 12s good luck as they continue their Year 12 Trial Exams, which run from Monday 17th to Friday 28th June. Tracking and Reports, including UCAS Predicted Grades, will be shared in the final week of the Summer Term. Another important date for the diary is Tuesday 9th July, when we will hold our Y13 The Year Ahead Information Evening between 6-7pm - we have chosen to hold this before the end of term so that parents, carers and students can be fully informed about their final year at Tapton in advance of the start of term.

From Monday 24th June we look forward to welcoming our new students at our Sixth Form Induction. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet staff and peers, and to get prepared for your next two years at Tapton. We will hold the parent and carer information evening on Tuesday 25th June between 6-7pm. Many of our incoming students will also be engaged in the National Citizen Service over the coming weeks and there are still places available for Y12 if they would like to get involved.

Communication with school over the summer holiday

As part of our commitment to managing staff workload we encourage everyone to enjoy their well-earned holiday. As a result, over the summer holiday staffing in school is very limited. Emails and voicemails will not necessarily receive a response until school reopens in September. The school will be open on A Level and GCSE results day for Year 11 and Year 13 students who are receiving examination results.

If you have any questions about the start of the new year, please endeavour to raise them by Friday 19th July as we cannot guarantee you will receive a response during the summer. The enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk email will be checked upon our return to school in September. Our out of office email message has details of key contacts for support if you should need them.

School Council

This half term we will electing our new Head Student Council for next academic year. Student Council is a stand-alone branch of student voice. The Council runs alongside and within student voice and fosters the wider opinion of all students on the daily running of our school. The Council regularly meets with senior leaders and school staff to discuss important issues such as diversity, green initiatives, communication, fundraising and catering. Students will also liaise with the Senior Leadership Team and represent the school and students. To apply students, need to submit one sheet of A4 outlining:

1. The skills and personal attributes you need to have to carry out these roles.
2. The school wide issues that are important to you and why.
3. What student voice means to you.

Applications will open on Wednesday 26th June and all applications should be submitted via email to Mr Sabbagh by Monday 12th July. Best of luck with your applications.

Culture Day

On Tuesday 16th July Tapton will be holding a 'Culture Celebration Day'. This event will celebrate the wide diversity of cultures that come together to form our community. During the day we will be celebrating different cultures during Form Time. As part of our celebrations, your child can come to school dressed in either of the following:

1. Their traditional cultural dress; that is sensible attire to wear for a day of learning in school.

2. In clothes that represent an element of their culture.
3. Dressed in colours associated with their culture and heritage.

We will be raising money for two charities - the Dialogue Society who supported us with the Iftar this year and UNICEF. Please can parents and careers make their contributions for this day on ParentPay.

General Election

With the General Election announced and polling day on Thursday the 4th July we have been dedicating Personal Development lessons this half term to learning about the democratic process. We have studied how our political system works, looked at all the candidates standing in Sheffield, and have encouraged students to engage in the democratic process. As part of our study, students will have the opportunity to partake in a Mock General Election in the school on Thursday 4th July where each year group will be representing a Sheffield constituency and be able to vote for their favoured candidate. We will then announce the results of our Mock General Election the following week.

Year 7 - Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough

Year 8 - Sheffield Central

Year 9 - Sheffield Hallam

Year 10 - Sheffield Heeley

Year 12 - Sheffield Southeast

Headteacher Drop-in

The final Headteacher Drop-in of this academic year will take place on Thursday 11th July 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.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

Upcoming Dates

20/06/2024	Netherthorpe feeder transition morning
24/06/2024	6th Form Induction Week
25/06/2024	Year 12 Welcome Evening
26/06/2024	SEND meet Year 6 Parents
27/06/2024	Non feeder transition morning
28/06/2024	Year 10 English Literature paper pm Year 9 PGL trip Y13 Leaving party
01/07/2024	Duke of Edinburgh Gold this week (Year 12) 5 days Year 9 PGL Trip returns Work experience Year 10 - 5 days Lower school concert
03/07/2024	Year 6 Transition
04/07/2024	Year 6 Transition Attendance day
05/07/2024	Year 6 Transition
09/07/2024	Year 13 (2024-25) Year Ahead Evening 6-7pm
10/07/2024	Sports Day Years 7-9 Year 12 Destinations Day Year 10 Personal Development day
11/07/2024	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Year 11 Prom 6.30-10.00
12/07/2024	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
16/07/2024	Culture Day
18/07/2024	Year 12 and 13 Art trip to Cornwall
19/07/2024	School closes for Summer at 12.30pm