

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy new year! Here is our first update of the new year; whilst this half term is a short one, it is also a very busy one with lots of important events happening.

Ofsted Report

We welcomed Ofsted into school on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 26th and 27th of November. The report has now been published and we can share the results:

The Quality of Education	Outstanding
Behaviour and Attitudes	Outstanding
Personal Development	Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Outstanding
Sixth-Form Provision	Outstanding

We would like to thank the team in school, both students and colleagues and our extended family in the community for their hard work, encouragement and good will during this inspection. It was a source of great pleasure and pride to be able to showcase our school and our work and it was incredibly satisfying to have this recognised by Ofsted. Thank you for all the lovely messages we have received.

Advance Notice of an INSET day

Friday 27th June will be a staff training day and therefore students should not attend school on this day.

Absence for medical and dental appointments

Please note that effective immediately, when your child is absent or late to school for a medical or dental appointment we will need to have a letter, screen shot of the appointment reminder or appointment card from the practitioner to confirm. These can be sent to the Attendance team attendance@taptonschool.co.uk when requesting/confirming the appointment.

Year 11 and Year 13 Trial Exams

Year 11 Trial Exams – Week Beginning Monday 24th February.

Year 13 Trial Exams – Wednesday 29th January.

The examinations will take place in formal exam venues under examination conditions. Students have received subject guidance to aid their revision and preparation, and timetables will be with Year 11 students in due course.

We would like to invite you to our GCSE Exam Information evening on Wednesday 29th January at 6pm in the school hall; the presentation will take place with exam seating in place. Ms Grewal, Deputy Headteacher, and Mrs Zubrot, Exams Manager will detail key information about the trial and final examinations and revision techniques. We will also be able to provide families with a provisional final timetable for the summer. As this is the last formal presentation evening for Year 11, we look forward to seeing as many of our parents and carers as possible.

Year 11 Intervention Sessions

National exams begin on May 8th. We look forward to Year 11 benefitting from the intervention sessions departments are facilitating over this next term; please see details below.

Day	Before School 8:30 -9:00	Lunch Time 1:00 - 1:25	Afterschool 3:30 - 4:30
Monday		Maths Support 002 PE Multigym	Y11 Revision and Intervention 002

Tuesday	French Speaking - 211	Maths Support 002 Music Composition 117 PE revision - Multigym PE coursework - S24/S26	Drama -119 Spanish Intervention 212
Wednesday		Maths support 002 Spanish Intervention 212 History 201 Geography A101 12.55-1.25	
Thursday		Maths Support 002 Computer Science S26 Product Design - Computers T01 French Intervention 213 Mandarin Intervention 209 PE - Long Questions masterclass Design Engineering T03	English in English department Product Design - Workshop T02 Physics S01 Chemistry S06
Friday		Maths Support 002 Food/ H&C T22 Biology S22	PE - Coursework - Multigym

Being Prepared for the Cold Weather

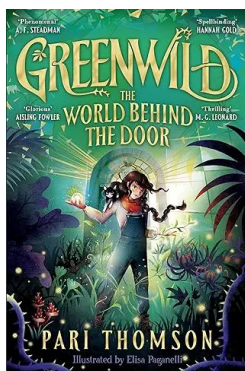
We have not had the best start to the new year as far as the weather is concerned. Therefore, please can we urge you to encourage your children to dress appropriately for the season. We often see students arriving for school without adequate winter clothing. It's really important to layer up at this time of year. Students can always wear the Tapton fleece or a plain black fleece in lessons.

Smoothwall

To keep students in school safe online we operate a firewall system called Smoothwall which monitors and filters any content that may be deemed harmful or inappropriate.

We have recently seen an increase in alerts. When an alert comes through, we always meet with students to discuss the alert and to ensure their safety. Where students respond inappropriately or it appears their actions are deliberately done to cause offence and/or waste time, we will put sanctions in place. Please continue to discuss online safety with your children to ensure they and other online users are safe.

Books of the Month – January and February



January – Daisy Thistledown is on the run. Her mother has been keeping big, glittering secrets, and now she has vanished. Daisy knows it's up to her to find Ma—but someone is determined to stop her from discovering the truth. So when Daisy flees to safety through a mysterious hidden doorway, she can barely believe her eyes—she has stepped out of the city and into another world. This is the Greenwild. Bursting with magic and full of amazing natural wonders, it seems too astonishing to be true. But not only is this land of green magic real, it holds the key to finding Daisy's mother. And someone wants to destroy it...

February – “A gambler, a convict, a wayward son, a lost Grisha, a Suli girl who has become a killer, a boy from the Barrel who had become something worse”

Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone and recruits a group of outsiders to help him. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first!



SEND updates

The SEND department are pleased to welcome Ms Firlir and Ms Ghazal to the team and would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to Mr Holt who will be absent for a period of time and to Mrs Tero-Blaxhal who is on maternity leave.

Pre-loved uniform

At Tapton we offer a pre-loved uniform service. The service 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 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, however, this is a voluntary donation.

Personal Development

This half term all students in Key Stage Three will be looking at a variety of different topics. In Year 7 students will be studying puberty and FGM. Year 8 students will be completing their First Give Programme, and one class will win a £1000 for their chosen charity. They will also be looking at criminal exploitation and gang violence. In Year 9 students will spend the half term studying Relationships and Sex education. This will include subjects such as grooming, different types of contraception, safe sex and pregnancy. At Key Stage Four, Year 10 students will be working on equality and diversity, and Year 11 will be focusing on exam revision and strategies for their upcoming GCSEs.

As a whole school we are looking forward to celebrating the Lunar New Year which begins on the 29th January. This year is the year of the snake and there will be activities happening during form time towards the end of the term.

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

Student Council

Our focus in the Student Council for this year is “belonging”, making sure that every student feels like Tapton is their place and that their background is represented. We released a survey asking students about their experiences with diversity and inclusion and based on those responses we are currently organising a belonging club, where students will be able to engage in fun activities relating to a particular culture, with the cultures rotating every few weeks. The idea is to build a stronger community within our school by using team-based activities to encourage unity. We have also restructured elements of the student council to increase our ability to take feedback from the wider student body. Form representatives have been replaced by “student leaders”, who are responsible for collecting feedback from their whole year group and relaying it to the Student Council. Student leaders are recognisable by their badges much like Student Council members, so we invite all students to share their feedback with them and us. In December, we presented student opinions and Student Council plans to the Senior Leadership Team, namely calling for improved sports facilities (such as basketball hoops), and a dedicated revision area for KS4 students, monitored by KS5 students. This last suggestion is also something we are hoping to set up in the coming weeks.

Year 8 Subject Choices

Year 8 students are currently in the process of choosing their Subject Choices in preparation for Year 9 study. Our recorded presentation that was shared with families on 9th January is available to view on the school website using this link:

<https://www.taptonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Information+Presentations&pid=114>

The Subject Choices booklet has also been shared with students on Satchel:One and with families on MCAS and email. The form will be shared on Friday 31st January with the deadline for returns Friday 14th February 2025.

Year 9 GCSEs

Our Year 9 GCSE Study process has begun. This is the process in which students select which subjects they will continue to study at GCSE. Our recorded presentation was shared on the website on 9th January and is still available to view on the school website using this link:

<https://www.taptonschool.co.uk/page/?title=Information+Presentations&pid=114>

The GCSE Study Booklet has been shared on Satchel:One and with families on MCAS and email. The form will be shared on Friday 31st January with the deadline for returns on Friday 14th February 2025.

Sixth Form Update

We have returned from the Christmas break to a very busy half term for Sixth Formers. We had broken up on a high after the excitement and fun of Charity Week. The students had chosen to raise money for Sheffield Children's Hospital, Cancer Research UK and UNICEF and they amassed a fantastic total of £900, £300 for each charity. Highlights included a Staff vs Student University Challenge, a Cultural Bake Sale and a Guest Lecture on the Science of Santa. Along with this, students came in fancy dress each day; this was a great way to end a busy and eventful term.

Our Year 12 students have just finished their assessment week which will support their subject decisions going forward to Year 13. We have Year 12 Progress Evening on Wednesday 5th February - with appointments now open. Year 12 students planning to take an AS Level this Summer will need to complete the Options Form shared as a Microsoft Form by no later than Friday 7th February. Although students can continue to Year 13 with four subjects, we would strongly advise them to complete at least one subject at AS Level in case they choose to drop a subject next year.

Year 13 are preparing for their Trial Exams in January/February; students have already received their subject specific guidance and timetables.

We have had another bumper year of UCAS applications, with students submitting over 200 applications to a wide range of courses and institutions. We are always proud of the breadth of courses our students go on to and wish them all the best as they await offers of places.

Meanwhile, our Year 12s will be attending the UK Universities and Apprenticeships Fair on 12th March, as they begin to plan their Post-18 Destinations.

Both Year Groups will benefit from outreach work provided by our colleagues from the University of Sheffield. Please find the itinerary detailed below:

Year 12

11th February 12.40-1.30pm Why Sheffield? Why University?

3rd and 4th March (Assembly) Preparing for the UK University and Apprenticeships Fair

15th April 12.40-1.30pm Choosing your course and university

17th May 12.40-1.30pm Applying for Medicine & Dentistry

18th May 12.40-1.30pm STEM Alternatives to Medicine

1st July 12.40-1.30pm Applying to UCAS

Year 13

6th Feb 12.40-1.30pm Student Finance

18th March 12.40-1.30pm Making the Transition to University & Graduate Top Tips

16th April 12.40-1.30pm Student Life

In tandem with focusing on supporting our Year 13s and Year 12s destinations, we are also going through the hundreds of applications we receive for students wanting to join us in Sixth Form. As ever, we are pleased to have had applications submitted to us from across the city and beyond, as we continue with our proud tradition of supporting the education and aspirations of students from all over Sheffield.

Music

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who came and supported our two Christmas Concerts – it was lovely to see so many people there. A huge well done to all of our performers; the standard was extremely high.

We have been delighted to welcome the Consone Quartet into school. They are a professional string quartet who work alongside Ensemble in the Round in Sheffield. They put on a free concert at Tapton School back in October, as part of a project to coach our string players. They have since been back to deliver fantastic workshops and will be returning to workshop with some of our senior pupils in January and April. Our lower school string players will get an opportunity to work with the Consone Quartet in May.

Some of our ensembles have changed days this term. Pupils have been informed and can also check the updated ensemble timetable in the Music department. All pupils are welcome to join our choir (Wednesday lunchtimes). It is never too late for pupils to join any of our ensembles!

Our next concert is the Senior Leaver's Concert on Thursday 20th March. This is a wonderful concert featuring solos from our Y13 pupils and senior ensembles. Tickets will be going on sale closer to the time – keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Mrs G Threlfall

Subject Leader for Music

GThrelfall@taptonschool.co.uk

PE

Please can I remind students, parents and carers that earrings are **not allowed** in PE lessons. If your child cannot remove their studs (as they have recently been pierced) they must provide their own tape to cover the piercing. If required students must also bring a hair bobble as part of their kit. Lastly please can I remind you students can wear a plain black base layer under their PE kit and gloves and a hat if it is cold. We will go out as often as possible and it really helps if students are dressed appropriately. We have had a number of students arrive to outdoor PE with no jumper or jogging bottoms and really struggle in the cold.

It has been fabulous to see so many students attending extra-curricular clubs at the start of the new term. Please encourage your child to come along and try something new! We love seeing new faces.

Drama

Drama Musical Showcase

We will be starting rehearsals on a musical showcase this term using our cast for *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. We have such a talented cohort of students, and we are really looking forward to putting together a 'mash-up' of musical numbers, dances and scenes from our students' favourite musicals. We aim to present this showcase to friends and family in the summer term and will communicate the dates and times of this nearer the time.

Theatre Company

Our Theatre Company is thriving on a Monday afterschool with a large number of members joining us in 119 each week. The students are continuing to work on a performance of 'Alice' by Laura Wade.

Year Group	When	Where	Start time	End time	Teacher
'Theatre Company'	Monday	117	3.45pm	4.30pm	Miss Milner

Our Theatre Company is 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.

Live Theatre

We had a great end to the autumn term when we took a large number of students to Sheffield's Crucible to watch Sheffield Theatre's Christmas musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, it was a fantastic evening and the students and us had a great time! Coming up this term we have trips to see *Death and the Kings Horsemen* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* both at The Crucible. We are working on booking our next live theatre events and the information will go out to students once we have got new experiences booked in, so keep an eye out on ParentPay.

Headteacher Drop-in

The next Headteacher Drop-in will take place on Thursday 6th February 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 14th March 2025.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Tapton School

Upcoming dates for your diary

22/01/25	Year 9 Progress Evening
29/01/25	Y11 GCSE Exam Information Evening 6-7pm
05/02/25	Year 12 Progress Evening
07/02/25	AS Level Options deadline
14/02/25	Year 8 Subject Choice Deadline Year 9 GCSE Study Deadline End of half term, school closes at 3.30.
24/02/25	GCSE Art, Textiles, Music and Food (Year 12) students off timetable. Drama performance exam this week.
28/02/25	Ramadan Begins Stand Up to Bullying Day
04/03/25	6th Form External applicant consultation Evening 4-6.30
05/03/25	Lent Begins
10/03/25	Y8 HPV Vaccines
12/03/25	Year 7 Progress Evening
17/03/25	Year 12 Geography residential Iftar Dinner 6pm
20/03/25	Senior leavers' concert
26/03/25	Year 6 Welcome Evening
28/03/25	School closes at 3.30 for Holidays School reopens on Monday 14th April