

**Wednesday 13th May 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well?

Following the Government update on the lockdown procedures last Sunday, it appears our current life 'at school' and home with regards to the continuation of learning is unlikely to change significantly in the near future. We will of course work to continue to provide the best support for learning and care during our current situation. In case you missed the letter from the STAR MAT CEO (Mr Sibley) on Monday, I have included it in this update.

The graphic to the right is a draft design for our new school Vision and Values poster which we will be putting up soon. The STAR MAT has also recently appointed a new Estates Manager who should be able to help us with some much needed building condition updates in the near future.

Some of the following items ask for your feedback; thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards,

**Mr A. Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**



## Remote learning

Thank you for your responses to the parent survey about the remote learning provision we are providing for your children which closed today. The survey closed today and we are now reviewing your responses such that we can refine and improve the remote learning provision. We will publish the survey outcomes and responses to key points shortly.

In the meantime can I remind you that you can view a summary of the work your child should be completing, if able, on our dedicated remote learning website [CLICK HERE](#)

Click through the pages to see what your child has been set in each subject for the next fortnight along with links to enrichment opportunities, wellbeing resources etc.

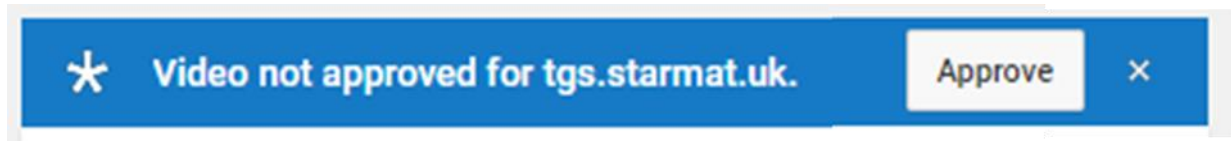
Mr Wren



We have taken feedback from students and parents over the last few weeks regarding access to *YouTube*. We are aware that the platform has countless video resources which would be useful to students whilst we are supporting learning at a distance. Unfortunately, we are also aware that there is inappropriate content available on *YouTube*, and our safeguarding responsibility means we need to be extremely vigilant.

The school continues to explore ways in which we can facilitate access to useful resources on *YouTube*, whilst ensuring we meet our responsibilities to the students who would be viewing this material.

You may already be aware that as both a multi academy trust and a school we subscribe to *G-Suite for Education*. This gives us access to Google Classroom and a range of other hugely valuable online learning applications. As part of this package we are now able to 'approve' specific *YouTube* resources, which would then be made accessible to our students when logged in using their 'tgs.starmat.uk' email account.



We intend to implement this feature from Monday 18th May 2020, from which date 'approved' *YouTube* clips will be available to students in Year 12 only.

We hope to launch this feature for Years 9 & 10 at a later date. More details to follow.

In line with our *G-Suite Education* contract terms and conditions, we need to seek parental consent for students under the age of 18 in order to provide this service. We would therefore urge parents of Year 12 to contact us before Friday 15th May 2020 with any concerns about launching this facility.

Please direct any questions or concerns to [commsteam@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:commsteam@tgs.starmat.uk)

## Staffing Update

The following members of staff will be joining TGS in September 2020.

Name	Position
Andrew Allman	Assistant Curriculum Team Leader (Life Skills)
Charlotte Furze	Science Teacher
Ria Hennessy	Mathematics Teacher
Emma Hitchon	Drama Teacher
Connor Spence	German Teacher & Cover Supervisor
Riain Vernon	Deputy Headteacher
Rebecca Yellow	Chemistry Teacher

## Head Students

Following a very stringent application process involving a written statement, supporting references and two on-line interviews, the second including the Chair of Governors, we are delighted to inform you that the following Year 12 students have been selected for the post of Head Student for 2020/21:

Freya McCleary and Sam Walker

We also need to thank Connor and Esther, our current Head Students, plus all of the student leadership team from 2019/20 for their excellent work. Ms Knapton.

## Developing the effectiveness of our care and guidance for all students

I wrote to all students and parents on 20th April 2020 explaining the amendments we have made to our pastoral structures in school which were guided by our four core staff values:

<b>Students considered first</b>	All of our decisions should put the needs of students first. All students will be known well, included, valued and heard.
<b>High expectations - no limitations</b>	We do not prejudice potential by preconceptions about individuals or groups of students.
<b>The right curriculum experience for each student</b>	We respond to the aspirations and needs of individual students with a broad and balanced curriculum and diverse co-curricular offer.

<b>The best support for each student</b>	Students are individuals with their own needs and requirements; our care and pastoral support systems need to reflect this.
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We have also been considering whether the current internal school day timings offer us the optimum opportunity to provide the best care and guidance for all of our students. All the school staff have recently been exploring slightly different ways to adjust our internal school timings. Before I explain any further, it is important to note that for 2020/21:

- The start/end times of the school day will not change
- Lunchtime will remain at 50 minutes
- Lessons will remain as 1 hour units (as now, some may be 'double' lessons of 2 x 1 hour)
- Form (what we used to call VT) will remain as a 25 minute period
- Break will remain as a 20 minute period

Key considerations are:

- Do students get the very best entitlement during form time?
- Does the school day allow for a sensible and sustainable 'work flow' for students?
- Some students may make poor food choices at both break and lunchtime, especially breaktime (although we recognise that the quality of the offer in the canteen needs to improve and we are working on this as well at the moment)
- Are we providing the best opportunity to eat, and quality of food on offer for all students, especially for those who are eligible for free school meals?
- There is only one hour between break time and lunchtime currently
- Some students tend to 'fill up' at break time and then do not eat appropriately during the lunchtime

Staff have also discounted the option of 'split' lunchtimes i.e. KS3 having a different lunchtime than KS4/5, due to the negative impact this would have on co-curricular opportunities for students.

Having explored numerous options, the two the staff consider as the most effective are detailed below.

**May I ask for your thoughts on these options via an on-line survey?**

Please could you speak together as a family and enter your response by **Monday 18th May 2020 at the latest**. You may choose to make one survey response as a family, or one from the parents and another from your son/daughter (this will require 2 email addresses).

### Current timings

1	840	940
2	940	1040
VT	1040	1105
BREAK	1105	1125
3	1125	1225
LUNCH	1225	115
4	115	215
5	215	315

### Proposal 1

1 (Farm)	840	905
2	905	1005
BREAK	1005	1025
3	1025	1125
4	1125	1225
LUNCH	1225	115
5	115	215
6	215	315

### Proposal 2

1 (Farm)	840	905
2	905	1005
3	1005	1105
BREAK	1105	1125
4	1125	1225
LUNCH	1225	115
5	115	215
6	215	315

### Survey Link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VFNZ9HC>

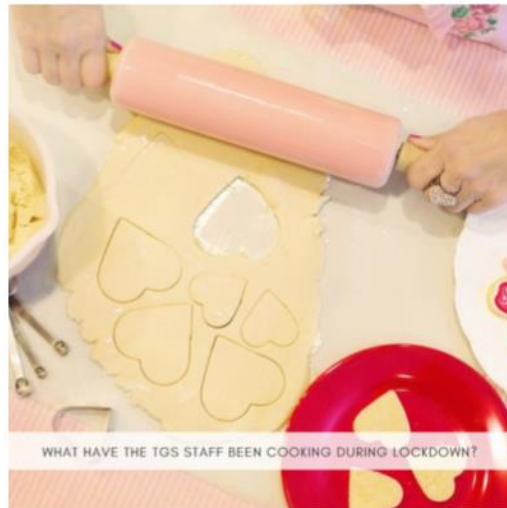


## THE TGS LOCKDOWN KITCHEN

And finally, thank you to Ms Hercberg (Curriculum Team Leader for Food, Nutrition & Care) for organising a staff lockdown kitchen competition.

APRIL 2020

# TGS Kitchen



## Lockdown Cooking

During the lockdown, your Food teachers have been asking you to send in photos of the food you have been making, so we thought it might be nice for you to see what the staff at TGS have been making too!

Student photos:



## Mrs Hercberg



Cinnamon rolls



Banana bread



Sweet potato and roasted  
cauliflower tacos with  
homemade tortillas

## Mrs Hercberg



Steamed bao with barbecued pulled  
pork





## Mrs Hercberg



Panzanella salad



Vada pav, onion bhaji,  
gobi manchurian



Rhubarb and custard  
sandwich biscuits

## Mrs Micheli



Red velvet cake



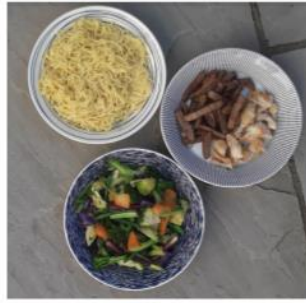
Scones



Easter cheesecake



## Mr Parkinson Stir fry



**Ingredients (enough for 3-4 people, or 2-3 very hungry people)**

500g vegetables such as carrots, baby corn, broccoli, courgettes, red peppers and cabbage or pak choi  
1 tbsp rapeseed oil or vegetable oil  
1 garlic clove, sliced  
1 cm fresh ginger, grated  
1½ tbsp reduced salt soy sauce  
2 tbsp sweet chilli sauce (optional, add more if you like it hot!)

### The Method

Finely chop or slice the vegetables into pieces roughly the same size.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok, then fry the garlic and ginger for 1 min.

Add the vegetables and toss to coat. Fry for 2-3 mins, then add the soy sauce and chilli sauce, if using, and mix well.

Cook for 2-3 mins more until the veg is tender. Stir in the prawns, salmon or chicken and heat through.

Serve over the noodles.

## Miss Askew and Jonny (age 5)

### Pain au Chocolat



Butter biscuits with white chocolate and sprinkles



## Mrs Baker



Rhubarb cake



Popcorn, peanut butter and  
marshmallow bars

## Mr Remillard



Bread loaves



## Mrs Heneachon



Pancake faces



Toblerone cheesecake



Chocolate chip biscuits

## Mr Wren



Wholemeal bread and rhubarb cake

## Miss Holmes



Hot cross buns



## Mrs Weatherill



Cookie dough cheesecake



Chocolate fondant



Cheddar and courgette  
soda bread with pea and  
mint soup

## Mr Holmes



Egg mayonnaise



Homemade granola  
with greek yoghurt and  
berries



Salad

## Mr Holmes



Prawn cocktail



Pavlova



Sushi

## Mrs Clark



Carrot cake loaves



Scones



Gluten free buns



Bread by former GCSE student Alice

## Mr Middleton



Banana pancakes



Beef cassarole

## Miss Pinder



5 strand plaited loaf

## Mrs Banner



Scones



## Ms Duckworth

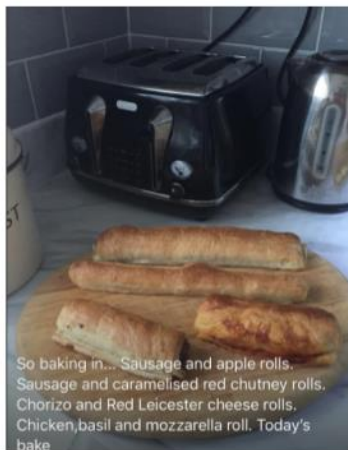


Sticky ginger loaf



Chocolate fudge cake

## Miss Laidlaw



Chocolate cake

**Mrs Oakley**



Steak bake

**Mrs Leadbitter**



Birthday cake

**Mrs Henson**



Chocolate cakes

**Mr Carr**



## Mrs Kay



Mini fruit scones



Banana pancakes

## Mrs Lattimore



Battenberg



Oaty country loaf

## Mrs Carroll



Marshmallow cupcakes



Scones

## Mr Alderman



Chocolate fondant

## Dr Burgess



Currant buns



Easter eggs



## Mrs Loaring



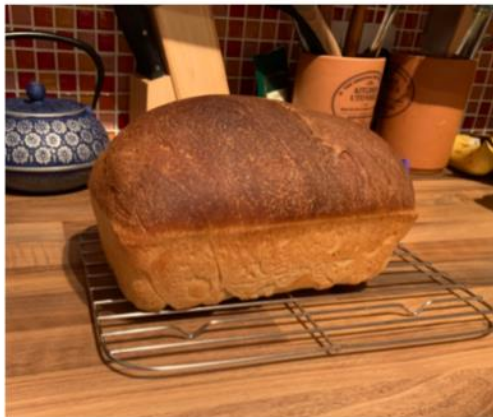
Chocolate cake with cream and strawberries

## Mr Stapleton



Pork stir fry

## Mr Simpson



Bread loaves



## Mrs Hubbard



Victoria sandwich and chocolate chip cookies



## Ms Mulhern



Banana flapjack



Banana muffins



## Mrs Butterworth



Raspberry and chocolate  
'watermelon' cake

## Mrs Stone



Mozzarella burgers

## Miss Thomas



Whale birthday cake

Regards,

**Mr A. Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**

11 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Government Announcement 10th May**

I hope you are safe and well?

As I said in my letter of 1<sup>st</sup> May, there has been considerable speculation over the last week,, especially in the media, about changes to lockdown and what this will mean for schools re-opening.

Following yesterday's announcements, we now know that should certain national criteria be met, we **may** now be working towards a return to school for specific groups of primary aged pupils to commence after the half-term holiday period.

Whilst we have been working and risk assessing towards this for quite some time, there are still a *significant* number of unknowns which remain to be processed/communicated by the Department for Education before we as a Trust can help your child's school form a return plan.

I am writing to you today with one vital message and that is *please be patient*, it is vital that we get this right. It will be several days until we are able to communicate a plan to you and we must focus on that planning.

As a consequence I would be grateful if you could refrain from sending in enquiries to your child's school until we write out again with some detail – we would aim to answer most of your queries in that correspondence. Many thanks for your assistance with this.

**Free school meals update**

I am sure you may have seen reports in the press about the national Free School Meal Voucher scheme and the difficulties it has been experiencing. As a Trust we felt we had to move to this scheme which is directly financed by the Department for Education.

Our experience, however, has been so poor and our need to get this right so strongly felt, that we have reverted to the scheme we previously and successfully used. This has the full financial backing of our Trust Board. We have written to our Local MP about the scheme and received a supportive reply. Apologies to those parents inconvenienced by the change.

We continue to be very grateful for all the efforts of our staff and for the continued wonderful support we have had from parents and carers.

Wishing you and your families all the very best.

Yours faithfully,

Martyn Sibley

Chief Education Officer

