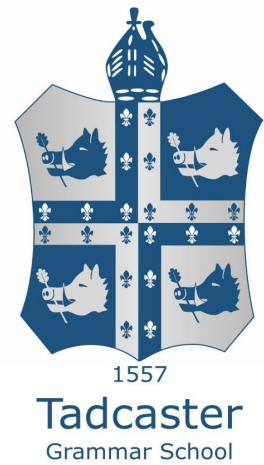


Friday 18th September 2020



Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

As we finish our first 2-week cycle in school I am delighted to write to report what a positive start to the new school year we have all had. It has been an absolute delight to welcome all students back and to help them re-engage with a full care and curriculum offer. Things look and feel slightly different, but the students have been wonderful taking to the new arrangements with maturity and responsibility. We are proud of them all.

Thank you also to parents and carers for your ongoing support and many positive emails. Please do not underestimate our empathy concerning all of the unrewarded work assisting your children to get ready for school both at the start of term and day-to-day; buying and organising uniform, pack lunches, transport to/from school etc.

Year 11 & Year 13 Examination Results 2020

You will be aware that the summer examination series was cancelled by the government due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite a testing time for students and parents as our government tried to decide what metric to use to award examination results over the summer holidays, we all want to congratulate our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students on their success. Students worked incredibly hard towards their qualifications and it is important that their fantastic achievements are not overshadowed by the confusion over Ofqual's process for standardising and awarding grades. Our socially distanced results days were a triumph and well represented the TGS approach - the needs of students considered first.

Our headline figures suggest that results achieved by our students this summer were of the same high standard to those achieved last year and in line with our expectations. In addition, we have supported all of our ex-Year 11 & 13 students into their next stage of learning and employment with education. Throughout last year, especially since March, students showed an enormous amount of responsibility and resilience and fully deserve the success they achieved. We remain very grateful for the support families gave to their young adults during this very challenging time. Finally, my thanks to all the school staff for their tireless effort to educate and care for the students.

Visit from OFSTED

On Tuesday 15th September we welcomed two of Her Majesty's inspectors from Ofsted into school. We had previously volunteered to take part in a research programme focussing on how all schools nationally are returning to a full curriculum and contingency planning for the future. The day was excellent and a great opportunity to share our journey since the lockdown back in March. I'm sure our guests learned as much as we did. We are currently already at the stage of curriculum provision the government expects schools to be at by next summer. As this was a pilot research visit, unfortunately no letter is written as a result. I'd like to think that the HMIs were impressed with our superb school.

Points of contact

	Year Leader	Pastoral Leader
Year 7	Ms C Hodgson c.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk	Mr D Bass d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 8	Ms C Kenny c.kenny@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms J Hodgson j.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 9	Ms C Yewman c.yewman@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms C Egan c.egan@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 10	Ms D Naylor d.naylor@tgs.starmat.uk	Mr J Fox j.fox@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 11	Mr A Punt a.punt@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms E Proctor e.proctor@tgs.starmat.uk

	Director	Pastoral Leader
Sixth Form	Ms R Knapton r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms J Gadsby j.gadsby@tgs.starmat.uk

General contact with the school

Please ring Reception on: 01937 833466

Or use the following contact form: <https://tgs.starmat.uk/contact/>

Vacant places at Tadcaster Grammar School

We have a small number of vacant school places in the following year groups, largely due to existing students recently moving to other schools in different areas of the country and abroad. If you wish to make enquiries about these places (or know someone else who would be interested), please contact Mr R Vernon (Deputy Headteacher) r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk at your earliest convenience.

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
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We are still accepting applications for entry into the sixth form (until Friday 25th September 2020). Please contact Ms R Knapton (Assistant Headteacher) r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk

Amendments to the STAR MAT face covering protocol

As part of the ongoing risk assessment process across all of the STAR MAT schools and central services, we are constantly reviewing guidance on wearing face coverings in school.

Please be advised that **as of Monday 21st September 2020**, we are amending the Tadcaster Grammar School Face Covering Protocol as follows (amendments in **bold**, underlined).

Students

- Students should not normally wear face coverings in lessons or outside.
- However, if wearing a face covering in lessons or outside benefits a student's wellbeing, they may wear one.
- Students must wear a face covering when leaving lessons, at transfer times and when moving within buildings (unless exempt).
- Students should remove face coverings when eating and drinking during the allocated break times for individual year groups.
- Students are only permitted to wear a face covering which covers the nose and mouth.
- Students must provide their own face coverings.
- Face coverings should ideally be plain coloured and acceptable in a school setting.
- Year Team Leaders will act as the arbiter of what is an appropriate type of face covering.
- At the end of lesson 6, students who are using school buses should put their face covering on before leaving their classroom under supervision of the adult(s) present (unless exempt).

Parents and carers

- School is closed to routine visitors. Any essential visits to school should be sanctioned by SLT in advance and normally scheduled to take place outside of school hours (3.30 pm onwards).
- All parents and carers visiting the school site must wear face coverings, unless exempt, if invited onto school grounds.
- All Trust school entrance foyers will be provided with sterile masks which can be given to visitors who may present without a face covering.

You will see that the key amendment is:

- Students must wear a face covering when leaving lessons, at transfer times and when moving within buildings (unless exempt).

This means that all students must be in possession of a face covering at all times when in school from Monday 21st September 2020. Thank you for your support.

You can access the full STAR MAT guidance on face coverings and other COVID-19 updates at:

<https://web.starmat.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

Transport to and from school

Understandably more parents are choosing to bring their children to school by car. Thank you for the positive feedback about the drop off procedures that we have put in place to help manage the flow of traffic onto the school site (and thank you to those parents who give the duty staff a wave!). We realise that parents do have to queue to come into the drop off point, however we strongly advise that parents continue to do this as parking on the road in front of school/dropping off students on the roadside poses a serious road safety risk. Please can we also remind parents that students should only use our pedestrian entrance and should not walk or cycle out of the vehicular entrance or exits.

Regarding travel on the bus services, we have had reports from parents and providers that some students are choosing to remove their face masks once the bus sets off. Members of staff are addressing this concern and I have to stress that if students were to continue to do this we would ask students to disembark and ask parents to collect their

child from school. With this in mind we urge parents to reiterate the vital message that students have to wear face masks on school transport for their wellbeing and that of others.

Uniform

It has been great to see our students return looking smart and ready to learn. We have noticed a small number of students not adhering to the full uniform statement, notably the length of skirts, extended nails and the wearing of nail polish. Please can I take this opportunity to ask for your support in reinforcing the following with your child(ren):

- Students should not tuck their school jumpers into their skirts or trousers;
- Students should not roll their school jumper sleeves and/or shirt cuffs up;
- The bottom hem of a skirt should be within 10cm of the top of the knee cap.

Finally, can I remind you of some of the key points within the uniform statement.

Uniform item	Colour/design	Compulsory
Blazer	Blue with crest	Y
Jumpers	Dark grey, v-neck, unbadged	N
Tie	School tie, striped with house colours. Yr11 with crests	Y
Skirt	Plain, dark grey, pleated, just above the knee. No tight fitting, pencil or lycra/stretchy material. With TGS logo on waist.	Y
Trousers	Formal, dark grey, standard fitting. No jeans or skinny-fit.	Y
Tights	Navy	Y
Socks	Dark plain	Y
Shirt/blouse	Plain white, long or short sleeved	Y
Shoes	Low safe heel, no boots, trainers or canvas	Y

Additional item	Colour/design	Compulsory
Belts	Plain black	N
Coats	Plain dark coloured: no hoodies, denim, leather or sweatshirts.	N
Scarves	Navy or black	N

Appearance	Colour/design
Jewellery	One plain ring One silver or gold stud (not jewelled) per ear, earlobe only Plain watch
Make up	None in years 7-9 Discreet make-up allowed in Year 10 and above. No nail varnish
Hair	Sensible style and length appropriate for school. Colouring should be of a naturally occurring tone

One of the school priorities is to review the uniform standards this school year. There are no plans to comprehensively change the current makeup of the uniform, however a focus will be to look at making the guidance clearer to all such as length of skirt and how the uniform should be worn, both of which do not currently feature in the full uniform statement. We will of course ensure that we provide adequate notice to parents, carers and students, before any amendments are made. As always, we are highly sensitive to making any amendments cost neutral if at all possible. In the meantime, our current uniform and appearance statement is at:

<https://tgs.starmat.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/TGS-Uniform-and-Appearance-StatementFEB2020.pdf>

One amendment we *are* currently considering, after taking feedback from years 7-11 over the last 2 weeks, is potentially allowing students to wear plain, navy blue jogging bottoms if they choose as part of their PE kit during the current school operational (Covid-19) plan. More details to follow.

Year 6 Roadshow & Virtual Open Evening

We would like to apologise to parents who may have signed up to our Year 6 Roadshow FaceBook Live event, which we needed to postpone at short notice this week due to external internet service issues not of our making. We have rescheduled this event to next **Tuesday 22nd September at 6.30pm**. Please continue to send in our questions to transition@tgs.starmat.uk.

We will also be launching a Virtual Open Evening event next week, please look out for the details coming soon. As the event is now virtual we will not be closing the school at lunchtime on Thursday 24th September. It will be a full day in school.

Thank you again for your continued support. As always, I hope you have a high level of confidence in the school and that your concerns and suggestions are addressed.

Kind regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher