

Friday 20th November 2020



Dear Parents, Carers (& Students),

I hope this finds you well? Today has seen a minor amendment to the normal exemplary sartorial standards of our students and staff as most are wearing odd coloured socks in support of anti-bullying awareness.

May I please start this update with a reminder to parents and carers about our current Covid-19 operational plan and how you can continue to contribute to ensuring we are able to keep the school fully open. **5 key points:**

- 1.** If any member of a household displays COVID 19 symptoms the whole household needs to self isolate pending the results of a test. Students should not attend school while waiting for test results for any member of their household.
- 2. Notifying school of a positive Covid-19 test result for a TGS student**

During school hours Monday-Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm	Outside of school hours - including weekends and holidays
Ring School Reception on either:  01937 833466  Extension 308 or 301	Go to the school website at: <a href="https://tgs.starmat.uk/">https://tgs.starmat.uk/</a>  On the homepage, click on the sliding tile (see below) and complete the notification form.    A message will then be sent to the duty staff. Please expect a phone call shortly after submitting your form.  The notification form is also available <a href="#">HERE</a>

### 3. Face coverings

Students should have their own face covering(s) on their person at all times when in school.

### 4. COVID-19-related student absence

A reminder of what action to take with Covid-19-related absence can be found on our website [here](#).

Can I also ask that if your child is absent with a Covid-19 related illness or issue, and especially if they are taken for a test, that you confirm the outcome of the test and the return date with our Attendance Officer (Ms L. Oxeer [attendance@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:attendance@tgs.starmat.uk)) before they return to school.

### 5. Contact details

If you have recently changed your email address, or believe the school is not using your correct email address, please contact [a.haddock@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.haddock@tgs.starmat.uk) as a priority.

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## IN OTHER NEWS

### School governance

At the end of the month we will say farewell to Jonathan Bliss and Jess Ryan as parent governors. Jonathan and Jess have been fantastic servants of the school. We will also welcome Ewan Merer and Sue Quirk as new parent governors.

### Internet access and chromebooks

We are currently part way through a significant upgrade in our internet and wifi provision across school. The increase in the use of technology due to Covid-19 has been overwhelming as both staff and students depend much more on 'Google Classroom' and other online educational software and cloud based systems.

Our **Year 7 students** have now taken delivery of their chromebooks, and from Monday they will be integrating them into their learning both in school and at home. If your child did not participate in the scheme, and is using a loan device, please could parents sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement [HERE](#) immediately. For those parents who have bought their own chromebook, please remember that you will need to purchase a Google Education license. Further information [HERE](#).

We have some concerns about **Year 9 students** failing to bring their chromebook to school fully charged. There is also a significant amount of damage being caused to chromebooks, and in some cases this would seem to be carelessness rather than accidental damage. Please could you ensure that your child takes care of their device as currently it is difficult to obtain spares and parts, and your child will not necessarily be offered an immediate temporary replacement.

## **Life Skills & Our Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy**

Within the Life Skills curriculum, there are certain modules of work that are delivered to all students, most as a statutory requirement. These include:

- Alcohol and drugs education
- Healthy eating and drinking
- Staying safe on-line and off-line.
- Equality
- Gender awareness
- Relationships and sex education
- Multicultural societies
- Youth crime and punishment - understanding the legislation
- Immigration
- Democracy and political awareness

If you would like more information on the topics above, please access the Life Skills section of the school website [here](#). The Relationships and Sex Education Policy is also available on the school website [here](#).

If you have any queries or would like to discuss your child being involved in these topics further, please email Ms A Henson [a.henson@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.henson@tgs.starmat.uk) in the first instance.

In a future update, I also hope to share with you a short video presentation showing our excellent Personal Development programme.

### **Vacant places at Tadcaster Grammar School**

We have a small number of vacant school places in year 9, 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](mailto:r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk) at your earliest convenience.

### **Car drop off and pick up**

We have recently seen an increase in cars parking outside on the main road at the end of the school day. This has occasionally caused a dangerous gridlock as cars struggle to overtake the parked cars.

Please can I ask again for your support not to park there. Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) using the school grounds and not the main road.

## Reporting and Parents' Evening Calendar

The following tables provide an overview of when reports are issued for each year group, along with the date for each parents' evening.

With the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, our parents' evenings will be carried out as an online meeting until further notice. We are excited about the potential of this new approach and are looking forward to reconnecting with parents and carers, albeit via a virtual meet. A letter explaining how to book virtual appointments will be issued before each parents' evening.

### Key Stage 3

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>
Year 7 Report 1 w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Year 8 Parents' Evening Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Year 9 Report 1 w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Year 7 Parents' Evening Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Year 8 Report 1 w/c 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Year 9 Parents' Evening Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021
Year 7 Report 2 w/c 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Year 8 Report 2 w/c 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	Year 9 Report 2 w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021

Year 9 Options Deadline  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Key Stage 4

<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
Year 10 Attitude to Learning Report w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	Key Stage 4: Report 3 w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
Key Stage 4: Report 1 w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Key Stage 4: Report 4 w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Year 10 Parents' Evening Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Year 11 Parents' Evening Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Key Stage 4: Report 2 w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Key Stage 4 Report 5 w/c 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Key Stage 5

<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>
Year 12 Attitude to Learning Report w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Key Stage 5: Report 4 w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Key Stage 5: Report 1 w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021	Year 13 Parents' Evening Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Year 12 Parents' Evening Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021	Key Stage 5: Report 5 w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Key Stage 5: Report 2 w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Key Stage 4 Report 6 w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Key Stage 5: Report 3 w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	

## Free School Meals

As a school we recognise the enormous impact the pandemic is having on so many families, including the financial strain that may have arisen for some households due to perhaps a job loss as well as the ongoing financial worry and pressure. If you are one of the many households where the income is low, your child may well qualify for Free School Meals. Indeed, since the beginning of lockdown, we have seen a significant rise in successful applications.

If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, you can complete the application form: [Free school meals](#)

In addition to securing free school meals, your child would also become eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This provides school with money that we utilise to support your child with additional educational opportunities - [Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#).

We work closely with our local food banks, who continue to offer vital support at this very difficult time.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

As a school we strive to offer additional educational opportunities to all students and do not want home financial difficulties to be a barrier. We are here to support. Please feel free to contact our Pupil Premium lead in school, Mrs Hubbard ([v.hubbard@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:v.hubbard@tgs.starmat.uk)) or your child's House Leader to discuss these matters further.

## Points of contact in school

	Year Leader	Pastoral Leader
Year 7 01937 837618 or extension: 218	Ms C Hodgson <a href="mailto:c.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk">c.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Mr D Bass <a href="mailto:d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk">d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk</a>
Year 8 01937 837656 or extension: 256	Ms C Kenny <a href="mailto:c.kenny@tgs.starmat.uk">c.kenny@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Ms J Hodgson <a href="mailto:j.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk">j.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk</a>
Year 9 01937 837625 or extension: 225	Ms C Yewman <a href="mailto:c.yewman@tgs.starmat.uk">c.yewman@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Temporarily not in school
Year 10 01937 837615 or extension: 315	Ms D Naylor <a href="mailto:d.naylor@tgs.starmat.uk">d.naylor@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Mr J Fox <a href="mailto:j.fox@tgs.starmat.uk">j.fox@tgs.starmat.uk</a>
Year 11 01937 837677 or extension: 277	Mr A Punt <a href="mailto:a.punt@tgs.starmat.uk">a.punt@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Ms E Proctor <a href="mailto:e.proctor@tgs.starmat.uk">e.proctor@tgs.starmat.uk</a>

	Director	Pastoral Leader
Sixth Form	Ms R Knapton <a href="mailto:r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk">r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk</a> 01937 837623 or extension: 223	Ms J Gadsby <a href="mailto:j.gadsby@tgs.starmat.uk">j.gadsby@tgs.starmat.uk</a> 01937 837635 or extension: 235

General contact with the school

Please ring Reception on: 01937 833466

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

**And finally**

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school. A special thank you to all parents/carers who have had their children at home self isolating. I, and many of my colleagues, understand first hand how challenging this can be for all involved.

Kind regards,

**Andrew Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**