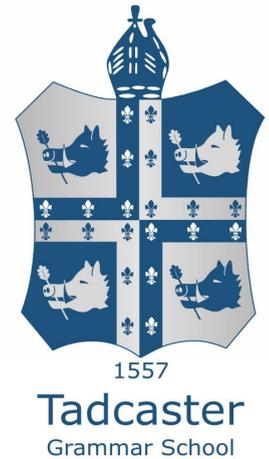


Be Your Best Self



Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers (& Students),

I hope you had a restful half-term break. Half-term 2 has started superbly and it has been wonderful to welcome all our fantastic students back into school again to re-engage with their full curriculum.

On Wednesday this week, the *Department for Education* issued lockdown guidance for schools for continuity of education just prior to the start of the current national lockdown yesterday. Please be assured that we are currently reviewing our risk assessments at STAR MAT Trust and school level. As a result of our careful return to school planning, risk assessment and contingency & continuity of education planning we are very well poised to meet these new requirements. We will also work to ensure we have the optimum teaching staff complement, although some of our staff may be directed to work from home during lockdown by the NHS.

Our obsession in school is to ensure all students and staff are safe and supported. We want every student to be able to enjoy their full curriculum entitlement in school. You will be aware that we have had to send three cohorts of students home to isolate and continue their education remotely as a result of positive coronavirus cases since the start of term. We are desperate to ensure this eventuality is minimised. I am asking again for your ongoing support as detailed in the items numbered **1.**, **2.** and **3.** below:

1. Wearing Face Coverings

- 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.



Headteacher: Mr A Parkinson B.Sc (Hons) M.Ed M.Sc
Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. LS24 9NB
(01937) 833466 | www.tgs.starmat.uk

- 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).

2. COVID-19-related actions in the family

Please can I remind parents and carers of the importance of following the guidance on self isolation and testing.

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.

Further information on what action to take with Covid-19-related instances in your family can be found [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 their return date with our Attendance Officer (Ms L. Oxeer attendance@tgs.starmat.uk).

3. 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
<p>Ring School Reception on either:</p> <p>01937 833466</p> <p>Extension 308 or 301</p>	<p>Go to the school website at: https://tgs.starmat.uk/</p> <p>On the homepage, click on the sliding tile (see below) and complete the notification form.</p> <div data-bbox="651 1312 1522 1659" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>A message will then be sent to the duty staff. Please expect a phone call shortly after submitting your form.</p> <p>The notification form is also available HERE</p>

Amendments to the school uniform policy

As part of our risk assessment, we must keep rooms as ventilated as possible. It is unreasonable to expect students to sit in rooms which may be a slightly lower temperature than normal, so we have made the following amendments to our current Covid-19 school uniform policy (highlighted in red). These amendments are cost-neutral to parents:

- Full school uniform should be worn throughout the day on non-PE days.
- On days when students have PE, they will be allowed to wear the official Tadcaster Grammar School PE kit only.
- In classrooms, doors and windows will be kept open for ventilation. Students will be allowed to wear the official school hoodie or a coat for extra warmth during lesson times, unless activities preclude the safe wearing of these items.
- Blazers, shirts and ties must still be worn. A school hoodie or a coat must be used as an additional layer and not as an alternative to the blazer. School hoodies and coats can be worn either over or under the blazer.
- Students can also wear a scarf in the classroom. This must not cover the face. No gloves or hats will be allowed in the classroom

Coming soon! Parents of year 8, 9 and 10

Please look out for your virtual **Meet The Tutor** event that will take place in the coming 2 weeks. A letter will be sent out next week with further details by your child's Year Leader.

Parents of year 8, 9, 10 and 11. After the successful roll out of the *Class Charts* parent app to year 7 parents, we are now in a position to roll this out to the rest of the school. *Class Charts* is an online system which parents can use to track their positive recognition, behaviour and detentions record. You can also use *Class Charts* to view your child's timetable and list of teachers that they have.

We will be rolling this out next week. You will receive a letter which will be handed out to students to take home. This letter will have your unique code for you to register and log in.

Parents' Evenings & Reporting

We will be communicating with you shortly to outline how parents' evening and reporting will run for this academic year.

Google Classroom/Meet Acceptable Use Agreement

As outlined in my previous [UPDATE](#), if the school is directed to partially close, as part of our continuity of education approach we are planning to deliver a range of interactive online learning experiences through the live function of the Google Learning Platform - Google Meet, we require that all parents and students have read and signed an Acceptable User Agreement (AUA).

The AUA has to be signed before a young person can engage in any form of online interactive learning.

Our aim is for the whole school population to have AUAs in place before **Wednesday 11th November 2020**. (Parents and) students in the sixth form have already completed this process.

In order for students to access **Google Meet**, it is compulsory for parents/carers **and** students to acknowledge they will comply with the **Acceptable User Agreement (AUA)** which you can find [HERE](#)

If this is not signed then the Google Meet provision will not be available.

Deadline for completion of the Acceptable User Agreement:

Extended to WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2020

Remembrance Day

In order to reflect upon the sacrifice some have made to preserve the peace we all enjoy, on Wednesday 11th November we will all be taking part in a 2 minute silence at 11am. In addition, we have signposted students to the following:

A donation to the Royal British Legion can be made at:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

This website also provides an A4 poppy poster download to colour and display in your home as a way of supporting the vital work of the British Legion.

Thank you as always for your greatly valued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Parkinson
Headteacher