

Be your best self



Thursday 31st December 2020 - 4pm

Dear Parents, Carers (& Students),

Firstly, to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope you are having a restful break.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the revised arrangements for the start of the Spring term following the announcements by the government on the afternoon of Wednesday 30th December 2020. As such, these arrangements replace those published by the school on Friday 18th December 2020.

This letter is arranged as follows:

Item 1	A summary of the Government expectations for the start of the Spring term (published Wednesday 30th December 2020)
Item 2	An update on Coronavirus testing in schools - the Tadcaster Grammar School position
Item 3	Parent/Student Acceptable User Agreement sign-off **IMPORTANT**
Item 4	Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021
Item 5	Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 11th January 2021
Item 6	Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 18th January 2021
Item 7	Sixth form update
Item 8	Parents' and Carers' Role In Helping Keep The School Open: 5 KEY POINTS
Item 9	Key points of contact in school

Home to School Transport Arrangements

The school is in contact with our transport providers and the relevant local authorities and we hope to confirm on Monday 4th January 2021 whether services will be running as normal from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

It is expected that services will resume as normal on Monday 11th January 2021.



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Free School Meals

We will be in contact with families who are in receipt of Free School Meals from Monday 4th January with further information.

Thank you for your understanding and support of the school. I hope your New Year festivities go well and here's hoping 2021 brings us all health and optimism.

Kind regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

Item 1: A summary of the Government expectations for the start of the Spring term (published Wednesday 30th December 2020)



Department for Education

Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Exam years (years 11 and 13)	Prioritise remote education	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary (years 1-6)	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college (years 7-10 and 12)	Prioritise remote education	Prioritise remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.

Source: www.gov.uk

Item 2: Coronavirus testing in schools - the Tadcaster Grammar School position

Coronavirus testing in school can take place when:

- Sustainable staffing, logistics and operational procedures supporting testing are in place in school (e.g. for a school the size of TGS, approximately 19 additional trained staff would be needed to administer the testing programme on site);
- Staff training has taken place;
- Consent (under 16 years of age) and informed permission (16+) for the testing procedure is gained from parents and students as necessary;
- Safeguarding and student welfare considerations are given due attention;
- The STAR MAT has reflected on the experience of early adopters of the testing regime in similar schools.

We hope to be able to provide families with details of the testing arrangements and procedures during the latter half of next week, or earlier if we are able to do so.

We would also like to reassure you that we will not issue a test to any young person without appropriate consent or deny any student their right to attend school should your family decide that testing within school is not appropriate for your child.

We appreciate that you will have a number of questions in respect of this and thank you in advance for your patience.

Item 3: Parent/Student Acceptable User Agreement sign-off

In order for your child to be able to access “live teaching” via our on-line remote curriculum, an Acceptable Use Agreement needs to be completed by parents and their children.

The AUA also needs to be completed in order for parents to access Parents’ Evenings.

Link to Acceptable Use Agreement: [HERE](#)

Also available on school website: [HERE](#)

At the time of writing, ~13% of the school student population (close to 200 students/parents) have yet to sign off on the above.

These students cannot be granted access to enhanced remote learning as safeguarding expectations have not been read, understood and signed-off.

Item 4: Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 4th January 2021

School will be closed to all students.

Staff training day.

No remote curriculum provision.

Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 students are encouraged to access school-based on-line revision resources, including our *One Stop Shop* for years 10 & 11 [HERE](#)

No dedicated on-line work will be set for years 7-9, although students may wish to use the time to revise key topic areas using their existing Google classroom resources in preparation for their remote curriculum starting on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th January 2021

School will be closed to all students except vulnerable students and students with parents who are critical workers.

> Arrangements for vulnerable children

We will be in touch with the parents of vulnerable children to discuss provision in school during Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021.

> Arrangements for the children of critical workers

Please may I impress upon parents that this provision is only available to those families who meet the government criteria and have no other childcare solution for children who are not able to look after themselves safely at home. It is important that numbers are kept as low as possible in order for the school to effectively remain Coronavirus-safe. It would be unusual to make a request for year 10 and year 11 students to be accommodated in school.

If you feel that you will not be able to ensure your child is safe to learn at home during Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021, **please complete this form by midday Friday 1st January 2021**. If your requirements have changed from a previous submission, please resubmit the form. Entries made after this time may not be considered. Link [HERE](#).

It is likely you will be contacted by the school to verify your eligibility. See the government definition of 'critical worker' [HERE](#)

Please also note that the provision your child will receive in school may be different to that others will receive remotely at home and may not involve any of their normal subject teachers.

Arrangements for remote education

During the period Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021 students will access on-line learning at home.

Subject teachers will upload the work they are setting to their Google Classrooms.

Students should follow their normal daily timetables.

Enhanced remote learning provision will be prioritised for students in years 11, 12 & 13.

Teachers will use the normal teaching contact time to ensure that enhanced remote learning is as effective as possible. A variety of approaches will be used which may include:

- A teacher-led introduction to the tasks to be completed, the resources which will help and the time limit for completion.
- "Live" explanation using Google Meet or pre-recorded lesson commentary.
- The teacher is available for students to ask questions during the timetabled lesson.
- Students asked to post work on the Google Classroom to check progress and understanding.
- The teacher provides additional resources to assess learning as the lesson progresses.
- Feedback from the teacher either to individual students or as whole class feedback.

Students are expected to be online, accessing the Google Classroom and school emails at the times when their timetabled lessons take place.

Students will not be able to access enhanced remote learning unless they and their parents have signed an Acceptable User Agreement (see Item 3).

Item 5: Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 11th January 2021

The Government expectation is that we start to welcome back students from years 11 and 13 with a view to them being voluntarily tested during this week for Coronavirus.

We will communicate again with all parents during the week commencing Monday 4th January 2021 with more specific details.

Arrangements for vulnerable children

We will be in touch with the parents of vulnerable children in these year groups to discuss provision in school during Monday 11th January 2021 - Friday 15th January 2021.

Arrangements for the children of critical workers

Please may I impress upon parents that this provision is only available to those families who meet the government criteria and have no other childcare solution for children who are not able to look after themselves safely at home. It is important that numbers are kept as low as possible in order for the school to effectively remain Coronavirus-safe. It would be unusual to make a request for year 10 and year 11 students to be accommodated in school.

If you feel that you will not be able to ensure your child is safe to learn at home during Monday 11th January 2021 - Friday 15th January 2021, parents will be able to access a booking form which we will launch from Tuesday 5th January 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter.

It is likely you will be contacted by the school to verify your eligibility. See the government definition of 'critical worker' [HERE](#)

Please also note that the provision your child will receive in school may be different to that others will receive remotely at home and may not involve any of their normal subject teachers.

Item 6. Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 18th January 2021

The government expectation is that students will return to secondary schools and colleges for face-to-face education by Monday 18th January 2021.

School timings, uniform expectations and catering arrangements will be as normal.

Item 7: Sixth Form Update

UCAS Applications

The UCAS completion date has not changed from 15th January 2021. We know some of you have been waiting on mock examination grades in order to finalise your UCAS grades. If this is the case your teacher can confirm these UCAS grades with Mrs Knapton via the change of grade form which they can email to her.

In terms of outstanding UCAS applications Year 13, tutors have access to individual students' UCAS forms and can complete the checklists on line from Monday 4th January. Once these have been signed off by tutors students can apply and send. Mrs Knapton will complete the final checks and send them to UCAS by the deadline. If there are any changes to deadline dates made by UCAS we will email parents and students of Year 13 directly.

A message from Sherburn High School

Year 12 mock examinations due to take place week beginning 11th January will be postponed until further notice. Details will be sent out in due course with a new date for these examinations to take place.

We are still hoping to complete Year 13 mock examinations during the week beginning 18th January, however the situation continues to be reviewed.

Any queries please email your child's tutor directly or Mrs Knapton for further support (see Item 9 for contact details).

Item 8: Parents' and Carers' Role In Helping Keep The School 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	<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>  <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>

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 we 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. Oxe) 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 as a priority.

Item 9: Key points of contact in school

	Year Leader	Pastoral Leader
Year 7 01937 837618 or extension: 218	Ms C Hodgson c.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk	Mr D Bass d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 8 01937 837656 or extension: 256	Ms C Kenny c.kenny@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms J Hodgson j.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 9 01937 837625 or extension: 225	Ms C Yewman c.yewman@tgs.starmat.uk	*NEW* Mrs N Weatherill (Mon - Wed) n.weatherill@tgs.starmat.uk Ms C Beal (Thu - Fri) c.beal@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 10 01937 837615 or extension: 315	Ms D Naylor d.naylor@tgs.starmat.uk	Mr J Fox j.fox@tgs.starmat.uk
Year 11 01937 837677 or extension: 277	*NEW* Mr A Punt a.punt@tgs.starmat.uk Ms S Buckley s.buckley@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms E Proctor e.proctor@tgs.starmat.uk

	Director	Pastoral Leader
Sixth Form	Ms R Knapton r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk 01937 837623 or extension: 223	Ms J Gadsby j.gadsby@tgs.starmat.uk 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/>

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