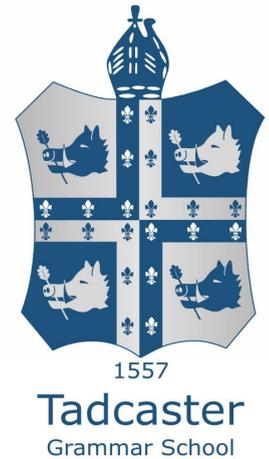


Be Your Best Self



Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Provision for Vulnerable Students & Students With Key Worker Parents

Times are definitely testing. Most students are missing school and may well be finding home learning challenging. The work parents and carers are currently doing to support their children at home has been amazing. Thanks to you all for your continued support. We are eager for that time when we can welcome all our young people back to school.

During the current lockdown we are continuing to focus on:

- Providing the highest quality remote curriculum for all students;
- Managing an in-school provision for students who are vulnerable and/or who have parents who are critical workers;
- Safe working to absolutely minimise the mixing of adults and children on the school site, in support of the national priority to: **STAY HOME - PROTECT THE NHS - SAVE LIVES**
- Developing our in-school Coronavirus testing procedures in advance of the school reopening to all staff and students.

However, with the recent government announcement that schools will not reopen until 8th March at the earliest, the time is now right for us to review our current in-school offer.

Students who are vulnerable and/or who have parents who are critical workers will continue to be accommodated in school in separate year group bubbles in dedicated classrooms. They are supervised for their 5 hours and 20 minutes of contact time by a combination of teachers and support professionals. Our Coronavirus risk assessment also means that there is an upper limit to the number of students in each classroom to ensure safe working and that this cannot be compromised. Whilst in school, these children engage with exactly the same on-line remote curriculum as their peers follow at home. They do not normally have direct contact with any of their own teachers.

As the number of students who are vulnerable and/or who have parents who are critical workers has increased, more teaching and support professionals have been brought into school. This means that:

- Despite our risk assessment controls, more adult and children (and their respective families and close contacts) mixing will inevitably take place enhancing the risk of being infected with Coronavirus;

- Teachers supervising students are unable to concurrently deliver (and continue to develop) high quality remote learning as per our [remote learning provision statement](#) during the hours they are in school.

Finding a safe and effective balance between the demands of the in-school and remote education programmes is a challenge all schools are facing at the moment. This has been achieved so far by the incredible support of our critical worker parents, who recognise that in-school provision is only for what is essential. Our thanks goes to all those critical worker parents who have supported their children to stay at home, wherever possible; especially parents of older children who have not wanted to put a strain on our provision. Thank you for only requesting provision when it is absolutely necessary, which supports our risk assessment to reduce contacts and does not over-burden our remote learning offer, an entitlement for all.

Please be advised that our current cycle of in-school provision, with all existing bookings, which has run from Tuesday 5th January 2021 will end on Thursday 11th February 2021 when the school closes for the February half-term break.

A new cycle of in-school provision will begin on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Vulnerable students

School staff will directly contact parents of vulnerable students to discuss needs for in-school provision from Monday 22nd February 2021.

You will be contacted during the period Wednesday 3rd February 2021 - Wednesday 10th February 2021.

Children with parents who are critical workers

Children with parents who are listed as [Critical Workers](#) are eligible for a school place during the national lockdown. However, as per government guidance 'parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'.

We are asking all parents who are critical workers, and who are unable to provide care at home, to re/apply for an in-school place.

All parents who currently have an in-school place should reapply.

Parents who are critical workers and wish to apply for in-school provision for the period Monday 22nd February onwards (after the half-term break, until the next review date) are asked to complete the following booking form **by 1pm on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at the latest.**

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

As part of this process, parents will be asked to provide a dedicated letter or email from an employer outlining their critical worker status. Most employers should already have a preformatted 'critical worker' letter/email template. This letter/email should also provide direct contact details of your employer/a line manager, including whether you are full-time or part time expressed at a percentage of the 'working week' (e.g. 2 days of a 5 day working week week - 40%).

Please expect to be contacted by the school to discuss your eligibility and requirements.

We will be asking you to only send your child into school on the days when it is essential. If for any reason you do not need to send your child to school on a day you have told school you require a place (e.g. you are able to work from home, there is another adult to supervise or you are unable to work for any reason), please inform the school at least 24 hours in advance so we can reallocate the place using the email: attendance@tgs.starmat.uk

[Key Worker Booking Form](#)

Deadline: Tuesday 9th February, 2021 at 1pm

If you have any queries, please use this email: admin@tgs.starmat.uk

Kind regards

Mr A Parkinson
Headteacher