



Monday 22nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers (& Students)

It has been wonderful to see the school looking and sounding like our normal calm, purposeful learning environment over the last couple of weeks. Some spring sunshine and blue skies have also lifted our spirits. Our superb students have also responded responsibly to the requirements of working and behaving safely. I need to thank parents and carers again for your support with all the important aspects which have made this transition back from remote learning so seamless; uniform, face coverings, attendance and punctuality of your children to mention just a few.

Many of our students have clearly grown during the last lockdown and this inevitably has presented parents with challenges providing school footwear and uniform with the current restrictions on shop opening etc. I can empathise; girls trousers and school footwear especially are a frequent battleground in my own house. We also understand the financial pressure families may be experiencing as a result of the pandemic. Up until the Easter holidays staff are giving as much reasonable adjustment to a minority of students who find themselves not being able to fully meet our uniform expectations. However, I would ask for your support in ensuring that uniform standards are met after the Easter break. Mr Vernon (Deputy Headteacher) gives more detail about this area later in the letter, including our commitment to reducing the cost of uniform as much as possible.

Our in-school mass testing programme for COVID-19 has now concluded and I need to thank our 30 plus adult volunteers for their stunning commitment to the school and the work they have done to protect our students and staff as well as families in the community. I am pleased to tell you that 93.2% of our student population opted into lateral flow testing and are now engaging in regular home testing with the kits that have been supplied to them. Thank you again to parents and carers for supporting the at-home COVID-19 testing procedure. Of course, we still need to be as vigilant as ever about the pandemic.

Asymptomatic COVID-19 home testing

We issued lateral flow testing kits to students last week. Each home testing kit contains 3 tests. As a reminder, we are asking that both staff and students complete their home tests on the following dates;

- (Sunday 21st March)
- **Wednesday 24th March**
- **Sunday 11th April** (*in anticipation of our return to school from the Easter break on Monday 12th April*)

You may have seen in the media that the Department for Education (DfE) announced in the past week that they would now like staff and students to continue testing throughout the Easter holidays. We are in frequent contact with the DfE and have asked them if/when we are expected to receive an additional delivery of kits to hand out to students to cover them for the holiday period (we are not in control of what stock arrives in school and dates of delivery). At the time of writing, we have yet to receive a reply. Please be assured that if a delivery arrives before the end of term on Thursday 25th March 2021, we will ensure the home testing kits are handed out to the students with a new testing schedule label attached.

All COVID-19 test results should be reported to school by clicking on the tile below on the school website home page:



This will then take you to the page below where we are asking you to record your results:

Protected: Student Lateral Flow Test results

Home testing begins for Year 7 and Key Stage 5 on Sunday 14 March and for the rest of the school from Sunday 21 March.

Please use these forms to submit your lateral flow test results for your child(ren). Results should be submitted on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Please click here to register a **POSITIVE** result

Please click here to register a **NEGATIVE** result

Please click here to register a **VOID** result

In addition, please enter your results on the **NHS Track and Trace** website. Details of how to log your results with the NHS are in the instructions booklet within your test kit.

Please also remember that you can get a twice-weekly test as follows.

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect these. Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Order home test kits online

You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days.

If you take a **PCR** test at your local testing site and receive a positive test result **only**, please contact school by telephone (see contact details at the end of this letter) during working hours, or by clicking on the positive results tile below on the school website if it is outside of office hours.



Mr R. Vernon
Deputy Headteacher
r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk

Uniform Expectations

You may remember that we wrote to parents back in the Autumn Term of 2019 and again in June and July 2020 about our decision to move all students in the current Year 9 and 10 year groups into the new gender neutral uniform from September 2021. I write to you today to confirm that this is still the case and ask you to be mindful of this over the coming 5 months.

I hope you will agree that our new uniform, which was first introduced in September 2019, is smart and practical, upholds the principles of equality and was championed by our students who very much led on the new gender neutral design. We also believe that having all students in the new uniform will be unifying for us as a school community, which will be even more important as we come back together after this challenging year.

Although the new uniform is a requirement for all from September 2021, we have allowed the choice of uniform this academic year to be optional once again, so that there was a natural transition period for families with as much time as possible to move over. Therefore, if your child is in the old uniform and it needs to be replaced before September 2021, they are welcome to start wearing the new uniform at any point. A significant number of our students in Year 9 and 10 are already wearing the new uniform.

As we informed you during Autumn Term 2019, Chalks has not been supplying the old uniform for some time now and we are urging all parents to be aware of our expectations for September 2021 when purchasing new items, especially if these are sourced from other retailers and not Chalks.

We have always been mindful of the cost of uniform. This still stands, as we understand times are even more financially challenging for many. It has always been our aim to review our uniform this year and find ways to make it more cost effective for families. We are near the end of this review and will be able to communicate details of this in the coming weeks. Please be assured that the changes will not involve significant change, but will publicise what items we can make more cost effective and help drive prices down. In addition Chalks, in partnership with The Barn in Tadcaster, will open their Community Up-cycling School Uniform Shop (based in The Barn) from 2 weeks before the end of the summer term through to September. <http://tadcasterbarn.co.uk/>

Mr R. Vernon
Deputy Headteacher
r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk

Sixth Form Dress Code

We recognise that self-expression and individuality is an important part of becoming an adult. Sixth Form students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for a site which is directly linked to provision for younger students. Our dress code, developed with students, sets these expectations:

- Trousers or smart jeans – no rips.
- Leggings must be worn with modesty.
- Shorts must be just above the knee and tailored (not sports shorts).
- Skirts must be knee-length or below the knee.
- Tops must be modest – no straps/vests and not low-cut.

- Shoulders and midriffs must be covered.
- Sensible shoes, trainers, pumps, no flip-flops or stiletto heels.
- Hats/hoods should not be worn indoors.
- Tattoos must be covered at all times.
- Multiple face piercings are not permitted.
- Hairstyles must be appropriate and colours of a naturally occurring tone.

Please note that during exams, students are not permitted to wear tops or jackets with pockets or hoods.

Ms R. Knapton
Assistant Headteacher
r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk

Tools For Student Wellbeing - Parent/Carer Workshop

We are delighted to let you know that our educational psychologist Dr Clare Stephens will be running an on-line parent workshop regarding student wellbeing and mental health. Her outline agenda will include the following.

- To consider issues which may lead to a lower sense of wellbeing in young people, including:
 - Fear of failure;
 - Life lacking a sense of purpose;
 - Having limited choices;
 - The challenges of developing quality friendships;
 - Poor sleep.
- The development of the teenage brain;
- Using the 5 Ways to Wellbeing as a universal intervention strategy;
- Introducing Emotion Coaching to normalize and validate feelings and develop emotional regulation skills;
- Highlighting other sources of support within our school community.

The on-line workshop will take place on the evening of Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 6pm. This first evening will be for parents/carers of students in key stage 4 and 5. I will be in touch again after the Easter holidays with further details about this event. We also plan to run a key stage 3 evening later in the summer term.

Ms M Carroll
Assistant Headteacher
m.carroll@tgs.starmat.uk

Year 11 & 13 Centre Assessed Grades

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our superb Year 11 and Year 13 students who have returned to school with a sense of purpose and understanding of what the remaining weeks in school hold for them. Their subject teachers have started to provide further explanation of what content will be assessed in the coming weeks and how students can best prepare.

In order to provide further clarity for students and parents, subject teams have put together single page guides which highlight the subject content which will be assessed, what students should focus their efforts on, best methods for revision and a few lines about how parents can help. We hope that you will find these useful, particularly with the Easter break in mind, where students are encouraged to undertake independent revision in the same way they would in any other year.

Key Stage 4 Study Guide

[Please Click Here](#)



KEY STAGE 4

Dear Parents/Carers/Students,

This guide has been created to provide you with a central overview for the work that now becomes the focus of your remaining study time for each subject. Please take time to read through all information and begin planning your study and revision time accordingly.

As you will hopefully be aware from earlier communication, we are being asked to grade students this year using a range of evidence. The evidence used needs to be objective to avoid any bias or discrimination. As well existing evidence we have about student performance, subjects will be collecting additional evidence over the coming weeks. For the majority of subjects, this will include evidence from internal assessments which will take place in May.

Although we are still awaiting final guidance from exam boards, subject assessments have been devised internally in order that the topics assessed reflect the areas which have been taught. The following pages provide specific guidance on which areas will be assessed, along with advice as to the best way to prepare over the coming weeks.

We hope the pages will prove useful in helping students to have a clear focus for their remaining study and revision.

Key Stage 5 Study Guide

[Please Click Here](#)



KEY STAGE 5

Dear Parents/Carers/Students,

This guide has been created to provide you with a central overview for the work that now becomes the focus of your remaining study time for each subject. Please take time to read through all information and begin planning your study and revision time accordingly.

As you will hopefully be aware from earlier communication, we are being asked to grade students this year using a range of evidence. The evidence used needs to be objective to avoid any bias or discrimination. As well existing evidence we have about student performance, subjects will be collecting additional evidence over the coming weeks. For the majority of subjects, this will include evidence from internal assessments which will take place in May.

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We hope the pages will prove useful in helping students to have a clear focus for their remaining study and revision.

Mr A Sykes

Senior Assistant Headteacher

a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk

Sixth Form applications

We have been really encouraged by the high number of year 11 students who have applied for our Sixth Form this September. We have been delighted to be able to offer our students a very wide range of subjects and are looking forward to planning all the additional opportunities that our Sixth Form offers our students. If you have not yet applied and would like to, please complete this form by Friday 16th April 2021: [Sixth Form Application](#)

Ms R. Knapton

Assistant Headteacher

r.knapton@tgs.starmat.u

Year 11 and Year 13 Prom

At Tadcaster Grammar School we have always prided ourselves with creating exciting prom celebrations to mark the rites of passage of leaving Year 11 and Year 13. It is therefore with a heavy heart that we need to announce that this year, due to current COVID-19 restrictions and the uncertainty of our situation over the next few months, we are unable to host an evening prom for either year group.

We wanted to communicate this as soon as possible to assist managing expectations, but also to prevent unnecessary expense for clothing and services which inevitably accompanies such events.

We are however working with tutors and students to find a way of marking these significant life events with school based celebrations for each year group to take place when stand down dates are confirmed by the government.

We know our students will feel disappointed not to share the traditional celebrations, but we know you will support us in continuing to put the health and safety of our students and staff as priority whilst trusting us to celebrate this event as best we can under current restrictions safely. We will also look to make results days as special as possible, as we did at very short notice last summer.

Year 13 GCE A Level/VTC results - Tuesday 10th August.

Year 11 GCSE/VTC results - Thursday 12th August.

Times and arrangements to follow

Mr P. Betts

Assistant Headteacher

p.betts@tgs.starmat.uk

I hope you have a restful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Andrew Parkinson

Headteacher

School Calendar Amendments

Just a reminder:

	Was	Now
Staff training day	Tuesday 16th March 2021 The day after school reopens for all year groups	Friday 26th March 2021 (Last day of term)
Year 10 parents' evening	Monday 15th March & Wednesday 17th March 2021	Wednesday 28th April & Thursday 29th April 2021
KS4/5 Parent Workshop: 'TGS Tools for Well-Being'	Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 6pm - 6.45pm	
Year 7 parents' evening	Wednesday 5th May & Thursday 6th May 2021	