

# Be Your Best Self

Wednesday 9th March 2022



**[PLEASE CLICK TO WATCH OUR UKRAINE PROJECT TWITTER LINK](#)**

Dear parents, carers & students,

Our thoughts in recent days have been on the situation in Ukraine, reflecting on the causes, implications and, primarily, the human aspects. We have been considering this as a school through our personal development curriculum during tutor time. Last week, our fantastic students told us that they felt powerless about the escalating crisis and wanted to do something that would help ease refugees' distress and show them that they are not alone.

Within a day of our appeal for donations for Ukrainian refugees, the students, staff, parents and Tadcaster community inundated the school with donations. We have so far received £1282.00 in monetary donations and as the photos highlight, a significant amount of clothing, toiletries, medical supplies, sleeping bags and baby essentials. Since then there has been an exceptional flow of generous donations which TGS staff, students, parents and community volunteers have been sifting and sorting through, to ensure what is sent will be organised and useful.



Headteacher: Mr A Parkinson B.Sc (Hons) M.Ed M.Sc  
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Countless students, staff, parents and members of our local community have brought donations into school.



**Vulnerable Citizen Support Leeds** who are part of a Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine charity group are collecting donations this week. Such has been the overwhelming response from our school and local community that they are having to do more than a few trips, with their last collection today, Wednesday 9th March.

*John from Vulnerable Citizen Support Leeds and some of our volunteer sixth formers packing the first load.*

In the words of Priestley, a playwright whose work Year 10 students study, 'we are members of one body'. A heart-felt thank you goes to our school and local community for the unprecedented response - the generosity, time, support and sheer will have been truly incredible.

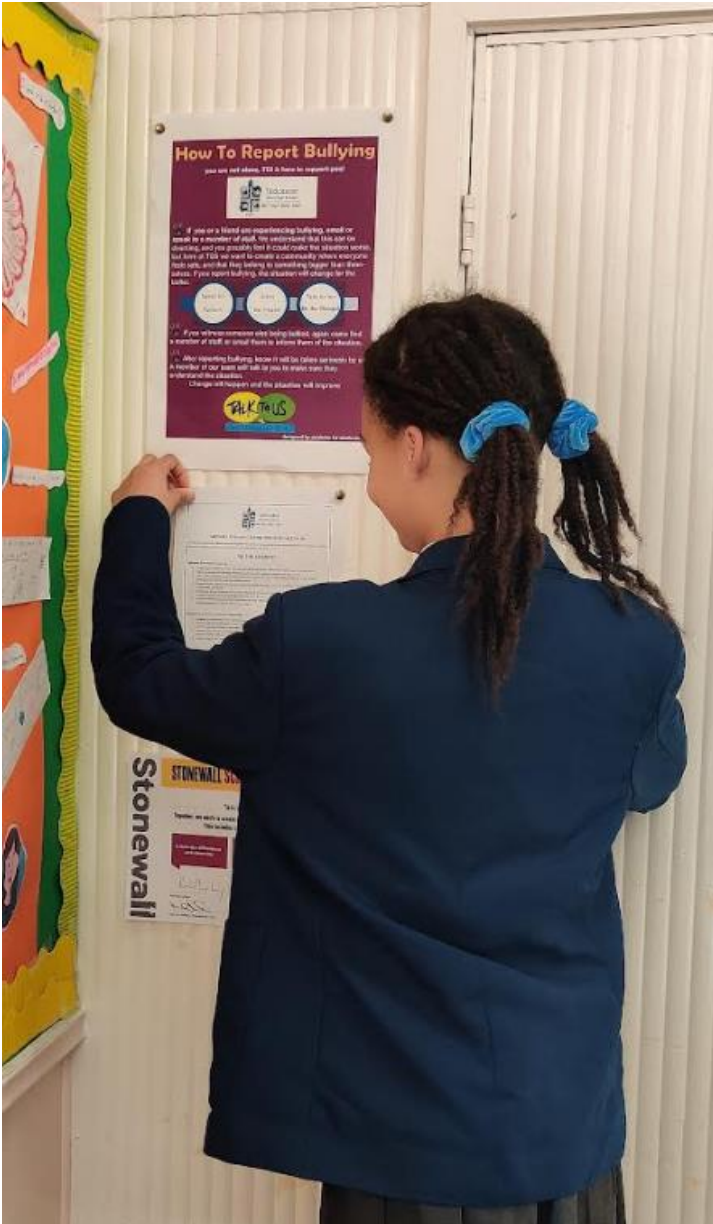


*Above: A community responds. Below: A hand-knitted hat in the colours of the Ukrainian flag*





When confronted by such bewildering and upsetting news, what a wonderful way it has been for our children to learn and be part of the goodness and humanity in the world. Thank you for your ongoing support. Thanks also go to Mel Carroll (Assistant Headteacher), Jude Kay & Helen Cooney (English Department) and so many other staff for their work on this important project.



### **‘What We Stand For’ Assembly**

Yesterday we saw our whole school community come together to reflect on our commitment to challenge all bullying behaviour and hate speech during an online assembly.

Following on from the assembly, all members of the school were asked to put up in classrooms and office spaces three key documents: our Stonewall School Champion Membership Poster, our Anti Bullying Charter and our How to Report Bullying Poster, both of which were developed and designed by students.

This event grew from work with our Student Council and a recent student experience survey, where students specifically asked that they had a better understanding of what happened when they reported bullying behaviour. I would also like to remind you and our students of our confidential TellUs email service, which students can use to reach out for support or to report a concern.



[tellus@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:tellus@tgs.starmat.uk)

## **An update on the damage caused by the adverse weather over the half-term break**

Thank you all again for your forbearance and understanding last Monday when we had to close the school due to significant internal flooding caused by the recent adverse weather. After an admirable effort from school and STAR MAT staff (much of it done voluntarily during staff holiday time), I'm delighted that all of our teaching spaces are now back in service. Damaged areas will continue to be reconditioned over weekends in the next few weeks as well as during the Easter holidays.

As usual, please find attached a number of updates for your attention

Kind regards,

**Andrew Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**

## **National Careers Week (NCW)**

This week is National Careers Week (NCW); the following free Parents' guide provides up to date information on current school leavers choices. [The Parents' guide to NCW 2022](#)

To coincide with NCW, please see the following letter from Michelle Donelan, Minister of State for Further and Higher Education. [Open the letter to parents, carers and guardians](#)

With restrictions now lifted, we are pleased to welcome back the return of face to face presentations from universities. Students in Years 10,11 and 12, who are interested in finding out more about the application process for Oxbridge. Are invited to attend the joint presentation from representatives and students from both universities on Monday 21st March, during lesson 2.

[Oxbridge presentation registration](#)

For further information about both universities please visit: [University of Cambridge](#) [University Of Oxford](#)

**Mrs H Lawson**

**CEIAG, Business and Community Links Manager**

[h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk)

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## **Summer Examinations Update**

### **Year 11 - Mock exams and next steps**

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for the way you continue to conduct yourselves in the mock exams. Once again you have been praised by our invigilation team for your calm and purposeful approach.

We feel that this second set of Year 11 mocks has been an invaluable step in the preparation for the summer. Subject teams have worked hard to try to ensure that the content of the exams reflects the additional guidance received from the exam boards, which we shared with you before the half term break (link [here](#)). In addition to providing students with an experience which replicates our expectations of the summer exams, the mocks will also provide students with a knowledge of their own individual strengths and areas for improvement. We continue to encourage all students to talk to their subject teachers about the next steps and how to make these improvements.

Where students have not done as well as expected we often hear that they don't know how to revise. In order to help with this, we have put together a series of slides which provide a guide for the best

approach to revising in each and every subject. These guides, along with many other resources, can be found on our TGS One Stop Shop website [here](#).

### **Year 11 - Key Dates**

Wednesday 11th May	Summer Series exams commence (please be aware that some practical and language speaking exams take place before this date, students will be informed of these by their subject teachers)
Thursday 23rd June	Final whole cohort exam in the morning (Physics) followed by leavers assembly and leavers day activities (more details to follow)
Friday 24th/ Monday 27th June	Final summer series exam (Graphics)
Wednesday 29th June	GCSE exam contingency day, for which students should be available.
Thursday 30th June	Year 11 Leavers Prom

Study leave will begin on Monday 6th June. Up until the May half term holiday, students will be expected to be in school following their timetable where they do not have an exam. If students need to leave the school site for an appointment, we do need prior notice and they must sign out at the main office. If students are unwell, they should go to the school nurse, who will contact home and arrange for them to be collected. This will allow us to ensure the safeguarding of your child. Following half term, timetabled lessons will still be available, but students may opt to undertake independent study at home. Again, when arriving and leaving the site they must sign in and out. Thank you for your support with this.

**Andy Sykes**

**Assistant Headteacher**

[a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk)

### **Year 13**

Year 13 will not be sitting a formal second series of mock examinations. In consultation with students, curriculum team leaders decided that they did not want students to miss a whole week of lessons and that in-class mock assessments would be better placed at times relevant to the course content. Students will be informed when these will take place by subject teachers.

### **Year 13 - Key Dates**

Monday 16th May	Summer Series exams commence (please be aware that some practical and language speaking exams take place before this date, students will be informed of these by their subject teachers)
Friday 24th June	Final whole cohort exam Leavers assembly and leavers day activities (11.30am-2pm)

Wednesday 29th June	GCSE exam contingency day, for which students should be available.
Wednesday 29th June	Year 13 Leavers Prom

Study leave will begin on Monday 6th June. Up until the May half term holiday, students will be expected to be in school following their timetable where they do not have an exam. Following half term, timetabled lessons will still be available, but students may opt to undertake independent study at home.

**Ros Knapton**

**Assistant Headteacher**

[r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk)

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## Uniform Update

It is excellent to see the very vast majority of our students continuing to maintain our high standards of school uniform and wearing it with great pride. I would also wish to extend my thanks to parents and carers for their support in maintaining uniform expectations during the past few challenging months.

Over the next few weeks we are keen to continue to raise the standards of uniform for all our students and will be having weekly foci.

With that in mind, please may I remind you of the main school uniform expectations:

- Plain grey trousers/grey pleated skirt (no more than 8cm above knee);
- Clear nail varnish only, no facial piercings – students wearing any facial piercing or additional ear piercings, other than in the ear lobe will have to be removed immediately;
- A single pair of plain ear studs (not hoops/rings/flesh tunnels) can be worn, one in each earlobe. No other items must be visible;
- Blue blazer with school logo (Year 10 can continue to wear the legacy black blazer if they choose);
- Black school shoes: No logos, no black trainers.

Please may I also emphasise that extreme hairstyles should be avoided. Hair should not be dyed (either permanent or semi-permanent) beyond colours close to natural hair colours (e.g. extreme bleaching and/or red, pink, blue or purple colours).

<p>As room ventilation (windows and doors open) remains a Covid-19 control measure in school we will continue to allow students to wear the school hoodie under their blazer, or a coat over their blazer in lessons until the end of this term.</p>
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After the Easter holidays, hoodies should not be worn unless in PE lessons and the blazer/school jumper will be required i.e. students will not be permitted to wear the school hoodie under their blazer, or a coat over their blazer in lessons.

Often at this time there is the suggestion from some students that parents and carers will not be replacing school uniform in the final months of the school year, especially shoes. Unfortunately this cannot be a justification for not adhering to school uniform expectations and causes unnecessary conflict. This requirement for correct and full uniform extends until the end of term and throughout the exam period.

I appreciate your full support with this and if you have queries around school uniform please contact your son or daughter's Year Leader.

In addition, if you have any queries about uniform expectations you can check the full guidance on the [school website](#).

**Paul Betts**

**Assistant Headteacher**

[p.betts@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:p.betts@tgs.starmat.uk)

### **School Uniform supply**

You may be aware that Chalks will be closing their doors for the final time at the end of the month. It really is the end of an era for the school as we say our final farewells to a company and people who have served the school and community with great loyalty and commitment. We wish Pam all the best in her future. In terms of where parents can purchase school uniform from April onwards, we are in the process of finalising these details and will announce more in the coming days in a separate communication.

**Riain Vernon**

**Deputy Headteacher**

[r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:r.vernon@tgs.starmat.uk)

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### **Recycling Office Furniture**

You may be working in a business that regularly refreshes office furniture. If there is an opportunity to donate such office furniture which still has significant life left in it to the school, please could you

consider contacting me at school. We are particularly interested in office desks and office chairs.  
Thank you for your consideration.

**Irv Webb**

**Business Manager**

[i.webb@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:i.webb@tgs.starmat.uk)

## The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize 2021

Every year the Royal Society invites schools and youth groups to take part in judging panels across the UK, to pick the winner of the Young People's Book Prize.

During the Autumn Term a group of Tadcaster Grammar School students, from Year 8 through to Year 10, formed a judging panel to read and review the following books:

<i>100 Things You Need To Know About Saving the Planet</i> <i>Agent Asha: Mission Shark Bytes</i> <i>I am a Book. I am a portal to the Universe.</i>	<i>I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast.</i> <i>Inventors.</i> <i>Under the Stars.</i>
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They voted on ease of reading; interest; the look and feel of the book and on whether the book inspired its reader; their votes were sent to the Royal Society by way of a voting slip and a video presentation. Today (8th March 22) the Royal Society announced the winner of the Young People's Book Prize. The winner is ***'I am a Book. I am a portal to the Universe'*** written by Stefanie Posavec and Miriam Quick.

We are delighted to say that this is the book our judging panel chose, unanimously, as its winner. Our students commented that the book was: 'very well presented and helps all ages understand the world of science'; 'it is colourful, perfect size and weight to handle and contains fun facts - some of the words being the same size as the animals they describe!', with a final comment of 'we love everything about it!'.

A well deserved winner. All the books are available to borrow from the school library.

**Mrs V Brett**

**School Librarian**

[v.brett@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:v.brett@tgs.starmat.uk)

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## Sixth Form Update



Our Sixth Form facilities have had a recent refurbishment and we are very pleased with the new look.

We are currently speaking with all our Year 11 students discussing with them, amongst many things, their destination intentions for September 2022.

We are delighted to have so many people applying for the Sixth Form **and it's not too late**. There is still an opportunity to apply. [Apply here](#)



**Ros Knapton**

**Assistant Headteacher**

[r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk)

### Ofsted Parent View

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school.

Parent View asks for your opinion on aspects of your child's school.

[Give your view now](#)

## **Application for Free School Meals**

Circumstances can change for anyone, as the enormous impact from the pandemic continues to prove. Some families can suddenly find themselves trying to cope with a new financial strain and pressure, perhaps as a result of a stressful new situation: separation, loss of a job, decreased working hours, illness etc. If your household income is low or has recently decreased, your child may well qualify for Free School Meals. Indeed, over the last two years, 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 also work closely with our local food banks, who continue to offer vital support to families.

<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 Year Leader to discuss these matters further.



## KEY CONTACTS IN SCHOOL

### TWO CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE

#### General contact with the school

Please ring Reception on: 01937 833466

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

'Thank You's' to individual staff: via their own TGS email address or <https://tgs.starmat.uk/contact/>

Individual teaching subject enquiry	Pastoral enquiry
Order of priority (who to approach first):  1st: Your child's subject teacher  2nd: The Curriculum Team Leader for the subject	Order of priority (who to approach first):  1st: Your child's form tutor  2nd: Your child's Pastoral Leader  3rd: Your child's Year Leader

#### Subject Enquiries - Curriculum Team Leaders

Art	Ms E Lattimore	e.lattimore@tgs.starmat.uk
Business & Commercial Subjects	Mr C Benoit	c.benoit@tgs.starmat.uk
Computing	Mr R Remillard	r.remillard@tgs.starmat.uk
Drama	Ms E Hitchon	e.hitchon@tgs.starmat.uk
English	Ms C Carson	c.carson@tgs.starmat.uk
Food & Nutrition	Ms H Herberg	h.herberg@tgs.starmat.uk
French	Ms M Butterworth	m.butterworth@tgs.starmat.uk
Geography	Ms L Ireland	l.ireland@tgs.starmat.uk
German	Ms A Baker	t.baker@tgs.starmat.uk
History	Mr A Crease	a.crease@tgs.starmat.uk
Mathematics	Mr R Power	r.power@tgs.starmat.uk
Music	Ms S Buckley	s.buckley@tgs.starmat.uk
Physical Education	Mr R Solk	r.solk@tgs.starmat.uk
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	Ms T Askew	t.askew@tgs.starmat.uk
Science	Mr P Gomersal	p.gomersal@tgs.starmat.uk

SENDCO	Ms V Ward	v.ward@tgs.starmat.uk
Skills for Life	Mr A Allman	a.allman@tgs.starmat.uk (A/CTL)
Social Sciences	Ms K Mitchell	k.mitchell@tgs.starmat.uk
Technology	Mr J Bell	j.bell@tgs.starmat.uk

### Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Year Leader

### YEAR 7

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
7C1	Ms C. Carson Ms V .England	c.carson@tgs.starmat.uk v.england@tgs.starmat.uk
7C2	Ms C. Collinson Ms S. Campbell	c.collinson@tgs.starmat.uk s.campbell@tgs.starmat.uk
7D1	Mr C. Benoit	c.benoit@tgs.starmat.uk
7D2	Ms S. Laidlaw	s.laidlaw@tgs.starmat.uk
7F1	Mr K. Simpson	k.simpson@tgs.starmat.uk
7F2	Mr K. Pennock	k.pennock@tgs.starmat.uk
7O1	Mr R. Solk	r.solk@tgs.starmat.uk
7O2	Mr J. Bellwood	j.bellwood@tgs.starmat.uk
7T1	Mr T O'Neill Ms N. Brown	t.oneill@tgs.starmat.uk n.brown@tgs.starmat.uk
7T2	Ms E.Lattimore	e.lattimore@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Year Leader
Year 7	Mr D Bass d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms S. Buckley- Maternity cover s.buckley@tgs.starmat.uk
	Year 7 01937 833466 or extension: 232 / 218	



## Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Year Leader

### YEAR 8

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
8C1	Dr M. Stephenson	m.stephenson@tgs.starmat.uk
8C2	Mr A. Allman	a.allman@tgs.starmat.uk
8D1	Ms T. Askew	t.askew@tgs.starmat.uk
8D2	Mr A. Stangroom	a.stangroom@tgs.starmat.uk
8F1	Ms K. Langstaff	k.langstaff@tgs.starmat.uk
8F2	Ms T. Baker Ms J Yau	t.baker@tgs.starmat.uk j.yau@tgs.starmat.uk
8O1	Ms L. Solk Ms P. Parkin	l.solk@tgs.starmat.uk t.parkin@tgs.starmat.uk
8O2	Ms L. Ireland Ms V. Ward	l.ireland@tgs.starmat.uk v.ward@tgs.starmat.uk
8T1	Ms L. Fullerton	l.fullerton@tgs.starmat.uk
8T2	Mr P. Richardson Ms J Yau	p.richardson@tgs.starmat.uk j.yau@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Year Leader
Year 8	Ms E Proctor e.proctor@tgs.starmat.uk	Mr A Punt a.punt@tgs.starmat.uk
	Year 8 Phone number 01937 833466 or extension: 239 / 277	

## Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Year Leader

### YEAR 9

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
9C1	Ms R. Thomas	r.thomas@tgs.starmat.uk
9C2	Mr P. Gomersal Ms G. Elliott	p.gomersal@tgs.starmat.uk g.elliott@tgs.starmat.uk
9D1	Ms R. Yellow	r.yellow@tgs.starmat.uk
9D2	Ms M. Butterworth	m.butterworth@tgs.starmat.uk
9F1	Mr J. Balfour	j.balfour@tgs.starmat.uk
9F2	Ms S. Micheli	s.micheli@tgs.starmat.uk
9O1	Ms L. Boddy Ms J. Pinder	l.boddy@tgs.starmat.uk j.pinder@tgs.starmat.uk
9O2	Ms H. Hercberg Ms K. Baron	h.hercberg@tgs.starmat.uk k.baron@tgs.starmat.uk
9T1	Mr C. Spence	c.spence@tgs.starmat.uk
9T2	Mr J. Bell	j.bell@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Year Leader
Year 9	<b>TEMPORARY</b> Ms C Beal c.beal@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms C Kenny c.kenny@tgs.starmat.uk
	Year 9 Phone number 01937 833466 or extension: 316 / 315	



## Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Year Leader

### YEAR 10

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
10C1	Mr P. Holmes	p.holmes@tgs.starmat.uk
10C2	Mr R. Remillard	r.remillard@tgs.starmat.uk
10D1	Ms K. McGeechan Ms K. Tantum	k.mcgeechn@tgs.starmat.uk k.tantum@tgs.starmat.uk
10D2	Ms A. Henson Ms V. Lightfoot	a.henson@tgs.starmat.uk v.lightfoot@tgs.starmat.uk
10F1	Ms L. Alderman Mr A. Cain	l.alderman@tgs.starmat.uk a.cain@tgs.starmat.uk
10F2	Mr R. Power Ms C. Foulds	r.power@tgs.starmat.uk c.foulds@tgs.starmat.uk
10O1	Ms K. Heneachon Ms M. Petre	k.heneachon@tgs.starmat.uk m.petre@tgs.starmat.uk
10O2	Mr M. McKie	m.mckie@tgs.starmat.uk
10T1	Ms R. Butterworth	r.butterworth@tgs.starmat.uk
10T2	Ms E. Stubbs	e.stubbs@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Year Leader
Year 10	Mr M. Prentice m.prentice@tgs.starmat.uk	Ms C Yewman c.yewman@tgs.starmat.uk
	Year 10	

	Phone number 01937 833466 or extension: 256 / 293
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## Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Year Leader

### YEAR 11

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
11C1	Mr O. Kenyon	o.kenyon@tgs.starmat.uk
11C2	Ms H. Richardson Ms V Hubbard	h.richardson@tgs.starmat.uk v.hubbard@tgs.starmat.uk
11D1	Ms J. Hodgson	jade.hodgson@tgs.starmat.uk
11D2	Ms R. Dickinson	r.dickinson@tgs.starmat.uk
11F1	Ms E Hitchon	e.hitchon@tgs.starmat.uk
11F2	Ms J. Binks Ms E. Lindsay	j.binks@tgs.starmat.uk e.lindsay@tgs.starmat.uk
11O1	Mr J. Alderman	j.alderman@tgs.starmat.uk
11O2	Ms J. Alderson Ms L .Velvick	j.alderman@tgs.starmat.uk l.velvick@tgs.starmat.uk
11T1	Dr Z. Burgess	z.burgess@tgs.starmat.uk
11T2	Ms H. Stiles Ms L.Thompson	h.stiles@tgs.starmat.uk l.thompson@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Year Leader
Year 11	Pastoral Leader Mr J Fox j.fox@tgs.starmat.uk	Year Leader Ms D Naylor d.naylor@tgs.starmat.uk
	Year 11 Phone number 01937 833466 or extension: 339 / 327	



## Pastoral enquiries

1st Contact - Form tutor

2nd Contact - Pastoral Leader

3rd Contact - Director

## SIXTH FORM

Form	1st: Form Tutor	Email
12C	Mr M. Elsworth Ms N. Randall	m.elsworth@tgs.starmat.uk n.randell@tgs.starmat.uk
12D	Ms P. McKenzie Ms N. Randell	p.mckenzie@tgs.starmat.uk n.randall@tgs.starmat.uk
12F	Mr G. Dale	g.dale@tgs.starmat.uk
12O	Ms L.Bland Mr M. Shynn	l.bland@tgs.starmat.uk m.shynn@tgs.starmat.uk
12T	Ms H. Brydon Mr M. Shynn	h.brydon@tgs.starmat.uk m.shynn@tgs.starmat.uk
13C	Mr A. Crease	a.crease@tgs.starmat.uk
13D	Ms K. Holmes	k.holmes@tgs.starmat.uk
13F	Mr S. Sharratt	s.sharratt@tgs.starmat.uk
13O	Ms K.Mitchell Dr B. Thorpe	k.mitchell@tgs.starmat.uk b.thorpe@tgs.starmat.uk
13T	Ms J. Kay	j.kay@tgs.starmat.uk

	2nd: Pastoral Leader	3rd: Director
<b>Sixth Form</b>	Ms J Gadsby j.gadsby@tgs.starmat.uk 01937 837635 or extension: 235	Ms R Knapton r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk 01937 837623 or extension: 223

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