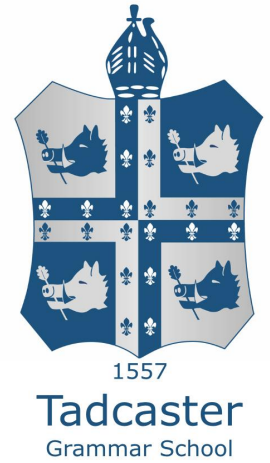


# Be Your Best Self

Monday 4th April 2022



Dear parents, carers & students,

I hope this finds you well? I intend to keep this update on the concise side as you will shortly be receiving a newsletter plus a separate roundup of all the work which has gone on this term across the 11 schools in a STAR MAT update.

Firstly, a thank you. Thank you for your support and trust during an exciting but challenging half-term. I hope you enjoy reading about all of the activities our brilliant students have been engaged in this half-term in our newsletter coming out later in the week. Getting communication home to be as effective as it can reasonably be is an ongoing consideration, especially in an environment of changes to government expectations for COVID-19 mitigation measures both nationally and in schools. I hope you feel we have got the balance about right.

This half-term we have been under considerable pressure as a result of staff shortages due to COVID-19, long term absence and our normal load of emergency staff absence. In recent weeks we have been operating with up to 1 in 6 of teaching staff absent, alongside a number of key associate staff who have not been in school. Sourcing quality cover staff has been increasingly difficult. During this time our wonderful staff have been volunteering to cover classes and prepare work for absent colleagues. In addition, many staff who have been absent due to COVID-19 have actually chosen to remote-in to their timetabled lessons (which have been staffed by cover teachers) from home to ensure their students do not miss learning. This is exceptional and goes way over and above any reasonable expectations. We have had to regularly consider making the decision to close school for certain year groups due to lack of staffing over the last month or so; a decision I would only make if we have no other options.

Thank you to those parents and carers who took part in the STAR MAT survey earlier this term. This allowed us to identify many positives about how we are currently serving our community, as well as some areas which could be further optimised, including:



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

- Further enhancing home-school communication, especially in relation to student recognition & rewards;
- Providing even more detail about the curriculum in school and how it is taught;
- Ensuring parents and carers are fully aware of how the school supports students' mental health & well-being;
- Detailing the extensive extra-curricular programme in school.

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

Wherever you find yourself over the forthcoming break, I hope your family has an enjoyable and restful time.

Kind regards,

**Andrew Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**

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### **Uniform Update**

After the Easter holidays, normal school uniform expectations will be in operation.

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.

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)

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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)

## 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.

	Pastoral Leader	Year Leader
Year 7	Mr D Bass <a href="mailto:d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk">d.bass@tgs.starmat.uk</a>	Ms S. Buckley- Maternity cover <a href="mailto:s.buckley@tgs.starmat.uk">s.buckley@tgs.starmat.uk</a>
	Year 7 01937 833466 or extension: 232 / 218	

	Pastoral Leader	Year Leader
<b>Year 8</b>	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 Leader	Year Leader
<b>Year 9</b>	<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 Leader	Year Leader
<b>Year 10</b>	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	

	Pastoral Leader	Year Leader
<b>Year 11</b>	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	