

Prospectus



1557

Tadcaster
Grammar School

be your best self

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welcome

TO TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dear parents, carers and children,

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our excellent school. I hope this booklet further encourages you to consider applying to Tadcaster Grammar School.

During their seven years with us we want to support each individual to further develop their confidence, ambition and motivation so they can achieve fulfilment in their current and future lives. As such, our curriculum offer is broad, balanced and strengthened through an enviable range of extra-curricular activities. We always encourage our students to immerse themselves in the full life of the school. We all have individual talents and the school experience is designed to find and nurture these, whatever they may be.

We want all students to enjoy, be excited about and make sense of their learning. Students are expected to take a full part in their lessons, to be organised and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, which benefits their own learning and that of others. Our classroom areas are stimulating and well-appointed, and staff work endlessly to make the learning relevant to each individual.

Of particular interest to prospective parents and carers would be the caring and nurturing environment within the school which ensures every student is safe, secure and happy. Our truly committed staff devote much time to getting to know our students as individuals. Staff also empathise with the challenges that day-to-day secondary education sometimes presents as well as recognising and celebrating success.

I encourage parents and carers to engage fully with the school with attendance at school events and via consultations we hold regularly to listen carefully and respond to feedback we receive from families. We want you to feel ever more confident that you have made the best possible choice by entrusting your child's care and education to us. Partnership working with parents and carers is a strength of the school and we rely on your consistent support with areas such as student punctuality, attendance, homework and our expectations for behaviour for learning.

I look forward very much to welcoming you to the school.



Mr A Parkinson B.Sc (Hons) M.Ed M.Sc
Headteacher

be your best self

our heritage

OUR VISION & OUR CORE VALUES



be your best self

OUR HISTORY

The original Tadcaster Grammar School was founded in 1557 by **Owen Oglethorpe**, who was born in Newton Kyme, in order to educate the sons of the poor of Tadcaster. In 1503 (as the Bishop of Carlisle) Owen Oglethorpe, crowned Elizabeth I, on 15th January at Westminster Abbey.

Henrietta Dawson (nee Marshall) was born in 1727 - the daughter of a well-known Tadcaster family (plaques to both her father and mother can be found in Tadcaster Church). She spent her married life in Northern Ireland and London, but retained an affection for Tadcaster and, when she died in 1796, she left £11,187 in her will for a perpetual bequest similar to Oglethorpe's - to support poor women from 'respectable families' and to 'instruct' 20 girls aged between 6 and 12 years of age. There was a plan for a school building but initially teaching was carried out in various rented rooms including the old Sunday School in Westgate.

In 1906 Oglethorpe School and Dawson School merged under the official name of Oglethorpe and Dawson's School, however the name Tadcaster Grammar School became commonly used. It built an excellent reputation as a selective Grammar School over the years, becoming one of the first comprehensive schools in the country after 1945. Relocating from the town to the present site one and a half miles to the west, in 1960, Tadcaster Grammar School became a fully comprehensive school (for ages 11 to 18) eight years later. The design of the building aimed to blend the imposing

façade of **Toulston Lodge** with modern architectural styles of the time.

Toulston Hall was built by **Sir Thomas Fairfax** in 1603 (a Parliamentarian during the Civil War but a supporter of the Restoration). Whilst the hall was pulled down long before the end of the 1800s, the Lodge was used as the dowager house by the family. Whilst there are 'gaps' in the known ownership of the Toulston site we know that a Sir Frederick Milbank resided at the Lodge in the early 1800s, during which time he was honoured by a visit from the then King, George IV, who is said to have dined at the Lodge.

In 1886 Henry Herbert Riley-Smith bought Toulston Lodge in preparation for his marriage to Annie Heaton. (Henry had taken the name Smith as a condition of jointly inheriting the John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery along with his brother Frank.) Henry extended and improved the house with modern fittings and decorations including the porch on the south front of the house where he placed his arms, carved in stone, above it. He also commissioned the carved oak work in the dining room, inner and outer halls, and staircase together with the elephants - which are still in the house today - at the incredible total cost of £3,455 25s 0d.



In 1919, the Headmaster, Mr A W Mason launched the 'House' system for competition in sport. Reflecting the schools history, three houses were named Oglethorpe, Dawson and Calcaria.

These original three houses have been joined, more recently, by Fairfax and Toulston Houses.

The new school field on Wetherby Road (now the site of Tadcaster Riverside School) was acquired - at the time, there was a plan to relocate the school to the same neighbourhood, but that never came about.

Toulston Lodge and site was used by evacuees during World War II, but in 1954 West Riding County Council bought the lodge, its gardens and parkland covering a total of 60 acres, for £15,815. TGS Upper School then moved to Toulston Lodge, leaving the Lower School at the Leeds Road site. After a new science wing, boy's gym and main school building had been completed, the whole school moved to the current Toulston site with the official opening of Tadcaster Grammar School at Toulston taking place in 1960 officiated by the Archbishop of York. *(Other secondary schools in the area were built in the 1960's, including those at Sherburn, Wetherby and Boston Spa.)*



By 1985, Tadcaster Grammar School was always one of the top comprehensive schools in North Yorkshire and among the best in the country. The headteacher, Mr Impey spoke of **'not being an exam factory, but a preparation for useful skills in life'** - something that we still believe today, and why we encourage all our students to **'be your best self'**.

In 1998, an additional science wing, the Oglethorpe and Dawson computer suite was built to accommodate the increasing number of students attending Tadcaster Grammar School. In 2004 the large Independent Learning Centre (library) was added to the school, with the exclusive Sixth Form building established shortly afterwards, enabling our Year 12

and 13 students dedicated study areas.



2018 saw Tadcaster Grammar School become an Academy, forming part of **STAR Mat** along with one other secondary school (Sherburn High School) and nine primary schools. We uphold the vision that STAR Mat works towards: **to create outstanding education in all of our schools to enable every young person to flourish and realise their full potential.**

We continue to invest in our school, and our dedicated staff, to ensure we give the best opportunities to our students now, and in the future.

OUR VISION & VALUES

As our school continues to thrive and grow, we take pride in honouring our long heritage with our **core values** of **ambition, resilience, respect** and **responsibility**, whilst constantly encouraging all students to strive to be their best self. During their time with us at school, we want all students to maximise their potential through excellent academic and personal development. We ask that each member of the Tadcaster Grammar School family should also be:

- aware of the needs of others in their thoughts and actions;
- empowered to control their own well-being;
- able to achieve fulfilment in their current and future lives.



Discover more

ABOUT TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GETTING TO SCHOOL

We appreciate that it is sometimes more convenient for students to be brought to/collected from school by car, however we ask that families consider alternative options whenever possible. This is to help with our objectives of being environmentally conscious, reducing traffic around school, and, the potential risk to students that heavy traffic can cause.

SCHOOL BUSES

Whilst buses are not contracted by the school, we work closely with a number of transport providers to ensure services are available for all students.

Please note that North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the City of York Council (CYC) contract services for students living in the school's catchment area (and more than 3 miles away) with registered bus operators. These students are provided with a FREE bus pass, either from CYC or NYCC – they are allocated a designated bus on which to travel by the Local Authority.

Unfortunately, NYCC do not provide transport for local Tadcaster students living less than 3 miles from school and in the normal catchment area – this is therefore the responsibility of the parent(s). Transport is not provided by either Council for students living outside the catchment area of the school – transport is therefore the responsibility of the parent(s). There are a number of commercial bus services to school on which you can purchase single / return / weekly / mobile phone fares.

Please see our website for up-to-date information on buses, by scanning this QR code or visiting:
www.tgs.starmat.uk/parents/school-transport/



FORMS

All students across all year groups are placed in forms. Forms are connected to our Houses - Calcaria, Dawson, Fairfax, Oglethorpe and Toulston. We have regular House competitions, usually across year groups, but sometimes involving other year groups which enable our younger students to get to know the older students.



Each form has their own form tutor(s) who move through the school with them (ie, from Year 7 to 8 etc). This helps students and their form tutor to develop a strong and trusted relationship.

The first period of each day is form time - this is where students have time with their form tutor or take part in assembly in the Main Hall. This time is when information on what is happening within their year or across school is shared (the Bulletin) or students cover additional support information such as SMSC, or enjoy DEAR time (drop everything and read).

Every Friday students are encouraged to take part in the House quiz. Points are awarded to winning Forms and, at the end of the year, these (and other points from different House competitions) reveal the winner of the Mitchell Shield. *(The Mitchell Shield was given to the school by Mr Mitchell who was Headmaster from 1998 to 2014)*



OUR SCHOOL DAY

All students have 32.5 hours a week in school, plus extra curricular activity time after school or at the weekends (for more information about our optional extra curricular activities please refer to 'LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM' on the following pages).

Our school day commences at 8.40am for all students with form time. Form time is followed by 5 lessons of 1 hour each. Lessons are timetabled on a two week rotation and lessons in week 1 are different to those in week 2 - students very quickly adapt to this timetable pattern. The sample timetable below highlights the number of hours per fortnight students have each subject.

Homework is used to consolidate students' learning and follows what has been covered in lessons. When homework is set, all students are given realistic time-scales for the work to be completed.

Full curriculum and subject lesson details are on our website, please visit: www.tgs.starmat.uk/curriculum-overview/ for more information, or scan this QR code:



School Times for Years 7 to 11
Period 1/form – 8.40am to 9.05am
Period 2 – 9.05am to 10.05am
Period 3 – 10.05am to 11.05am
Break – 11.05am to 11.30am
Period 4 – 11.30am to 12.30pm
Lunch – 12.30pm to 1.10pm
Period 5 – 1.10pm to 2.10pm
Period 6 – 2.10pm to 3.10pm

School Times (Sixth Form) is
Period 1/form – 8.40am to 9.05am
Period 2 – 9.05am to 10.05am
Period 3 – 10.05am to 11.05am
Period 4 – 11.05am to 12.05pm
Lunch – 12.05pm to 1.10pm
Period 5 – 1.10pm to 2.10pm
Period 6 – 2.10pm to 3.10pm

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50																						
Year 7	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Pe	Pe	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Fr	De	De	De	Te	Te	Te	Te	Gg	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	Hi	Lk	Lk	Co	Co	Re	Re	Dr	Dr	Mu	Mu	Ar	Ar																							
Hours	6						6						6						4						3						4						3						4						2						2						2						2					
Year 8	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Pe	Pe	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Fr	De	De	De	Te	Te	Te	Te	Gg	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	Hi	Lk	Lk	Co	Co	Re	Re	Dr	Dr	Mu	Mu	Ar	Ar																							
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Year 9	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Pe	Pe	Pe	Pe	Fr	Fr	Fr	De	De	De	Te	Te	Te	Te	Gg	Gg	Hi	Hi	Hi	Lk	Lk	Co	Co	Re	Re	Dr	Dr	Mu	Mu	Ar	Ar	Ec	Ec																						
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Hours	6						6						6						4						6						4						2						2						2						2						2						2					
Year 10	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	PD	PD	PD	Pe	Pe	Pe	A		B		C		D																																
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alt10 VLS	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	PD	PD	PD	Pe	Pe	Pe	Alt (PLW)		B		C		D																																
Hours	8						8						8						12						3						3						4						4						4						4																	
Year 11	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Re	Re	Re	Lk	Pe	Pe	Pe								A			B		C																																		
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alt11 VLS	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Sc	Re	Re	Re	Lk	Lk	Pe	Pe	VLS							B		C																																					
Hours	8						8						8						10						4						2						3						5						5																							

KEY to subjects:
Ma - Maths
En - English
Sc - Science
Pe - PE
Fr - French
De - German
Te - Technology
Re - RE
Gg - Geography
Hi - History
Lk - Life Skills
Mu - Music
Co - Computing
Dr - Drama
Ec - Economics
Ar - Art
PD - Personal Development

Experiences & support

FOR ALL STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME WITH US...

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We are very fortunate to have such **vast grounds** (the largest in all of NYCC schools) and we are very proud that so much land offers great sporting opportunities.



In addition to our recently refurbished gymnasiums, we make full use of **numerous hockey, football and rugby pitches, seven tennis courts, a cricket square, hard-surface athletics track and a full-sized floodlit astro-turf pitch.**

Our woodland area also provides opportunities for cross country running and orienteering. We recognise our good fortune in having so much space, and proudly host many area and County trials or matches.

It is hardly surprising that Tadcaster Grammar School enjoys a reputation for successful sporting achievements each year - our students have gained many honours in recent seasons at District, County and National Championship level. Lewis Cook (Bournemouth FC and England), Charlie Taylor (Burnley FC) and Emma Coates (Lioness U23 Head Coach) are former students that have gone on and furthered their careers in the professional game.

Enrichment opportunities are a strong feature of Tadcaster Grammar School. We offer students an extensive selection

of activities beyond the curriculum - these take place at lunchtimes, after school, at weekends and, in the case of some residential visits, during the school holidays.

Students in Years 7 to 11 remain on site throughout the day, therefore our lunchtimes are particularly active with many of our clubs and sports practices taking place at this time. All students are encouraged to participate in a broad spread of interests: Opportunities include:

- Art club
- Drama club
- A wide range of music bands, orchestras and choirs
- Various foreign language clubs, including French pen-pals
- Geography club
- History club
- Homework club
- A wide range of sports clubs such as football, rugby, hockey, netball and athletics
- UK Maths challenge

We also offer a number of educational visits in the UK and abroad such as the Year 7 whole year residential which is a great for widening friendship groups.

Other educational visits in addition to theatre visits supporting English or Drama lessons, include:

- Watersports in France or Italy (Year 8)
- Skiing (Years 9 & 10)
- French or German markets (Year 10)

- Battlefields (History, Year 10)
- Rome (RPE, Years 10-13)
- Edinburgh (Art, Years 10/11)
- Lessons from Auschwitz (Year 12, participants chosen via a selection process organised by The Holocaust Society)



We also run an **Enrichment Week** where (during the usual school day) all year groups have the opportunity of an introduction to new skills (such as Japanese, or sign language), discover different cultures and have team building visits out of school.



These have been popular with students in the past and we look forward to more exciting activities in the future.



For more information about the wide range of fabulous extra-curricular activities available to all students in every year group and Enrichment Week 2022, please visit our website (www.tgs.starmat.uk/prospectus/learning-beyond-the-classroom/) or scan the QR code.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We understand that the move from primary to secondary school can be daunting for many students.

Tadcaster Grammar School have a superb network of staff who are dedicated to helping all students (including those who join us in Years 8 and above) settle into life at our school, particularly those who may need a little extra support.

Tadcaster Grammar School is committed to providing a caring, positive and safe environment in which each student's welfare is of paramount importance. We promote a climate where students and adults feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others and a culture that encourages our young people to talk openly, and have the confidence they will be heard.

Support for all students: Young people's wellbeing is so vitally important. We have an amazing team of staff available to support our students.

Our qualified team are available to all students and their parents/carers whether they have special educational support requirements, need additional guidance on - or a little help with - navigating friendship hiccups, or students just need someone they can talk to.

We have access to outside support agencies such as CAHMS, Just B (Bereavement Support) and Wellbeing-in-Mind.



be your best self

Joining

THE TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FAMILY

TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have excellent and well established relationships with the primary schools within our catchment area and beyond.

Following the whole school Open Event in October and the Headteacher information sessions at primary schools we are available to answer any queries you may have.

Once you receive notification from your Local Education Authority that you have been awarded a place at Tadcaster Grammar School, we are able to share additional information with you to support you and your child.

We do our best to ensure that we meet with every student before they join us and we have established a first class sequence of acquaintance and familiarisation visits, including dedicated transition days for Year 6 with a Parents' Evening in July.



When the Year 7 students join us in September the transition is, for the majority, to an already familiar environment. The high quality of data available from Key Stage 2 means that our staff are able to focus on the learning needs of all students from the very beginning of their time at Tadcaster Grammar School.

Please note: additional transition events are offered to sole entry students and vulnerable learners.

For more information about our joining our school, please visit our website: www.tgs.starmat.uk/transition/ or scan this QR code:



CHROMEBOOKS FOR LEARNING

Whilst traditional methods of learning and teaching have an important place in education and continue in our school, Tadcaster Grammar School has a well established *Chromebooks for Learning* scheme, as an **additional educational tool**. All students are required to have access to a chromebook throughout the school day.

Our students' lives are filled with technology and they are quick to embrace new developments. We want them to feel at ease in this rapidly changing climate, and we hope that parents will engage and support us in this forward looking initiative.

In order to facilitate this, the school has partnered with an educational ICT supplier, who offer a device which is suited to use in a school environment. This supplier also arranges a 30 month extended warranty and free repair service for any accidental damage for the 30 months of the scheme.

The scheme is voluntary - students who do not take part in the scheme, and therefore do not have their own device, will (subject to availability) be able to borrow a Chromebook when required, but will need to collect and return it to our ICT support team before/after use (chargers are not supplied with loan Chromebooks - they are charged in the school charging trolleys.)

Alternatively, parents/carers can choose to source their own Chromebooks to the same specification (shown opposite), however in order for the device to be used in school a Google Classroom license is required which is installed by our IT team (*the cost Google charge for this license is currently £26 and is payable to school prior to installation*).

The specification of the recommended Chromebook:

- Touchscreen Lenovo 300e 11.6" Chromebook
- AMD 3015Ce processor
- 4GB RAM
- 32GB internal storage
- Protective carry case
- Stylus
- Google education license

This is a robust and rugged Chromebook designed for use in education. Built to withstand everyday classroom knocks, bumps, drops and spills without damage. The extensively tested impact-resistant body stands up to daily wear and tear.

It also boasts rubber bumpers, reinforced ports and hinges, and secure mechanically anchored keys. With its school day-long battery life, students can be certain of uninterrupted learning without worry.



For additional information, and current costings, please refer to our website: www.tgs.starmat.uk/parents/chromebooks-for-learning-scheme/



be your best self

Additional

INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Tadcaster Grammar School students wear their uniform proudly. It shows that they are a member of our school community and that it is one with the highest of standards. It reflects the school's heritage and supports the equality principles that lie at the heart of a gender neutral uniform.

We hope it promotes a sense of community and belonging to the school, while engendering a sense of pride in, and loyalty to, the school. It should enable students to feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance, not discriminate in any way and promote fairness and equality.



To view our uniform policy and for full details relating to our expectations of all students, please scan this QR code or visit <https://tgs.starmat.uk/parents/uniform/>



Uniform can be purchased from our nominated supplier - APC Clothing in Tadcaster. The Barn also stocks pre-loved uniform - please contact them directly for opening times.



CATERING

North Yorkshire County Council attaches great importance to the provision of meals in their schools, and recognises that menus should be both healthy and popular.



Our fabulous catering team make fresh food every day, with good quality fresh ingredients. There is always a selection of salad, vegetables and fruit to accompany main dishes. Whether students are looking for a snack, sandwiches, a main meal, or a sweet treat there's plenty to choose from.

To view sample menus, please scan this QR code or visit our website: www.tgs.starmat.uk/parents/school-catering/



We operate a cashless system in the canteen so students can pay for food with their fingerprint with parents/carers making payments to their accounts via ParentPay. *(Details on how this works, and how to set up accounts are forwarded after you have accepted your place.)*

All schools have a statutory duty to support students with medical conditions - including allergies. Tadcaster Grammar School works hard to ensure conditions are managed/catered for - we have dedicated gluten-free and meat preparation areas to avoid any cross contamination. We also display

allergen information for the food available each day, and students are encouraged to speak with the catering team if they are unsure whether an item of food is suitable for them.

CLASS CHARTS

As a school we subscribe to the Class Charts application. This allows us to share with students and parents key information such as important announcements, student timetables, class information, attendance, key messages, and behaviour.



POSITIVES & NEGATIVES

We believe regular feedback to students is vitally important and helps them continue to grow and improve, and strive to achieve our core values and visions.

In addition to feedback relating directly to their work, students are awarded POSITIVES for elements such as:

- Ready to learn from 'the off'
- Being 100% on task at all times
- Giving a fantastic answer
- Positive involvement in a class discussion
- Great recall, retrieval or revision
- Safe practical work
- Outstanding presentation

Unfortunately, it is sometimes necessary to highlight to students that behaviour or actions are not acceptable; this is part of our Ask, Tell, Sanction approach. Students are asked to do (or stop doing) something, if this doesn't happen they are then told and when, on the rare occasions the student chooses not to make a change to their behaviour a NEGATIVE is awarded.

In rare situations where the student continues to act in a certain manner, despite being given the opportunity to correct their actions, a detention may be given.

Every student is given a Class Charts log in for use on the App that can be downloaded to a mobile phone. Parents also receive log in information so you can support your child to ensure they are prepared for the following day, have the correct equipment each day, and of course you can congratulate them on their positives.

Full details of the Class Charts application will be shared with families when they join us.



be your best self

And finally...

POLICIES

As part of STARMat we adhere to their policies - these can be viewed on the STARMat website: (www.web.starmat.uk/policies/)

We also have a number of our own policies which can be viewed on our website, please scan this QR code, or see: www.tgs.starmat.uk/school-information/policy-documents/



If you require a copy of any of our policies in a different format (ie Large print or audio) please contact us.

TERM DATES

As a North Yorkshire County Council School, we are guided by the term dates they set for all their schools, however we plan five key training days throughout the school year.

These days are for all Tadcaster Grammar School staff to take part in important safeguarding updates and to share information relating to key school processes and systems.

The training days also provide time for our Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers, Senior Leadership Team and Curriculum Team Leaders to update colleagues on curriculum information, undergo additional training where necessary, ensuring we continue to offer the very best to our students.

All our term dates and training days for the current and next academic years are published on our website. Please scan this QR code or visit: www.tgs.starmat.uk/parents/term-dates



WHAT TO DO NEXT

Thank you for taking the time to consider our wonderful school. If you would like any more information, please don't hesitate to contact us either by phone: 01937 833446, or by email: transition@tgs.starmat.uk and we will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

Once we have received confirmation from NYCC that your child has been allocated a place at Tadcaster Grammar School, you will receive a welcome email with information regarding our various transition events, and welcoming you to the Tadcaster Grammar School family at the start of this new and exciting journey into secondary school.



be your best self



Tadcaster
Grammar School



Tadcaster Grammar School : Toulston : Tadcaster : North Yorkshire : LS24 9NB
t: 01937 833466 : e: transition@tgs.starmat.uk : w: www.tgs.starmat.uk