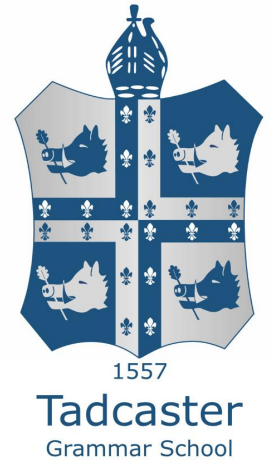


Be Your Best Self



Thursday 9th February 2023

Dear parents, carers and students,

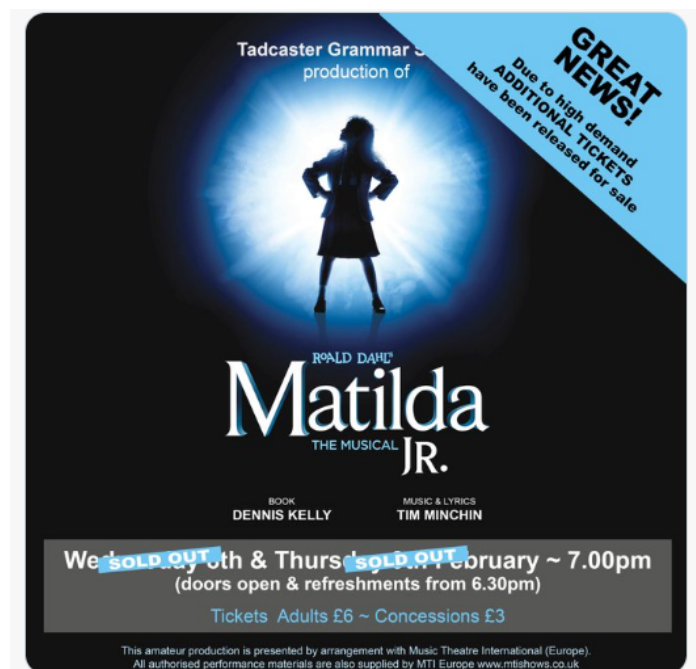
I hope this finds you well? A brief update before the February half-term holidays. Tomorrow we are hosting a conference for all of the staff in the 11 STAR Multi Academy Trust schools considering student wellbeing.

TGS Social Media

We have spent the last half-term reviewing our use of social media. From this point onwards I'm hoping we will be able to publish more news from the school community in almost real time as opposed to relying on emailed letters. Please see details of how to register for our Instagram, Facebook & Twitter feeds later in this update.

'Matilda Jr.' The Musical

Thank you so much for your support of our first whole school production since the start of the pandemic. Two fantastic, sell-out nights this week, plus a matinee for primary school students and staff. The talent and commitment shown by the students has been awe inspiring. We also have a large number of very tired, but exceptionally proud staff in school who have given up so much of their time and energy to rehearse and produce this event. Too many people to thank, but a special mention to Ms Hitchon (CTL Drama), Ms Buckley (CTL Music) and Ms Lattimore (CTL Art). Wonderful!



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

School uniform

Another thank you for supporting our school uniform, especially during the current times of additional pressure on household expenses. Each year we speak to a wide range of students and take their feedback and suggestions on our school uniform and how we can work together to ensure it is the visible part of our school vision and values, as well as being comfortable, practical and as cheap as possible. The students (and staff) have come up with a number of useful suggestions which I will share with you and invite your feedback next half-term which we may choose to take forward into the 2023/24 academic year.

Strike action by members of the National Education Union (NEU)

On Wednesday 1st February 2023, the NEU held the first of four planned strike days nationally. Until 8.40 on that day, (and despite our best efforts) we had no indication of which teachers would report to work and had to plan this day speculatively. We asked Years 11-13 to attend school and Years 7-10 to remain at home. As it turned out, many lessons needed to be covered by senior staff and others in school on that day. We simply could not have invited more students into school and staffed their lessons appropriately, as well as providing a safe environment.

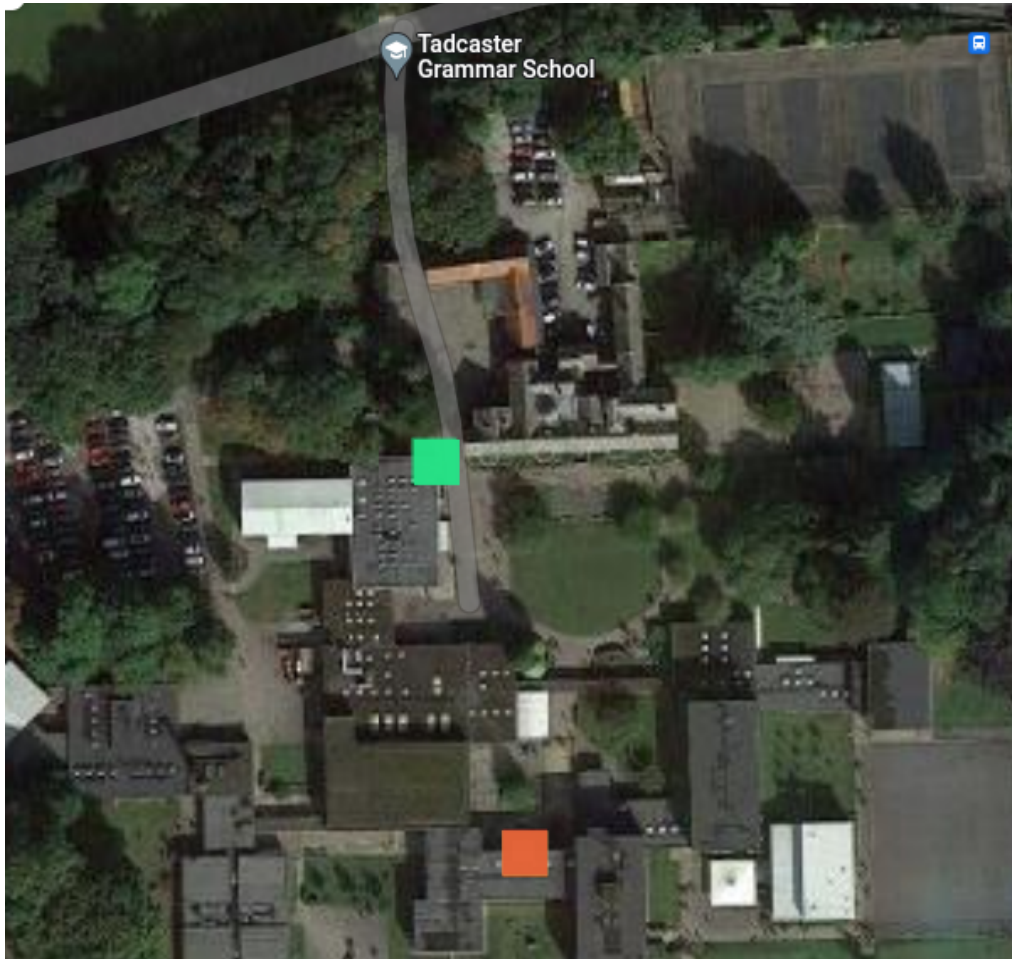
I am hopeful that the teacher professional associations can progress their negotiations with the Government at a national level to prevent the additional strike days planned as follows:

- Tuesday 28th February: Schools in north and north-west England, Yorkshire and Humber.
- Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March: All schools in England and Wales.

However, it is highly likely we will find ourselves in the same position on the run up to Tuesday 28th February 2023, and only be able to partially open the school again at best. Government guidance to schools about what to do for this second day of industrial action may change in the interim, but I will of course let you know our plans as soon as possible after the half-term break. Again, thank you for your forbearance and your understanding that this is an issue between the teacher professional associations and the Conservative Government, with schools affected being put in a completely unwanted position.

School Reception has moved

Immediately after the February break, our main school (visitors) reception will move from its current location to a new, purpose-built facility at the 'front' of school (see next page). This will mean that parents/carers and visitors will be able to drop items off/sign in when arriving to meet staff for meetings in a much more efficient and timely manner. If arriving late or leaving early students will need to book in/out with the attendance office located within the new reception. Please park in the main school car park as normal.



■	Existing location of main school reception
■	New location of main school reception

Finally, I hope you have a great February break.

Kind regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher

Standards

An important part of 'Being Your Best Self' is that students meet and exceed the school's basic expectations. Ensuring we all have the right equipment and uniform is key. With this in mind, after the half term break, we will be increasing our monitoring of students' basic equipment and uniform.

Please allow me to remind you of the most basic of our expectations:

Uniform

- Blazer
- Tie
- Shirt tucked in at all times
- No hoodies (Coat if needed)
- School shoes (black - no trainers)

Equipment

- Pencil case
- 2 pens
- 2 pencils
- A ruler
- An eraser
- A calculator
- Fully charged Chromebook

Please could I ask you to ensure that over the half term break your child has all the basics and is ready to learn when we return after the holiday. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's Year Leader.

Paul Betts

Assistant Headteacher

p.betts@tgs.starmat.uk

Preparation for the examinations season

The exam season is approaching and we ask that all students have the equipment listed under the Standards item above.

Please note that only a clear pencil case will be allowed in exam rooms. Any drinks (water only) must be in a clear bottle and the bottle cannot have any writing or logos on the outside. Watches will not be allowed into any exam room.

Further information will be sent out nearer to the start of the summer season as to the actions required if a student will be late for an exam or if they are ill.

Ms C Langford-Smith

Examinations Manager

c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk

Students' use of electronic cigarettes/vapes

We are aware that there has been an increasing trend in the locality for children to use electronic cigarettes/vapes. Last week I led a series of assemblies about this worrying issue with all year groups.

At school we will continue to educate students about the dangers of vaping and its links to nicotine addiction and how it can act as a gateway to cigarette smoking and the use of illegal substances. We also recognise that students may have developed an addiction to nicotine, and may see the use of a vape as being a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes. They may also have succumbed to peer pressure or simply be curious and want to try vaping.

Please could we signpost you to the following resources (from the USA - sub-links therefore not active in the UK). These are not endorsed by the school but give a useful introduction about electronic cigarettes/vaping and how to assess whether your child is using these devices or at risk of doing so:

[Resource 1](#)

[Resource 2](#)

Andrew Parkinson

Headteacher

School Governor Vacancies at Riverside Primary School

The STAR MAT currently has vacancies for trust-appointed governors at Riverside Primary School in Tadcaster. Applicants cannot be current parents or children at the school. The role will include

- developing strategy
- engagement with stakeholders
- identifying risks and planning for impact



More details at: <https://web.starmat.uk/vacancies/>

A request for office furniture

If you work for a company that periodically refreshes the office furniture in its buildings, we would be very grateful for any donations. Office tables, conference room tables, chairs (especially swivel office chairs) are particularly useful in school.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact Mr Irv Webb (Business Manager) on i.webb@tgs.starmat.uk

Sixth Form

We have been delighted with the number of Year 11 students who applied to Tadcaster Sixth Form for this September. We are now in the process of going through all the applications and arranging subject blocks so timetabling can begin in the Spring term. We will contact students to confirm places and options next half term.

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

Social Media

Tadcaster Grammar School



Over the last month or so you may have noticed that we have been developing our SOCIAL MEDIA presence on our existing whole school Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as our Sixth Form Instagram account.

However, we are excited to share that we now have a whole school **INSTAGRAM** account!



@tadcastergrammar

Our social media will help keep our families up to date with any news students may not hear about. We aim to use our social media platforms to share good news, student successes and celebrations as well general updates and important reminders.

So, please like and follow our pages... like, share and comment on our posts... and keep in touch!



Sixth Form @ TGS
<https://www.instagram.com/sixthformtgs/>



Tadcaster Grammar School
<https://www.facebook.com/TadcasterGrammarSchool>



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Tadcaster Grammar
<https://www.instagram.com/tadcastergrammar/>

#beyourbestself #beambitious #beresilient #berespectful #beresponsible