



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parents,

## Daily Update – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

#### Looking Ahead to September

I am sure you will agree that by any standard this has been a very challenging term. It is also one that will make us stronger as a school and more united as a wider community. We have all learned valuable life lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic and by building on these in the Autumn Term, we will be better for it.

As well as developing new ways of working and supporting more independent learning skills we have been amazed by our students in terms of their resilience and the empathy they hold for others less fortunate than themselves. These are traits that will stand them well for the future.

Before we break for the holidays, when we hope students and staff can take a well-earned rest and recuperate for an equally busy September start to the academic year, we thought it was important to keep all our parents informed of some changes and re-visit some of our expectations when students finally return to school.

#### Staffing Changes and Updates

As is the case each year, we have staff that are leaving Tarleton Academy to take up new roles in different schools or organisations. We would like to thank all of them for their commitment and their dedication to our students. We also have several new teachers starting with us from September.

We say goodbye and good luck to Mr McGuire, Miss Harvey and Mrs Shilton who will all be taking up new and exciting opportunities elsewhere. Within the support staff team, Mrs Anderson will be taking up a new position within the organisation so we are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Hughes as our new attendance officer in September.

We welcome three new teaching staff to the Foundation Faculty including; Mr Nicholson, teacher of History, Mrs Walker, teacher of RE and Miss Duffy, teacher of Spanish.

In the Creative Faculty, Mr Porter will be our new music teacher. We will also welcome Mr Lucas as Director of PE across the Trust's secondary schools, Mrs Smith as Head of Maths and Mr McVey as Assistant Director of Science. At senior leader level, Mrs Barlow has stepped down from her Assistant Headteacher role but will remain an integral part of our English faculty and we will increase capacity by welcoming Mrs McLardy and Mrs Jones to the senior leadership team.

*Outstanding education at the heart of the community*

The tutor group changes for the new academic year are shown below:

Current Tutor Group	New Tutor Group	Current Tutor Group	New Tutor Group
Mrs Montague (SMO)	Miss Duffy (LDU)	Mrs Sprague (RSP)	Mrs Smith (JSM)
Miss Knowles (EKN)	Mr Nicholson (JNI)	Mr McGuire (JMG)	Mr Porter (APO)
Miss Harvey (RHA)	Mr McVey (RMC)	Mrs McLardy (JMC)	Mrs Barlow (CBA)

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that following a cancer diagnosis last year, Mr Gwinnett, his family and all staff at the school are celebrating the wonderful news that recently taken biopsies are all clear and Mr Gwinnett is thrilled to be returning to school in September.

### Uniform and Appearance

We are very proud of the fact that our students wear their uniform with pride and attend school looking smart and ready to learn. As a reminder of our expectations, our uniform requirements are listed below:

- White shirt with top button fastened and shirt tails tucked into trousers/skirt
- V-necked school jumper
- Black school trousers or school badged skirt (skirts should be knee length)
- Black blazer with school badge
- Clip-on school tie
- Plain, black socks
- If wearing the skirt, socks should be long, but no higher than the knee – no patterns or bows) or plain black tights (minimum 40 denier) can be worn
- Plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes (Boots, trainers, shoes with logos, flimsy ballet/court shoes, pumps, fabric or high heels are not acceptable).
- Outdoor wear should be a plain dark coloured coat. Casual outer garments such as non-school jumpers, hoodies, fleeces, cardigans, leather or denim jackets etc. are not acceptable.

We would also like to emphasise the policy we have for a knee length skirt. The expectation is that the skirt touches the top of the knee and allows room for growth. Please note that any student starting in September with a skirt that is too short will be required to purchase a new skirt of the correct length.

We also have a policy that all trousers should be regular school trousers (in keeping with our blazer, to create a 'suit' look) and not tight-fitting or 'skinny fit' trousers which are more suitable as fashion wear. Footwear must be plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes. Please also remember that we have a no jewellery policy, except for a small single plain gold or silver stud earring in each ear lobe, and that extreme hairstyles or colourings are not allowed. These expectations are non-negotiable.

### Equipment

It is important that students arrive at school with the minimum expected items of equipment to allow them to access lessons and learning. Our expectation is that students have the following items on a daily basis:

- a sturdy, dark coloured school bag for school equipment
- a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and whiteboard pen (*these items can also be purchased from the school dining rooms during break and lunchtime*)

All students must ensure that their Chromebook is brought to school each day, fully charged and with a set of basic headphones, for use in lessons when requested by teaching staff. Students who are borrowing Chromebooks must ensure that they collect them daily and return them at the end of each day.

More recently, we have noticed that a small number of students are not taking care of their Chromebooks as we would expect – removing keys, peeling or picking the casing for example. We would ask parents to keep a regular check on their child's device. These are expensive and robust items and should be able to support your child's learning throughout their secondary school career and beyond, if they are well looked after.

Finally, we understand that you may be anxious about your child's return to school in September. Please be assured that the school will continue to plan and implement robust Health & Safety measures. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is paramount and at the forefront of everything that we plan for. We are hoping for a full return to school for all year groups in September and will keep you informed of any changes to this plan in line with updated guidance from the Department for Education.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the information within this update, please do not hesitate to contact us at school on [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org). The staff at Tarleton Academy are very much looking forward to the new academic year and in the meantime, we hope you and your families have a great summer. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

*M Cunniffe*

Mr M Cunniffe  
Head of School