



Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

## Exciting News about a New Build

We are finally in a position to share some news with you that we have been working closely with the Department for Education on for some time now. Last year we supported a detailed inspection of our school buildings and, following many subsequent planning meetings, it has now been confirmed that Tarleton Academy is to have a brand new school, built on the existing site.

In the 10 years since I originally became the Headteacher at Tarleton Academy (before expanding into my current role) we have worked hard to make the school as appealing a learning environment as we could. Largely, I hope you will agree, the ongoing refurbishment programme has been successful. It has included the introduction of our Aisling block, a completely new suite of science labs, a brand new food technology room and a variety of classroom restructures, along with extensive redecoration and new furnishing. We always maintained that it is our students and staff who really make the place shine, and that remains the case. Nonetheless, we have always tried our hardest to make the best of the buildings we have.

So, we are delighted and relieved to finally be able to tell you what we have been planning and hoping for, in the news that has been announced today.

50 schools have now been confirmed in the first wave of a ten-year rebuilding programme, with more than 70% of the schools announced located in the North and Midlands and supported by £1 billion in funding. The first 50 projects announced by the government will mark the start of the School Rebuilding Programme, which is due to deliver 500 rebuilding projects over the next decade.

The schools include primary, secondary and special schools as well as a sixth form college in West Yorkshire. The initial rebuilds and refurbishments are planned to create modern educational environments with brand new facilities. The schools are also planned to be much greener, with a zero carbon emissions target.

The criteria used to decide on which schools to be prioritised were that:

- they have buildings of specific construction types that require replacement
- their buildings have the highest condition need

We are so pleased that in the next few years our students and staff will have access to modern, state-of-the-art facilities. Current plans will retain our existing sports hall, but we are looking forward to a brand- new swimming pool. The new school will be set much further back on the site, around where the existing sports hall is situated. We are taking seriously the impact on our neighbours and careful planning will ensure that the new build will be an improvement for everyone in the village and surrounding areas.

Obviously, we take our role as a centre for the community very seriously and these new facilities will also enable us to provide improved opportunities for all our primary partners along with a continued and ever developing out of hours' community provision.

*Outstanding education at the heart of the community*

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The Chair of our Local Academy Council, Mr Graham Pilkington, on hearing the news said:

“Tarleton Academy prides itself on the quality of its teaching and support staff and it is great news that the school will get the improved quality of buildings to enable the staff and students within the school to continue to flourish and thrive. Tarleton’s Academy Council look forward to working with the School and Trust to help in the smooth delivery of this very exciting development.”

We know that money is tight, particularly in education, and we know how very privileged we are to be included in this programme. Myself and our Chair of Trustees, Helen Dicker, will continue to be heavily involved in the detailed planning of the new school, mindful of our neighbours and the needs of our curriculum provision.

We hope you will be as delighted with this news as we are.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs L A Gwinnett*

CEO of Endeavour Learning Trust

*Mrs H Dicker*

Chair of Trustees