



Monday, 14th December 2020

Dear Parents,

End of Term Update - December 2020

As you receive this, we hope you, your families and friends are well. As we come to the end of this autumn term, we would like to give you an update about staffing, some important Covid-19 messages and arrangements for both the end of term and the start of the spring term.

Staffing Changes

We welcome Mrs Bryan back from her maternity leave today. Mrs Bryan is excited to return to her role as a teacher of Geography and personal tutor and she is looking forward to working with our students and staff once again. Over the last week she has been working hard with Mr Gill, who has been covering the maternity leave, on being fully up to date with the progress that all her classes have made whilst away. We would like to say thank you to Mr Gill for his hard work and commitment during this short-term contract and we wish him the very best for the future.

At the end of the week, we will also say goodbye to Mrs Garrahan who has been covering Mrs Gill's maternity leave. Mrs Gill will return in January, but students may see her around over the next few days working closely with the English Faculty, busily preparing for her return. Again, we would like to thank Mrs Garrahan for her strong leadership of the faculty and we wish her the very best when she returns to her position at Burscough Priory Academy. This successful secondment highlights one of the many advantages of being included within a family of schools, where knowledge and expertise can be shared for the benefit of all our students.

We would also like to say thank you to Mr Powell who has given us extra capacity in the Personal Development Centre (PDC) during this term. Alongside all the members of staff within the Student Services team, he has been instrumental in helping to support a wide range of students in their transition to returning to school during these difficult times. We have no doubt that we will be working with Mr Powell in the future and wish him the very best for his teaching career.

In the New Year, we will welcome Mr Studdart to the Foundation Faculty as Mrs Lyall will start her maternity leave. We know that all our staff and students will make him welcome and we all wish Mrs Lyall the very best for the special times ahead.

Covid-19 Update

Please can we stress to all parents that from Tuesday, any students identified as close contacts of confirmed cases in school would have to self-isolate up to and including Christmas Day.

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Students should NOT be in school if they, or any of the people they live with have symptoms until tests have been taken and results have come back confirming a negative test.

We are doing everything we can in school to reduce the possibility of transmitting the virus but, as we have said before, **we simply cannot guarantee a two-metre distance between students.**

With this in mind we would like to remind you of the up-to-date guidance we are obliged to follow and to inform you of our plans for this week:

- If we have a confirmed positive case in school this week and your son/daughter is identified as a close contact, then we will get in touch with you to let you know that your child needs to self-isolate. We fully understand that this is likely to impact on your Christmas plans but it is our duty to follow the procedures set out by the government.
- From Saturday onwards, whilst senior leaders will continue to oversee rigorous track and trace procedures, Lancashire County Council's education track and trace team will be contacting families directly should their son/daughter be required to self-isolate.
- If your son/daughter attends school on Thursday and Friday of this week and is identified by senior leaders in the school holidays as a close contact of a confirmed positive case, you may be contacted directly by the Lancashire County Council team as late as Christmas Eve. This could be by email, letter or a phone call. It goes without saying that we ask you to be respectful and polite with the member of council staff who may need to make the unfortunate phone call.
- The above scenario applies to any student testing positive for Covid-19 who initially showed symptoms on Saturday 19th December or before 12.30pm on Sunday 20th December. **In this instance, can we ask parents to contact the school directly with all information using enquiries@tarletonacademy.org.**
- If your son/daughter displays symptoms of Covid-19 after 12.30pm on Sunday 20th December, it is important that you follow Public Health England guidelines. Your child should then remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared as advised in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. You should arrange for testing for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or 111.nhs.uk or primary care. All subsequent track and trace procedures will be undertaken by Public Health England. **In this instance you will not be required to contact the school.**
- All this week's lessons will be available online for those students on a directed home learning week, self-isolating, or absent with suspected Covid-19 symptoms. These absences will be marked with an X and will not affect individual's attendance records.

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The Final Week of the Term

This week is the end of a long term and school will be open as normal for the full week for those students who are attending school. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, students will follow the curriculum in accordance with their timetable. On Thursday and Friday, students will be taught in their tutor groups and will remain in their tutor rooms. In cases where students do not have their usual class teacher, they will be supported by another member of teaching staff to complete the work set for them on ClassCharts. It is essential that all students have their equipment with them each day this week, including a fully charged Chromebook and a set of headphones.

On Friday 18th December, the last day of term, students will have additional time with their personal tutor and will undertake activities that have a festive theme. We are also inviting students to take part in the Tarleton Academy Christmas Jumper Day in support of 'Save the Children'. We are asking students to make a £1 donation to help both save and improve children's lives around the world. To avoid students bringing money into school, the donation can be made through the school's cashless system or directly through Tarleton Academy's Just Giving page via this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200008908>

All the students need to do is make their donation and, instead of their blazer, wear a festive jumper with the rest of their normal uniform for the day. There is no need to splash out on a snazzy new sweater to join in the fun as students could borrow or bling up an old jumper with a few decorations. If students do not wish to participate, they can still donate. Any students who are learning from home can donate and, if they wish, can send us a picture of themselves wearing their Christmas jumper so that we can include them in our school-based presentations and social media posts. Please email your pictures to: christmasjumperday2020@tarletonacademy.org .

We are due to finish at 12.30pm on Friday and the school buses are booked for this time. Lunches for students eligible for a free school meal will be available at 12.30pm as a 'grab bag'.

Monday 4th January is an INSET training day for staff. As things currently stand, we will be welcoming all year groups back on Tuesday 5th January. If staffing continues to be a problem after this date we will re-evaluate our rota system, but only if this proves necessary. The existing protocols for entry onto site will be in place and students should attend in their full school uniform, with all their equipment in a school bag and with a suitable face covering.

Christmas Food Parcels

We understand that many of our families may be struggling at this time of year due to the impact of Covid-19. As always, we want to be a source of support, working alongside external

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organisations within our wider community. We have been working closely with Hesketh Bank Christian Centre who have kindly provided several meal hampers to provide a family Christmas meal. Together with Helping Hands Hampers, we would love to help anyone who may struggle over this Christmas period. If you feel you would benefit or know of a family whose child attends this school and who would benefit, then please email confidentially to this email address: enquiries@tarletonacademy.org

Finally, we would like to thank you for your support, patience and kindness in what has been a testing term for everyone in the whole community and right across our county. Your kind messages of support for what we have been doing have been humbling and inspiring in equal measure. We always endeavour to make decisions in the best interests of our whole school community. This hasn't always been easy and whilst some may not always agree with the measures put in place, our first priority will always be the health and safety of your child and all our staff. A final thank you for the trust that you have placed in us over the autumn term and your continued support.

On behalf of all the staff here at Tarleton Academy, we would like to wish you a safe and restful break. Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. Take care.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School

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