



Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents,

End of Term Update

As you receive this, we hope you, your families and friends are well. Coming to the end of this spring term, we would like to give you an update about the end of term and expectations and arrangements for the start of the summer term.

A quick review

This term, we have managed a remote programme of learning, the implementation of a return to school, a lateral flow testing programme, the reintegration of all students into school and a full home testing programme. We want to thank all the staff and students that made this possible, including the wonderful team of volunteers, all affiliated to the school, who supported the testing programme. Without them we could not have completed the LFD testing in the way it was planned and the return to school would have been phased over a much longer period. We are blessed and always grateful for the excellent support that we have in our community.

Our most important role was to press the 'reboot' button and ensure that students were comfortable being back in their classrooms and engaged in learning right across the curriculum. The whole staff team were so delighted to welcome the school community back from the week beginning Monday 8th March, recognising that as a community we had been through another extraordinary time and that we needed everyone to be safe and happy. We have worked hard to help the students understand the role that the school's routines and the high expectations we maintain would allow us to build momentum and to succeed together – as our motto states 'we make our future'. Since then, it has been a pleasure to walk the school corridors and witness the return of the palpable 'buzz' of such a closely knit team of students and staff.

Looking ahead

After the Easter break we will be welcoming our new Headteacher, Mrs Hill, and we say goodbye to Mr Dunne, who has been working with the Senior Leadership Team in an Executive role. At this point I will become our Deputy Head and will work closely with Mrs Hill in her new role. Mrs Gwinnett will, therefore, step back from her role as the Executive Headteacher of Tarleton Academy but will remain fully involved with the school as the overall leader of Endeavour Learning Trust. This is another exciting development for our school and the Trust and we look forward to this new chapter, when we will all

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Mrs. L. A. Gwinnett, Executive Headteacher Tarleton Academy, Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Preston, Lancashire PR4 6AQ
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be working together to ensure the provision for our students and staff, their families and the wider community is the best it can possibly be. The team ethos and family feel of the school was recognised by Mrs Hill, when she attended for the day on Tuesday this week. She met with a variety of staff and students from all year groups, as well as visiting classrooms and observing the student's movement around school. She commented positively on the openness and honesty of the students and how much she is looking forward to starting her new role after Easter.

Subject Awards

The end of term nominations have been completed by the teaching staff team to recognise the engagement and learning of students right across the year groups and the full range of subjects. Each class teacher has selected subject award winners within each class they teach. Tutors went through the presentation with their tutees this morning and we have posted this information on social media, on our website and the student portal. Well done to all the students that have been recognised for their positive engagement in their learning!

Year 11 Assessments

We have recently written to Year 11 students and parents regarding the awarding of this year's GCSE grades, following the cancellation of all formal written examinations. On Thursday we also held an assembly with Year 11 students to inform them how the assessment process will work over the half term between Easter and the end of May. As stated in the letter and during the assembly, these assessments will be scheduled in a way that gives students time to prepare, and both students and parents will be informed of content of the assessments in advance.

We believe that, by sharing this information, we are providing all students with the best opportunity to achieve their potential, ensuring that their grades reflect the knowledge and skills the students have, and taking account of the disruption this cohort have had to the usual patterns of study for GCSE.

The assessment information is available on the school website (and, for students only, the Student Portal). This will be updated each week to reflect the final arrangements for the assessments in the week ahead. You will appreciate that we must be flexible in order to account for any continued disruption to our plans caused by the pandemic. Students and parents will also receive advice from their subject teachers via ClassCharts about how best to prepare for their assessments.

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Easter Hampers

As Easter approaches, we understand that many of our families may be struggling, even more so due to the impact of Covid-19. As always, we want to be a source of support, working alongside external organisations within our wider community. This week we have yet again been proud to collaborate with the Hesketh Bank Christian Centre and the Helping Hands Hampers charity to provide some of our families with Easter hampers. Another example of our strong community ties.

Lateral Flow Testing Programme Update – Easter Holiday

The government has requested that students and staff in secondary schools who have consented to complete LFD tests, continue to test over the holiday period to detect asymptomatic cases. On Sunday and Wednesday evening, to keep the established routine, everyone in our school community will be expected to test and then report the results to through the Government website a <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and through the '[Student Portal](#)'. This programme is important for minimising wider community transmission rates which may have an impact in school, especially as we return.

All positive results following the LFD tests during the holiday should be not only be reported as above but they must also be followed up with a PCR test at a local centre which can be booked online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If the PCR test is positive, please email enquiries@tarletonacademy.org to keep us informed.

Reporting Symptomatic Cases of Covid-19

If a student tests positive for Covid-19 who initially **showed symptoms** on Saturday 27th March or before 12.30pm on Sunday 28th March, parents should contact the school directly with all the appropriate information using enquiries@tarletonacademy.org. Following this contact, members of staff will complete the track and trace process and this may involve letting you know that your child is a close contact. This will be through a combination of email, letter and phone call correspondence. It goes without saying that we know that you will be respectful and polite with the member of staff who must make the unfortunate phone call.

If your son or daughter displays symptoms of Covid-19 after 12.30pm on Sunday 28th March, it is important that you follow Public Health England guidelines. This means that you should arrange for testing for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. All subsequent track and trace procedures in the case of a positive test will be undertaken by Public Health England. Your child (and household members) should then remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their

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symptoms appeared as advised in www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance . Whilst in this instance we do not need to take any action and contact trace, please email school so we are aware of your child's condition for when we return to school.

Uniform and Equipment

From Monday 12th April, we will expect all students to return in full uniform. Students who have outgrown items will have at this point had several weeks to source replacements. It is important that shoes are in line with our 'sturdy school shoes' policy. This means that for all students in Year 7 to 11, trainers and 'flimsy' ballet/jelly pumps styles will need to be changed to meet the school's policy. We must stress that with one term to go, we do not expect anyone to spend extraordinary amounts of money on expensive branded school shoes. We know that shops are not likely to open until 12th April, but supermarkets have a good stock of sturdy school shoes and most outlets offer online provision. If you have any doubt about the suitability of a pair of shoes, please email school with a picture and we will confirm that they meet the school's policy. For your information, there is a link to the school's 'Uniform and Appearance Policy' [here](#) .

If finances are an issue with regards to replacement items (uniform or equipment), then please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can support you with this. If your child has any items of uniform that are still in good condition, but they have outgrown, then we will happily accept donations in school which we will pass onto students and families who need them.

In preparation for the start of the Summer Term, could you please take the opportunity to make sure that your child is well equipped for the start of the new term? The general equipment list includes:

- Blue / Black Pen (for classwork)
- Red Pen (for corrections and self-assessment)
- Whiteboard Pen
- HB Pencil
- Coloured Pencils
- Ruler 30cm
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Earphones (for Chromebook use)
- Face mask

Chromebooks

We worked hard over the lockdown period to ensure all students had access to a device that they

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retained at home. Since our return we have continued to allow students to keep the device to use in school and at home. After Easter we will start to revert to our loan scheme. This will mean that school owned devices will be collected in from students and loaned daily. We strongly recommend any students that have their own Chromebook that is need of repair to raise this with us or source repair privately if it does not have insurance with us. We will also be offering a Chromebook 'refresh' scheme for those parents that may want to upgrade their child's device.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your patience and kindness in what has been another challenging term for everyone in the whole community, right across our district and the UK. Your messages of support for what we have been doing have been both humbling and uplifting. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 12th April at 8.45am. The existing protocols for entry onto site will be in place and students should be prepared in their full school uniform, with all their equipment in a dark coloured bag and with a suitable face covering. Please remember that from Monday 12th all students will require their PE kit to change into for practical PE lessons.

Take care and best wishes. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest and break.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School

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