



Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents,

## Half Term Summary

With half-term just around the corner, the evenings are finally starting to get lighter and it is beginning to feel that Spring is finally on its way. This half term has been bursting at the seams with a wide variety of learning activities both in and out of the classroom.

### Reflecting on the Term so Far

#### Year 11

Following their first set of practice exams before Christmas, our Year 11 students received their exam results during our mock 'Brown Envelope' afternoon. This marks the countdown to their final examinations beginning in May and the message was one of making the most of the time and planning in effective revision with 'regular and often' being the key over the coming months. All students have been given detailed feedback from their subject teachers about next steps and we will be providing both generic revision guidance and subject specific input in the lead up to their next practice exams in March. We welcomed further clarity from exam boards this week that we hope will help focus remaining study time. Teachers will be talking students through these changes in the coming weeks and preparing them as much as possible to take these into account in their revision and exam preparation.

#### Year 9

While our Year 11 students are nearing the end of their journey with us and are completing their college applications, our Year 9 students are thinking about the first step in selecting their Key Stage 4 options. Following on from our Year 9 Parents Evening and our Options Evening this Thursday, every student will have a one to one meeting before Easter to discuss their choices and ensure these are supportive of their interests, strengths and future aspirations.

#### Year 10

Our Year 10 Parents Evening in January provided an opportunity to review their learning progress so far and discuss next steps and, although it may seem a long way away, our Year 10 students are getting ready for their period of work experience in May and have been securing their placements. Those students who have not been able to secure a placement will be supported in school during our review day on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

#### Year 7 & 8

Our Year 7 and 8 students have really benefited this year so far from the continuity of being in school every day and have finally been able to experience the practical elements of learning along with finding their feet in social groups. With progress reports being sent home this week, followed by their Review Day one to one meetings after half term, it is pleasing to see so many positive engagement and progress reports. It has also been a joy to see so many Year 7 and 8 students get involved in the extra-curricular clubs available, including joining in with students from other year groups in our newly formed Euroclub, set up by our new Head of Languages Faculty; Mrs Bergon.

*Outstanding education at the heart of the community*

## **Sporting Success**

This year has seen some fantastic success on the sporting front. We are pleased to announce the following Tarleton Academy Team results:

KS3 basketball district league winners, KS4 runners up

Badminton district winners Yr 7 & 8 Girls, Yr 9 & 10 Girls and Boys, Yr 11 Girls and Boys

Y7 & 8 Boys badminton runners up

KS3 Boys and Girls and KS4 Boys handball district winners, KS4 Girls runners up

KS3 & KS4 Girls Football district 3<sup>rd</sup> place

We are so proud of all our team players and wish our year 9 Boys football team every success in the quarter-final of the Lancashire Cup later on next half term.

## **Student Leadership**

Our Student Leaders have supported a range of sporting events and represented Tarleton Academy to lead our partner primary pupils to try new sports in competitive and fun events; like the Sports Hall Athletics KS1 event and the Inter-School Netball event. These events have enabled our students to display leadership skills like organisation and communication and to develop qualities such as kindness and patience. Well done to all our Student Leaders!

## **Extra- Curricular Activities and Primary Liaison**

Just as our enrichment programme continues to provide a range of clubs and activities out of the classroom to enhance our students' educational experience (see our Spring 2022 timetable using this link:

<https://www.tarletonacademy.org/students/extra-curricular-activities-timetable> ), so our Primary School partners

have started to run their cluster events again. It was an honour to be asked to launch the Public Speaking event hosted at Hoole St. Michael, where two of our year 11 students, Lydia and Isabelle, read monologues to the room, before representatives from our local primary schools made their presentations based on 'Our World'. Well done to all involved!

## **Our New Build and Partnership with Wilmott Dixon**

This half term our new school has really started to take shape as the footings were excavated and the concrete seemed to just keep pouring. Like many of our students, I have found it mesmerising to watch and we will endeavour to keep you regularly updated with pictures from our developing site on both our Facebook page and our website. As a national construction firm, Wilmott Dixon have been working with us to plan a variety of student- based projects including 'The World of Work', 'Environmental Sustainability', 'Diversity in Construction', 'Curriculum Masterclasses', 'Work Experience' and 'Site Visits', to ensure our students gain a wealth of knowledge and additional experience over the next 18 months as we see our new school grow.

## **Spring 2 – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February: COVID Contingency**

We will be closing for our half term break this Friday at 3.15pm and look forward to welcoming back our school community on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February for a normal school day starting at 8.45am. While many COVID measures are being relaxed, we feel that our previous in-school measures have contained the virus within our school community and allowed us to continue teaching all students in school since Christmas. However, with less people regularly testing, we would like to remind you of the importance of identifying a positive COVID case at the earliest point, so reducing the spread of the virus within the school community. To this end, we would like to remind you that it remains an optional choice whether your son/daughter would like to continue to wear a mask. In addition, we will be conducting self- administered in-school Lateral Flow Tests throughout Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, to ensure we identify any asymptomatic cases at the earliest opportunity.

## **Mid-term Review Day – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February is our mid-term Review Day. This is when we invite students into school for a one-to-one mentoring appointment, reflecting on the goals they set themselves at the start of the autumn term back in September, the progress they have made towards them and other aspects of their educational journey so far. Students have been using tutor time over the last week to start this process of reflection and re-planning, which we

have previously found to provide valuable time, clarity of focus and targeted support for the year yet to come. A separate letter has been sent with your child's appointment time and additional details.

### **Important Dates**

Looking ahead to next term, please make a note of the following key events during our Spring 2 calendar that may be relevant to you:

- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February Parental On-Line Safety Workshop 6-7pm**
- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March Year 11 Parents' Evening**
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March PSHCE day**
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March Year 11 Practice Exams 2**
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March Year 9 reports home this week**
- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 reports home this week**
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March Student Immunisations – Year 9 Boys & Girls (DTP)**

### **Safety Awareness**

As we move into half term, we have been focusing on how we can keep ourselves and others safe in all aspects of our lives. Throughout tutor time, students have been thinking about and discussing a range of potentially unsafe behaviours and how they can make safer choices in relation to areas such as road and rail safety, drug awareness and social behaviour in our local community. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our students that they are a representative of Tarleton Academy when in the local community and should take actions that keep themselves and others safe, behaving in a respectful and polite manner at all times.

### **Vape Concerns**

We are concerned at the rise in students choosing to 'vape'. Recent research has found that there has been an increase in lung injuries and death caused by vaping and while they do contain less toxins than regular cigarettes, they are still full of nicotine; which is highly addictive, raises your blood pressure and is being linked to chronic lung disease and asthma. As a school we have a responsibility to educate our young people on the dangers of vaping and in conjunction with parents, support our young people to make better choices. We would like to be very clear that any student caught with a vape in school will be treated in the same way as if they had any other smoking paraphernalia on them and this will result in a minimum sanction of a fixed term exclusion. We thank you for your support in making sure your children do not bring any prohibited items into school.

### **Student Questionnaires**

After half term we will be using a student questionnaire to find out about their experience in school, including how safe they feel and if they know where and who to go to for support. Please do discuss this with your child and let us know if you have any concerns.

It just remains for us to wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term break and remind you that we close for our Easter Holidays on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 12.30pm**.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs V Hill*

Mrs V Hill

Head teacher