



TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr. S. Day

21st April 2023

Dear Parents,

Summer Term – Diary Dates, Industrial Action Provision & UK Emergency Alert Test

I am writing this at the end of our first week in our brand new school. Monday and Tuesday saw all of our staff busily engaged in unpacking and getting the school ready for the arrival of our students. On Wednesday we started the day with house assemblies, tutor time activities and a tour of our fantastic new school site. To say that students (and staff) are excited to finally be in the new building is an understatement, all of us are thrilled with our new school and are looking forward to opening our doors to the community in the coming weeks for you to come and have a look around.

Calendar Dates

Over the coming weeks, there are several dates where school is closed or where our curriculum offer will be disrupted because of industrial action. In summary:

Thursday 27 April – Industrial Action by the NEU

Monday 1 May – Early May Bank Holiday (school is closed for all staff and students)

Tuesday 2 May – Industrial Action by the NEU

Monday 8 May – Extraordinary Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III (school is closed for all staff and students)

Thursday 11 May – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 9 – 12 May – Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 15 May – GCSE Examinations start (lunch split will change to 3:2 – served at 12.10pm)

Thursday 18 May – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 26 May – School closes for Half Term at 3.15pm

Industrial Action

Due to the number of staff that we anticipate will strike in school, there will be major disruption to our school provision on the proposed strike days. Our intention, once again, is to open the school in a limited capacity to our Year 11 students only. We will also be offering an in-school provision for the specific needs of some of our students and we will contact their parents directly. For those students who will not be in school on the strike days and are in receipt of free school meals, we will ensure that a meal is provided and will be in touch next week with more details. It is important to reiterate that this is not industrial action against the school, it is as part of a schedule of national action - the strike is because the NEU has a dispute with the Secretary of State for Education.



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For our Year 11 students on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday May 2, they will be taught by their subject teachers if they are in school. Students should be prepared for all of their lessons and bring revision materials and homework to use and complete in the case of their teacher not being in school. As normal, students will be supervised at all times. Students in Year 10 have work experience during the week beginning 2nd May and they should attend their work experience placement as normal on this day.

In line with the guidance from the Department for Education, the curriculum will be paused for students in Year 7 -10 on the 27th April and for students in Years 7-9 on the 2nd May and resume when school reopens. This means that homework and independent study are the priority for our students. They should be directed to work recorded on ClassCharts; the purpose of the work is so that they can practise and embed knowledge and skills in these subjects:

Every school in the country, not least in our Trust, is in a completely unique position. Our plan is specific to the circumstances we risk assessed today, 21st April 2023. Further to note, we understand that talks may continue between the trade union and the representatives of the Secretary of State in the coming days and should there be any update or change, we will confirm this in writing. To be sensible, we will review the provision that we make on the first strike day and contact parents if there are any changes to the plan. We anticipate that in line with our risk assessment, the arrangement will be the same on the second-strike day, but it would be remiss of us not to complete a review.

National Test of the UK Emergency Alert Service

This weekend, on Sunday 23rd April at 3.00pm, there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alert. Mobile phones (and possibly some tablets) will sound a siren, vibrate and/or read out an alert. This service will be used by designated agencies when there is significant risk to our safety but will be used by the emergency services or government departments who deal with emergencies.

The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert – this means that students may receive the alert as well. To be fully informed and prepared, students have completed some work during tutor time today about this. [Here](#) is a link to the UK government website and another link to the [Newsround](#) piece which is very informative but also user friendly.

The survivors of domestic abuse often use a secret phone that is hidden. There has been widespread publicity about the impact that this emergency alert may have on them and may lead to detection of the phone. The advice from those who support survivors is to opt out of receiving the alerts altogether; this means that a phone will not alert. If this is not possible, switch off the phone or put it in aeroplane mode. [Here](#) is the advice from Refuge and it includes the instructions about how to manage technology to opt out of receiving alerts.



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Finally, we would like to thank you for your support to ensure your child is well prepared for the new term. We have had a fantastic start in our new school, helped of course by plenty of sunshine. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Day
Headteacher