



12/11/21

Dear Parents,

## Autumn Term Parent Update

Following an extremely positive start back to school in September, it has been wonderful to see all our students start to flourish once more in the wide range of learning opportunities provided both in lessons and through extra-curricular clubs and activities. Please find an updated list of this half term's provision.

We watch with excited anticipation as Willmott Dixon continue to make our school site ready to break ground on our new building in January. Whilst we have had a small but steady stream of positive Covid cases both in our student and staff body, we have been able to bring in measures such as targeted in school year group testing, split lunches and year group seating in tutor time to maintain low numbers and keep our school community safe. However, we would like to stress the importance of taking the twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home, particularly as the symptoms for Covid seem to be deviating away from the original symptoms and present in some cases as 'cold' like.

### Potential Closure/Remote Learning

Staff absence, when it occurs, can occur suddenly and creates significant ongoing challenges. Should we experience high numbers of staff absence in the future, we may need to reinstate the in-school rota system, with a single year group out of school and learning from home for a designated week. While we would only adopt this measure as a last resort and would endeavour to provide as much notice as possible, we wanted to make you aware that this is part of our contingency planning.

### Wearing of Coats

There is no doubt that Autumn is upon us and many of our students are wearing their winter coats. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that these should be plain and dark in colour as per our uniform policy, that shoes should be plain black, smart and sturdy and that while hair should not obscure a student's vision, it should also not be cut any shorter than a grade 2. To support our Covid safe learning environment, we will be insisting on windows and doors being open to provide good air flow and ventilation. As the temperature drops, this will mean that our indoor spaces will be colder than normal. We will, therefore, allow students and staff to wear a dark, plain coat while inside if they are cold. This must be worn as an additional layer on top of their blazer, with any hood down. Hoodies will not be acceptable, nor will non- school jumpers.

### Breakfast and Homework clubs

Breakfast club is open every day from 8am to 8.30am in the Mersey dining room and we will be starting our Homework club on Monday which runs from 3.15pm to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday. Can we remind parents that our Free School Meal students have an allowance that can be used at breakfast time? If you are facing financial hardship, please contact the school office to see if you could be eligible for this allowance.

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## **Parents' Evenings**

It was lovely to see so many of our year 7 parents at the end of last term for our tutor evening which provided an opportunity to touch base and ensure our new school members had settled well into our school community. We held a similar evening for our year 8 parents this Thursday and again it was great to see so many of you and hear how well your son/ daughter has settled into school this year.

One of the positive changes made during lockdown was the move to Virtual Subject Parents' Evenings and we will be utilising this system for our year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November, where parents and students will be able to discuss their progress and next steps within subject areas before they have their first set of practice exams from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## **PSHCE**

We will be focusing on revision preparation and exam techniques for our year 11 students as part of the PSHCE day later on this term. PSHCE days provide an opportunity for our students to develop their personal qualities, knowledge and understanding about a wide range of health, careers and value- based topics. Our next PSHCE day is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November and while we will be sending a follow-up letter with more details about the topics that will be covered by each year group on this day, it is important that any student who misses this day of input is not disadvantaged and, therefore, will be expected to 'catch-up' the work missed.

## **Anti-bullying week**

Every day at Tarleton Academy, we see examples of friendship, respect, good manners and kindness, but next week in conjunction with National Anti-bullying week, we will be focusing on the impact 'One Kind Word' can have on one another and would encourage our students to support our Odd Socks Day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. As part of our programme we will be leading assemblies on how we treat one another and where to get help and support if you feel like you are being bullied. Following this, students will be asked to complete a personal questionnaire and targeted support and follow-up will be put in place as a result. The questionnaire we will be using is designed by the Anti-bullying Alliance and can be pre-seen using the following link:

[https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/Wellbeing\\_Questionnaire.pdf](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/Wellbeing_Questionnaire.pdf)

## **Christmas celebrations**

While Christmas may seem like a long way away, we are already in planning mode and have some exciting celebrations planned. Although we do not feel it is safe to invite our Senior Citizens in this year for our Christmas Performance due to Covid concerns, we will be welcoming our local primary schools and will be holding our Community Show on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

During our final week of term, we will be holding our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. We do not expect anyone to purchase a jumper especially for this event and will be running a Bring and Buy event nearer the day, along with holding workshops where students can bring in a jumper to decorate. We will also host our Christmas lunch before finishing the year with a student celebratory assembly and an early 12.30pm finish on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. More details of our Christmas plans to follow.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs V Hill*

Mrs V Hill

Headteacher