



Friday, 3rd September 2021

Dear Parent,

## September 2021 Update & Arrangements

We hope you and your child have had a happy, safe and enjoyable summer holiday and, as we look ahead to the return to school of all students, we wanted to provide you with a range of updates and reminders.

### Health & Safety Updates

Over the past 18 months our 'normal' lives have significantly changed. However, as we now look forward to students returning, there are further changes in and around the school with regards to ensuring the health and safety of our school community. As always, we have carefully reviewed all advice from the DfE and Public Health England as restrictions have been lifted further and a summary of the changes/updates students can expect are outlined below:

- Many of the previous health and safety measures are no longer advised. For example, students will no longer be in bubbles meaning they will return to use of all dining areas, face to face assemblies, vertical tutoring and full movement around the school site, including toilets
- Our school day will be consistent for all students, starting at 8:45am and concluding at 3:15pm
- Students, staff and visitors will no longer have to wear face masks or visors (aside from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September- please see below) within classrooms or communal areas. This means teaching staff can move freely around the classroom and students can be placed into grouped tables, if a teacher wishes. While we encourage students to wear masks within the classroom, this will become optional from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Students must, however, continue to wear masks on school buses and public transport when travelling to and from school
- Good hygiene will continue to be encouraged including hand sanitiser in each classroom, rooms continuing to be well ventilated and the frequent cleaning of surfaces around the site
- We will no longer trace close contacts if a child or teacher has a positive COVID-19 test result. If a student within the school tests positive, they will be required to isolate for 10 days with all other students continuing to attend school, unless they develop symptoms themselves
- Under-18s who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 will no longer need to self-isolate. Instead, when they are contacted by Test and Trace, they will be asked to take a PCR test. They will only have to isolate if they receive a positive test
- If there is an outbreak at our school, staff and students may be advised to temporarily resume the wearing of masks along with other restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus. If this happens, we will make sure you are made fully aware at the earliest point

### Testing Arrangements

Whilst we are sure many staff and students are excited about the return to school and a sense of normality, we are incredibly mindful that the virus is continuing to spread and likely to do so further upon the return to school. Understandably, this is causing a sense of increased anxiety for some people. Although the above restrictions are easing from next week, we want to continue to play a significant role in protecting our whole school community. This involves:

- Students completing two LFD tests 3 to 5 days apart for all year groups within school. The first will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September with a second test taking place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September in the Sports Hall with supervision from the Newcross Healthcare team
- All students (unless exempt) must arrive on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September wearing a mask and continue to wear this until they receive a negative LFD test result from the test within school. From this point, the wearing of masks will be optional but strongly encouraged

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- We will be providing all students with home test kits. Home testing should be completed twice weekly for students and staff until the end of September when we will provide a further update
- We will revert to weekly text messages (Sunday night and Wednesday night) as a reminder for the home tests to be completed, with follow up messages the following day if they are not recorded.

### Consent

Where consent has previously been given, there is no need to do this again. If you did not previously give consent for your son/daughter to be tested in school but would now wish to do so, please email [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org) and your child will be provided with the testing kits and complete the in-school tests. We are asking all Year 7 parents to provide consent using the link in the letter sent earlier this week. If you did not receive this letter or don't have access to the link, please contact [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org)

### Guidance on Reporting Results

There is still a requirement that all results, whether negative, positive or void are reported to NHS Test and Trace. Please use the link here: [Report a COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-test-result)

We also require parents to share results, either void, positive or negative, with school to help monitor student attendance and also to allow us to reassure our school community that the vast majority of staff and students in school have completed their weekly tests. Please report your result to school here: [Home test results](#)

If positive, please also let us know immediately using [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org)

### Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September

All Y7 and Y11 students are expected to attend school on Monday in full school uniform. (They will **not** need their P.E. kit).

Y7 students will be welcomed into our main school hall at 8:45am. Y11 students should make their way to the Sports Hall for 8:45am.

Students in Y8, Y9, Y10 will have received an individual time slot in their Review Day letter and should make their way to the Sports Hall for this time where they will have their Covid test before meeting their form tutor for their personalised review meeting.

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

All students are expected to attend school in full school uniform (see uniform note below). As there is no requirement to maintain bubbles with separate school entrances, for example, all students are expected to arrive through the school gates by 8.40am at the latest. P.E. kit will not be required on this day although all other equipment will be required.

Y7 students should make their way to the Quad (they will be shown this area on Monday) and will then be taken collectively to the tennis courts where they will line up ready to be collected for their 1<sup>st</sup> lesson. This system will continue for the first 2 weeks of term to support our new students in finding their way around the school site. All other students should make their way directly to their tutor room for their first lesson.

The day will involve a return to vertical tutoring, a whole school assembly for those who have not experienced this on Monday; photographs for Y7, Y9, and Y11 and a return to 'normal' lessons.

We will provide all of our students with their timetable and clear information about our expectations and the day to day running of school.

### The School Day

The timings of the school day are as follows:

<b>08:45 am</b>	Start of school day, movement to lesson 1
<b>08:50 am</b>	Lesson 1, including registration
<b>09:50 am</b>	Lesson 2
<b>10:50 am</b>	Break
<b>11:10 am</b>	Lesson 3
<b>12:10 pm</b>	Lesson 4
<b>13.10 pm</b>	Lunch
<b>13:50 pm</b>	Tutor time
<b>14:15 pm</b>	Lesson 5
<b>15:15 pm</b>	End of school day

## **Breakfast Club**

A good start to the day is important for our students so we want to make sure they have an opportunity to eat a healthy breakfast before the learning day begins. (All of our students in receipt of free school meals are provided with a breakfast) Breakfast club can be attended by all students and we strongly encourage their attendance. A reminder that Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am in the Mersey Dining Room and will close at 8.40 am to allow students to get to their first lesson on time.

## **Uniform**

We are aware that the vast majority of parents have been able to successfully source the school uniform for September. We are, however, aware of some supply issues linked to shipping delays and we have been reassured by our supplier, SWI, that they are working tirelessly to overcome these issues. If you are facing any issues, please do let us know and we will look to support where we can.

## **Equipment**

All students should be ready to learn with a fully stocked pencil case which includes:

- A selection of biro's – blue, black and green
- UB pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- 30cm ruler
- Coloured pencils
- Whiteboard pen or marker

Students are also required to bring their fully charged Chromebook each day.

In addition, students will need specific items for certain subjects as follows;

Calculator, protractor and compass for Maths

2B pencil for Art

## **Staffing Updates**

This year we offer a warm welcome to Simon Day as Deputy Head, with a focus on curriculum, assessment and data. We also welcome Jonathan Barnish who will be taking on the position of Pastoral and Behavioural Lead, with Mark Ashton as his deputy. In addition, we welcome Glynis Bourne who is joining us as Catering Manager as well as Jane Taylor and Kay Houghton who are joining her team.

This year our new build starts, so the role of site manager will be an exciting and challenging one. Our new Site Manager, Lee Patterson, is definitely up to the challenge and will be supported by Paul Moran and Geoff Green.

Joining our Maths department, we are pleased to welcome Megan Thompson as Assistant Head of Maths also Elliott Powell in the Science and Creative faculties.

We have two new teachers joining us in the English department – Neve Holmes-Shaw and Naomi Sykes as well as two new Historians in Steph Ashton and Simon Lynch. In the MFL department, we are welcoming Rebecca Morris.

Tarleton has a strong history and reputation for providing 'quality first' teaching and I am sure they will all bring lots of new and innovative ideas to the classroom.

We send our warmest congratulations to Kirsty Lythgoe who gave birth to a baby girl on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. We wish her and her family all the very best.

## **Further Important Dates**

In addition to the information provided above regarding your child's first two days at Tarleton, below are some dates you may wish to add to your diaries:

- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September:** School photographs for Y7, Y9, Y11
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September:** Y7 and Y8 SLT Information Evening
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September:** Y9 SLT Information Evening
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Y10 and Y11 SLT Information Evening
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September:** Macmillan Coffee Morning

**SLT Information Evenings**

The start of the academic year is an excellent opportunity for us to invite all parents into school to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and for us to provide you with a range of information for the year ahead. There will be a presentation from SLT and an opportunity to ask any questions individually at the end. Additional details will follow shortly.

We are excited to welcome your son/daughter back into school next week. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at [enquiries@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@tarletonacademy.org) should you have any additional queries.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

*V. Hill*

Mrs V. Hill

Headteacher