



TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr S Parker

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Autumn Half Term 1

As we reach the end of the first half-term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a brilliant start to the academic year at Tarleton Academy. We have seen our new Year 7 students quickly settle into **Team Tarleton** and have become valued members of our school community, while our Year 11 cohort has begun their final year with a level of scholarly focus and maturity that promises great success ahead. Across the school, students have adapted positively to new ways of working, showing resilience and a readiness to embrace change. This term saw the launch of our new vision and values in September, and I am proud to say we have worked tirelessly to ensure that school life supports our collective ambition of ***Igniting Excellence and Empowering Individuality***.

When I took on the role of Headteacher at Easter and began meeting with students and parents/carers, a common theme emerged: the need for a stronger focus on how we celebrate and reward positive behaviours in school. Many of you felt that we should place more emphasis on recognising the outstanding behaviours demonstrated every day by the vast majority of our students, rather than focusing on recording negative points. In response, we made this a priority, and I am delighted to share that in just the first seven weeks of this term, **a total of 91,159 merits have been awarded**. This means, on average, over 13,000 merits have been given out each week, with an impressive ratio of 96% merits to just 4% demerits. Our next steps will be to review how students can 'spend' these merits by accessing a range of reward-based incentives.

As we look ahead to the second half of the autumn term, I would like to make families aware of a number of important notices.

Information System Upgrade

Over the holidays we will be starting an upgrade to our information systems in school as part of a long-term project to improve communication with all families. In the meantime, our IT support team in school and across our Trust have to disconnect and reconnect some of our systems during the half term break. You should see little impact but in anticipation of this:

1. Make sure lunch monies are topped up (and debt covered).
2. The School Shop has to be reset. When we set it up again, we have to start from the beginning so you may see two shops, one empty and one with products. Use the one with products.
3. ClassCharts may be unavailable during some of the half term break depending on how quickly the external IT support can set up the link.

As we approach the end of this term, our current school attendance stands at 91%, which falls below the expected standard. We continue to receive a high number of requests for holidays during term time, and I would like to make a sincere plea to all families to ensure that holidays are booked outside of the designated school holiday periods. I must also remind you that absences during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. After the break, our focus on improving attendance will remain a top priority, and we ask for your full support in ensuring that all students are present in school, benefiting from the guidance of staff and their subject specialist teachers. It is important to note that there is a direct correlation between good attendance and strong academic performance, with students who attend school regularly achieving better outcomes. While we understand that illness can affect attendance, it's important to carefully consider how to balance minor illnesses with maintaining consistency in school performance. Thank you to all the families who have consistently supported their child's attendance and for the positive impact this has on their education.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Vouchers for students who are eligible for free school meals have been distributed for the holiday period and sent directly to parents and carers. If you have not received them or have any questions, please contact us at school on the enquiries email.

Key Dates for Autumn Half Term 2

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| Headteacher Community Drop In - Boskins | Saturday 2 nd November 2024 (09:00 – 11:30) – Information to follow |
| Year 7 Settling In Evening | Thursday 7 th November 2024 - Information to follow |
| INSET day – School Closed for Students | Friday 29 th November 2024 |
| INSET day – School Closed for Students | Monday 2 nd December 2024 |
| Year 11 Mock Examinations | Tuesday 3 rd – Friday 13 th December 2024 |
| Year 8 Parents' Evening | Thursday 5 th December 2024 |
| End of Term | Friday 20 th December (12:30pm finish) |

On behalf of all of the staff here at Tarleton Academy and right across our Trust, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. We look forward to seeing all students return to school on **Monday 28 October at 8.45am.**

Yours faithfully,



Mr S. Parker
Headteacher