



TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr S Parker

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Update

Letter in Summary

- Reflections on **the spirit of Christmas** seen in school in the month of December.
- Revisiting **our school values** and the impact these have had on school culture.
- Key reminders about **school uniform** expectations for January 2026.
- Reminders relating to **our phone free school strategy** and the requirement to carry a YONDR pouch.
- Refocusing **attention on attendance** to raise expectations for the new term.
- Return to school reminder: **Tuesday 6th January 2026**

As we come to the close of our first term, it is a valuable moment to reflect on the many events and activities that have shaped the start of this academic year. Our school culture has continued to strengthen, and this has been particularly evident throughout December, when we embraced **the spirit of Christmas** in so many meaningful ways. The sense of togetherness shared at our Christmas dinners, the excitement surrounding the launch of our first Christmas market, and the wide range of festive extra-curricular activities have all brought our community closer. In addition, our trips to the zoo, the theatre, and the ice rink have been celebrations of friendship and have further reinforced our strong sense of belonging. I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support and partnership, which has been instrumental in enabling our school community to grow and thrive.

Now in our second year of embedding **our school values**, their impact is increasingly evident in the daily life of the school and in the experiences of our young people. Our commitment to togetherness, being people-centred, fostering belonging, valuing individuality, and being transformational is reflected not only in how we support one another and build positive relationships, but also in measurable outcomes. This year has seen a significant increase in merits issued, alongside a reduction of over 50% in demerits, lesson removals, and suspensions. These improvements demonstrate that our strengthening school culture is having a tangible and positive impact on behaviour, wellbeing, and engagement. We should all be incredibly proud of the positive steps taken and the difference this is making in the lives of our students every day.

I will write to families early in the new year with further updates and the key dates for the term ahead. In the meantime, I would be grateful for your support in three key areas as we prepare for the start of the new term. The first relates to uniform standards. On our return in January, we will undertake a clear standards reset to ensure all students begin the term with the highest expectations. This means that full **school uniform** must be worn correctly at all times; appropriate school shoes must be worn, rather than trainers that may be gifted over the festive period; any festive false nails should be removed prior to returning to school; and students will be required to remove all jewellery except for a single stud in each ear lobe. We ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations so that the new term can begin positively and with a strong focus on learning.

The second area where I ask for your support relates to YONDR. Since its launch in September, **our phone-free school strategy** has been overwhelmingly successful. We have seen tangible improvements in student engagement in learning, and students themselves have shown real resilience and maturity in adapting to this change in how we work as a school. We are aware that a small number of students have lost or damaged their pouches; in these cases, a replacement pouch must be purchased before the start of the new term. The YONDR pouch is a vital piece of student equipment and was funded by the school in the first instance. Students who return to school without a pouch, or who do not use it as required, will be subject to a sanction. Your support in ensuring this expectation is met is greatly appreciated. YONDR pouches can be purchased via the Arbor shop.

Finally, I would like to once again draw families' **attention to attendance**. Our current attendance remains below our expectation of 95%. While we fully recognise the impact of the recent flu outbreak, attendance levels were already below the expected standard prior to this. This is partly due to an increase in term-time holidays, which I must remind families will always be unauthorised, as well as a growing number of students taking occasional days of absence. When reviewed over time, these absences often form patterns of non-attendance that significantly affect learning and progress.

High levels of attendance are essential if students are to fully benefit from the excellent opportunities and experiences available at Tarleton Academy. As a school, we are judged by the inspectorate on our whole-school attendance figures, and improving attendance therefore requires a shared commitment from the entire community. We will continue to strengthen the support we offer to families, but we will also challenge where patterns of non-attendance become evident. This will include a more focused approach to home visits when students are not in school. As we enter the new year, I ask that we work together to ensure students are in school every day, engaged in learning, and benefitting fully from all that our school has to offer.

As the Christmas season approaches, I hope it brings you time for rest, joy, and connection with those who matter most. On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish all members of our community a very happy Christmas and send our very best wishes for health, happiness, and fulfilment in 2026.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026** as we embark on another term and a new calendar year together.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Parker
Headteacher