



TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr S Parker

Monday 3rd November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Half Term 2 Parent and Carer Update

Letter in Summary:

- A warm welcome back to school
- Reflections on the compassion and solidarity of our school community
- Updates in relation to YONDR smartphone free school
- Looking ahead to half term two
- Attendance reminders
- Key dates for the diary

As we begin the second half of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a significant first half of the year for Tarleton Academy, one marked by both great achievement and deep reflection. In school, the impact of the changes we have made to our provision is now being clearly felt: attendance is already higher than at this point last year, and incidents of negative behaviour have fallen by an impressive 75%. The culture and ethos of Tarleton Academy continue to strengthen as we live out our values, placing the student experience at the heart of everything we do, whether in lessons, through our expanding extra-curricular opportunities, or across the rich programme of trips and visits that bring learning to life. Highlights such as our first-ever Year 7 transition residential in October have further shown how far we have come in nurturing a thriving, connected school community.

The past weeks have seen our community come together in extraordinary ways, not least as we united to celebrate the life of Ben Williams, a much-loved former student whose memory continues to inspire us all. The compassion and solidarity shown across our academy following Ben's passing on 23rd September reminded us of the true strength of our community spirit. In the coming weeks, we will channel that spirit into an ambitious fundraising project to create a community garden in Ben's memory, a lasting tribute and a peaceful space for all members of our village to reflect, remember, and find comfort.

I would like to take a moment to thank all families for their continued support in implementing our phone-free school policy. While it's difficult to measure the impact of any single initiative, it is clear that our YONDR project has made a real difference to daily life at Tarleton Academy. We have seen fewer lesson disruptions, a marked reduction in online-related pastoral incidents both in and out of school, and even a decline in students requesting to visit the toilet mid-way through lesson, an unexpected but welcome sign that many are breaking old smartphone habits. Students have responded with real maturity, and I am grateful to families for supporting our approach, including the three-day confiscation system where needed. The impact has also attracted attention beyond our community, with families from other areas expressing interest in our policy and school leaders visiting to see it in action. Together, we are creating a calmer, more focused environment where our students can truly thrive.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we have another exciting and busy seven weeks ahead. Our Year 11 students will soon sit their mock examinations in December, an important milestone as they begin focused preparations for their summer exams. Alongside this, we continue to provide rich opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, with events such as our *HumanUtopia* day and the *MEGA Employer Encounter Day* for Year 7. Our links with the wider community remain as strong as ever, as we look forward to hosting the *TARDIS Primary Spelling Bee*, welcoming children from *Churchtown Primary School* for an enrichment day, and opening our doors for the *Tarleton Day Nursery* nativity. And of course, we approach one of the most joyful times in the school calendar - Christmas. This special season always brings a sense of belonging and celebration across the school, and we look forward to sharing details of our 2025 Christmas Appeal in the coming weeks.

Of course, to experience the brilliant opportunities on offer at Tarleton Academy, students need to be in school. Attendance truly matters. I am pleased to share that we are seeing improvements across all areas of attendance compared to this time last year, but there is still more work to do. We remain unapologetic in our high expectations around attendance, as we know that being present every day makes a real difference to learning, progress, and the sense of belonging felt by students. At the same time, we are committed to offering the right support to any family who may be finding regular attendance challenging, ensuring that every student can access the education they deserve. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that holidays during term time will not be authorised, in line with national statutory guidance. Every lesson, every experience, and every opportunity counts.

Key Dates: Whole School – Autumn Half Term 2

Year 11 HumanUtopia Day	Tuesday 4 th November 2025
Year 7 Settling-in Evening	Thursday 13 th November 2025
Year 11 Mock Exams	Fortnight Commencing Monday 1 st December 2025
Flu Vaccinations (subject to permission)	Tuesday 9 th December 2025
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Thursday 11 th December 2025
Rewards Visit – Ice Skating	Tuesday 16 th December 2025
Key Stage Three Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 17 th December 2025
Key Stage Four Christmas Dinner	Thursday 18 th December 2025
End of Term	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12.35pm finish)

Additionally, we will continue to offer our *Meet the Headteacher* community drop-in sessions at Boskins Café. The next session will take place on **Sunday 9th November**, from **09:00 to 10:30**. Please note that this represents a change to the previously published date in the September calendar. The adjustment has been made to accommodate our attendance at the annual Remembrance Service taking place on the same day. The dates and times for future meetings in Terms 2 and 3 are outlined below.

Term 2	
• Saturday 17th January 2026 (10:00 and 12:00)	• Saturday 7th March 2026 (10:00 and 12:00)
Term 3	
• Saturday 25th April 2026 (10:00 and 12:00)	• Saturday 13th June 2026 (10:00 and 12:00)

Yours faithfully,



Mr Scott Parker
Headteacher