



3rd May 2019

Dear parents,

The Start of the Summer Term

Now that the students and staff are well and truly back into the regular school routine after the Easter break, we thought it was a good opportunity to make sure that all parents are fully aware of the key dates and information for the final term of the academic year.

Key Dates:

Week Beginning Monday 13 th May	GCSE Exam Series Commences in full
Thursday 23 rd May	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 24 th May	<i>School Closes at 3.15pm for half-term</i>
Thursday 13 th June	Year 8 Parents Evening
Week Beginning Monday 17 th June	Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) Exams
Thursday 20 th June	Year 6 Induction Day 1 & Year 6 Parents' Induction Evening
Friday 21 st June	Year 6 Induction Day 2
Week Beginning Monday 24 th June	Year 10 Exams
Thursday 27 th June	Year 11 Valedictory Dinner & Uniform Evening
Thursday 4 th July & Friday 5 th July	Year 10 Geography Field Trips
Week Beginning Monday 8 th July	Residential Trip Week & Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 15 th July	Summer Concert
Tuesday 16 th July	Sports Day
Thursday 18 th July	Whole School Trip
Friday 19 th July	<i>School finishes for the summer holidays at 12.30pm</i>

For Year 11 students, although the bulk of the final GCSE examinations start in just over a week, on Monday 13th May. A number of exams and practical moderations have already taken place and we have been very pleased with the way that Year 11 have conducted themselves so far, this bodes well for the bulk of the examinations still to come. It is also worth noting that the GCSE examinations are detailed within the calendars accessible in our school app and on our website by using this link <https://www.tarletonacademy.org/our-calendar>.

Students' revision skills are a crucial part of examination success and as we move towards half-term our focus on these skills will include all year groups as they approach their own end of year examinations. As well as revision, we also believe that the process of sitting examinations is important for all students, so they become accustomed to the examination procedures. This prepares students

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to deal more effectively with the challenges that exams can create. We wish all our students the very best of success within their upcoming exams.

Recently, we wrote to parents regarding our move from Firefly to Classcharts. We have now completed the transfer and all students have been issued with their login codes. It is also important that all parents access their account so they can review the rewards, behaviour and homework for their child. Thank you to all the parents that have already accessed the platform and we hope you find it a valuable tool during your child's time at Tarleton Academy. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr McLardy by email t.mclardy@tarletonacademy.org. The information detailed on our website may also clarify any minor issues parents may have. <https://www.tarletonacademy.org/parents/class-charts>.

We are aware of a number of negative comments on social media recently, regarding a perceived change in school rules linked to toilet use during lessons. Firstly, there has been no change to the rules. However, we understand where this misunderstanding has come from. Toilet use during lessons is now logged through Classcharts as this helps us spot trends and ensures we are aware of who is legitimately out of class. Unfortunately, a small number of students have received minus points in error as the system added a default -1 point for the log. This issue has been rectified. The school's stance on toilet use has not changed. We do encourage students to use the bathrooms during break times and also inform students that staff will release them from lesson at their discretion. Contrary to the perceptions of some, we do have student toilets around the school in the Mersey, the Lune, the Ribble, the Yarrow and the Aisling. We would also politely request that if there are concerns regarding school issues that we are contacted directly rather than comments being posted through social media.

Since our return to school after Easter we have worked hard to raise the importance of 'getting the basics right'. We have held assemblies and discussed with students our vision of what we would like to see on a daily basis from them and the personal attributes we hope to foster to help ensure their success beyond Tarleton Academy. In addition, we have also reminded students how they are rewarded for their engagement in lessons and for following the school rules. We have also re-iterated why we believe good behaviour and high standards form the foundations of our collective success. As is usually the case, we remain incredibly proud of how our students present themselves and generally behave, however, skirt length is still a perennial issue with a small number of our students. We welcome your support in ensuring skirts rest at the top of the knee as a minimum. In the coming weeks we will be contacting you if skirt length is an issue. We would also like to remind students that make-up should be 'discreet' and that the same judgement also applies to 'fake tan'.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few weeks at parents' evenings or at one of the many events over the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe

Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School