



3rd April 2019

Dear Parents,

New Parent Portal - ClassCharts

Following some fact finding and a consultation with both school staff and parents, we have decided to move our online learning platform and Parent Portal away from Firefly. After four years many of the technologies we have in school, and the way in which we use them, have evolved significantly.

Following our work with parents, it is clear that Firefly is popular, and that elements of it are well used. In particular, the overview of achievement and behaviour points, the homework function and the access to students' timetables have emerged as priorities that are shared between parents and staff. Other facilities that are less well-used include the storage of important documents and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), in which staff have curated revision and course materials for students to view.

We are keen to further develop those features that are most important to us as a school and intend to change our use of software to meet those needs more closely.

You are now invited to log in to ClassCharts, where you will find a much more detailed account of your son/daughter's achievement and behaviour points. Because behaviour warnings are given for minor infractions of our classroom rules, we do not ask teachers to log the reason why students have been warned. You will however be able to see behaviour points and achievement points awarded for more specific reasons such as missed homework, winning a competition or producing an excellent piece of classwork. Attendance information is not 'live', but is automatically updated around midnight each night.

Date	Key Information
3 rd April	Parents Invited to log in to ClassCharts to see achievement/behaviour. (Firefly still in full use)
26 th April	Important information and VLE content to be copied to the main school website and/or the new 'Student Portal'.
29 th April	Teachers begin setting homework through ClassCharts (and not through Firefly)
1 st May	Final Firefly switch off

As you can see from the timeline, the lesser used components of Firefly will be moved elsewhere. It is our intention that any non-personal documentation can go on the main school website, removing the need for

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students and parents to login at all. Anything more specific to the student or the school will be kept on our new Student Portal which students are already able to view. We will ensure that all revision materials, for Year 11 in particular, are available throughout this period of transition.

The remaining priority that we have begun to address is the desire for parents to see their son/daughter's timetable electronically. You may already be aware that students' timetables are visible on [Google Calendar](#) and we intend to publish some instructions as to how students can 'share' this calendar with their parents. We are currently investigating options to make this process more seamless and will update you further as soon as we are able.

In order to login to ClassCharts for the first time, you will need to follow these steps:

Login Guide	Parent Access Code
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open www.classcharts.com/parent/login2. Enter your email address3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'4. Enter your parent access code and name5. Choose a password6. Click Log-in!	<<PRTNCODE123>>

Please also be aware that the ClassCharts app can be downloaded on iOS and Android smartphones, enabling you to be notified more easily of events logged in school. You can refer to the [school website](#) for further help in getting started.

If you have any issues logging in, or any feedback you would like to give us on the new system before we make the final 'switchover', please feel free to contact me via the school office on the usual number or by email at t.mclardy@tarletonacademy.org.

As ever, we thank you for the support you give us in challenging your sons and daughters to achieve at the highest level. We hope that, in ClassCharts, we have a solution that further equips parents to support us in this way.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T McLardy

Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment