



16.12.16

Dear Parents,

## Approaching the end of a busy term...

Can you believe Christmas is just around the corner? It does not seem five minutes ago that students and staff were starting the new academic year and I personally took up the role as Head of School. I first worked at Tarleton in September 1997 and hold the years between then and January 2005 as some of the best of my career. At a time in education where the only constant seems to be change, it is fantastic to be part of a team that maintains a dogged determination to foster a true community spirit through strong positive relationships, knowing students as individuals and uncompromising high standards. The school has gone from strength to strength with respect to the students' results and their academic progress – *this should be celebrated by the staff, students, parents and the wider community*. What pleases me most is that the academy has achieved this success whilst maintaining a focus on the development of well-rounded young people. In simple terms I believe we get the balance right between academic and personal development and I am delighted to be part of this winning team.

It has been an extremely busy first term at Tarleton Academy and I have no doubt this will be a constant theme. With a week to go before we break up for the Christmas holidays I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what is taking place over the remaining few days.

The Year 11 students started their first set of practice examinations last week and they will run until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We have been impressed with their positive approach and their impeccable behaviour so far and appreciate the importance parents have placed on their preparation. School closes after our end of year assembly on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.30pm. I am sure that Year 11 students in particular will be looking forward to a well-earned break.

Year 10 students have recently had their reports sent home, whilst Year 8 reports will be sent home on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and Year 9 reports will be sent home on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We hit the ground running after the break with Year 10 students parents evening the first day back, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January. They should be booking their time slots with teaching staff ready for then, so parents can get an update on their progress and engagement in learning.

Last week we held two productions of 'Oliver!' to rave reviews. The hard work, dedication and talent displayed by the students has simply been fantastic. This coupled with the expertise of the staff has made for a musical production that any professional company would have been proud of. The fact that all this has been achieved in ten weeks makes it all the more amazing. For those of you who came to see the show we thank you for your support. For those who missed out we would love to see you next year!

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Today we held our Christmas lunch for those students who selected to take up this option. We hosted two sittings and invited students to dine with us, with table service by the willing staff volunteers! It was also National Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' and you can see the variety of festive fashions on display on the Tarleton Academy Facebook page – there were definitely a few questionable fashion choices!

Keeping with the festive theme our school choir performed at Southview Lodge Care Home on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and received some really positive feedback from the residents and staff. The choir will also be singing at Booths, in Hesketh Bank, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm invitation for you to attend our annual Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6pm.

School finishes early on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December with buses ordered for 12.30pm, following our end of term, end of 2016 celebration assembly.

Have a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Tarleton Academy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Cunniffe  
Head of School

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