



12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents,

## The start of a new academic year...

It has been a busy but extremely positive start to the new academic year. Last Wednesday we welcomed our new Year 7 students and our Year 11 students, effectively using our oldest members of our community to welcome and ease the nerves of our new intake. It was fantastic to see the Year 11 students, led by their Heads of Houses, develop such positive relationships with the new intake. On the same day we held personal reviews with students in Years 8, 9 & 10 led by tutors with all students to help them focus on their previous successes, areas for development and set targets for the new academic year. All year groups are now into the routine of their timetable and the new academic year is well underway.

In order to maintain the momentum of this positive start I would like to draw your attention to a number of key points, a few changes for the academic year and key calendar dates.

### Student Planners:

Planners have been issued to all Year 7 students. In Years 8 to 11 planners have been issued to those students whom tutors feel need to use a planner to assist with their organisation. Students can also request to be issued with a planner if they feel it would be a benefit for their personal organisation. Planners now include a timetable section and a notes section to record homework if necessary. We have decided to slim down the planner and adopt this approach after consulting students and staff about their use. With the vast majority of students in Years 7-9 using Chromebooks on a daily basis, the schools' computer suites accessible daily at lunchtime and afterschool and the increased ease of access to their individual Firefly portal, through an application platform on phones or tablets, the daily use of planners is not required by all students.

### Firefly Parental Portal:

Year 7 parents you will receive a separate letter detailing the way to set up your Firefly Parent Portal account. Any parents of students in Year 8-11 who are having issues with their own access to the Firefly Parental Portal please in the first instance check the academy's website <https://www.tarletonacademy.org/parents/firefly-virtual-learning-platform>. After reading, this information if you have any further issues please contact [firefly@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:firefly@tarletonacademy.org).

### Uniform and Appearance:

We are very proud of the fact that the vast majority of our students have arrived at school in the correct uniform and with an appropriate appearance. It was great to see so many young people visibly wearing their uniform with pride. As a reminder of our expectations, our uniform requirements are:

- White shirt with top button fastened and shirt tails tucked into trousers or skirt
- Black school trousers or school bagged skirt (skirts are required to be knee length)

- Black blazer with school badge
- Clip-on school tie
- Plain black socks (without bows and no higher than the knee) or plain black tights (socks should not be worn over tights)
- Footwear is to be plain black, smart, sturdy shoes (boots, trainers, pumps, fabric or high highs are not acceptable)
- Outdoor clothing is to be a plain dark coloured coat (casual outer garments such as non-school jumpers, hoodies, fleeces, cardigans, leather or denim jackets are not acceptable)

I would also like to emphasise the policy we have for a knee length skirt. The expectation is that the skirt touches the top of the knee and allows room for growth. We also have a policy that all trousers should be regular school trousers (in keeping with our blazer, to create a 'suit' look) and not tight-fitting or 'skinny fit' trousers which are more suitable as fashion wear. Footwear must be plain, black, smart, sturdy shoes. Please also remember that we have a no jewellery policy, except for a small single plain gold or silver stud earring in each ear lobe, and extreme hairstyles or colourings are not allowed.

### **Equipment:**

It is important that students arrive at school each with the minimum expected pieces of equipment to allow them to access lessons and learning. Our minimum expectation is that students have the following items on a daily basis:

- a sturdy dark coloured school bag for school equipment
- a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and whiteboard pen (*these items can also be purchased from the school dining rooms during break and lunchtime*)

In Years 8 and 9 the vast majority of our students have their own Chromebook. Year 7 students are excitedly waiting to receive theirs within the next week. All students in Years 7-9 must ensure that their Chromebook is brought to school on a daily basis, fully charged and with a set of basic headphones for use in lessons. Students that are loaning Chromebooks must ensure that they collect them on a daily basis and return them at the end of each day.

### **Key Dates for the first half-term**

Please see below key dates for your diaries during the first half term:

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Year 10 Parents' Information Evening at 6.00pm and Year 11 Parents' Information Evening at 7.00pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Year 8 Parents' Information Evening 6.00pm and Year 9 Parents' Information Evening 7.00pm
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Open Evening (school closes early at 12.30pm and school buses are arranged for this time)
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Year 7 'Settling In' Tutor Consultation evening
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October INSET Day (school closed to students)

The school calendar for the new academic year is available on the school website and the term dates can be accessed under the 'Our Academy' tab or by using the link below:

<https://www.tarletonacademy.org/termdates> .



**TARLETON**  
ACADEMY

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If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the information within this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are very much looking forward to another successful academic year!

Yours sincerely

*M Cunniffe*

Mr M Cunniffe  
Head of School

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

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