

February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to inform you that your son/daughter's **Winter School Report is now available on the Parent App**. I trust that you will find the Report useful as your son/daughter, you and the School plan together to ensure the best possible preparation for the crucial summer examinations. The Report gives an indication of current performance, however, each pupil has the potential to achieve excellent outcomes in the summer through sustained effort and effective revision.

Please note Years 8-10 Reports will have written comments on the Summer Report. The Year 11 Report contains teacher comments in the subjects which have an external GCSE module in the summer and the other subjects will provide a written comment on the Summer Report.

Please note:

- If a letter "L" appears before the examination result, this indicates the examination was taken late.
- Due to limited storage on the Parent App, the Report will only be available to view for 6 months. If you wish to have a permanent copy of the School Report, you will need to save and/or print it.

Your child will continue to participate in on-going assessment and we would encourage you to keep engaging with your son/daughter in order to support them in their learning. **This is an exceedingly challenging time for all young people and indeed you as parents – please keep going, you are doing a tremendous job!**

For your convenience, I have copied below important dates that are available via our calendar on the School website. It is our intention that **School Cloud invitations will be sent one week before a consultation, via the app.**

Year 10 GCSE Options Presentation - link has already been circulated to parents and the presentation is available on the school website – Parental Information – Policies/Documents.

Year 12 A Level Options Presentation - link has already been circulated to parents and the presentation is available on the school website – Parental Information – Policies/Documents.

Thursday 10 February (during registration) - Year 12 GCSE English & Maths module results

Monday 14 - Friday 18 February - Half Term for all pupils

Monday 14 - Wednesday 16 February – Staff Training

Tuesday 15 February (9.15-10.45am) – Year 12 Parent Subject Advice re A Level Options via School Cloud

Tuesday 22 February (4.00-6.00pm) – Year 10 Parent Consultation via School Cloud

Wednesday 2 March – A Level Options Talk to Year 12 pupils, in school during games afternoon - new subjects

Thursday 3 March (4.00-6.00pm) – Year 13 Parent Consultation via School Cloud

Monday 7 – Friday 18 March - Subject Choice System open for Years 10 and 12

Thursday 10 March - GCSE Options Talk to Year 10 pupils, in school during afternoon - new subjects

Thursday 17 March - School closed – St Patrick's Day

Friday 18 March - Subject Choice Deadline for Years 10 and 12

Thursday 7 April (12.35pm finish for all pupils) – Last day of Spring Term

Thursday 7 April (1.30-3.30pm) – Year 11 Parent Consultation via School Cloud

Friday 8 April – Staff Training – Moderation
Monday 25 April – First day of Summer Term

The exact date on which GCSE, AS and A Level students will leave school on study leave in May has not yet been decided. As pupils have only a few months until their examinations, **it is important that they are now working diligently and adopting a serious approach to revision.** The coming weeks and the Easter holidays are a time when extra hours of study can take place. Teachers have already stressed the need to produce a detailed study plan and to have this prominently displayed at home. **Good attendance at school between now and the examinations is essential** to help pupils ‘fine tune’ their understanding and knowledge. I wish to make it clear that **all pupils should not undertake any form of part-time employment** from now until their examinations are over, as this will adversely impact on their performance in these critical examinations. Part-time employment can result in pupils being too tired to study and ultimately leads to underachievement, however part-time employment can be beneficial during holiday periods to help develop essential life skills.

The School will contact you again when study leave begins, outlining the final details regarding the examinations. However, please note the **examination results will be available as follows:**

A & AS Level Results - Thursday 18 August 2022
GCSE Results – Thursday 25 August 2022

It is vitally important your son/daughter is available at this time to make key decisions regarding his/her future.

Pupils will, in due course, be issued with their Examination Timetable which outlines their personal programme of examinations. On receipt of this they should note the date and time for **each** of their examinations and place this in a prominent position at home. Please also note that CCEA has designated the **first week of July** as a contingency examination period - in the event of disruption to examinations. Please note this will mean there is a reserve series for most subjects, particularly at A Level should a pupil not be able to sit an examination due to Covid, with an alternative examination available to sit a number of days later. **It is vitally important that all pupils are available to sit their examination on the dates specified by the examination authorities.**

I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in the coming months and I sincerely hope that their results in August will reflect their commitment and effort. Please be assured that the School will continue to do everything possible to support them over the coming months.

Please continue to visit our School Website (www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk) on a regular basis in order to keep up-to-date with events, news and achievements related to our school community.

In addition, the School’s current Pastoral Policies have been placed in the Parental section of the School Website. We would ask you to consider these policies and advise the School of any amendments or improvements in writing, via your child’s Form Teacher, before the end of March.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and it has been great to see many of you on a Saturday at our vast array of sporting fixtures. Should there be issues regarding school which concern you, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team at any stage.

Yours sincerely

R S McLoughlin
Principal