

October 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds your family and you well. We have enjoyed another busy September and I write to highlight a number of forthcoming events. We warmly invite you to attend these events and also encourage you to view the **Homepage of our website – ‘Key Dates’ and public ‘Upcoming Events’ Calendar to keep up-to-date**. I am delighted to see so many pupils participating in the vast array of activities on offer across the school. I encourage your son/daughter to get involved in the wider life of the school, as it will help to foster a sense of belonging as well as developing essential lifelong skills. I have thoroughly enjoyed talking to many of you at our Saturday morning sport over the past few weekends and it is evident that your son/daughter greatly appreciates your support.

**The details regarding assessment throughout the academic year was forwarded in September and can be accessed via the school website – Parental Information – Letters Home:**

**<https://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Assessment-Letter-September-2024.pdf>**

Please note that your child will participate in on-going assessment in class and target setting. We would encourage you to engage actively with your child in helping to review these targets. You are also encouraged to check and sign the Student Planner on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used effectively.

The Parent Teacher Consultation dates have been added to the public calendar, which can also be accessed via the school website. We have already held four in-person Parent Information sessions for Years 11 & 13 and in June - Year 8 and a Year 13/14 UCAS/Careers Parent Information sessions. Most of the parental feedback we have received continues to indicate a preference for online Parent Consultations as they are timebound and they remove the necessity to leave work early etc. However, we will hold face-to-face Parent Consultations for the key transition Years 10 and 12. **Further information about the organisation of the Parent Consultations will be published via the Parent App approximately a week to ten days prior to each consultation.**

## **OCTOBER**

Thursday 24 October - Year 12 Parent Consultation in-person (2.00-5.00pm)

*(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm and there will be NO lunch available)*

Friday 25 October – Prize Day **(There will be no classes on this day but the Prize Winners, Choir and Orchestra members should attend)**

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November inclusive – Half Term Holiday

## **NOVEMBER**

Tuesday 26 November – Year 8 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (4.00-6.00pm)

## **DECEMBER**

Saturday 7 December – **Banbridge Academy Association Christmas Craft Fair** 10.00am-1.00pm in the School Dining Hall – a great opportunity to buy some essential Christmas gifts

Monday 9 December – Years 13 & 14 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (4.00-6.00pm)

Wednesday 18 December – Annual Carol Service 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Parish Church  
*(Everyone is invited to the Carol Service – including former pupils, parents and colleagues)*  
Friday 20 December – Last day of term for pupils (Carol Service finishes at approximately 11.30am)

## **JANUARY**

Monday 6 January 2025 – Staff Training (no pupils should attend)

Tuesday 7 January 2025 – First day of term for all pupils

Monday 13 January 2025 – Winter Examinations start

Monday 27 January 2025 – Open Night

*(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm)*

Tuesday 11 February 2025 - Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (1.30-3.30pm)

Wednesday 19 February 2025 - Year 10 Parent Consultation in-person (2.00-5.00pm)

Friday 11 April 2025 - Year 11 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (1.00-3.00pm)

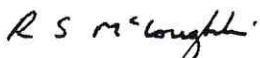
Note the dates above carefully and please make use of the opportunity provided to discuss the progress of your son/daughter. **Please note that all parents need to have downloaded the Parent App** to access their child's Reports and the information regarding the SchoolCloud system.

**For your convenience a list of bus departure times that will operate on the early closure dates, will be available by the end of this week on the school website (Parental Information - Letters Home section).**

I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success throughout the academic year and please be assured that the School will continue to do everything possible to support them.

I trust you and your family have a good Halloween break at the end of this Half Term.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin OBE  
Principal