



February 2025

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 the current performance, however, each pupil has the potential to achieve excellent outcomes in the summer through sustained effort and effective revision.**

Please note the Year 11 Report contains teacher comments only 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, due to limited storage on the Parent App, **your son/daughter's Report will only be available to view for six months**. If you wish to have a permanent copy of the School Report, you will need to print and/or save 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 a challenging time for all young people and indeed you as parents – please keep going, you are doing a tremendous job!** I am sure you will realise the crucial importance of attending class; students who have a lower attendance rate often find that significant gaps develop in their learning. We know there is an **extremely close correlation between good attendance and good outcomes for a student**, therefore, it is exceedingly important that all students maximise their attendance between now and their examinations.

YEAR 13 PARENTS - This is a very important year for your son/daughter as their **AS results will contribute to their A Level** next summer. AS Level students, as has become common practice in many schools across Northern Ireland, **will return to class on Monday 9 June 2025 – Friday 20 June inclusive**, following their AS examinations, **so that they can begin their A2 studies – therefore all pupils must attend**. In addition, there will be a **Year 13 Parent Information Evening** in the school regarding UCAS and Career Pathways at 6.00pm on Monday 9 June 2025.

YEAR 11 PARENTS, please note pupils will be sitting GCSE examination modules in **English Language, English Literature, Business Studies, Digital Technology, Geography, History and Technology** in **Summer 2025** (end of Year 11), as well as completing their **GCSE Religious Studies Short Course** examination.

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.**



FEBRUARY

Monday 10 – Friday 14 February 2025 - Half Term Holiday for pupils
Tuesday 11 February 2025 - Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (1.30-3.30pm)
Wednesday 19 February 2025 - Early closure - normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm
Wednesday 19 February 2025 - Year 10 Parent Consultation in-person (1.30-3.30pm) followed by a GCSE Options Talk at 3.45pm

APRIL

Thursday 3 April 2025 - Spring Concert 7.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 9 April 2025 - Staff Training (no pupils should attend)
Friday 11 April 2025 - Final day of Spring Term - normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.00pm
Friday 11 April 2025 - Year 11 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (1.00-3.00pm)

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 extremely 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 14 August 2025

GCSE Results – Thursday 21 August 2025

It is vitally important your son/daughter is available at this time to make key decisions regarding his/her future. For your convenience, I have attached the Admissions Criteria for entry into Sixth Form for Year 13 and to return to Year 14.

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. **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.

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.



Most importantly should there be issues regarding school which concern you, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team at any stage.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and it has been great to see many of you at our vast array of sporting fixtures – it has been a tremendously successful season for so many of our teams and individual students. Please continue to visit our School Website (www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk) and/or News/Sports Twitter/X feeds on a regular basis in order to keep up-to-date with events, news and achievements related to our school community.

Yours faithfully

R S McLoughlin

R S McLoughlin OBE
Principal

Cc Bus arrangements for early closure
Year 13 to 14 Criteria

Bus Arrangements for early closures

Route No.	Destination	Time
238	DROMORE	12.12 12.42
538 / 38	DROMORE	12.50 14.45
56	LURGAN	12.40 13.40
62	PORTADOWN	13.00 14.00
29	RATHFRILAND (via Annaclone)	13.35 15.45
30	RATHFRILAND (via Ballynaskeagh)	15.50
66	SCARVA (connection to Tandragee)	14.00 15.35
538	NEWRY	13.40
238	NEWRY	12.33 13.33

Education Authority bus

Bus **NOT** available on 19 February 2025 for school finish (Dromore & Gamblestown via Dromore)

Rooney Coaches

Bus available for school finish (Waringstown & Maralin)

Boarding points for the service buses above may be checked via the Translink website or by calling the appropriate bus office.

For further information or alternative travel arrangements please visit <http://www.translink.co.uk>



Year 14 Banbridge Academy

Year 13 pupils should be aware of the following entry requirements for Year 14:

- Pupils must have achieved in AS examinations during Year 13 at least 3 D Grades OR scored a minimum of 7 points in GCE AS subjects only [where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1]; and
- Pupils must satisfy the Principal with regard to attitude, behaviour and attendance (a satisfactory attendance rate would be 90%).

Note also that:

- if a pupil achieves less than an E grade in a particular subject they may be precluded from studying the subject in Year 14;
- in a few exceptional cases it may be possible for pupils to repeat Year 13, provided they will be under 19 years of age at the time of the DE Census in their final year of School AND that places are available, and that the Principal feels it is in the best interests of the pupil to do so. Failure to meet the age requirement will mean that such pupils will automatically lose their place in the School; and
- pupils whose performance in the AS Level examinations may have been detrimentally affected by extreme medical or other problems, the Principal, in consultation with the Chairman of the Education Committee, is empowered, in exceptional cases, to waive the above requirements. Each case will be carefully assessed by the Principal and Chairman of the Education Committee, taking into account the appropriate documentary evidence.