

February 2026

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 their 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 8 June – Friday 19 June 2026 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 8 June 2026.

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 2026** (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 9 – Friday 13 February 2026 - Half Term Holiday for pupils

Wednesday 18 February 2026 - Early closure - normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.00pm

Wednesday 18 February 2026 - Year 10 Parent Consultation in-person (1.30-3.30pm) followed by a GCSE Options Talk at 3.45pm

MARCH

Thursday 12 March 2026 – Year 9 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (4.00-6.00pm)

Tuesday 17 March 2026 – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 25 March 2026 – Spring Concert

Friday 27 March 2026 – Last day of Spring Term - Early closure - normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.00pm

Friday 27 March 2026 - Year 11 Parent Consultation via SchoolCloud (1.30-3.30pm)

APRIL

Monday 13 April 2026 – 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 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 13 August 2026

GCSE Results – Thursday 20 August 2026

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 crucial that all pupils are available to sit their examination on the dates specified by the examination authorities.**

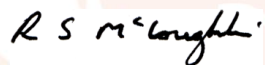
I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in the coming months and I sincerely hope that their results in August will reflect their commitment and effort. Please be assured that the School will continue to do everything possible to support them over the coming months.

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 X or Instagram 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 OBE
Principal

Cc **Sixth Form Criteria – please see over**



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ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY POST 16 (SIXTH FORM)

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.



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ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY POST 16 (SIXTH FORM)

Year 13

The Board of Governors of Banbridge Academy has approved the criteria listed below and has delegated the task of applying these criteria to the Education Committee, working in conjunction with the Principal. Further reference, therefore, to the Board of Governors may imply the Education Committee or the Principal.

Applications from a pupil from another school will be considered after the completion of the admissions process to Sixth Form (Year 13) for pupils who undertook GCSE studies in Year 12 at Banbridge Academy. The Board of Governors reserves the right to amend the criteria (1-6) listed below for pupils who undertook GCSE studies in Year 12 at Banbridge Academy.

In order to be considered for a place in Year 13 all of the following criteria must be fully met:

1. The School's enrolment number has not been reached;
2. Availability of places in Year 13;
3. Availability of places in AS subjects selected for study; and
4. A minimum of 4 Grade B and 3 Grade C passes (or equivalent) at GCSE.
Including:
 - (a) Grade B or above in subjects selected for AS Level;
 - (b) In subjects not taken in GCSE, Grade B or above in related GCSE subjects; and
 - (c) For Mathematics a Grade B or above in Further Mathematics is desirable.
5. The Principal must be satisfied as to the pupil's past school record and achievement, including attendance, behaviour and punctuality. A satisfactory attendance rate would be 90%.
6. An interview with a senior member of staff of Banbridge Academy.