



June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Now that the public examinations are coming to an end I trust this letter finds your child and the entire family well. A calendar of events (Key Dates tab on the website), including the school holidays, for the 2019/20 school year and a uniform list are available on the School Website (Parental Information - letters home section). A hard copy of both documents will also be forwarded, via post, with the consent forms in August. **I wish to remind you that the school coat may be used travelling to and from school and/or as part of the school tracksuit. The coat is shower proof and affords considerable protection from the elements. Please ensure when purchasing the school skirt that it is of an appropriate length to facilitate the growth of your child throughout the year – the skirt must be to the knee.**

Following consultation with the School Council and the pupils, the Board of Governors has decided to introduce a **Sixth Form Tie** for the start of the academic year 2019/20. The new tie will be worn by Year 13 and 14 pupils and can be purchased from our usual uniform suppliers.

I remind you that Public Examination results will be issued as follows:

A Level (Year 14)	9.15am on Thursday 15 August 2019
AS Level (Year 13)	10.30am on Thursday 15 August 2019
GCSE Level (Year 12)	9.15am on Thursday 22 August 2019

I encourage your son/daughter to collect their results in person on the dates indicated above as Careers and Senior Staff will be available to offer any assistance that may be required. **If your child cannot collect their results in person and you wish them to be posted out, an A5/C5 stamped addressed envelope must be left in the School Office for this purpose. Due to General Data Protection Regulations, we are unable to forward examination results to any parent and/or relative without written permission, stating precisely who will collect the results, in advance of results day. In addition, we will require photographic ID to be presented to the Office by the person named in the letter when they call to collect the results. Please note, we are unable to issue any results over the telephone or via electronic communication.**

I ALSO ASK THAT YOU PLEASE ENSURE ALL TEXTBOOKS HAVE BEEN RETURNED BY YOUR CHILD TO THE SCHOOL.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and pay tribute to Miss Bryson, Mr Currie, Mrs English, Mrs Hanna and Mrs Phillips who are retiring after decades of outstanding service to generations of pupils in Banbridge Academy.

The school year for **Year 13 and Year 14 will start at 9.15am on Thursday 29 August with an Induction Day, which will end at 1.00pm.** There will be no school buses on that day and bus passes will not be valid. **It is extremely important that all Year 13 and Year 14 pupils attend the Induction Day.** There will be no school for Year 13 and Year 14 on Friday 30 August. On **Monday 2 September 2018 all pupils will begin school at 9.00am and finish at 3.25pm.** Please note that there will be school buses on this day and bus passes will be valid.

I encourage you to view our online calendars, school website and Twitter feeds which provide up-to-date information throughout the year: www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk

I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in August and I wish you and your family a happy, safe and restful holiday period.

Yours sincerely

R S McLoughlin
Principal

Department of Education – General advice to everyone:

We all deserve to be able to use the internet to learn, explore and connect with each other. But all of us need to be aware of the risks involved in doing so, especially on social media. Our advice is:

- Don't share personal information or images with people you don't know.
- Don't accept friend requests with someone you don't know – not everyone online may be who they say they are.
- Set privacy settings on all devices so that only people you know can view your account.
- Don't post anything online that you are not happy to be shared, particularly nude or nearly nude images or videos. It may seem like a bit of fun with friends at the time but there is always a chance those images could be shared or get into the wrong hands and could lead to harmful situations such as stalking, abuse or blackmail.
- If someone has made you feel uncomfortable or you have had disturbing interaction online, tell police or a trusted adult. You can ring the police on 101 or for help and advice ring Childline on 0800 1111 or Lifeline on 0808 808 8000.
- The internet can be a great place but it is important to remember there are people out there who may wish to abuse, exploit, intimidate or bully you online – if this happens to you, tell someone immediately.
- Remember that if things do go wrong online, there are people who can help.
- If you receive any inappropriate images or links, it is important that you do not forward it to anyone else. Contact police or tell a trusted adult immediately. By doing this you could help prevent further such incidents. You will not get into trouble.

General advice to parents:

- The most important thing is to have conversations with your children - talk to them about the benefits and dangers of the internet so that you can empower them to use the internet safely.
- Cultivate an interest in their online activities - their favourite websites, online games and interests and keep an eye on what they are doing online.
- Don't be afraid to ask your children who they are talking to online and what they are talking about and remind them how important it is to tell a trusted adult if something happens online that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried because there are people who can help.
- Become a 'net-savvy' parent - the best safeguard against online dangers is being informed. Jump in and learn the basics of the Internet - read articles, take a class, and talk to other parents. You don't have to be an expert to have a handle on your child's online world.

- Go to www.getsafeonline.org for lots of useful advice and information on how to stay safe online. Safeguardingni.org will also provide information for parents and carers on e-safety.
- Links to other sites that can provide information and advice to young people and parents are available from the DE website at: <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/pupils-and-parents/pupils.htm>

Child Protection & Online Protection Service (CEOP)

The Child Protection & Online Protection Service has recently produced a guidance pack for parents outlining advice on how to keep children safe from the risks associated with sharing nude and nearly nude images.

This can be downloaded under the 'parents' tab in the resources section at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/resources