



June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your son/daughter's end of year report has been published via the Parent App. I hope that from the information provided you will be able to gain a clear picture of progress during this past academic year. In addition, you will find comments on the Cross-Curricular Skills. These skills are developed across the curriculum and the comments are an indication of the progress that has been made.

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 also 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.**

**Friday 28 June 2019** is the end of the school year. The day will finish for pupils with a Final Assembly from which they will be dismissed at approximately **12.00 noon**. A list of bus departure times is also available on the School Website (Parental Information - letters home section).

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.

**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](http://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk)

On **Monday 2 September 2019** pupils in **Years 9 – 12 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 look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to Banbridge Academy and hope that it will be a fulfilling and enjoyable academic year.

Finally, 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](http://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](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/resources)