

November 2019

Ref: RSM/SJ

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds your family and you well as we begin to enter the busy festive period. For information, our key dates for the year are published on the school website and were also included in the Calendar of Events (also available from the website) forwarded to you at the start of this academic year. Please continue to visit our website ([www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk](http://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk)) on a regular basis in order to keep up to date with events, news and achievements related to our school community.

Please note, as outlined in my letter earlier this term, **Parent – Teacher Consultation meetings and Parent Information Talks** will take place as set out below:

#### **NOVEMBER**

Year 8 Parent Consultation (1.30-3.30pm) - Thursday 28 November  
(*Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 1.00pm*)

#### **DECEMBER**

Year 12 Parent Consultation (1.30-3.30pm) - Wednesday 11 December  
(*Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 1.00pm*)  
Year 13 & 14 (simultaneously) Parent Consultation (1.30-3.30pm) - Thursday 19 December  
(*Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 1.00pm*)

#### **MARCH**

Year 12 A Level Options Parent Information Talk (7.00pm) - Tuesday 3 March  
Year 10 GCSE Options Parent Information Talk (7.00pm) - Tuesday 10 March  
Year 10 Parent Consultation (1.30-3.30pm) - Wednesday 18 March  
(*Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 1.00pm*)

#### **APRIL**

Year 9 & 11 (simultaneously) Parent Consultation (1.30-3.30pm) - Wednesday 1 April  
(*Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 1.00pm*)

Please note that your child will also participate in on-going assessment in class and target setting during Form time. We would encourage you to actively engage 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.

Note the dates above carefully and please make use of the opportunity provided to discuss the progress of your son or daughter. A text message to the parents of the relevant year group will be issued prior to each meeting. Information about the organisation of the Parent Consultations will also be made available through the Parent App. **Please note all parents need to ensure they have downloaded the Parent App to access their child's Winter Report, which will be available after the winter examinations in the New Year. The Tracking Report for Year 13 and 14 pupils will also be published via the Parent App later in December.**

For your convenience, I should also like to inform you that the new term starts after Christmas on **Monday 6 January 2020**. The internal school examinations will take place from **Monday 13 January to Friday 17 January** for Years 8 - 10 & 13 and from **Monday 13 January to Friday 24 January** for Years 11 & 14. For Year 12 the examinations will take place from **Friday 10 January to Friday 24 January** and it should be noted that students studying Triple Award Science or Food and Nutrition will be required to sit their actual GCSE practical on Friday 10

January, all other Year 12 pupils will be on study leave on Friday 10 January. A detailed examination timetable will be posted, prior to Christmas, on the school website ([www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk](http://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk)).

**Please note the following important information:**

**Monday 27 January** - Open Night – to facilitate preparation for Open Night school will finish at 1.00pm

**Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February** - Half Term

**Wednesday 19 - Friday 21 February** - School closed - Staff Training

**Tuesday 17 March** - School closed - St Patrick's Day

**Friday 3 April** - Last day of Spring Term

**Monday 6 April** - School closed - Staff Training

**Monday 20 April** - First day of Summer Term

**Wednesday 22 April** - School closed – Examination Moderation

**You are warmly invited to the School Carol Service which will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18 December in Holy Trinity Church.** There will also be a Carol Service for the pupils on the final day of term, Friday 20 December. Pupils will start school as normal at 9.00am and will be escorted to Holy Trinity Church for the service starting at 10.15am and finishing at approximately 11.30am. Pupils should make their way home following the service.

**For your convenience I have enclosed the bus timetable with this letter to indicate the timetable that will operate on each of the early closures.**

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive period as we approach Christmas.

Yours faithfully

R S McLoughlin  
Principal

**BUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1.00PM CLOSURES**  
**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019**

***The buses in the list below should be joined at their collection points in town or, for 56 and 62 services, from the bus stop opposite the school.***

Route No. 38 (Dromore): 13.50, 14.45, 15.15

Route No. 56 (Lurgan): 13.40, 14.40, 16.00

Route No. 62 (Portadown): 13.15, 14.15, 15.00

Route No. 29 (Rathfriland via Annaclone): 13.15, 15.45, 16.45

Route No. 66 (Scarva and connection to Tandragee): 13.35, 15.35, 16.35

Route No. 38 (Newry): 14.30, 16.05

**NB: No. 31 Service bus to Rathfriland does not leave until 15.45pm**

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

**Education Authority bus** (Dromore & Gamblestown via Dromore) leaves at **1.00pm** as usual on Thursday 28 November 2019. On 11 December and 19 December Downshire Coach Travel will run a replacement bus service on these routes at 1.00pm. On 20 December pupils should make their own arrangements as no home from school transport is provided.

**Agnew Coaches** are unavailable on 28 November, 11 December and 19 December however **Downshire Coach Travel** are providing a replacement bus service at **1.00pm** (Waringstown & Maralin) on these dates. On 20 December pupils should make their own arrangements as no home from school transport is provided.