

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I know that this is an extremely challenging time for you and your family. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with our pupils, parents, colleagues and everyone in our community. The advice and guidance the school is receiving is constantly being updated and at this moment, the school is now closed, except for the children of key workers in Years 8-10.

In order to follow the advice and guidance in relation to social distancing and non-essential travel/meetings, the School Office is currently closed. If you must contact the school, please do so via the official school email account – info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk.

Understandably, this will mean no parent or pupil should come to the School Office with textbooks, coursework or for any other reason until further notice.

I do ask parents to ensure pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 keep their textbooks so that they can return them to the school at a later date. Obviously it is imperative that all textbooks are returned to avoid further significant financial challenges to the school.

All parents should note that we have added a number of materials to the school website (Parental Information – Letters Home) which will hopefully help our pupils and indeed parents during this extremely challenging time. These materials include Internet Safety, Supporting Pupils with SEN, Useful support contacts and Mental Health advice and guidance.

All pupils should continue, until further notice, to follow the guidance regarding online learning resources as outlined in my previous correspondence. A simple overview is as follows:

Year 14 - have been advised that there will be no public examinations and therefore teachers will not be preparing online materials for their subject. However, we will be making available a range of materials regarding transition to university and life learning resources.

Year 13 - as indicated previously it is absolutely crucial that this year group continues to follow the AS specifications and we will move on to the A2 specifications during May and June. The teaching and learning time is normally extremely pressurised in Year 14 and if time is 'removed' to facilitate AS examinations, we must ensure pupils are progressing in their studies. Obviously there will be no public examinations for Year 13 prior to the end of this academic year.

Year 12 – please continue to follow the online learning resources, which will complete the GCSE specifications and thereby ensure pupils are prepared for A Level study next year. Obviously there will be no public examinations for Year 12 prior to the end of this academic year.

Years 8-11 – please continue to follow the online learning resources until the end of the Summer term.

Please take care and look after each other.

R S McLoughlin
Principal