

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Since my message yesterday the Public Health Agency has updated the advice to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The latest guidance and advice is located:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

Obviously we are all experiencing a fast moving situation with regard to COVID-19. In line with current guidance, the school will continue to operate as normal until we are advised otherwise. As a school we will continue to follow the advice given to us by the Public Health Agency.

As stated yesterday, we have been advised that all pupils should be prepared to sit their public examinations as outlined in the public examinations timetable. Therefore, pupils should continue to prepare for exams and not worry unduly, since in the event of school closure, all pupils across Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK will be in the same position.

A number of Sporting Governing Bodies have announced that all activity within their sport must cease, therefore there will be no further rugby, hockey or netball either during Games, as an extra-curricular activity, weekend fixtures or tournaments.

You will be aware that a number of school trips were booked to travel between now and the end of June. In line with the announcement from the Prime Minister, the advice has been updated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office concerning overseas educational visits. We have contacted the relevant tour operators to seek the maximum refund possible. We will communicate directly with the relevant parents when we have any further updates; please be aware this will take a period of weeks/months to ascertain the refund available. Therefore, for clarity, all school trips between now and the end of June will not take place and we will seek to obtain the maximum refund possible in each case.

Yet again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family at this extremely challenging time.

R S McLoughlin
Principal
Banbridge Academy

Repeat of the message from yesterday - Please see below, the message that has been relayed to your son/daughter

On the school website, under the Staff/Pupil Area menu option there is a link to a page called Documents and Links. In here pupils will find instructions on:

- * Accessing MySchool from home
- * Accessing MyDocuments folders from home
- * Accessing Google Classroom from home
- * Downloading Microsoft Office

Pupils are reminded that you will no longer be able to access Google Classroom or MySchool from home if your C2K password expires. The only way your password can be changed is to press the ctrl alt delete keys together when logged on to a school computer and choose to change your password.

The new password will be valid for 120 days.

If you have any queries about this, please speak to the ICT technicians.