



27 May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds you well and that you and the entire family are safe. As outlined in my letter following the Easter break, online learning will continue with Years 8-10 and the GCSE and A Level examinations Year Groups 11 & 13. It is important that you and your son/daughter are informed of progress, therefore each department will forward, over the coming weeks, a self-assessment exercise to your child for their subject. Please note this is not an examination and may take the form of an online assessment/quiz. The marks will not be collated or gathered by the school. It is simply an opportunity for you and your son/daughter to gauge progress in the relevant subject.

In addition, we have just received clarity from the Department of Education regarding the Annual Report for each pupil. Following this guidance, I have determined, as outlined above, that it is not possible to conduct normal examinations and issue the usual full written Report. However, I do believe it is important to issue a simplified Summer Report to Years 8-11 to add to the Winter Report, you received earlier in the year. This Summer Report will issue prior to the end of the academic year.

As I highlighted in my previous communication, I will continue to ensure that as a school we will support your son/daughter throughout this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact the school via email (info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk) if you require support or advice. Please note safeguarding issues will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

I take this opportunity to highlight again that the mental health of our pupils is paramount, and the continuation of emotional support is essential for young people during these extraordinary times. All parents should note that there are a number of materials on the school website (Parental Information – Letters Home) which will 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. The Independent Counselling Service for Schools is providing counselling sessions for young people via telephone and online video. ‘Drop-in’ support is also available via telephone. Please contact the School, if you wish to arrange a referral.

As also outlined in my previous correspondence we are following the Examination Authority guidance in relation to grading and the school will work tirelessly to ensure that pupils achieve the outcomes that they deserve.

Finally, I thank you as parents for your tremendous support. My thoughts and prayers are with our pupils, parents, colleagues and everyone in our community.

Please take care.

R S McLoughlin