

30 June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I write further to my correspondence which is available on the school website – Letters Home - Parent Update 18.06.20. I take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support over what has been an extremely challenging few months. I am very proud of our staff and I pay tribute to our amazing young people who showed great resilience and engaged effectively in remote learning. It has not been an easy time for anyone and I appreciate all of your efforts in supporting your son/daughter's learning.

I write to reassure you that we are making preparations for the return of all our pupils into a safe school environment so that you can feel confident and assured that the health and wellbeing of all our pupils is our main priority, alongside restarting their education.

As per the Department of Education guidance, Years 12 and 14 will return to school on Monday 24 August 2020. These priority groups will remain in school on a full time basis following a planned programme of induction on their first day.

I will write to you again in the week beginning 10 August 2020, to provide more specific detail on the phased return to school of other year groups. Please note that we are currently planning that the vast majority of our pupils will return on a full time basis from the start of the academic year.

Our priority is to ensure that our pupils and colleagues are safe. This letter outlines our provisional plans, however, please note these are subject to change based on evolving Governmental Advice and Guidance.

Implications for school organisation in the academic year 2020/21

A protective bubble strategy for Years 8 to 10 will be implemented, therefore a student in these year groups will be educated with their Form Class in the same room, each day.

In order to reduce circulation and contact:

- the school timetable will be adjusted, which may include staggered break and meal times;
- pupils will adopt a one-way system within corridors and stairs; and
- classroom layouts will be reconfigured to ensure appropriate social distancing.

Pupils will be required to wash their hands on arrival at school and will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Hand sanitisers will be available in the school, however, the scientific advice is clear - washing your hands with soap and water is the most effective way of minimising any potential risk. Pupils are permitted to carry their own personal hand sanitiser and should follow the Government Guidance regarding respiratory hygiene.

If your child, or anyone else in your household, shows COVID-19 symptoms, you should not send them to school, but should instead follow Government Guidance in relation to testing and isolation and notify the school. If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be sent home immediately and Government Guidance should be followed.

To minimise potential transmission of COVID-19, parents and other visitors will not be allowed on the school premises without an appointment. Please contact the school via telephone or email, ([info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk)) if you have any questions or queries at any stage. In addition, NO pupil cars will be allowed on site in order to facilitate the safety of pedestrians. Please note that pupils should use the carpark facilities in the town. Parents are also reminded that they must not drive up to the front of the school to drop off or collect pupils at the start or at the end of the

school day. If your child requires first aid whilst at school, following Government Guidance, the member of staff concerned will have to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

We are awaiting guidance from the Education Authority on transport arrangements and will advise accordingly. In order to further reduce the risk of infection, my colleagues have indicated the equipment listed below which will be required by your son/daughter. Please note full school uniform should be worn as normal each day, except for the days when your child has PE and/or Games, on these days your son/daughter should come to school already changed in their school sports kit, including tracksuit bottoms and/or crested school leggings (new item this year).

We hope this information will prove useful and help to reassure you.

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to meeting you, in person, soon.

Yours sincerely

R S McLoughlin  
Principal

Due to the current COVID regulations pupils are no longer allowed to share equipment therefore the following is required for the start of the academic year:

### **General**

Pens - black or blue, red, green  
Pencil, sharpener, rubber  
30cm Ruler, calculator, protractor  
Colouring pencils, scissors, glue stick  
It would be beneficial if all this was kept in a pencil case.

### **Art and Design**

Years 8 to 10 - Pencil case containing the following:

Tonal pencils 2B, HB small set of colour pencils, sharpener and rubber, small set of washable markers, Pritt stick and small scissors, A4 plastic folder (to hold sketchbook as before). A new A4 blank sketch pad and 2 paintbrushes size 4 & 6.

Years 11, 12, 13 and 14 - A2 Art folder (large black folder to carry work), pencil case containing the following:

Set of tonal pencils, set of colour pencils, sharpener and rubber. Small set of washable markers (Berol brand work best), Pritt stick (or double sided tape) and small scissors. 2 paintbrushes size 4 & 6, black fine liner pen (Stablio work best), black washable marker (Berol brand work best), white pens (fine point/gel pen). This can all be purchased in craft shops, stationary shops (eg the works) or online.

**Years 13 & 14 Chemistry** - Pupils will require their own lab coat and safety glasses. The school will facilitate the purchasing of these items in September. Pupils also have the option to acquire their own white lab coat prior to the commencement of term.

**Junior School Home Economics and GCSE Food and Nutrition** – pupils will require their own apron.