



**BANBRIDGE ACADEMY**

ESTABLISHED 1786

12 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As highlighted in my letter, 3 November 2020, the Winter Examinations for all Year Groups will be held in the final two weeks of this term. I emphasise again that these are important examinations for all pupils and will help inform future career choices. For pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 they will provide robust evidence of your son/daughter's performance in their public examination subjects. The examinations for these Year Groups will be conducted under strict Examination Regulations, therefore if the school is required to provide evidence to Examinations Bodies this year then this data will provide key information. Please note despite the recent media coverage in other jurisdictions, public examinations are still being planned at GCSE, AS and A Level in Northern Ireland and England. We as a school believe that examinations afford pupils the best opportunity to demonstrate their ability in a fair manner, however, we also believe there must be significant adaptations to these public examinations papers to ensure pupils, who have missed certain periods of the year are not disadvantaged. We will continue to work with Government and the Examination Authorities to develop examinations and contingencies that will ensure the pupils of Banbridge Academy and indeed all pupils have the opportunity to attain the qualifications they deserve, which will enable them to successfully progress to the next stage of their careers. **Please be assured, as I have stated to your son/daughter, that no matter what happens we will ensure the Year Group attain outstanding public examinations results as happens every year, including last year. All I ask is that your son/daughter continues to give their absolute best in their studies throughout the year.**

I thank Mrs Campbell and my Head of Department colleagues, for all of their efforts in constructing the enclosed Winter Examination Timetables. As previously outlined it is impossible to maintain social distancing for pupils and staff for all Year Groups if pupils sit examinations simultaneously. Therefore, in order to ensure that appropriate protocols are maintained, the examination timetable has been built around a rotational model.

Parent Consultations - Due to logistical and practical issues it will not be possible for all parent/guardian(s) to receive a phone call in Years 12, 13 and 14. Therefore we have taken a decision to move Year 13 consultations to the Spring Term and colleagues will contact parent/guardians of pupils in Years 12 & 14 where we have concerns in relation to progress. I understand that some parent/guardian(s) in Years 12 & 14 may have a particular concern and if you have a significant issue and/or concern and would like to discuss the matter with the subject teacher, please email the school info account directly ([info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@banbridgeacademy.banbridge.ni.sch.uk)). You must state clearly the name of the teacher you would like to contact in your email. Please understand that the majority of pupils are working exceptionally well and it is appropriate that we focus on helping particular parent/guardian(s) to ensure every pupil fulfils their potential. Please note the telephone calls will be from a withheld telephone number and will be a brief (maximum 5 minutes) conversation outlining progress to date and any concerns in the particular subject.

Please stay safe and take care. We are living in challenging times and my thoughts and prayers remain with you all.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Principal  
Banbridge Academy