



3 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We welcome the hugely significant announcement that the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech has been approved in the UK, paving the way for its roll-out in Northern Ireland. Hopefully, it is the beginning of the road back to normality. However, it is extremely important over the next few weeks and months that we continue to work together to minimise the impact of the virus. The safety of the pupils, colleagues and indeed the entire community remains our priority, alongside the continuation of high quality education.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank your son/daughter for all of their efforts in keeping themselves, my colleagues, their families and the wider community safe over the past few months – and I thank you all for your ongoing efforts at this challenging time. School remains a safe place for the young people in our care and together we can ensure that your child continues to receive a high quality education. I thank you for ensuring that your son/daughter continues to follow all of the mitigation measures which requires a monumental effort - we must maintain our focus over the months ahead. Please ensure that PHA advice and guidance is followed at all times, and please note that pupils **MUST NOT** attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

**Please take this opportunity to talk with your son/daughter to remind them that the school community extends to all of our neighbours and therefore it is extremely important that we do not congregate in large groups at Centra or other shops in the town during this pandemic, and especially during the Winter Examination period.** Furthermore, it is imperative that pupils afford elderly people space on the pavement to enable them to pass safely. Many thanks to the vast majority of pupils who already are very courteous to our neighbours and we ask that every pupil models this behaviour. Likewise, I encourage all parents who collect pupils in their personal cars to respect the neighbouring streets and ensure residents have access to their houses.

**Once again thank for your support and I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in the forthcoming Winter Examinations. Please note on the final day of term, Friday 18 December, students will have the opportunity to participate in the House Quiz and a Christmas Jumper Day. Also prior to the end of term, we will publish our virtual Carol Service.**

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable festive period over Christmas. Undoubtedly, it has been a difficult year and I hope that we all manage to spend much needed time together with our loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Principal  
Banbridge Academy

PLEASE SEE BUS DETAILS BELOW

**BUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2020**

*The buses in the list below should be joined at their collection points in town or, for 56 and 62 services, from the bus stop opposite the school.*

Route No. 38 (Dromore): 15.45, 16.15

Route No. 45 (Dromore): 13.45, 14.45

Route No. 56 (Lurgan): 13.40, 14.40, 16.40

Route No. 62 (Portadown): 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00

Route No. 29 (Rathfriland via Annaclone): 13.30, 15.45

Route No. 66 (Scarva and connection to Tandragee): 13.30, 15.35

Route No. 45 (Newry): 13.35, 16.45

Route No. 38 (Newry): 14.30, 16.05

**NB: No. 31 Service bus to Rathfriland does not leave until 15.45pm**

For further information or alternative travel arrangements please visit <http://www.translink.co.uk>

**Education Authority yellow bus** (Dromore & Gamblestown via Dromore) leaves at 12 noon.

**Agnew Coaches** are providing their two buses to Waringstown and Magheralin from the usual boarding points at 12 noon.