

June 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Enclosed with this letter you will find your son/daughter's end of year report. I hope that from the information provided you will be able to gain a clear picture of progress during this past academic year. A brief explanatory note is offered on the back of the report. In addition, you will find comments on the Cross-Curricular Skills. These skills are developed across the curriculum and the comments are an indication of the progress that has been made.

A calendar of events, including the school holidays, for the 2016/17 school year and a uniform list are also enclosed for your information. **I wish to remind you that the school coat may be used travelling to and from school and as part of the school tracksuit. As you are aware from previous correspondence, the new school skirt (petrol blue with pleats to the knee) should be purchased. However, for the 2016/17 academic year a currently owned skirt of the old design will also be permitted.** Furthermore, I have enclosed extremely important details from the Department of Education with regard to eSafety.

Thursday 30 June 2016 is the end of the school year. The day will finish for pupils with a Final Assembly from which they will be dismissed at approximately **12.00 noon**. A list of bus departure times is printed on the back of this letter.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and pay tribute to Mrs Heather Camblin, who is retiring after almost 42 years committed service as a PE Teacher and Sports Coach in Banbridge Academy.

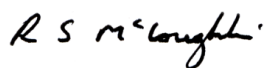
Please note that our new website and sports/news Twitter feeds are now available:
www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk.

On **Thursday 1 September 2016** pupils in **Years 9 – 12 begin school at 9.00am and finish at 3.25pm**. Please note that there will be school buses on this day and bus passes will be valid.

I look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to Banbridge Academy and hope that it will be a fulfilling and enjoyable academic year.

Finally, I wish you and your family a happy, safe and restful holiday period.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin
Principal

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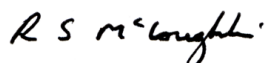
I remind you that Year 11 pupils may collect their GCSE results at **2.00pm on Thursday 25 August 2016**.

Our Careers Fair, Pathways 2016, will be held on **Wednesday 7 September from 1.00-5.00pm in the School Sports Hall**. Delegates from a wide range of academic and vocational disciplines will be present to speak to both pupils and parents/guardians. Pupils in Years 12-14 will find this event particularly beneficial as they consider their future career options. Details will be posted on the school website in the coming weeks and further information will be forwarded to you in the new academic year.

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R S McLoughlin
Principal

Department of Education - General advice to everyone:

We all deserve to be able to use the internet to learn, explore and connect with each other. But all of us need to be aware of the risks involved in doing so, especially on social media. Our advice is:

- Don't share personal information or images with people you don't know.
- Don't accept friend requests with someone you don't know – not everyone online may be who they say they are.
- Set privacy settings on all devices so that only people you know can view your account.
- Don't post anything online that you are not happy to be shared, particularly nude or nearly nude images or videos. It may seem like a bit of fun with friends at the time but there is always a chance those images could be shared or get into the wrong hands and could lead to harmful situations such as stalking, abuse or blackmail.
- If someone has made you feel uncomfortable or you have had disturbing interaction online, tell police or a trusted adult. You can ring the police on 101 or for help and advice ring Childline on 0800 1111 or Lifeline on 0808 808 8000.
- The internet can be a great place but it is important to remember there are people out there who may wish to abuse, exploit, intimidate or bully you online – if this happens to you, tell someone immediately.
- Remember that if things do go wrong online, there are people who can help.
- If you receive any inappropriate images or links, it is important that you do not forward it to anyone else. Contact police or tell a trusted adult immediately. By doing this you could help prevent further such incidents. You will not get into trouble.

General advice to parents:

- The most important thing is to have conversations with your children - talk to them about the benefits and dangers of the internet so that you can empower them to use the internet safely.
- Cultivate an interest in their online activities - their favourite websites, online games and interests and keep an eye on what they are doing online.
- Don't be afraid to ask your children who they are talking to online and what they are talking about and remind them how important it is to tell a trusted adult if something happens online that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried because there are people who can help.

- Become a 'net-savvy' parent - the best safeguard against online dangers is being informed. Jump in and learn the basics of the Internet - read articles, take a class, and talk to other parents. You don't have to be an expert to have a handle on your child's online world.
- Go to www.getsafeonline.org for lots of useful advice and information on how to stay safe online. Safeguardingni.org will also provide information for parents and carers on e-safety.
- Links to other sites that can provide information and advice to young people and parents are available from the DE website at: <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/pupils-and-parents/pupils.htm>

Child Protection & Online Protection Service (CEOP)

The Child Protection & Online Protection Service has recently produced a guidance pack for parents outlining advice on how to keep children safe from the risks associated with sharing nude and nearly nude images.

This can be downloaded under the 'parents' tab in the resources section at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/resources