



October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds your family and you well. We have enjoyed another busy September and I write to highlight a number of forthcoming events. We warmly invite you to attend these events and also encourage you to view the **Homepage of our website – ‘Key Dates’ and ‘Upcoming Events’ Calendar to keep up to date**. I am delighted to see so many pupils participating in the vast array of activities on offer across the school. **I encourage your son/daughter to get involved in the wider life of the school, as it will help to foster a sense of belonging as well as developing essential lifelong skills**. I have thoroughly enjoyed talking to many of you at our Saturday morning sport over the past few weekends and it is evident that your son/daughter greatly appreciates your support.

As you are aware, the Minister of Education, Michelle McIlveen MLA, outlined the support for learners in relation to CCEA qualifications 2022/23. I have included this letter for your ease of reference. As a school community we were delighted to see all of our students excelling in their GCSEs and A Levels last summer. The results were simply outstanding and reflected the dedication and commitment of our students – they deserve immense praise for their resilience over the past two years.

Following considerable debate and careful consideration of the many issues education is currently facing, we have been able to finalise our assessment and reporting arrangements for the academic year. We have determined that the **internal Winter Examinations will take place for all year groups w/b 16 January 2023**. Please note that these are important examinations for all pupils and will help inform future career choices. **All we ask is that your son/daughter continues to give their absolute best in their studies throughout the year**.

Please note, Year 12 students will be sitting the following GCSE modules:

- **Monday 21 November – Double Award Biology**
- **Tuesday 22 November – Double Award Chemistry**
- **Wednesday 23 November – Double Award Physics**
- **Tuesday 29 November - Mathematics**

The detailed internal Winter Examination timetable will be forwarded closer to the time. To assist your son/daughter, the examination timetable will be built around a rotational model affording time for study. The examination timetable will clearly outline the examination and study days. As normal following the winter examinations, full written reports will be issued to Years 12, 13 & 14 and summary reports to Years 8–10. The Year 11 Winter Report will contain teacher comments in the subjects which have an external GCSE module in the summer and the other subjects will provide a written comment on the Summer Report.

We have finalised the Parent – Teacher Consultation dates for Year 8, 12, 13 & 14, please note Years 9, 10 & 11 will be scheduled post-Christmas. We have moved a staff training day from Wednesday 4 January 2023 to Friday 9 December 2022, obviously this will mean **pupils should not attend on Friday 9 December** but there will be a **normal full school teaching day on Wednesday 4 January 2023**. The information about the organisation of the Parent Consultations will continue to take place via the SchoolCloud system. Details of the booking system will be published via the Parent App approximately a week to ten days prior to each consultation.

OCTOBER

Thursday 27 October - Year 12 Parent Consultation (1.15-3.15pm)

(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm)

Friday 28 October – Prize Day (There will be no classes on this day and only the Prize Winners, Choir and Orchestra members should attend)

Monday 31 October – Friday 4 November inclusive – Half Term Holiday

DECEMBER

Friday 9 December – Staff Training Day – see below re remote Parent Consultations

Friday 9 December – Years 13 & 14 Parent Consultation (9.30am-12.00noon)

(A remote Parent Information Talk re Careers/Subject Choices will follow later in the year)

Friday 9 December – Year 8 Parent Consultation (1.15-3.15pm)

Saturday 10 December – **Banbridge Academy Association Christmas Craft Fair** 10.00am-1.00pm in the School Dining Hall – a great opportunity to buy some essential Christmas gifts

Tuesday 20 December – Annual Carol Service 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Parish Church

(Everyone is invited to the Carol Service – including former pupils, parents and colleagues)

Wednesday 21 December – Last day of term (Carol Service finishes at approximately 11.30am)

JANUARY

Wednesday 4 January 2023 – First day of term for all pupils

Monday 16 January 2023 – Winter Examinations start

Monday 30 January 2023 – Open Night

(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm)

Please note that your child will participate in on-going assessment in class and target setting. We would encourage you to engage actively with your child in helping to review these targets. You are also encouraged to check and sign the Student Planner on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used effectively.

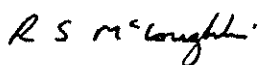
Note the dates above carefully and please make use of the opportunity provided to discuss the progress of your son/daughter. **Please note that all parents need to have downloaded the Parent App** to access their child's Reports and the information regarding the SchoolCloud system.

For your convenience a list of bus departure times that will operate on the early closure dates, will be available by the end of this week on the school website (Parental Information - Letters Home section).

I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success throughout the academic year and please be assured that the School will continue to do everything possible to support them.

I trust you and your family have a good Halloween break, when we get to the end of this Half Term.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin
Principal