



October 2023

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 a school community we were delighted to see all of our students excelling in their GCSE and A Level examinations last summer. The results were simply outstanding and reflected the dedication and commitment of our students. Likewise, my colleagues and you deserve immense praise for supporting and encouraging our young people in their learning journey.

Following careful consideration of the many issues education is currently facing, we finalised our assessment arrangements, which were highlighted to you in our communication in September - <https://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Assessment-Letter-September-2023.pdf>

Please note that these assessments are extremely important for all of our 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.**

As highlighted in the Assessment letter, Year 12 students will be sitting GCSE modules in November:

- Monday 13 November – Double Award Biology
- Tuesday 14 November – Double Award Chemistry
- Wednesday 15 November – Double Award Physics
- Tuesday 21 November – Mathematics

Also, Year 11 parents should note that pupils will be sitting GCSE examination modules in English Language, English Literature, Business Studies, Digital Technology, Geography, History and Technology in Summer 2024 (end of Year 11), as well as completing their GCSE Religious Studies Short Course examination.

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. 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 also finalised the Parent – Teacher Consultation dates, which are outlined below for your convenience. We have moved a staff training day from Wednesday 3 January 2024 to Friday 1 December 2023, obviously this will mean **pupils should not attend on Friday 1 December** but there will be a **normal full school teaching day on Wednesday 3 January 2024**. For your information 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 26 October – **Year 12 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

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

(A Year 12 Parent Information Talk re: Careers/Subject Choices will follow later in the year)

Friday 27 October – **1.00pm Prize Day** *(There will be no classes on this day and only the Prize Winners, Choir and Orchestra members should attend)*

Monday 30 October – Friday 3 November inclusive – Half Term Holiday

DECEMBER

Friday 1 December – Staff Training Day – see below re: remote Parent Consultations

Friday 1 December – **Years 13 & 14 Parent Consultation** (9.30am-12.00noon)

Friday 1 December – **Year 8 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 December – **School Musical** (7.30pm)

Saturday 9 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 19 December – **Annual Carol Service** (7.00pm) in Holy Trinity Parish Church

Wednesday 20 December – Last day of term for pupils *(Carol Service finishes at approximately 11.30am)*

JANUARY

Wednesday 3 January 2024 – **First day of term for all pupils**

Monday 15 January 2024 – Winter Examinations start

Monday 29 January 2024 – Open Night (7.00-9.30pm)

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

FEBRUARY

Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 February – Year 13/14 Work Shadowing

Monday 12, Tuesday 13 February & Wednesday 14 February – Staff Training Days

Tuesday 13 February – **Year 10 Parent Consultation** (9.30am-12noon)

(A Year 10 Parent Information Talk re: Careers/Subject Choices will also be scheduled)

Tuesday 13 February – **Year 9 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

Thursday 15 & Friday 16 February – Half Term Break

MARCH

Monday 18 March – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 20 March – **Spring Concert** *(7.30pm in the School Assembly Hall)*

Wednesday 27 March – **Year 11 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

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

Wednesday 27 March – **Last Day of Term**

APRIL

Wednesday 10 April – **First day of Summer term for all pupils**

Wednesday 17 April – Staff Training Day – Moderation

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

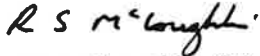
to discuss the progress of your son/daughter. **Please note that all parents need to have downloaded the Parent App** to access their child's Reports and the information regarding the SchoolCloud system.

For your convenience a list of bus departure times that will operate on the early closure dates, will be available 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 that you and your family will have a good Halloween break.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin OBE
Principal