

February 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to inform you that your son/daughter's **Winter School Report is now available on the Parent App**. I trust that you will find the Report useful as your son/daughter, you and the School plan together to ensure the best possible preparation for the crucial summer examinations. **The Report gives an indication of the current performance, however, each pupil has the potential to achieve excellent outcomes in the summer through sustained effort and effective revision.**

**Please note the Year 11 Report contains teacher comments only 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.**

Please note, due to limited storage on the Parent App, **your son/daughter's Report will only be available to view for six months**. If you wish to have a permanent copy of the School Report, you will need to print and/or save it.

Your child will continue to participate in on-going assessment and we would encourage you to keep engaging with your son/daughter in order to support them in their learning. **This is a challenging time for all young people and indeed you as parents – please keep going, you are doing a tremendous job!** I am sure you will realise the crucial importance of attending class; students who have a lower attendance rate often find that significant gaps develop in their learning. We know there is an **extremely close correlation between good attendance and good outcomes for a student**, therefore, it is exceedingly important that all students maximise their attendance between now and their examinations.

**YEAR 13 PARENTS** - This is a very important year for your son/daughter as their **AS results will contribute to their A Level** next summer. AS Level students, as has become common practice in many schools across Northern Ireland, **will return to class on Monday 10 June 2024 – Friday 21 June inclusive**, following their AS examinations, **so that they can begin their A2 studies – therefore all pupils must attend**. In addition, there will be a **Year 13 Parent Information Evening in the school regarding UCAS and Career Pathways at 6.00pm on Monday 10 June 2024**.

**YEAR 11 PARENTS**, please note, as outlined in previous correspondence, 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.

For your convenience, I have copied below important dates that are available via our calendar on the School Website. It is our intention that **School Cloud invitations will be sent one week before a consultation, via the app**.

**Year 10 GCSE Options Presentation** - link has already been circulated to parents and the presentation is available on the school website – Parental Information – Policies/Documents.

**Year 12 A Level Options Presentation** - link has already been circulated to parents and the presentation is available on the school website – Parental Information – Policies/Documents.

## **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

The exact date on which GCSE, AS and A Level students will leave school on study leave in May has not yet been decided. As pupils have only a few months until their examinations, **it is important that they are now working diligently and adopting a serious approach to revision.** The coming weeks and the Easter holidays are a time when extra hours of study can take place. Teachers have already stressed the need to produce a detailed study plan and to have this prominently displayed at home. **Good attendance at school between now and the examinations is essential** to help pupils ‘fine tune’ their understanding and knowledge. I wish to make it clear that **all pupils should not undertake any form of part-time employment from now until their examinations are over, as this will adversely impact on their performance in these critical examinations.** Part-time employment can result in pupils being too tired to study and ultimately leads to underachievement, however part-time employment can be extremely beneficial during holiday periods to help develop essential life skills.

The School will contact you again when study leave begins, outlining the final details regarding the examinations. However, please note the **examination results will be available as follows:**

**A & AS Level Results - Thursday 15 August 2024**

**GCSE Results – Thursday 22 August 2024**

**It is vitally important your son/daughter is available at this time to make key decisions regarding his/her future. For your convenience, I have attached the Admissions Criteria for entry into Sixth Form for Year 13 and to return to Year 14.**

Pupils will, in due course, be issued with their Examination Timetable which outlines their personal programme of examinations. On receipt of this they should note the date and time for **each** of their examinations and place this in a prominent position at home. **It is vitally important that all pupils are available to sit their examination on the dates specified by the examination authorities.**

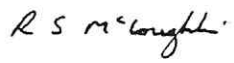
I take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in the coming months and I sincerely hope that their results in August will reflect their commitment and effort. Please be assured that the School will continue to do everything possible to support them over the coming months.

In addition, the School’s current Pastoral Policies have been placed in the Parental section of the School Website. We would ask you to consider these policies and advise the School of any amendments or improvements in writing, via your child’s Form Teacher, before the end of March.

**Most importantly should there be issues regarding school which concern you, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team at any stage.**

**Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and it has been great to see many of you at our vast array of sporting fixtures – it has been a tremendously successful season for so many of our teams and individual students.** Please continue to visit our School Website ([www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk](http://www.banbridgeacademy.org.uk)) and/or News/Sports Twitter/X feeds on a regular basis in order to keep up-to-date with events, news and achievements related to our school community.

Yours sincerely



R S McLoughlin OBE  
Principal