

Banchory Academy Parents' Bulletin

August-October 2018



Autumn 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first newsletter of session 2018-2019. I hope you had a very enjoyable summer break and enjoyed the wonderful weather.

Our new S1's have settled in very well. A large number have joined extra curricular clubs that are being run over lunchtime. I have been very impressed with their enthusiasm. At present we have 817 pupils on our school roll. I would like to welcome all our new pupils and families that have joined us since the summer.

Our SQA results were once again excellent and above local and national trends. Many congratulations to you all and a huge thank you to the staff that have supported you over the last year.

This term we have not held our annual sponsored walk. We are currently looking at new ideas to raise funds for the school and we will keep you informed as the session progresses. Sadly, budgets are becoming increasingly tight and to allow us to maintain the large amount of opportunities for our pupils we need to find ways to subsidise them as much as possible. The school is very grateful to the PTA and Parent Council for all their fundraising events.

I would like to wish you a very enjoyable October break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 29th.

Judith Wight
Rector

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Staffing Update

A quieter term on the staffing front:

Miss Merlin Cook was appointed as Teacher of Business Studies, replacing Mrs Karen McLaulan who left last term.

School Update

Many thanks to parents for the support shown regarding school uniform. Generally, it is very good and this has been expressed at year group assemblies. A gentle reminder with regards to the length of school skirts, which is described in the school prospectus.

Early in the new term an Extra Curricular Fayre was held for all pupils. A number of extra curricular activities were on offer and the turn out was excellent. Many thanks especially to Daniel Holroyde (S6) for the work he did to bring the event together.

Building works have been ongoing and this session will see the start of the plans for the changes to the swimming pool and changing room area. Pupils and Parents will be informed as things progress.



Parents Evening Booking System

Aberdeenshire Council are implementing a new online booking system for Parents' Evenings, and this has become available to us this Session. Our first Parents' Evening is for S1 on Tuesday 20th November, and further information will be communicated to S1 parents after the October holidays as to how to log in and make bookings.

Once logged in you will automatically see a list of teachers for your child/ren, and you can either select to book appointments individually, or use the one-click option that automatically creates the best schedule for you.

Feedback shows that both parents and schools alike are very positive about the system, which is designed for use on phone, tablet or computer.

We will of course offer manual bookings for those who have no internet access.



School Absence Text Number 07860 029020



Absence Reporting / Xpressions App

We would like to encourage parents and carers to use the school's dedicated text number **07860 029020** to report a pupil's absence. This is an efficient system for both parents and the school office—please advise pupil name, reason and length of absence in your text.

Pupils should be reminded that if they feel unwell during the school day, **they should report to First Aid or Reception**. We still have a number of instances of pupils phoning home and leaving the building before the school is aware, which has potential for anomalies if there is a fire alarm.

Communications via Groupcall

There are still a number of parents who we have no email address for, so for this or any other contact changes, please email the school at BanchoryAcademyContacts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

A reminder also that signing up for the free App –**Groupcall Xpressions** will save the school the cost of a text by sending free messages. The more parents who sign up – the more the school will save when sending messages! (We will continue to send texts to those who prefer this method).

Autumn term report from the Parent Council



BAPC – dealing with matters that directly affect our children

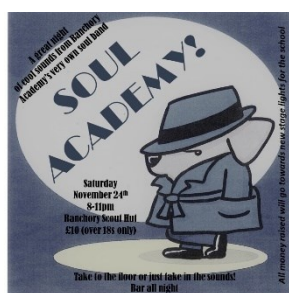
We welcome parents/carers to attend the PC meetings – whether it's one meeting or all!

We welcome new ideas about what would help parents support their children's education

Email chair.bapc@gmail.com

Check out our Facebook page 'Banchory Academy Parent Forum'

STOP PRESS! AN EVENING WITH SOUL ACADEMY ON SAT NOVEMBER 24TH!
GET SOME FRIENDS TOGETHER, HAVE A GREAT NIGHT, AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL – ALL AT THE SAME TIME!



Get your tickets for this fantastic evening of entertainment by the school's very own soul band, Soul Academy. You'll be astounded by the sounds of these talented young musicians! Have a great night out at the same time as raising money for the school. All proceeds will go towards brand new stage lights for the drama studio. **Download the ticket order form at <http://www.banchoryacademy.co.uk/Ticket%20order%20form.pdf>**

Be quick! 70 tickets out of 125 have already sold

Organised by the Parent Council in association with the PTA

What else has the BAPC been up to this term?

The BAPC AGM in August was really well attended and, this year, there is a full Parent Council (16 members), which is a great reflection on parents' interest in the school community. Thank you to all the parents/carers who came along, and thank you to those who emailed but were unable to attend.

PC members this year are:

Trish Amundrud	(S1 rep)	Colin McLeod	(S1 rep)
Jacqueline Conroy	(rep on Literacy Group)	Scott Newey	(Vice Chair & S2 rep)
Katie Davies	(S3 rep)	Andrea Peake	(rep on PTA & S1 rep)
Vikki Duncan	(S4 rep)	Jeanne Ritchie	(Treasurer / Numeracy Grp / S6 rep)
Kate Ellison	(S3 rep)	Alison Smart	(Secretary)
Rebecca Glansbeek	(S4 rep / Careers Talk Grp)	Marion Strassberg	(S5 rep / Literacy Group)
Megan Hare	(Chair / Careers Talk Group)	Linda Stromberg	(FB page administrator & S6 rep)
Jill Matthew	(rep on Health & Wellbeing Grp)	Jeff Wallace	(S5 rep)

Improving communication with the Parent Forum

We are improving communication by:

- Emailing you the agenda through GroupCall prior to meetings
- Inviting you to email chair.bapc@gmail.com if there are matters you would like to raise
- Notifying you via a GroupCall email when the minutes are posted on the school website
- Encouraging you to like the Banchory Academy Parent Forum FB page
- Having a table at this year's Parents' Evenings

Giving a parent voice on school Working Groups

PC reps sit on the school's Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing Working Groups that meet throughout the year. More Working Groups are being formed.

Organising lunchtime careers talks

The PC works with the school to bring in speakers about many different career paths. This term, talks have been about the Royal Navy & Marines, and working as a Chiropractor

Addressing issues raised by the Parent Forum

The PC has discussed the following with the school: the number of Nat 4 and Nat 5 school subjects, plans for the swimming pool area, the school's bullying policy, lunchtime activity arrangements, adherence to uniform, 201 bus service used by pupils to get to and from school

Organising information evenings for parents

The PC is looking at the possibility of organising an evening workshop for parents about the MyWorldofWork website, and how to use this website to support young people in exploring different career ideas.

The PC is also looking at organising an evening information session for parents about young people and mobile phones.

Wishing you a good October school break! Banchory Academy Parent Council

Banchory Academy PTA Update

We are a small team always looking for new members to join us. Contact Kate Diamond if you are keen to join our team. katherine.diamond@btinternet.com

We have two upcoming fundraising events. The first is our regular Bag2School **collection Friday 9th November 2018 from 08:30-09:15** in the car park outside school, as per email sent to all parents recently. We look forward to receiving your unwanted textiles. The more bags we receive the more money we raise.

The next event is an evening with **Soul Academy on Saturday 24th November** at the Scout hut. This event is being run in conjunction with the Parent Council. All details, including booking forms are on the school website. It is sure to be a great night and tickets are selling fast. Please see school website for full details. All money raised will directly help fund a new lighting system for the school drama department.

Thanking you all in advance for your support.

Our next **PTA meeting** is to be held on **Tuesday 6th November 7:30pm** in the meeting room behind school reception.



Diary Dates

School Term Dates 2015-2020

We receive many telephone calls enquiring about school term dates. For your convenience, please refer to the [Aberdeenshire Council](#) website.

Session 2018/19

Term 1 Ends	Friday	12th October 2018
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Term 2 Starts	Monday	29th October 2018
In Service (Staff Only)	Monday	12th November 2018
In Service (Staff Only)	Tuesday	13th November 2018
Term 2 Ends	Friday	21st December 2018
.....		
Term 3 Starts	Monday	7th January 2019
Local Holiday	Friday	8th February 2019
Holiday	Monday	11th February 2019
In Service (Staff Only)	Tuesday	12th February 2019
In Service (Staff Only)	Wednesday	13th February 2019
Term 3 Ends	Friday	29th March 2019
.....		
Term 4 Starts	Monday	15th April 2019
Local Holiday	Monday	3rd June 2019
Term 4 Ends	Friday	5th July 2019