

Banchory Academy Parents' Bulletin

April–June 2017



Summer 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as another session comes to a close. It has been a very busy but successful year and I am very proud of everything that we have achieved.

This term has involved SQA exams. They are now shorter in length and pass very quickly. I would like to thank Mr Bett DHT and Mrs Marjorie Mason Chief Invigilator and her team for all the hard work that they put in to ensure they ran smoothly. Also thank you to the ASL team for the support they provided for the pupils.

Sports Day was fantastic with the whole school out supporting their Houses. The weather this year was great and the sun made an appearance. Well done to the prize winners and all the pupils that took part. Thank you also to all the staff that organised and supported this event.

We can look forward to Prize Giving on Thursday, a day that celebrates the many achievements of our young people. Well done to everyone that is being recognised that day. A special mention also to the rest of our pupils that have worked hard to achieve their very best this year. We are very proud of you.

Finally, I would like to wish all pupils and parents/guardians a very enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 22nd of August.

Inside this issue:

Message from the Rector 1

Staffing Update / Parent Council 2

Uniform / School Communication 3

Diary Dates / Car Park Safety 4





Staffing Update

At the end of this Session there are a number of staffing changes:

Mrs Christie (Technical Assistant), Mrs Flaherty (Teacher of PE) and Mrs Towers (Teacher of Home Economics) are all retiring, and we wish them a long and happy retirement. Mrs Coombs (Teacher of Biology) leave us, Mrs Farquhar (Technical Assistant) moves to a post at Kemnay Academy, and Mrs Petrie (Teacher of Music) begins Maternity at the start of the new Session—we wish them all well.

Mrs Forman (PT English) begins a Career Break in August, and the fixed term Acting position will be filled by Mrs Kenneway.

Sarah Bennett (Teacher of English) will be leaving us in September to start in a permanent post in Hull.

Our two Probationers, Mr Hamilton (Teacher of English) is leaving us to start a full time post in the central belt and Miss Szombathy (Teacher of RMPS) is starting a full time at Mackie Academy. We wish them both well at the start of their teaching career.

Mrs Wright (PT of ASL) reduces on a fixed term basis to 0.6 FTE, and Mrs Walker (Teacher of ASL) has been appointed to the 0.4 FTE Acting PT of ASL position.

Mr Sim (PT Technical, Bus & Ent) also reduces on a fixed term basis to 0.6 FTE, and Mrs Brand (Teacher of Business Studies) has been appointed to the 0.4 FTE. Acting PT of Technical position.

The RMPS Department have welcomed back Miss Devlin from Maternity Leave, and Miss Jamieson also returns in August. Ms Collins starts a new post at Northfield Academy in August.

We will be joined in August by Mrs Pirie (Teacher of Home Economics), Mrs Leaf (Teacher of Music), Miss Duff (Teacher of PE), Miss Eadie (Teacher of Biology) and Mr Donald Whyte (Teacher of Technical).

Parent Council

Where has this term gone?

The Parent council continues to work with the school and during this term representatives have visited Peterhead Academy to look at how they use different parts of the school. This is all part of the planning in preparation of building use once the new sport centre opens and the on-site swimming pool closes.

One of our representatives continues to participate in the Banchory Community Action Plan group, ensuring that the long term needs aspiration of a new school building is included in all future plans for the town.

Another of our team has continued to work with the school in developing the careers talks – we have now organised 17 over the last 2 years to help our pupils consider a variety of opportunities for their future.

We wish good luck to all of the pupils who have engaged in assessed work or undertaken examinations and every success to the young adults who are leaving the school at this time.

We welcome the new parents to the school and hope that you will support the school as you are able too – we do need new representatives so please come along to the Parent Forum AGM on **7th September** at 7:00 pm in the school. Dates of meeting for the next academic year will be in the school calendar.

We encourage you to engage with us online. We have our own website (www.ba-pc.org), we are on Twitter (@bapc_banchory) and we hope to actively use our Facebook group (Banchory Academy Parent Council). You can also email us at chair@ba-pc.org

School Uniform

Many thanks to all parents who have supported my request, to ensure all pupils attend school in the uniform stated on the school website. I appreciate this can cause difficulties but if everyone adheres to this, it makes it easier to deal with.

Just a quick reminder that leggings are not permitted nor are jean style trousers.

I would ask that this is followed as the pupils return in August.



Please copy and paste the link below to our uniform provider

<http://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/badged-school-uniform/a-d/b/banchory-academy>



School / Home Communications via Groupcall / Xpressions App

A reminder that the school uses Groupcall to send texts/messages and email communications—please ensure the school is kept updated of your contact details so you do not miss out.

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).



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 2016/17

Term 4 Ends	Friday	30th June 2017
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Session 2017/18

Term 1 Starts (for pupils)	Tuesday	22nd August 2017
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Term 1 Ends	Friday	13th October 2017
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Term 2 Starts	Monday	30th October 2017
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Term 2 Ends	Friday	22nd December 2017
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Term 3 Starts	Monday	8th January 2018
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Term 3 Ends	Thursday	29th March 2018
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Term 4 Starts	Monday	16th April 2018
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Term 4 Ends	Friday	6th July 2018
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Car Park Safety

Pupil safety, particularly on the roads and near vehicles, is uppermost in all of our minds. To help us ensure that pupils are as safe as they can be, we ask please that parents ensure that the bus bay lane, the main entrance area, car park access roads, entrance and exit are all kept clear.

Only those pupils who have been given permission should be dropped off at the front door.

Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

