



# Ballakermeen High School SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted that Ballakermeen will be welcoming back students in Years 7 to 10, and 12 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

## **School Uniform**

We prefer school uniform to be the order of the day as we believe it creates a sense of belonging and avoids putting pressure on students to wear the latest designer labels. It is also worth noting that the need for clothes to be washed daily no longer applies. We understand that over the last few months some children may have outgrown some items that you have yet to replace. We will be understanding if you make us aware – a brief note will suffice. Blazers need not be worn. Official PE kit will be required.

## **The Last Five Weeks of Term**

The first two sessions of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June will be spent in tutor groups. We will discuss any concerns students may have, pointing anyone who feels they might need additional support towards our Listening Service. Once regular lessons have commenced, the focus will very much be on learning. It is vitally important that we make the most of the short time we have remaining this academic year. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school ready to learn, equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler, calculator and crayons. If student planners have been lost, we will issue new ones for the remainder of the school year. Please be aware that some of the previously scheduled events, such as Enrichment Week and work experience for Year 10, will not take place, although plans are underway for our House Sports Days.

The school will look similar to how it was before we went into lockdown. There have been a few tweaks, including additional hand washing stations and protective screens at our welcome desk and in one of the canteens. We will continue to encourage good hygiene and will remind students to wash their hands regularly. Hand sanitiser will also be available in classrooms.

We need to try and catch up on three missing months of education and as per usual, behaviour that affects the good order of the school will not be tolerated. Coughing in the faces of people and other Covid related misdemeanours, even if it is for 'a laugh', will be dealt with firmly. We will remind students of our expectations and their responsibilities as part of our community.

### **On-Line Provision**

If your child is not returning this academic year, we request that you let us know, either by e-mailing [bhsenquiries@sch.im](mailto:bhsenquiries@sch.im) or calling 648700. On-line provision will still be available, but our main focus at Ballakermeen will very much be on teaching in the classroom.

### **Buses**

Bus Vannin will resume their usual school services.

### **Canteen**

The School canteen will be open again for service and will accept smartcard payments via Parent Pay, preferably to reduce the need to handle cash. If you have not activated your ParentPay account, or have forgotten your login details, please contact school. Please make sure that your child has his/her smartcard.

### **Illness**

If your child has a high temperature, dry cough, or a loss of smell and taste, please keep your child at home. Follow the advice of Public Health and call your doctor and/or 111 for further information.

### **Emergency Contact Details / Medical needs**

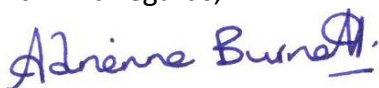
Please get in touch as soon as possible, if either

- you or those listed as emergency contacts, have changed contact details or
- there have been any changes to your child's medical needs

### **And Finally...**

Thank you for all your efforts over the past few months. We salute you and appreciate that you will have done your best in very difficult circumstances. The experience of being responsible for supporting the home education of your children will have given you a greater understanding of the challenges teachers face in the classroom, trying to keep children motivated and focused; it has never been a job for the faint-hearted. Remote learning has its place, but it is no substitute for the positive relationships and interactions that exist between teachers and students – and we teachers can't wait to get going!

With kind regards,



P. A. Burnett,  
Head Teacher