

Ballakermeen High School

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Strickett



Head Teacher
Mrs P. A. Burnett MA (Ed.) NPQH

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Our Ref: PAB/HG
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the summer holidays, which start on Monday 23rd July.

School Uniform

You will have recently received information relating to some minor amendments to school uniform from September. This has raised various questions and a number of parents have contacted us for more detailed information. I am happy to provide clarification:

Footwear

We realise that many smart shoes are no longer made of leather, but they do need to keep feet dry in wet weather, should be completely black, and free of any obvious logos.

Skirts

Some parents have told us that they are unsure about where to buy suitable skirts. We are happy to help with this by giving you the opportunity to see examples of skirts we consider to be appropriate at a school presentation, to be held on the dates below.

- Wednesday 27th June at 6.30 pm
- Thursday 28th June at 6 pm
- Friday 29th June at 4.30 pm (reserve date)

We do not specify any particular supplier of uniform, but we will have a local retailer present, who will bring a selection of approved clothing, including skirts, for you to view. Please note, there will not be an opportunity to purchase, or try on any clothing items; they will be there for display purposes only.

Please can you register your interest in attending on the school website, or telephone 648700.

Mobile Phones in School

At the above presentations, we will also be giving a short talk on the use of mobile phones and confirming our school policy. Thank you to the many parents and carers who have completed the brief survey on this topic, available on the school website. If you have not yet done so, we would be grateful for your feedback. Students have already completed a survey and discussed their views at School Council meetings and it is important that we know your views as well.

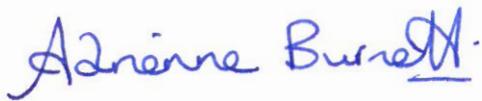
Research indicates that approximately 90% of young people now own a mobile phone. We recognise that mobile phones are very much a part of modern life and are, of course, invaluable for

communication. We also understand that we need to teach our students responsible usage of mobiles as learning tools.

On the other hand, we are very aware that mobile devices can be an unhelpful distraction in school. For example, here at Ballakermeen, we have been dealing with a growing number of related issues including unpleasant exchanges via social media and inappropriate use of the camera facility. We very much want our young people to develop a wide range of positive and effective social skills that will serve them well when they leave us.

As you are no doubt aware, the use of mobile phones is the subject of wider discussion on the island and beyond, with part of the debate informed by studies highlighting increasing concerns about addictive behaviours. I look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrienne Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

P A Burnett
Head Teacher