

28 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

The new term has started but I hope that all families have had a chance to relax at some point during the good weather we have been fortunate enough to have had this year. I would particularly like to welcome the parents/carers of all new pupils who are joining us in S1. The transition events held last year were very successful and I am sure pupils will enjoy a smooth move to Bucksburn Academy. If there are any issues though, please contact the school – there are no silly questions if the issue concerns you.

This year will be a busy year that will, hopefully, see pupils making very good progress in ensuring that, 'Together We Achieve'. I am delighted to inform you that SQA results this year were once again very good. There were some fantastic performances throughout the school with pupils working hard to achieve well – from the 16 pupils who achieved 6 As at National 5 in S4, to the 49 pupils in S5 who gained at least one Higher and to the pupils who strived to achieve qualifications at National 2 and 3. All achievements are celebrated, and this should give real confidence to all pupils as we go forward into session 2018-19.

This year the school will focus on a variety of themes. We aim to continue to raise attainment through a focus on feedback, differentiation and pupil responsibility for learning. As with national policy, we will continue to work to close the attainment gaps in the school with a focus on enrichment opportunities that will hopefully see more experiences for all pupils. Health and wellbeing will continue to be a major focus, this year looking at mental health and wellbeing with the support of a range of agencies. Finally, we will continue to develop the employability skills of all young people to ensure our positive destination rates remain high.

Before the holidays I wrote with a reminder of the dress code expected here at the school. Since arriving in February, I have been very impressed with the appearance of pupils and would like to remind all pupils and parents/carers of the importance of 'looking the part' in order to succeed. The reputation of the school is very good across the community and City and I am sure we all want to make sure that this continues and that we continue to have pride and respect in our appearance.

I also wrote about a new communication tool we will be using this session. The new Secondary School App will allow us to communicate more efficiently for those with access to apps. You will need to download the app by searching 'SSA' or 'SSA secondaryschoolapp' and search for Bucksburn Academy. We already have over 200 people registered but would like the whole school registered as soon as possible. I would like to thank the Parent Council for their support in allowing us to access this tool.

Finally, we look forward to working with all parents/carers over the course of the year to ensure that, '**Together We Achieve**'.

Yours sincerely



Mike Paul
Head Teacher