ALFORD ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer

I wish you a very Happy New Year and hope you have enjoyed a good festive holiday with family and friends.

At this time of year in school, all staff revisit the values which matter most to us ie Hard work, Honesty, Ambition, Respect and Kindness.  These guide our conversations with our young people about their positive achievements and behaviours in school and also our conversations about expectations when things are not going so well.  We are very proud of our values and I am delighted that we have a growing number of pupils who have grabbed the opportunity to work together on new “branding” of these values as part of a team supported by Miss Bradley,  Mrs Forsyth, Mr McCance and our business partner, Colin Leonard, owner and managing director of Design+Code, an Aberdeen-based design company specialising in brand strategy and design, graphic design and illustration, design and development of bespoke web and software applications, 2d & 3d animation, product visualisation and motion graphics. I look forward to sharing the results of their creative vision with you in future.

There is much to look forward to this year.  Our Student Council are working hard on school improvements.  Our Parent Council are busy organising focus groups and supporting the school. Our staff teams are continuously reflecting on their practice and planning how to further improve experiences for our young people.

In August last year, our school began an exciting programme of professional learning, which supported by external funding, has already included study visits for staff to schools abroad and outstanding workshops on how to create gold standard Project Based Learning experiences which include input from business partners.  To further support developing partnerships, Ms Jenni Prentice, Business and Community Support Officer, has joined our staff team this month.  Over the coming weeks and months we will be talking with pupils, parents, staff and a range of school partners about our curriculum and pathways.

We are very proud of our pupils but are also acutely aware of the pressures on young people in today’s society. Its vitally important that pupils, parents, school staff and the wider community continue to work together to help young people make the right choices.

I wish all our senior pupils every success with their exams which are currently taking place.

My very best wishes to all pupils, staff and parents for 2020.

Yours sincerely



Moira Milne

Head Teacher

**Key Dates This Term**

(please note additional events may be added where opportunities arise and these will be publicised separately)

10/1/20-27/1/20 S4-S6 assessment period (study leave for S5/6 pupils 13/1/20-24/1/20)

Tuesday 21 January Parent Council Meeting 7pm

Week commencing 27/1/20 S3 reports issued this week

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 February P7 Parent Tours

Wednesday 5 February Parental Engagement Event – “Share the Air” with Mrs Milne, 11-12 noon.

Week commencing 10/2/20 S4-6 monitoring letters issued this week

Tuesday 11 February Course choice return deadline for S3 pupils going on to S4 – further information on course choice to follow

Thursday 20 February S4 Parents’ Evening

Monday 24 February Course choice return deadline for S4 pupils going on to S5 – further information on course choice to follow

Thursday 27 February 1-1 Drop-in Session for Parents with Mrs Milne, 4-5:15pm

 S5/6 Parents’ Evening

Monday 2 March Course choice return deadline for S5 pupils going on to S6 – further information on course choice to follow

Monday 9 March S2 Parents’ Evening

Wednesday 11 March Course choice return deadline for S2 pupils going on to S3 – further information on course choice to follow

Monday 16 March Parent Council Meeting 7pm

Thursday 26 March Performing Arts Showcase

**Term Dates Session 2019/20**

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| Monday 6 January 2020 | Start of Term 3 |
| Thursday 13 and Friday 14 February 2020 | Occasional Days  – school closed to pupils |
| Monday 17 February 2020 | Mid Term holiday |
| Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 February 2020 | In-Service Days – school closed to pupils |
| Friday 3 April 2020 | End of Term 3 |
| 6-17 April 2020 | Easter holidays |
| Monday 20 April 2020 | Start of Term 4 |
| Friday 8 May 2020 | May Day holiday – school closed**\*change of date\*** |
| Monday 1 June 2020 | Occasional Day – school closed to pupils |
| Friday 3 July 2020 | End of Term 4 |