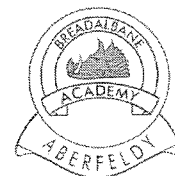


17th August 2017
(JD/SS)



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Dear Parent/Carer

Senior Student Learning Agreements 2017/18

Your son/daughter has now returned to Breadalbane Academy for a fifth or sixth year. We are always delighted by the number of pupils who choose to continue with us beyond the compulsory period and we hope this reflects well on the experience that we have provided for them to date.

Guidance teachers have today discussed with S5/6 pupils our 'Senior Student Learning Agreement' which sets out some key principles for these year groups. There is nothing that should be a surprise in this agreement, but it is worth setting out from the word 'go' the high expectations we set for our senior pupils, who in most cases have actively chosen to return to school.

- **Our senior pupils set the tone**

We typically find that our senior pupils set a very good example for younger pupils in the school. We would expect any returning senior pupils to co-operate with all school policies, including those on school uniform, punctuality and classroom behaviour, as well as presenting a positive attitude in general over their school year. I strongly believe senior pupils are critical in setting a positive tone for the school, and staff always appreciate the role models they provide for younger year groups.

- **S5/6 is still full-time**

Although we like to allow our S5/6 pupils a little more freedom where we can, it is important to stress that pupils in these years are still in full-time education and should expect to sign up to a full timetable according to the rules for each year group. Pupils in S5 are required to pursue 5 courses, though in S6 they may reduce this to 4 courses, or 3 in the case of those studying for 3 Advanced Highers. We would also hope that S6 pupils with 'free periods' would use this time fruitfully.




- **We expect pupils to stick in with courses**

Where we deploy staffing and resources to offer senior courses, which often involve small numbers, we expect pupils to put in the effort necessary to ensure that these courses pay off for both them and the school. Pupils will also be expected to pursue all courses for the duration of the session, irrespective of offers from universities. This is also something that universities expect them to do. It is a very real source of disappointment to staff when pupils try to drop courses as the year goes on, and I want to stress from the beginning that when pupils sign up for a course, they are making a full year commitment.

I would ask you to discuss the above expectations with your son or daughter and support them in the commitment they make when they sign their senior student learning agreement, which will cover these areas.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our S5 and S6 pupils a rewarding and successful year and to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support for the work of the school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Devine', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Devine
Headteacher