



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of term 1, I would like to thank our pupils, families and staff for their hard work and support over the past few months.

It has been a busy start to the new school year, with our young people settling into their classes and getting involved in a wide range of activities and opportunities across the school. There has been plenty to be proud of, both in and out of the classroom. You will also have received your child's term 1 report.

I hope the October break gives everyone the chance to take some time away from the usual routines and recharge.

Have a good October break. I look forward to seeing everyone back for term 2, which starts for all pupils and all staff on Monday 26 October 2026.

My very best wishes,

H McAninch

STAFFING UPDATES

We have a few staffing updates to share as we close term 1, and commence term 2:

A very warm welcome back to Mr Lawson (Maths), who returns to our school to start term 2. As shared before the summer, Mrs Osborne (Geography) and Mrs Thomson (Home Economics) both return from maternity leave, and Miss Napier (Chemistry) and Miss Bowman (Art and Design) secured positions to stay with us at Baldragon Academy. Joining the teaching team at the start of term 1 were Miss Stevenson (Maths), Miss Downie (English), Miss McLaggan (RME), along with our new provisionally registered teachers (PRTs formerly known as NQTs) Miss Martin (Art and Design), Miss Young (Business Education) and Miss Leslie (English).

A warm welcome also to Mr Wallace, Mr Bayne, Miss Simms and Mr Hislop, who all join the teaching team within Support for Learning.

Thanks and best wishes go to Mr Miemczyk (Music) whom, after 3 years at Baldragon Academy, moves on to new responsibilities at Harris Academy. Recruitment for a new music teacher is underway.

CELEBRATING THE PROGRESS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are incredibly proud of the progress our young people continue to make at Baldragon Academy. Behind every result is an individual journey, and we know these achievements reflect the hard work, determination and resilience of our pupils, supported by families, staff and our wider school community.

Across S4 to S6, for young people who left Baldragon Academy after the 2026 exams, attainment continues to improve. Using our school's 2023 improvement baseline, we have seen a 15% increase in pupils achieving five or more National 5 qualifications. At Higher level, progress has been particularly encouraging, including a 50% increase in pupils achieving three or more Highers and a 151% increase in pupils achieving five or more.

Literacy continues to be a strength, with almost all S3 pupils achieving the expected national standard. We are also pleased that literacy outcomes for our school leavers compare very positively with those of similar young people nationally.

We are especially proud that 95.14% of our school leavers moved into a positive destination, including college, university, training or employment. This is a fantastic improvement from 90% the previous year and exceeds the virtual comparator and Dundee City averages.

We look forward to continuing to work together with our families to help every young person achieve their very best, whether staying on to progress their portfolio of learning or leaving us after the 2027 Qualifications Scotland examination period.

IMPROVEMENT PLAN & STANDARDS/QUALITY REPORT

Our 2025/2026 standards and quality report is now available from our school website: www.tinyurl.com/4z5d9p3e. This document gives a fuller account of the success of our learners and the improvement progress of our school. Our 2026/2027 school improvement plan is also available.



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS

To help you stay organised in the new school year, please keep a note of our school's key dates—available from our school website:

www.baldragon.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk

SENIOR PHASE STUDY

S4-S6 pupils should aim to study at home for **one hour per National Qualification** and **two hours per Higher or Advanced Higher** each week.

Free online resources can support learning and revision at home:

- **e-Sgoil:** live online learning and study support: www.e-sgoil.com/senior-phase.
- **Achieve Learning:** course notes, questions and past papers. Class codes are available from teachers.
- **Scholar:** National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, activities and assessments: www.scholar.hw.ac.uk.