



**25.06.20**

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **UPDATE: Education Recovery Plan - S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 and S6**

I am sure you have been keeping abreast of the national narrative this week regarding the opening of schools in August 2020. As a father, and indeed Headteacher, I fully appreciate the range of emotions that you may have been experiencing. As promised, on 22 June we shared with you our education recovery plan for your child's learning. Then, on 23 June, the Scottish Government delivered the most significant update impacting our school since their announcement in March, regarding school closures.

I have been working hard with colleagues across Children and Families Service to fully understand the implications, and practicalities, of this week's announcement and I am now in the position to share with you our updated plans for August 2020.

Please find alongside this communication, a letter to you from Audrey May, Head of Service (Chief Education Officer). Mrs May makes the very important point 'Recovery Plans for phased return and blended learning which have been sent to you by your school will only be used as a back-up in case the circumstances around coronavirus change for the worse'. Therefore, at Baldragon Academy, we are now planning to re-open in August 2020, to all learners, on all days and following our normal school day structure.

### **Arrangements for August**

Monday 10 August 2020 remains an in-service day for staff. Pupils are expected to return to Baldragon Academy on Tuesday 11 August 2020 under the following:

- S1 - Attending from period 1 (8.50am)
- S2 - Attending from period 2 (9.35am)
- S3 - Attending from period 3\* (10.50am)
- S4 - Attending from period 4 (11.30am)
- S5/6 - Attending from period 5 (12.20pm)

*\*S3 should not attend for morning interval.*

All year groups should arrive via the pupil entrances on either Harestanes Road or via the side lane leading from Balgowan Drive. From the playground, pupils will then be directed to the atrium area for a full induction and safety briefing by myself and the Senior Leadership Team. They will then follow their new timetable.

Pupil timetables, along with other relevant information, will be shared with your child at the welcome assembly on 11 August.



### Lunch Arrangements

Free School Meals will continue to be provided by Tayside Contacts. However, at this point I am unsure what the full provision will be for general school meals, snacks and drinks. I would expect this to become clearer over the summer break. As usual, we do not encourage any young person to leave the school premise during lunch times, unless of course it is for a home lunch. Water fountains will remain isolated for Health and Safety reasons. Therefore, please ensure your child has a fresh bottle of water.

### Safe Working Procedures

I am fully aware that COVID-19 has not gone away. Therefore, our risk assessments and specific safe working procedures and protocols will remain in place, as originally planned. We will continue with handwashing/sanitising on arrival and exit, and periodically throughout the day. We will continue to operate the 'clean as you go' system. We will still provide a resource pack for your child to reduce the sharing of resources and we will continue to implement new protocols for movement around our school corridors and stairwells. Therefore, please continue to support our school by discussing the importance of good health and hygiene and that every member of our school community has the right to feel safe and protected (article 19, UNRC).

### Relationships for Learning

At Baldragon Academy, we will continue to operate our relationships for learning policy to develop skills for life and work by following a simple work-based approach - first warning; second warning; consequence; referral - as part of our stages of positive intervention and wider de-escalation strategy. At the heart of our approaches are pupil choice and an opportunity for a fresh start (article 28, UNRC). Please ensure that you discuss with your child the standards and expectations that are required to make the most successful return to school this August.

### Communication between school and home

Please note, school visitors can only be accepted by agreed prior appointment. Therefore, the methods of parent/school contact are:

- **Telephone:** 01382 436170 for our school office.
- **Emailing:** general enquiries can be emailed to [baldragon@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:baldragon@dundee.gov.uk)
- **Emailing the Guidance Team:**
  - Balgay House Mr A McArtney [balgay.guidance@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:balgay.guidance@dundee.gov.uk)
  - Craighowl House Mr C McArtney [craighowl.guidance@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:craighowl.guidance@dundee.gov.uk)
  - Kinpurney House Ms Smith [kinpurney.guidance@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:kinpurney.guidance@dundee.gov.uk)
  - Law House Mrs Honeyman [law.guidance@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:law.guidance@dundee.gov.uk)
- **Groupcall Xpressions:** this is our new service to help make home-school communication easier, more effective and more accessible. Xpressions is completely free of charge to you. The Xpressions App can be installed on your Apple iOS or Android phone. Download the app at [www.parents.groupcall.com](http://www.parents.groupcall.com) and register using the mobile phone number and email address that you have given to our school. You must keep your personal details up to date with our school.

I would also encourage every member of our school community to follow the Twitter feeds - **@BaldragonAcad** and **@DundeeCouncil** - where all up to date information will be posted along with links to relevant resources and emerging advice during the summer.

## Baldragon Academy

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twitter – @BaldragonAcad & @Baldragon\_HT  
Remote Learning Portal:  
<https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademyrpl>

### Additional Information

Once again, please be assured that all our decisions and updated plans are driven by our commitment to provide a safe and positive environment for our whole school community. We know that these new arrangements may cause some challenges for some families. If there are any aspects of this new plan that your child may find difficult then please contact your child's guidance teacher and together, we will do everything we possibly can to support a smooth return to school.

I will continue to work closely with our Parent Council to ensure all aspects of school life and parental engagement can swiftly resume, whilst maintaining the Health and Safety of all in our learning community. This will include the more specific details of our school calendar, including: reporting; parental contact; school events; wider achievement; information sessions; study support.

I am delighted that this opportunity awaits us in August. Until then, I wish each one of you, and your families, the best of health. Thank you once again for being amazing parents to work with and the support that you give our school. Please stay safe and have a lovely summer.

My very best wishes,

**H McAninch**  
Headteacher