



10 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Phased return to face-to-face teaching in school from Monday 15 March 2021 – Senior Phase

Following on from my recent letter to you (5 March 2021), I am pleased to share arrangements for your child's phased return to face-to-face teaching in school from Monday 15 March.

On Tuesday 2 March, the First Minister announced phase 2 of the return to school will take place on 15 March. In summary, this means:

- A phased return to secondary school from 15 March.
- All secondary school pupils to receive some in-school education from 15 March until the Easter break.
- A combination of in-school learning and remote learning for all S1-S6 pupils.
- The current 8% cap on numbers in secondary schools removed.
- Minimising movement of young people and staff in school.
- Senior phase learners are prioritised for face-to-face learning and teaching in school.
- Critical practical work in relation to qualification continues.
- A high-quality remote learning offer should remain in place.
- A continued provision for key workers and vulnerable children and young people.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight that in all our COVID-19 related planning over 2 lockdowns, this current challenge has been the biggest and most extreme, amplified by such a short timescale. However, working closely with your Parent Council, our Senior Leadership Team and Extended Leadership Team of Principal Teachers, I am delighted to inform you that we have created an exceptionally positive model that delivers the following:

- From 15 March to 1 April our school day will be adjusted to reflect a 6-period day.
- 3 slots per day will be made available to all learners (8.45am-10.25am; 10.40am-12.20pm; 1.10pm-2.50pm).
- 2 learning episodes will take place per slot.
- 1/3 of our school roll will be invited to attend their specific allocated slot.

Taking this approach allows us to:

- **Ensure every young person is in school 5 days per week.**
- **Ensure every young person receives 5 full days of learning from 15 March until Easter break.**
- **Provide a consistency of time slots for attendance over each week.**
- **Add value for our Senior Phase learners by including period 7 (2.50pm-3.40pm), thus giving additional time in learning and linking the last period to any optional after-school/departmental study support offers.**
Please note, BGE learners (S1 to S3) do not attend period 7.
- **Ensure minimal movement during the school day – including no additional break/lunch crowding.**
- **Ensure little or no impact for key workers and vulnerable children and young people.**
- **Provide consistent access to Free School Meals where appropriate.**



What does this mean for my child?

Your child should attend with the BLUE GROUP from 15 March 2021.

Therefore, your child's time in school is:

Wb 15/3	2 period times	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Remote learning
Blue Group	8.45-10.25						Teachers will pre-loaded work via MSTeams during planning and preparation time only Remote Learning Portal National e-Learning offer
Green Group	10.40-12.20						
Red Group	1.10-3.40						

Wb 22/3	2 period times	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Remote learning
Red Group	8.45-10.25						Teachers will pre-loaded work via MSTeams during planning and preparation time only Remote Learning Portal National e-Learning offer
Blue Group	10.40-12.20						
Green Group	1.10-3.40						

Wb 29/3	2 period times	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Remote learning
Green Group	8.45-10.25						Teachers will pre-loaded work via MSTeams during planning and preparation time only Remote Learning Portal National e-Learning offer
Red Group	10.40-12.20						
Blue Group	1.10-3.40						

*Friday 1 April is a school holiday

- During these specific times, your child should follow their normal timetable.
- Young people **must** leave the school estate when not attending their allotted slot.
- Senior Phase (S4-S6) learners **must** arrive/exit the school building via the dining hall doors only.
- Unless exempt, face coverings **must** be worn by all pupils (S1 to S6) at all times when in the school building.
- 2m physical distancing **must** be adhered to by all pupils at all times.
- Our 'clean as you go' protocol **must** be followed at all times.
- Lateral flow tests will continue to be offered to S4-6 pupils and school staff.

Specific Information for Senior Phase learners

If your child would normally attend Core PE, Core RME, Core PSE or S6 Wider Achievement, please note that these classes are currently suspended for Senior Phase learners. Therefore, your child must work remotely from home during these times.

If your child would normally attend a S5/S6 skills class, please note that these classes are currently suspended. Therefore, your child must adhere to the following:

- Monday Period 1 – attend the same class they would normally have Tuesday/Thursday period 6/7
- Tuesday Period 2 – attend the same class they would normally have Monday 4/5
- Friday Period 2 – attend the same class they would normally have Monday/Wednesday 6/7



What if my child has been attending a college course as part of their normal timetable?

If your child would normally attend a college course, please note that they should not attend school when they are normally timetabled to attend college. Instead, they should continue to work from home completing their college work tasks and continuing to gather evidence for their college courses. This includes PC Passport lessons on Thursday period 2 and/or Friday period 2.

What if my child has been attending in-school learning under the child of a key worker criteria?

Your child can continue to follow their normal timetable as appropriate to their allocated grouping, as stated on page 2 of this letter. However, with the organisational challenges surrounding the return of more pupils, it is essential that key workers requiring support reconsider their original request and only continue with their child's allocated place as a last resort, and only for days where there is absolutely no other option available. Please contact our school office - 01382 436 170 - or email us directly - baldragonacademy@dundeeschools.scot - to amend your request as soon as possible to advise if you can support a change.

What if my child has been attending in-school learning under the vulnerable young person criteria?

Your child's current allocation to in-school learning will have been agreed directly with your child's guidance teacher, year head and/or through our staged intervention/Team Around the Child processes. Therefore, if there is a change your child's guidance teacher will be in touch with you as soon as possible. This will be to confirm the specific arrangements for learning from 15 March and until the Easter break.

What should my child do when their grouping is not in school?

When not invited to school, your child should continue to work from home and make best use of both our school's remote learning offer (MSTeams, [Remote Learning Portal](#)) and the [National e-Learning](#) offer ([Live Learning](#), [Recorded Learning](#), [Supported Learning](#)). This is crucial if your child is working in the Senior Phase and towards national qualifications this year.

Is my child expected to wear school uniform?

Yes. At Baldragon Academy, we firmly believe that school uniform, as part of our broader range of improvement measures, supports the development of a positive whole school ethos and therefore helps to improve behaviour, discipline, and motivation. We believe that school uniform promotes a sense of pride and belonging to school, encourages equality and inclusion and improves the climate for learning. These are values which we will need to draw upon more than ever in the 'new normal' school session. Therefore, it is expected that all pupils will wear a full school uniform from 15 March 2021. A bank of brand new and up-cycled and school uniform is available for free from the front of our school. Please take what you need.

Additional Information

At this stage, you may find yourself drawn to making comparisons to other school models across Dundee City Council and indeed in neighbouring Local Authorities. Indeed, it is difficult not to pay attention to local and national media coverage on Phase 2. However, considering the specific context and circumstances of Baldragon Academy and the needs of our young people, I whole-heartedly believe that our plans for Phase 2 align with our school values of responsibility, fairness, and respect – serving our learning community.

Please remember that Dundee City Council has a coronavirus information page for schools on its [website](#). As we settle into Phase 2, I am sure there will be further updates for me to share with you and as we move towards the Easter break and plan for term 4. Until then, thank you for ongoing patience, trust, and support.

My very best wishes and please stay safe.

H McAninch
Headteacher