



22 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'd like to start by expressing my thanks to you. Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and flexibility as we draw this term, and 2021, to a close. Reflecting on our time back in the school building since August, and as a learning community, together we continue to make great progress.

School Improvement Report

Our 2020.21 school improvement report illustrates the many achievements of our amazing young people and the significant progress that we continue to make in improving our school. We've tried hard to make the report as accessible as possible. Please take some time to update yourself on our progress - <https://tinyurl.com/BAdocs>.

Parent Survey and Feedback

During December, we opened our annual 'HMIe styled' parental survey. I am delighted to report, in comparison to our 2018 baseline measure, that our school continues to improve in almost all areas: <https://tinyurl.com/4h5kz8tv>. Despite the many challenges and frustrations as we all navigate the pandemic, our school continues to move forward positively. One area that I am keen to explore with parents, is in the measure of communication. Parental feedback, whilst very positive, does highlight that this is an area that we can get better. Therefore, in January, I will reach out for your interest in supporting a focus group to help us establish a new communication strategy alongside your Parent Council and key members of our Senior Leadership Team.

In the meantime, please remember that our updated school website has a 'Digital Schoolbag' section where all our outgoing communications are stored - <https://tinyurl.com/BADigitalSB>. Furthermore, if you have changed email address, phone number (landline or mobile) or have moved home, then please ensure that you update our school office immediately.

Parents' Nights

This session, we restarted parents' nights using the SchoolCloud system. Feedback from our parents has been exceptionally positive and we are looking forward to using this system for the remainder of the year to meet with parents and discuss learning. Key dates were shared at the start of the new school year with you. If you missed this, you will find our school dates for reporting and parents' nights in the calendar section of our school website - <https://tinyurl.com/BACal> - and in each covering letter of your child's school report. Reports are issued termly.

School Uniform

Almost all young people at Baldragon Academy continue to come to school smartly dressed in uniform and contributing to a positive school ethos. In the last 21 months, due to the pandemic, we have had to operate very differently (remote learning, blended learning, school closures, restricted changing rooms, community hubs) and I appreciate that this, at times, has brought about some challenges for our families in relation to school clothing and uniform. At Baldragon Academy, we have operated our uniform policy very flexibly because we recognise these challenges. However, these challenges are now our new normal. Therefore, if Santa or the 'sales' can sort out some uniform issues, then this will help to make a very positive start term 3 and 2022. Our school uniform is incredibly simple, and our policy can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/BA-uniform>. Please note that hoods are not permitted to be worn inside the school building.

Senior Leadership Team – changes and structure

At the end of this term, we will say goodbye to Ms Andrea Spence – Depute Headteacher. Ms Spence has been a senior leader at Baldragon Academy since 2015 and is moving on to new responsibilities within Fife Council. This term, we have also said goodbye to Mr Scott Brough – Business Manager. After nearly 5 years of service to our school, Mr Brough has taken up new responsibilities with the Children and Families Service of Dundee City Council. Please join me in thanking Ms Spence and Mr Brough for their many years of service to our school community and to wish them both the very best in their new posts. We warmly welcome Ms Louisa Casey who has already started at Baldragon Academy as our new Business Manager, bringing a wealth of experience from Children and Families Service to our school. Recruitment processes to replace Ms Spence will commence in the new year. In the meantime, Mrs Ross and Mr Montgomery will take on additional responsibilities.

Finally, with your continued support, I am looking forward to a great year at Baldragon Academy. I do hope you, and your family, have a very safe holiday.

Merry Christmas,

Mr H McAninch
Headteacher