



29.04.2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy.

In my last letter to you (10 April 2020), I assured you that I would keep you updated with developments as term 4 progressed and I am pleased to be able to share with you our plans for learning as we move forward.

Change of 'virtual' timetable 2020/21

On Monday 4 May 2020, all learners will begin their new courses, via the Baldragon Academy Remote Learning Portal. This means that all learning for all year groups will move on. For our young people who have made course choices, they will begin to study their new subjects and progress into the 2020/21 school session.

Current S1 - change of 'virtual' timetable

From Monday 4 May 2020, pupils in our current S1 year group will be known as S2 learners and will continue their virtual learning with their current teachers. We have taken this approach to provide consistency, ensuring your child can progress with a teacher who knows them well as a learner and a teacher with whom your child is familiar. Learning will continue in line with the eight curriculum areas and the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence and will be differentiated as appropriate to individual needs.

Current S2 to S5 – change of 'virtual' timetable

From Monday 4 May 2020, all learners in our current S2 to S5 year groups will progress to the next stage in their learning: current S2 become the new S3; current S3 become the new S4; current S4 become the new S5 etc. Staff at Baldragon Academy have been working hard to confirm your child's course choice options. Our Principal Teachers of Guidance, and Year Heads, have been quality assuring your child's course choice options to ensure that their new choices build on their prior learning and skills development. To access their new suite of course choice options, your child must visit the Baldragon Academy Remote Learning Portal, click on the *Departmental Launch Pad* > *New Course Choice*. From the *New Course Choice* page, they can select the relevant link to open the course choice list as a PDF document. Your child's new subjects for the 2020/21 school session is listed on this PDF against their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN). The SCN is a unique number, individually assigned to each child for their SQA qualifications, and are currently being sent directly to parents via the Baldragon Academy text messaging service. Subject Principal Teachers have also been issued with this information to plan new learning over the coming weeks. Like all previous years, course choice options remain provisional until August. Alternatively, follow this link for direct access to the New Course Choice page:
<https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademyrlp/department-launch-pad/new-course-choice>.

I must emphasise that this is not the traditional change of timetable that is normally undertaken in May. Given current circumstances, we are not in a practical position to issue timetables or allocate class sets. Instead, your child will progress with their current teachers - relative to their new subject choices. This is to provide consistency, ensuring your child can progress with a teacher who knows them well as a learner and a teacher with whom your child is familiar. Where individual circumstances do not permit this approach, the subject Principal Teacher will, in the first instance, assume responsibility for your child's learning and act as a point of contact. However, if you have any

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اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے درج تہ پر رابطہ کریں:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗਲیس سہجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے درج تہ پر رابطہ کریں:

Jeżeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址:

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questions, queries or concerns regarding your child's course choices, then please contact your child's guidance teacher.

Learning partnerships

We are awaiting further guidance from Dundee & Angus College regarding school-college link courses and when these will begin and how these will be delivered. Similarly, we are awaiting finalised information regarding secondary school 'campus' learning arrangements. I will share all information regarding our learning partnerships as soon as it is made available to me.

Accessing learning

For all new year groups, learning will continue to be issued via the Baldragon Academy Remote Learning Portal - <https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademyrlp> - with appropriate and timeous feedback/support from the relevant teacher. If you require paper copies of learning packs, these will continue to be available from the front reception desk at St Paul's Academy Community Support Centre. If you require these, please let us know in advance, via email, so that packs can be prepared specifically for your child.

Transitions

On 27 April 2020, Dundee City Council released information on school placing requests, admissions and transitions information - https://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/news/article?article_ref=3615. Again, I will share our plans for supporting our 2020/21 S1 cohort in due course.

For all school leavers, please continue to engage with Leona (leona.hutton@sds.co.uk) and Debbie (debbie.johnston@sds.co.uk) at Skills Development Scotland – SDS Careers Centre (01382) 318600.

Communication - school and home

If your child is finding their work difficult then contact should, in the first instance, be made directly with the relevant subject teacher. Teachers can be contacted directly and discretely via the learning platform from which your child is receiving their work - Glow, MSTeams, Google Classrooms etc.

Should teachers have concerns that a young person is not appropriately or proportionately engaging with their assigned work, the relevant guidance teacher will contact you. Guidance teachers can also be contacted directly:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--|
| • Balgay House | Mr A McArtney | balgay.guidance@dundeecity.gov.uk |
| • Craigowl House | Mr C McArtney | craigowl.guidance@dundeecity.gov.uk |
| • Kinpurney House | Ms Smith | kinpurney.guidance@dundeecity.gov.uk |
| • Law House | Mrs Honeyman | law.guidance@dundeecity.gov.uk |

Our school email remains active throughout our school closure: baldragon@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Groupcall Xpressions is our new service to help make home-school communication easier, more effective and more accessible. Xpressions is completely free of charge to you and the Xpressions App can be installed on your Apple iOS or Android phone. Download the app at www.parents.groupcall.com and register using the mobile phone number and email address that you have given to our school. Alternatively, Xpressions is accessible on any internet browser on your computer, laptop or mobile device at www.xpressions.groupcall.com.

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ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗਲیس سہجھنے ਵਿੱਚ کٹھنਾਈ ہونے لگی ہے تو کھپا کر کے ساڈے نالہ روناں دیتے پتے تے سہپارک کرو۔

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Please note, that by downloading the free app, you are helping to protect our school finances, as communications via the app have no cost to you or our school. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to download the Xpressions App and ensure you have the app notifications turned on – as this will ensure communications are sent via the app, rather than via standard text messaging. Furthermore, you must keep your personal details up to date with our school as from August 2020, Groupcall Xpressions will become our main source of communication with all parents.

I would also encourage every member of our school community to follow the school's main Twitter feed - @BaldragonAcad - where all up to date information is being posted, along with links to relevant resources and emerging advice. In addition to this, Dundee City Council have a dedicated area of their website <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/services/covid-19>, complimented by their own Twitter feed - @DundeeCouncil. Supporting this, Dundee City Council have also launched their own online learning hub <https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/dundeeonlinelearninghub/home> filled with resources and advice for pupils and parents.

Home-school Support

Finally, as a parent of both primary and secondary aged children, I fully appreciate the additional workload asked of us all in supporting our children and young people throughout this unprecedented time. As parents and carers, we are not expected to be teachers, nor can we fully replicate the experience offered in our classrooms and school. However, as parents and carers, it is vital that we encourage and motivate our children to engage with rigor, commitment and to the very best of their ability. Please do not underestimate your influence in setting high expectations. This ongoing learning is helping to further develop your child's skills, ambitions and aspirations and our planned change of learning on 4 May 2020 provides every learner with a fresh start in a new academic year. I genuinely believe that the partnership between home and school is vital in supporting our young people to achieve their very best as they grow and develop as responsible, successful and confident young adults.

Please contact us if you require any help or advice in your efforts to support learning at home. Additionally, please do not forget about the national advice and support that is available to you for supporting learning at home.

- National Parent Forum of Scotland:
<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/04/20/term-4-guidance-for-parents/>
- Parent Club Scotland:
<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/learning-at-home?page=0>
- Scottish Government:
<https://www.gov.scot/news/guidance-for-home-learning/>

I will provide further updates as soon as possible and when relevant and/or new information is available.

I wish each one of you, and your families, the best of health. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

H McAninch
Headteacher

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