



**8 January 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As per my communication to you on [6 January 2021](#), the extended school holiday period ends today and learning and teaching resumes from Monday 11 January 2021.

For the period from Monday 11 January, identified [vulnerable young people](#) and the [children of key workers](#) will continue to attend school in-person.

All other pupils will be provided with an appropriate timetable of remote learning commencing Monday 11 January.

**Arrangements for key worker children and identified vulnerable young people – wb 11 January 2021**

Your child should attend school as normal at 8.45am and enter via the main school entrance where they will be registered and assigned to a 'learning bubble' and a classroom for working – both of which will remain consistent. Learning bubbles will be organised by year group and in small groups to ensure that we continue to strictly adhere to our COVID risk assessments and safe working procedures.

As before and as a gentle reminder: pupils in the broad general education (S1 to S3) are encouraged to wear a mask in class and must wear a mask when moving around the building; pupils in the senior phase must wear a mask at all times; all pupils must sanitise on arrival and exit and regularly throughout the day; our 'clean as you go' protocol must be followed; movement around the class/building must remain minimal.

Tayside contracts will continue to provide catering, including free school meals as appropriate. Pupils should bring their own bottled water. However as before, bottled water is available from Tayside Contracts and can be purchased using the contactless system only.

Pupils are not required to wear school uniform.

The school day will be organised as per the exemplar timetable below.

Time	Monday - Wednesday	Time	Thursday - Friday
08.45 – 09.35	Period 1*	08.45 – 09.35	Period 1*
09.35 – 10.25	Period 2	09.35 – 10.25	Period 2
10.25 – 10.40	Break	10.25 – 10.40	Break
10.40 – 11.30	Period 3	10.40 – 11.30	Period 3
11.30 – 12.20	Period 4	11.30 – 12.20	Period 4
12.20 – 13.10	Lunch	12.20 – 13.10	Lunch
13.10 - 14:00	Period 5	13.10 - 14:00	Period 5
14:00 – 14.50	Period 6	14:00 – 14.50	Period 6
14.50 - 15:40	Period 7		

*\*period 1 learning will commence at 9am. This allows time for registration and setting up for learning/logging on to computers etc ...*

Pupils will follow the same learning as that being provided remotely by their own teachers. However, each class will be supported and supervised by a teaching member of staff and a support member of staff. We have ensured a blend and variety of teachers from across curriculum areas throughout the day.



**Arrangements for Remote Learning – wb 11 January 2021**

Pupils working from home are expected to follow their normal timetable. We have re-issued, via email, new timetables to all S1 parents. If any parent requires a new timetable for their child, then they should contact our school office. If any S1 parent has not received a timetable via email, then please contact the school office immediately to ensure your contact details are correct.

**It is vital that you are aware of your child’s normal timetable. This will help you monitor and support their learning.**

All lessons will be delivered following the structure:

- Teachers will be online in ‘real time’ for the first 10-15mins of each timetabled lesson to set the purpose of learning and to start the learning experience.
- Learners will then independently engage in their learning or the set task. It is important to recognise that teachers will deliver this part of the lesson differently and as appropriate to the learning experience. This may mean that learners engage in and complete set tasks or exercises, watch online tutorials or videos or continue with a set piece of work such as a project. Learners can still engage with their teachers during this time via the various communication methods on the learning platform being used.
- Teachers will be online in ‘real time’ for the final part of each timetabled lesson (approx. 10 minutes) to provide feedback to your child, deliver the lesson plenary and set any extension tasks, homework, or next steps.
- Finally, teachers will use the last 5 minutes of the lesson, or time as appropriate, to maintain positive wellbeing; allowing your child to stretch, take their eyes away from the screen, get some fresh air etc ...

We have adopted this approach to remote learning based on pupil, parent and staff feedback, including in-depth dialogue and consultation with our Parent Council.

Please note that the timings of the school day will be altered slightly to reflect that of in-school learning. The change of greatest significance is in the timing of the lunch break for all pupils – S1 to S6. This is no longer staggered and remains consistent for all yeargroups.

Time	Monday - Wednesday	Time	Thursday - Friday
08.45 – 09.35	Period 1*	08.45 – 09.35	Period 1*
09.35 – 10.25	Period 2	09.35 – 10.25	Period 2
10.25 – 10.40	Break	10.25 – 10.40	Break
10.40 – 11.30	Period 3	10.40 – 11.30	Period 3
11.30 – 12.20	Period 4	11.30 – 12.20	Period 4
12.20 – 13.10	Lunch	12.20 – 13.10	Lunch
13.10 - 14:00	Period 5	13.10 - 14:00	Period 5
14:00 – 14.50	Period 6	14:00 – 14.50	Period 6
14.50 - 15:40	Period 7		

*\*period 1 learning will commence formally at 9am with teachers online from 08.45am.*

Furthermore, whilst teachers will be online in ‘real time’ as illustrated in the structure above, there will be days when work will be pre-set as teachers will not be available in real time as they are also on rota to provide in school teaching to key worker children and identified vulnerable young people. At these times, work will be pre-set, and pupils will be briefed on the work to be done. Currently, teachers are being rota’d for in school teaching 1 day per week. In the event of staff absence or gaps in our current staff levels, Principal Teachers will provide pre-set learning experiences for the relevant classes to access as they log on.



### Arrangements for Senior Phase College courses

Dundee & Angus College have confirmed with all schools that their teaching term will re-commence for students on 18 January and all classes that can be delivered remotely will be delivered online from 18 January onwards. Discussions continue regarding what this means for students in the practical based subjects that do not best lend themselves to remote delivery. I will share more information on the matter of practical based subjects when I have this. Until then, pupils affected by this should use this time to study for other subjects.

These arrangements also apply to Future Skills students, Senior Phase pupils who normally attend college and courses delivered by college staff in-school.

### How to access remote on-line learning

The Baldragon Academy Learning Portal is a one stop shop for all online learning, providing necessary signposting to each subject area's learning resources. To access the learning portal:

- Visit the Baldragon Academy Website on any device: <http://baldragon.ea.dundee.gov.uk/>
- Click on the tab: **Learning Portal** <https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademyrlp/department-launch-pad>
- From this page you will be able to navigate the **Departmental Launch Pad** on the top right. Select the specific subject area and follow the steps to access learning.
- Within each of the subject areas you will be signposted to the learning, this will take a variety of formats i.e. Microsoft Teams or Google Classrooms and other tutorial supports such as Scholar etc.
- There are also guides on how to access GLOW using gaming consoles – Xbox, PlayStation.

If your child is having difficulty accessing their GLOW account or Microsoft Teams page, then please contact our school office.

### Access to learning packs and paper-based learning packs

Our school office remains open for the collection of learning resource packs. These can be collected from the first window of our main school reception (at the very front of our school). Paper based learning packs are also available should you wish to collect these too. If your child does require paper-based learning packs, then please let us know in advance to allow us sufficient time to prepare these individually for you.

### Additional Resources provided by Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative TRIC

In addition to the online learning approach being provided at Baldragon Academy, support is being made available through the [Education Scotland National e-Learning Offer](http://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/national-e-learning-offer/). The National e-Learning Offer has a range of recorded and supported resources which are available for learners to use, as directed by their teacher. These recorded and supported materials are being generated by Scotland's education community and the range of resources will increase over time. There are currently three elements of support available:

- **LIVE lessons** are being organised and delivered through eSgoil – for more information on their live webinar sessions and other learning supports, including to register, please visit [www.e-sgoil.com](http://www.e-sgoil.com).



- **RECORDED learning video sessions**, are available via **West OS\***, will provide recorded learning experiences for children and young people. All staff and young people are able to access these resources using the West OS tile on the **Glow Launchpad** or the link on the **Baldragon Academy Remote Learning Portal**. More content is being continually uploaded and further subject areas across both Primary and Secondary will be available soon.
- **SUPPORTED content material** created by practitioners searchable via an online blog. As part of the National e-Learning Offer, a series of spreadsheets that cover a number of senior phase national qualifications have been curated to share resources. You can access the supported content via the following link:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/nationalelearning/resources-2/>

*\*West OS is an online school created by teachers, providing recorded learning experiences for children and young people. A growing range of recorded lessons are available, designed to support learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding related to a key learning concept. Currently these are available via the West OS powered by ClickView which is accessible via Glow.*

### Communication between 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 etc ...

Furthermore, guidance teachers can now be contacted directly:

- Balgay House      Ms S Flynn      [baldragonbalgayguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:baldragonbalgayguidance@dundeeschools.scot)
- Craighowl House      Mr C McArtney      [baldragoncraighowlguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:baldragoncraighowlguidance@dundeeschools.scot)
- Kinpurney House      Mrs Sinclair      [baldragonkinpurneyguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:baldragonkinpurneyguidance@dundeeschools.scot)
- Law House      Mrs Honeyman      [baldragonlawguidance@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:baldragonlawguidance@dundeeschools.scot)

Our main school office remains open and active as normal.

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 will be posted along with links to relevant resources and emerging advice. From here, you will also be able to access the various departmental twitter feeds. These will be used to share general information about learning, assignments etc ...

### Lunches and Free School Meals

Lunches will be available for those pupils attending school, including the provision of Free School Meals. Other children entitled to Free School Meals will be allocated a direct payment.

### Additional Information

Please do not forget about the national advice and support that is available to you for supporting learning at home.

- A [Parent Club COVID-19 internet microsite](#), which contains advice on working from home whilst caring for children, advice on helping children with remote and blended learning as well as links to advice and support resources for parents of children with additional support needs.



- Education Scotland's [Parentzone Scotland](#) website includes advice for parents, families and practitioners on supporting children and young people's learning during COVID-19.
- The [National Parent Forum Nutshell guide on blended learning](#), published in August 2020. This joins further Nutshells on [Supporting Learning at Home during "lockdown"](#) and on [online safety](#).
- Education Scotland's [Scotland Learns](#) initiative provides newsletters and online resources for teachers and for parents/carers.

Young Scot have updated their guidance for young people to include information on learning and school. This can be accessed through the Young Scot website:

[Going to School During the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic | Young Scot](#).

Finally, I want to reassure all our families that you are not expected to replicate the job of our teaching staff. I also want to remind everyone that learning should be manageable, appropriate and proportionate for all our learners. It should also be enjoyable! I appreciate that remote learning is very different from learning in the classroom, but it should not be a stressor for your child or you. If this is the case, then please contact your child's guidance teacher directly to let us know and we will work together to better help and support you.

My very best wishes. Stay safe.

**H McAninch**  
Headteacher