



2 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

On our final day of term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our learning community and share some updates for term 4.

Our pupils, our parents and all our school staff have been amazing. Together, we have navigated the most exceptional and extremely challenging of school terms. Our school values of responsibility, honesty, fairness, achievement and respect have been highly evident in the actions of all members of our learning community.

As Headteacher, I am exceptionally proud to be part of Baldragon Academy and to bear witness to the strength, resilience, patience, hard work and determination of both our young people and our school staff.

Key dates in term 4

Monday 19 April 2021	School returns for all staff and all pupils
Friday 30 April 2021	S4-S6 Rating reports with current tracking grades to parents
Monday 3 May 2021	May Day holiday
Thursday 6 May 2021	In-service Day – <i>school closed to young people</i>
Monday 31 May	Victoria Day holiday
Tuesday 1 June 2021	Additional Inservice day for all secondary schools – <i>school closed to young people</i>
Wed 2 June 2021	Additional Inservice day for all secondary schools – <i>school closed to young people</i>
Monday 7 June 2021	Change of timetable for all year groups
Thursday 17 June 2021	P7/S1 Transition Day 1
Friday 18 June 2021	P7/S1 Transition day 2
Friday 25 June 2021	Term end – Summer holiday

Full-time Return of Secondary Pupils from Monday 19 April 2021

As you will be aware, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced on 16 March 2021 that all secondary pupils will be back in school on a full-time basis after the Easter holidays.

The updated guidance for the return of pupils to school from Monday 19 April 2021 is as follows:

- Face coverings should be worn by all pupils (S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6) and staff in school at all times, unless exemptions apply.
- On return, S1-S3 pupils should always enter/exit by the playground side doors.
- On return, S4-S6 should always enter/exit by the top doors by the dining hall area.
- Sanitising hands on arrival, when exiting and throughout the day is compulsory.
- Our 'clean as you go' protocol will continue as before.
- The requirement for pupils to physically distance from one another in school has been removed. However, we will be encouraging pupils to physically distance within school wherever this is possible and to avoid crowding.



- To support the removal of pupil physical distancing there will be a greater emphasis on other mitigations, including ventilation in school. Therefore, you are asked to ensure your child is dressed appropriately to take account of changing temperatures.
- Pupils are still required to physically distance in the wider community, eg when visiting shops at lunchtimes, and school staff will continue to remind pupils they should comply with this and treat our local community and the residents with respect. Your support with this message would also be appreciated.
- All staff are still required to physically distance from pupils and other adults in school.

To support the successful return of all pupils to school, I would stress the importance of following all the mitigations we have in place within the school to ensure the safety of pupils and school staff. I would appreciate your assistance in reinforcing the importance of this message to your son/daughter.

We will continue to monitor any further announcements by the First Minister and will keep you updated if there are any further changes affecting your child's education. I understand that the full return is subject to a final confirmation on 6 April 2021.

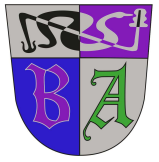
Dundee City Council provides up to date information for parents/carers on its website www.dundee.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools-information. You can also receive updates from our school twitter feed: @BaldragonAcad and @Baldragon_HT.

I fully appreciate that you or your child may be apprehensive about their return to school full-time, but I would wish to reassure you that as well as their education, their health and wellbeing is very important to our staff, and we will continue to support all pupils to return to school safely.

School day timings

Our school day times for term 4 are:

School Day S1 - S3 (BGE)			
Time	Monday - Wednesday	Time	Thursday & Friday
08:40	Doors Open	08:40	Doors Open
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		
School Day S4 - S6 (Senior Phase)			
Time	Monday - Wednesday	Time	Thursday & Friday
08:40	Doors Open	08:40	Doors Open
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 - 11:15	Period 3	10:25 - 11:15	Period 3
11:15 – 11:30	Break	11:15 – 11:30	Break
11.30 – 12.20	Period 4	11.30 – 12.20	Period 4
12.20 – 13.10	Period 5	12.20 – 13.10	Period 5
13.10 - 14:00	Lunch	13.10 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14.50	Period 6	14:00 – 14:50	Period 6
14.50 - 15:40	Period 7		



SQA and Senior Phase Assessments

I would like to reassure all our S4 to S6 pupils, and their families, that we will continue to follow the strict guidance that is issued by the SQA regarding the Alternative Certification Model 2021. Please be assured that we are working hard with your child to three clear principles:

1. Ensure learning and teaching of course content continues for as long as possible.
2. Gather evidence of learning at a time that gives our young people the best chance to succeed.
3. Work efficiently to avoid unnecessary over-assessment.

My staff and I are committed to ensuring that your child gets the best support possible to help them achieve to the best of their potential. There is lots of very helpful and easily accessible information regarding the Alternative Certification Model 2021 on the SQA website <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/84154.html> for parents and pupils. Including a very helpful download booklet <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/97062.html> and very helpful Q&A pages for parents <https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/>.

I will write again to all families with children in the Senior Phase when we return in term 4 and as we commence stage 2 of the SQA Alternative Certification Model 2021 timeline <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96760.html>.

I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school full-time from Monday 19 April 2021 and I wish you a very happy and safe Easter holiday.

My very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.McAninch'.

H McAninch
Headteacher