



14.08.20

Dear Parent/Carer,

Preparing for the start of the new school term – update and revisions

It has been a great week welcoming our amazing young people, and staff, back to our school building. First impressions are exceptionally positive. I am massively impressed with our young people looking so smart and professional in full school uniform and the attention and respect they have given to their inductions and safety briefings. Please follow this link to access a copy of the induction and safety briefing presentation <https://tinyurl.com/baldragonAugInduction20>.

Timing of the school day – staggered breaks/lunch

My own observations throughout this transition period, and indeed the early feedback from pupils and staff, highlight that some minor adjustments to our school day will support a smoother return to full school capacity. Furthermore, Dundee and Angus College, city campus and consortia plans are now being finalised and details of these arrangements will be shared shortly. These offers are very popular with our pupils in S4 to S6 with well over 100 pupils involved. Therefore, following my consultations with our school captains, staff consultative committee and senior leadership team and considering the impact of college and campus timings, we are implementing the following changes to the timings of the school day for pupils in the Broad General Education (S1 to S3) and Senior Phase (S4 to S6). **These changes will be implemented from Monday 17 August 2020 and every young person will be given a copy of the school day on Monday morning.**

School Day for S1 to S3:

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 for S4 to S6:

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		



Out of school lunches

Members of the public have raised their concerns, at both school level and with Dundee City Council, about pupils entering shops and not wearing face coverings. The nature of the concerns are about the potential for concern in the wider community that there could be a number of older and possibly more vulnerable people shopping during school lunchtimes and that it only takes one person to be asymptomatic for Coronavirus to spread in the area again.

We have covered this point as part of our pupil inductions this week and I do hope you will support us in reinforcing these very important messages at home.

Maximising outdoor space – break and lunch

Our safe working procedures specify the need to maximise our outdoor space during pupil intervals. At Baldragon Academy, we have very limited indoors social space. Therefore, all young people must socialise outdoors. Please ensure your child is prepared for the varying and fast changing Scottish weather. Naturally, we will review this arrangement as we move through late Summer into the Autumn and Winter term.

We have also opened our external toilets to allow young people easy access to welfare facilities without them having to re-enter the building or move through the school. These are accessible from the pupil entrance/exit located at the side of our building. This is particularly important to minimise disruptions and noise as staggered intervals mean that some young people are in learning whilst others are having their break. Again, please discuss this with your child and emphasise their responsibility to use the correct pupil entrances and exits and to be respectful of others who are learning.

Learning resources

Over 800 pencil case packs have been distributed throughout this transition week. If your child has not received a pack, for whatever reason, then please encourage them to collect their pack from our school library. As per my previous communications, this approach is to help reduce the cost of the school day and the sharing of resources between young people.

Communication between school and home

Until further notice, school visitors will only be accepted by agreed prior appointment. Therefore, the methods of parent/school contact are:

- **Telephone:** 01382 436170 for our school office.
- **Emailing:** general enquiries can be emailed to baldragon@dundee.gov.uk
- **Groupcall Xpressions:** this is our new service to help make home-school communication easier, more effective and more accessible. Xpressions is completely free of charge to you. 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. You must keep your personal details up to date with our school.



For general concerns, complaints and/or compliments, your first point of contact should be with your child's guidance teacher.

Emailing the Guidance Team:

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

At Baldragon Academy, Depute Headteachers are also have Year Head responsibilities. These are:

- S1 – Ms Innes
- S2 – Mrs Lowe
- S3 – Mr Montgomery
- S4 – Mrs Lowe
- S5 – Ms Spence
- S6 – Mrs Ross

I would also encourage every member of our school community to follow the Twitter feeds - **@BaldragonAcad** and **@DundeeCouncil**. This is often the quickest way to receive information and updates as they happen. Remember you don't need to have a Twitter account to view 'tweets', as you can do this from any web browser by going to the Twitter homepage and searching by name.

Additional information

Please ensure that you return, fully completed, the relevant 'data check' forms that have distributed in the brown envelopes to all pupils this week. This information is vitally important and ensures that we have the most up to date information for everyday use and emergency contact.

Also, please do not forget about the entitlements to free school meals and school clothing grants. Applications can be accessed and submitted by following these links:

- <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/children-and-families-service/education/school-meals>
- <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/children-and-families-service/school-clothing-grants>

I encourage you to consider these supports based on your own individual and family circumstances.

As usual, I will keep you informed and updated as we progress through this unique new start to learning and school. Please support me, and your school, by discussing all this information with your child and help us to build on this great and very encouraging new start to school and the 2020/21 academic session.

My very best wishes,

H McAninch
Headteacher