



22 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Arrangements for Online Learning – wb 11 January 2021

Following recent Scottish Government announcements, and as indicated in my most recent communication to parents (21 December 2020), we are now preparing for changed arrangements for education after New Year.

The full advice and guidance publication is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-re-opening-arrangements-for-january-2021/>

Timeline and revised dates

Thursday 7 January to Friday 8 January 2021

Baldragon Academy will open for in-school childcare and wellbeing support for **vulnerable young people and key worker children only**. Communication is underway to identify, specific, families/young people who fall within these categories. **Please note, this is a targeted offer of support.**

Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January 2021

The revised school holiday period ends and learning resumes for all young people.

Communication is underway to offer in-school learning and support for vulnerable young people and key worker children only during this period. For all other young people, learning will resume remotely.

It is expected that all S5 and S6 pupils follow the remote on-line learning approach, unless in-school teaching has been agreed with their guidance teacher and based on an assessment of individual support needs.

Remote on-line learning

This will be delivered 'live' following your child's current timetable. For example, if your child has English period 1 on Monday, then their teacher will be online, period 1 on Monday. Our teachers will be following the current timetable rigorously and will offer a variety of differentiated ways to access the learning, i.e. some lessons will be 'live' taught whilst others may have preset tasks with the teacher available to answer questions and support individually.

In-school learning

This will be delivered alongside and will mirror the 'live' on-line learning. Pupils who are eligible to attend school should follow their current timetable and attend their usual classrooms. Depending on attendance numbers, this approach may be revised throughout the week.

Monday 18 January 2021

The present expectation is that schools open to all pupils and staff for in-person teaching and learning as normal, operating within the existing guidance, safe working procedures and risk assessments.

Senior Phase College courses

Dundee & Angus College have informed all schools that remote learning will be the delivery method during week beginning 11 January 2021.

PACE and Future Skills College students who attend college on a full-time basis will return as normal on 7 January 2021.



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.nhs.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.

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

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 |
| • Craigowl House | Mr C McArtney | baldragoncraigowlguidance@dundeeschools.scot |
| • Kinpurney House | Mrs Sinclair | baldragonkinpurneyguidance@dundeeschools.scot |
| • Law House | Mrs Honeyman | baldragonlawguidance@dundeeschools.scot |

Our main school office remains open and active as normal.

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](#). 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.
- **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.*

Lunches and Free School Meals

Lunches will be available for those pupils attending school, including the provision of Free School Meals. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (but not in school from the 7 – 15 January 2021) will be given the monetary value as they did during lockdown.

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 the phased start to the term in January 2021. This can be accessed through the Young Scot website:
[Going to School During the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic | Young Scot](#).

Finally, it has been an incredible year and I thank you for your patience and understanding as we have navigated the challenging COVID landscape, whilst maintaining a 'new normal' as best we possibly can. Encouragingly, and based on your direct feedback, I have seen our school community grow in strength. With your support, I look forward to making 2021 an outstanding year for all at Baldragon Academy.

I do hope that you, and your family, have a happy and peaceful holiday.

Yours sincerely,

H McAninch
Headteacher