

## Baldragon Academy

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### Remote Learning Portal:

<https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademyrlp>

13 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been nearly three months since we were last together in our own school building and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, trust, flexibility and indeed patience throughout this time as your child, and you, continue to prepare for the exciting transition to Baldragon Academy.

I recently shared with our parents a letter from our Chief Education Officer, highlighting the opening our school building, following updates from the Scottish Government. I can confirm that our school building is opening this month to allow teachers and school staff to plan and prepare for August 2020 and to support transitions and next steps in learning for targeted young people. In the context of Baldragon Academy, this includes P7 to S1 transition and for a small group of other targeted young people.

My Senior Leadership Team, supported by a range of school partners, have been working hard since these announcements. I am satisfied and fully confident that our building is clean, safe and appropriate measures are in place and ready to support our young people's transitions and next steps in learning. These measures include ensuring physical distancing rules can be met, clear signage to promote and support safe learning and working conditions and that our risk assessments and safe working procedures are robust and agreed by all relevant authorities.

I fully understand the anxiety that you may be feeling in your child returning to school. Indeed, my own daughter is currently making her P7 to S1 transition too. Please be assured that Baldragon Academy is ready to welcome your child and we are excited about returning to our school building.

Therefore, as we continue to prepare for our P7 to S1 transition event of Wednesday 17 June 2020, I thought it would be helpful, and reassuring, to share some of the specific measures that we have in place to support a meaningful and safe transition:

- All children will all attend with their primary school teachers. Therefore, parents should not attend with their child. Please escort them to main school carpark if you feel necessary and pass your child over to the members of staff who will be present.
- Pupils will be grouped in numbers of no more than 15 to comply with local authority guidance and our school risk assessment and safe working procedures and will only attend on their allocated slot to eliminate congestion. Please note, in all circumstances, the overriding rule of physical distancing of 2m will be in place. The pupil combinations in these groups have been chosen by your child's primary teacher because they know the children best. Each group will be supported by key members of staff from Baldragon Academy Support for Pupils team, which includes Support for Learning staff, Pupil Support staff, Guidance teachers and members our Senior Leadership Team will be joining too.
- If you are currently acting under specific shielding advice from the Scottish Government/NHS, then please continue to follow this advice.

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- All children and adults will follow these procedures to ensure their safety and the safety of others:
  - All groups will enter via their designated school entrance to prevent congestion.
  - All entrances and exits will be clearly marked – similar to the supermarkets to ensure physical distancing of 2m.
  - All children and adults will wash their hands of arrival and exit using the different welfare facilities spread throughout our school.
  - All groups will be allocated different zones (open areas) of the school from which they will be based for their activities.
  - Physical distancing rules of 2m will be in place at all times for all activities with smaller adapted groups for the school tours.
- Toilets and working areas will be cleaned between each group session and in addition to the frequent cleaning schedule carried out by our facilities management team.

The opportunity is just one of many experiences your child is taking part in as they move to Baldragon Academy. Some of this has taken place already in their own Primary school, and we will have many more opportunities in August and beyond to help all our new S1 pupils settle and make a smooth start to secondary school.

If for any reason your child cannot make this transition event, then it would be helpful to look at the @BaldragonAcad and @madeinbaldragon Twitter feeds. Here you will find virtual tours and staff introduction videos which we have created as part of our wider transition support.

I appreciate that you will have many questions about August 2020, and what learning may look like for your child. I want to reassure you that my Senior Leadership Team and I are working exceptionally hard on this detail. Following planned consultation and discussions with our Parent Council, Dundee City Council Education Managers and key school staff, I will be able to share with you, by 22 June 2020, the agreed details and arrangements for learning in August 2020.

I am also aware of the growing questions around school uniform for August 2020. At Baldragon Academy, we firmly believe that school uniform, as part of our broader range of improvement measures, supports the development of a positive whole school ethos and therefore helps to improve behaviour, discipline and motivation. We believe that school uniform promotes a sense of pride and belonging to school, encourages equality and inclusion and improves the climate for learning. These are values which we will need to draw upon more than ever in the 'new normal' school session. Therefore, it is expected that all pupils will wear a full school uniform in August 2020.

Finally, Parent Club - <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus> - and The National Parent Forum of Scotland - <https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/06/10/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-curriculum-for-excellence-in-the-recovery-phase/> - have excellent information and FAQs pages which may help you and your child prepare for returning to school.

I wish each one of you, and your families, the best of health and I do look forward to meeting your child on Wednesday 17 June 2020.

Please stay safe.

**H McAninch**  
Headteacher