



19 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gradual return of Senior Phase pupils and revised arrangements for in-school learning

On Tuesday 16 February, the First Minister confirmed that, on a restricted basis to support the completion of practical activities, some senior phase pupils will return to school from Monday 22 February. This specifically identified group of young people are being contacted separately, via their parents, with the arrangements for their return.

If you have not been contacted with an invitation for your child to return to complete senior phase practical work, then please continue with remote learning at this time. Unless of course, in-school learning has been previously approved.

Due to this complex addition to our school building, we have had to make some changes to how we operate in-school and remote learning at Baldragon Academy. The following information outlines our new arrangements, starting from Monday.

Arrangements for senior phase learners completing practical work – wb 22 February 2021

Parents of pupils who are eligible to return for the completion of SQA related practical work will be contacted, by groupcall, prior to their child's allocated slot for their return to school. Please be aware that this may differ from subject to subject and is based strictly on SQA assessment advice. Not all practical subjects will require your child to return to school and we are continuing to create a timetable and plan for this specific work.

Therefore, pupils are only able to return by invitation only and only for the slots that they have been allocated.

Pupils will be invited to attend either a morning session (9am to 11.30am) or an afternoon session (12.20pm to 2.50pm).

Lunch will not be provided as pupils are only permitted to be in-school for their allotted slots only. However, pupils entitled to free school meals will be able to collect a packed lunch.

The latest Scottish Government advice notes “... a step change in the rigour of application of mitigations is required, given the increased transmission risk associated with the new variant.”

With the above in mind, we will enhance our current protocols to ensure the safety of all young people and staff.

These enhanced mitigations include:

- Pupils attending to complete practical work must enter/exit the building via the normal school pupil entrance/exits. This is to allow separation from our in-school learners.
- Young people in the Senior Phase must always wear a face covering **in the school building and classrooms at all times, unless medically exempt.**
- Young people must always keep a 2m physical distance from other pupils and staff in all school areas - classrooms, corridors, social spaces, entrances and exits.
- Young people must sanitise their hands when entering / exiting the school building and their designated classroom.
- Young people must use antibacterial spray and wipe down their designated working area within a classroom, including any resources/tools/equipment used.
- Young people must not attend school if they show any symptoms that are related to COVID-19.
- Young people in S4 – S6 who attend for the completion of practical work have been offered the opportunity to take part in the National Asymptomatic Testing Programme. More information can be gained by clicking on the following link:

<http://baldragon.ea.dundee.gov.uk/school-information/documents/home-testing-parents-letter/view>



Arrangements for key worker children and identified vulnerable young people – wb 22 February 2021

Your child should attend school as normal at 8.45am and enter via the main school entrance where they will be registered and then report to their home room. **From Wednesday 24 February, all in-school learners will begin to attend their normal classrooms.** As before: 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. **The most significant change is that from Monday 22 February, all pupils in school S1 to S6, must maintain 2m physical distancing – this includes movement around the school and at break/lunch.**

Young people in S4 – S6 who attend for any aspect of in-school learning have been offered the opportunity to take part in the National Asymptomatic Testing Programme. More information can be gained by clicking on the following link: <http://baldragon.ea.dundee.gov.uk/school-information/documents/home-testing-parents-letter/view>

Arrangements for Remote Learning – wb 22 February 2021

Pupils working from home are expected to continue to follow their normal timetable. As before, remote learning commences daily at 9am.

Please note: there will be an impact on teacher availability for 'live' remote learning as we are having to adapt our in-school learning model - a direct result of the increase in numbers of senior phase learners attending school. I do hope you will appreciate that from Monday, our teaching staff are now delivering in-school learning, SQA practical work learning and delivering remote learning. Naturally, our teachers cannot be in all three places at once. Therefore, there will be a reduction in teachers being available for 'live' remote learning. At these times, teachers will post work for your child to complete independently. I strongly recommend that your child continues to engage, where possible, with their regular timetable for all aspects of remote learning.

Further information

The Scottish Government and the National Qualifications 2021 Group have made it clear that the focus for our senior phase pupils continues to be on learning and teaching for the foreseeable future. SQA have extended the deadline for secondary schools across the country to submit their provisional results for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher subjects to **Friday 25 June 2021**. SQA have released the following information:

- **For young people**
[2021 Delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results in 2020-21 – learners \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/2021-Delivering-National-5-Higher-and-Advanced-Higher-results-in-2020-21-learners)
- **For parents / carers**
[2021 Delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results in 2020-21 – parents/carers \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/2021-Delivering-National-5-Higher-and-Advanced-Higher-results-in-2020-21-parents-carers)

I can imagine that the recent news of a continuation of remote learning for the majority of our young people and their families will be met with a sense of disappointment and anxiety.

We should see the gradual return to our building of some senior phase pupils as a positive step on a long journey towards our new normal. This, combined with the vaccination roll-out and the offer of asymptomatic testing to reduce the spread of the virus, offer us hope for a more positive Term 4. Thank you for bearing with us.

My very best wishes and please stay safe,

H McAninch
Headteacher