



21 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we bring term 2 to a close, I'd like to share a few short updates to help make sure that we start the year positively and safely.

School Improvement Report 2020 – 2021

Following feedback through our parent council, I am delighted to share with you a one-page info-graphic of our school improvement report. I do hope you find this approach much more accessible, and informative, as we celebrate the many successes of our young people and the work of our school and highlight our priorities as we move forward. You can access the new info-graphic here: <https://tinyurl.com/SIR-2021-22>

HM Inspectors

On 9 January 2023, we welcome HM Inspectors from Education Scotland who will be visiting our school to conduct an inspection. This is a great opportunity for our learning community to showcase our work and to have our school improvement priorities and evaluations validated against national standards. The opportunity to highlight the relentless commitment of our school staff, our very honest and clear improvement journey and of course, most importantly, the amazing learning and progression of our young people is something I hope we will all embrace.

There is no better chance for our young people and our school to shine, and I look forward to welcoming back our learners from the school holidays - all smart in their uniform and living our school values of respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness and achievement to the max!

School Carparking

Please help us to keep travelling to school a safe experience for all. When using the main carpark to drop off/pick up, please only use the clearly designated drop off zone. Since August, and despite our pleas, too many parents are dropping children off at the entrance to our carpark, or parking just within the carpark, and causing a significant safety risk. Whilst I understand it may be more convenient, parents who choose to do this are causing congestion at our school entrance and onto Harestane Road, putting our learners' safety at risk and risking the safety of other road users and our community - including the little ones at Sidlaw View Primary School and Jessie Porter Nursery. If parking on the street, please ensure you are well away from the pedestrian crossings, yellow zig-zag hazard lines, traffic calming measures and our school service bus stop.

Winter Water Safety

Days after the devastating incident in Solihull, where children lost their lives after getting into trouble in freezing water, Police Scotland were sharing alarming reports of children playing on frozen water in Scotland, including here in Dundee. We have already shared information via Groupcall and twitter, but with more cold weather projected over the holidays, please take some time with your family to recap the important messages being shared by the emergency services: <https://tinyurl.com/RLSS-winter-water-safety>.

School Neighbours

Recently, we have been receiving some complaints from our neighbours and local businesses about the conduct of some of our young people who choose to go out of school at lunchtime. Mostly, complaints are focused on littering. However, we've also received concerns relating to behaviour towards property, disrespect and negativity towards members of the public – often the elderly. At all times, our young people are ambassadors of our school community and I'd expect all young people to live our school values to the fullest – whether in school or not. But they are also ambassadors for their own families. If your child chooses to leave school during lunchtime, please support us in promoting responsible and respectful behaviours towards both our community and our environment.



Senior Phase Assessment Opportunities – Commencing January 2023

Communications have been sent to parents regarding our approaches and plans for senior phase assessment opportunities starting January 2023. Please help to ensure that your child is well prepared for their assessments and that they are taking full advantage of the many study support opportunities that are being provided by our teachers. The original communications can be found on our school website, within the 'digital schoolbag's section here: www.baldragon.ea.dundee.gov.uk/school-information/documents.

Key Dates - School Holidays and Closures

A wee reminder of some key dates from January 2023:

- 09-Jan-23 Monday School resumes for all
- 10-Jan-23 Tuesday Senior Phase assessment opportunities commence
- 11-Jan-23 Wednesday *National Industrial Action – [please refer to letter to all parents on 18.12.22](#)
- 17-Jan-23 Tuesday S3 Parents' night (6.00pm - 8.30pm) with course choice information (5.00pm - 6.00pm)
- 10-Feb-23 Friday February Mid-term Holiday
- 13-Feb-23 Monday February Mid-term Holiday
- 14-Feb-23 Tuesday In-service Day 4
- 22-Feb-23 Wednesday S4-S6 Targeted Parents' Night - Post Assessment (6.00pm - 8.30pm) with course choice information (5.00pm - 6.00pm)
- 24-Feb-23 Friday S4/S5/S6 Progress and tracking reports to parents
- 06-Mar-23 Monday S2 Parents' Night (6.00pm - 8.30pm) with course choice information (5.00pm - 6.00pm)
- 08-Mar-23 Wednesday 'Wear odd shoes to school' fundraiser
- 21-Mar-23 Tuesday S1 Parents' Night 5.00pm - 7.30pm
- 27-Mar-23 Monday S1/3 Ratings reports to parents
S2 Ratings reports (with CfE levels) to parents
- 31-Mar-23 Friday End of Term – 'non-uniform' fundraiser

**D&A College remains open, and all classes will be on as normal for our Senior Phase (S4 to S6) pupils to attend on 11 January. Buses will arrive at schools as normal and young people should attend their college class. Young people studying Foundation Apprenticeships should attend their placement as normal.*

Additional Information

Please don't forget about our website www.baldragon.ea.dundee.gov.uk or to follow us on twitter [@BaldragonAcad](https://twitter.com/BaldragonAcad) as there are always celebrations of our learners' success and lots of helpful updates.

I am looking forward to an outstanding 2023 at Baldragon Academy, and with your support, continuing to improve.

Have a very happy and safe holiday.

Merry Christmas and 'lang may yer lum reek'!

Mr H McAninch
Headteacher