



Bellahouston Academy
30 Gower Terrace
Glasgow G41 5QE
Phone: 0141 582 0030
Email: Headteacher@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk

Head Teacher
Barry Mochan BA(Hons)

17th of February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Return to School

As you may be aware, the First Minister announced, on February 2nd, that we can expect to welcome some young people in the Senior Phase (S4-S6) back to school on the 22nd of February, and confirmation of this was received yesterday. Specifically, we will be permitted to accommodate those in S4-S6 who require time in school to undertake practical work related to SQA qualifications. In the same announcement yesterday, it was confirmed that staff and senior pupils returning to school would have access to regular Covid-19 testing.

We will contact the required parents/carers and young people on Thursday the 18th and Friday the 19th of February to confirm when young people should attend school in the week beginning Monday the 22nd of February. Those in S4-S6 who are not required to attend school to undertake practical work will continue to learn remotely for the moment.

Young people in S4-S6 returning to school on Monday the 22nd of February to undertake practical work related to SQA qualifications will be required to follow - in a particularly strict way - the Covid-19 mitigations in place. Physical distancing of at least two metres will be in place at all times (including in classrooms), and young people, unless exempt, will be expected to wear face coverings. We will not be able to accommodate young people within the building at times when they do not have timetabled lessons, as we are not permitted to have more than 8% of our school roll on site at any one time. I have been asked to remind parents and young people of the need for face coverings and physical distancing as young people travel to and from school, and when young people may be using local shops.

We have also recently taken delivery of Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing kits which will be distributed to staff and young people returning to school. Participation in this - for both staff and young people - is optional. A letter with greater detail will be issued tomorrow. Young people who wish to take part in this testing programme can collect test kits and consent letters from school on Monday the 22nd of February. Please make contact from Friday the 19th of February with Ms O'Donnell in the school office if your child wishes to receive a testing kit, so that an appointment can be made to issue these.

It may be that some amendments to our current remote learning provision are required, as the limited return to school outlined above will place additional demands on the time of teaching staff. We will look to ensure that any changes are minimal, and that the remote learning provision in place remains of a high quality. Unfortunately, I am not yet able to confirm when we can expect to welcome back our pupils in S1-S3, or when a wider return to school for those in S4-S6 will be possible. I will update you when I am able to give more certainty.





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Remote Learning

It is very pleasing to see so many young people continuing to engage positively with the remote learning opportunities provided by their teachers. I am very appreciative of parents and carers who are supporting our young people as they have been working at home, and am grateful to colleagues across the school for their efforts in developing and delivering our remote learning provision.

Over the period of remote learning we have regularly sought the views of young people, their parents and our teaching staff, and have looked to adapt our practice where necessary in a way which is reflective of these views. Recently, responses to our pupil wellbeing survey, and other feedback we have had from parents and young people would suggest that some pupils are finding that a particularly high volume of work is being provided and, at times, this is proving rather difficult to manage.

Consequently, our teachers are currently exploring ways in which this may be addressed, so that learners feel more able to complete the provided work by following their weekly timetable, without the need to work late into the evening on a regular basis. For instance, it may be the case that the amount of time spent by teachers giving direct instruction on “live lessons” will be lessened, giving young people the opportunity (during the same timetabled lesson) to work on the related individual tasks after a short introductory explanation from the teacher. It may also be the case that teachers will emphasise how much time should be spent on issued tasks, so that young people can avoid spending too long on any one subject or activity.

The vast majority of young people have engaged responsibly with the various online platforms being used by teachers. A small number of young people have been involved in inappropriate behaviour on these platforms; this has the potential to affect the learning experiences of other young people, so we are appreciative of the vigilance and support we have had from parents and carers in addressing this.

We are very keen to keep in touch with our young people while they are working from home, so that they still feel a sense of connection to their school. Pastoral Care teachers and others are making regular telephone calls to all of our families to ensure that we can be made aware of any issues and provide any further supports which may be required. We are also sending Pupil Wellbeing Surveys to our young people via the Glow online platform, and are regularly uploading “Virtual Assemblies” to keep our young people updated on various aspects of school life. I have attached the list of key contacts with whom you may wish to get in touch, should any issues come to light whilst a remote learning model is in place; there have been amendments here due to some staffing changes outlined below.

Recent Staffing Change

Following the recent retirement of our Formal Depute Headteacher, Ms Kate Johnston, after almost 31 years of service at Bellahouston Academy, I can inform you that Mrs Lynn Galloway (currently Principal Teacher of Mathematics) will take up an Acting Depute Headteacher role for a short period of time. I am hopeful that I will be able to confirm the permanent appointment of Mrs Johnston’s replacement very shortly, and will update you in due course regarding this. Mrs Johnston - a very popular member of





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our school community - will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and by parents. We wish her all the best for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

To make matters simpler for staff, young people and their parents/carers, we have reverted to a year group model for Depute Headteacher responsibilities, so that all know clearly which Depute Headteacher should be contacted when advice or support is required.

- S1-S2 – Mr MacDonald
- S3 – Mrs Galloway (Acting DHT)
- S4 – Mrs Watt
- S5-S6 – Mrs Cairns

If you wish to speak with your child's Pastoral Care teacher, the existing arrangements are unaffected.

- Arran – Mr Atha
- Iona – Ms Kennedy
- Mull – Mr Ruiseil
- Skye – Mrs Rashid

Please get in touch with me at the school, should you have any questions regarding the above. We are most grateful for the support we are receiving from our parents and carers at the moment.

Kind regards,

Barry Mochan
Headteacher
Bellahouston Academy





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Contact Details You May Require

	Main Contact(s)	Contact Details
If your child requires to have their Glow log-in reset	Mr MacDonald (DHT)	MMacDonald@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If your child or you require a password reset for Show My Homework (or Satchel One)	The Depute Headteacher linked to your child's Year Group: S1-S2 - Mr MacDonald S3 - Mrs Galloway (Acting) S4 - Mrs Watt S5-S6 - Mrs Cairns	MMacDonald@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk gw10gallowaylynn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk MWatt@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk JCairns@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If your child is experiencing difficulties with their school-issued iPad	Our Digital Leader of Learning: Mr Vanni	gw10vannienrico@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
If you do not have access to WiFi at home	The Depute Headteacher linked to your child's Year Group: Arran – Mrs Johnston Iona – Mrs Watt Mull – Ms Cairns Skye – Mr MacDonald	MMacDonald@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk gw10gallowaylynn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk MWatt@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk JCairns@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If you have any questions related to UCAS	Your child's Pastoral Care Teacher: Arran – Mr Atha Iona – Miss Kennedy Mull – Mr Ruiseil Skye – Mrs Rashid	SAtha@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk LKennedy@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk mruiseil@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk srashid@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If you have any questions related to college applications, Foundation Apprenticeships, or your child's intended destination after leaving school	Our Principal Teacher World of Work: Ms Baber	gw16baberrabia@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
If you wish to make arrangements to discuss matters relating to your child's learning or wellbeing	Your child's Pastoral Care Teacher: Arran – Mr Atha Iona – Ms Kennedy Mull – Mr Ruiseil Skye – Mrs Rashid The Depute Headteacher linked to your child's Year Group: Arran – Mrs Johnston Iona – Mrs Watt Mull – Ms Cairns Skye – Mr MacDonald	SAtha@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk LKennedy@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk mruiseil@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk srashid@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk MMacDonald@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk gw10gallowaylynn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk MWatt@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk JCairns@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If you wish to discuss your child's Additional Support Need(s) or EAL requirements	Our Faculty Head of Inclusive Education: Ms Duncan	gw07duncanclaire3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
If you have a Child Protection concern you wish to discuss	Our Headteacher: Mr Mochan Our Child Protection Co-ordinator: Ms Cairns (DHT)	BMochan@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk JCairns@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If you wish to discuss any general matters relating to the Glasgow School of Sport	Craig Robertson (Sports Performance Manager) Loraine Henderson (Co-ordinator)	CraigEW.Robertson@glasgowlife.org.uk Loraine.henderson@glasgowlife.org.uk
If you wish to discuss any sport-specific matters relating to the Glasgow School of Sport	High Performance Coaching Team: Norrie Hay – Athletics Lena Robertson – Badminton Sandra Stevenson – Gymnastics Harry Dunlop – Hockey Heather Campbell – Swimming Kevin Watson – Strength & Conditioning	Norrie.hay@glasgowlife.org.uk gw20RobertsonLena@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk sandra.stevenson@glasgowlife.org.uk HarryGSOS.Dunlop@glasgowlife.org.uk heather.albin@btinternet.com kevin.watson@glasgowlife.org.uk
If you have any comments or questions relating to our Remote Learning provision	Our Headteacher: Mr Mochan	Headteacher@bellahoustonacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
If you wish to discuss the childcare facilities for children of keyworkers or Free School Meal Entitlement	School office staff	Tel: 0141 582 0030





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