



Bellahouston Academy
30 Gower Terrace
Glasgow G41 5QE
Phone: 0141 582 0030
Email: Headteacher@
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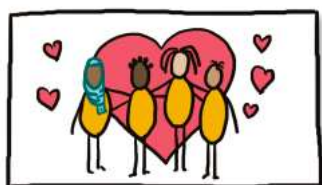
Head Teacher
Barry Mochan BA(Hons)

12th of August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

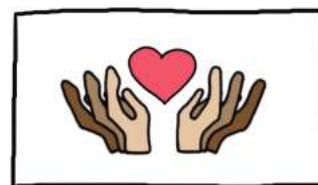
New Session 2024-2025

I hope that our families have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break over the summer, and that our pupils are looking forward to returning to school at 8.50am on Wednesday 14th of August.

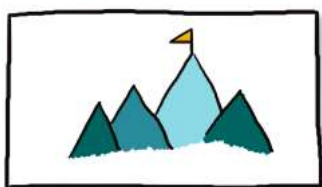


BELONGING

At Bellahouston Academy, we are hugely proud to serve such a vibrant and richly diverse community. Our school values of **Belonging** and **Respect** mean that all pupils, staff and families should feel safe, welcome and included at our school, and should be reassured that we will always strive to treat one another with care and understanding.



RESPECT



ACHIEVEMENT

SQA Results

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our pupils on their recent SQA results; we are, as always, very proud of their successes, as we value **Achievement** in all of its many forms.

On Friday the 9th of August, we invited young people in our new S5-S6 into school to discuss any possible options changes in light of their results. Any pupils who wish further advice on their pathway for next session should see their Pastoral Care Teacher in the first instance.

Young people who wish any advice on the appeals process should see Mr Macdonald (DHT), our SQA co-ordinator, on their return to school.

Ongoing Refurbishment of School

Over the summer holidays, our **toilet areas** have been upgraded in response to pupil and parent views. I am very grateful to both our Parent Council and Pupil Parliament representatives who suggested ideas for these renovations.

We all believe that pupils have a right to dignity and privacy in our toilet areas; this reflects our school value of **Respect**. Pupils will be reminded of our shared responsibility for keeping our toilet areas safe, hygienic and clean, so that all young people feel the benefit of these recent improvements. Pupils should remember the following when using our toilets:

- Mobile Phones must not be used.
- Vaping and smoking are strictly forbidden.
- Pupils must not meet up in groups, and should leave as soon as they have finished using the facilities.
- Any anti-social or bullying behaviour will be treated very seriously.
- Vandalism of any kind (e.g. graffiti) is unacceptable.
- Pupils visiting the toilet during class time must have the permission of their class teacher.



RESPECT

Unfortunately, we will not have use of our **Assembly Hall** for a few weeks due to some ongoing repair work. This will have some impact, in the short term, on PE classes and our House Assembly schedule. Your patience in the meantime is appreciated.





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Due to some ongoing work on the exterior of the building, we will – until early November - have fewer available **parking spaces**; please be aware of this, if visiting the school. Again, in the short term, this may mean that the streets around the Gower Terrace and Urrdale Road entrances are slightly busier at particular times of the day.

Ongoing Refurbishment of Footbridges Within Our Community

In June, we communicated news about the refurbishment of the Cornwall Street and Kirkwood Street footbridges that span the M8 between Junctions 21 and 23 (Kinning Park and Ibrox). These footbridges are often used by our young people as they walk to and from school, and – for those who visit shops on Paisley Road West and the surrounding area – at lunchtime. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about this, as some young people may need to leave home a little earlier in the morning, in order to ensure that they arrive at school on time. They will also – if having lunch off-site – need to allow additional time for their return journey, so that they arrive on time for their Period 5 lesson.

Alternative routes (from the Urrdale Road side of the school) will take young people through more residential areas; it would, therefore, be appreciated if you could remind your child of the importance of maintaining respectful relationships with local residents by behaving appropriately when walking to and from school.

If dropping your child off at school, please be aware that the streets around both the Gower Terrace and Urrdale Road entrances may be busier than normal.

Pupil Return on Wednesday the 14th of August

On Wednesday the 14th of August, pupils in the new S1 will gather in the School of Sport, so that they can be accompanied to their Tutor class; once there, they will be given their new school timetables. When they arrive at school, new S1 pupils should congregate at the Picnic Bench area, so that they can be directed towards the School of Sport. Pupils in S2-S6 should attend the same Tutor Time classroom as last session. There will be an extended Tutor Time (from 8.50am-9.50am) to ensure that any timetabling issues can be made known to the appropriate member of staff.

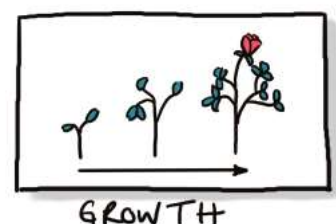
The key points to note are:

- Pupils should attend school and arrive at all lessons on time;
- Pupils should attend school each day with a fully-charged iPad (these will be issued to new S1 pupils later in the session), and with the other materials they will need to engage properly with their learning;
- Pupils should be mindful of school rules in relation to mobile phones and earphones;
- Pupils should be in full school uniform when attending school;
- S1-S3 pupils are not permitted to leave the school premises at morning interval;
- S1 pupils should stay on the school premises at lunchtime.

In a new initiative, we will be reinforcing our expectations regarding some of the points above, so that all lessons begin in an organised and purposeful way. Each lesson will begin with a reminder to all pupils that the key to a good lesson is how it **OPENS**:

- **O**utdoor clothing should be removed;
- **P**hones and
- **E**arphones should be put away in the pupil's bag, or placed in the box on the teacher's desk;
- **N**ecessary equipment should be taken out of the pupil's bag;
- **S**tarter activities provided by the teacher should be attempted.

Our school value of **Growth** means that we want pupils to get the most out of every lesson. We believe every lesson to be important in creating opportunities for pupils to develop their skills and knowledge.





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Uniform Policy

Our school uniform policy sketch-note can be accessed through the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/bellahoustonacademy2019/uniform/>

I would remind you that that jogging trousers, leggings or other items of sportswear such as sweatshirts/hoodies with prominent or colourful branding, are not uniform items, and that – even if they are timetabled to be in P.E. or the Glasgow School of Sport for period 1 – pupils should always arrive at school in uniform.

If the purchasing of uniform items may cause financial difficulty for our families, I would encourage parents/carers to get in touch with Sharon Graham, our Financial Inclusion Support Officer (0141 773 5850) to see if any support may be accessed, or to make use of our Blazing Squad initiative, where uniform items can be borrowed. Ms Gibson in the Faculty of Technologies is the point of contact for this.

We believe the promotion of uniform is linked to our school value of **Belonging**; we want all of our young people to feel connected to their school, and to show this by identifying themselves – through their uniform - as proud Bellahouston Academy pupils.



House System

As stated in my previous letter to you in June, we have made some improvements to our House System for this session. The key change to note is that our Depute Headteachers (DHTs) will have responsibility for supporting pupils within specified House Groups (not Year Groups, as they did previously). They will, therefore, be known as House Group DHTs.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff about your child, you should contact the appropriate House Team (either the Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care or the House Group DHT). Our new House Teams are as follows:

	Arran	Iona	Mull	Skye
PTPC	Mr S. Atha	Ms L. Kennedy	Ms A. Summers (Mon-Tues) Mr M. Ruiseil (Weds-Fri)	Ms S. Rashid
DHT	Ms S. Galloway	Mr M. Macdonald	Ms C. Cutler	Ms L. Galloway

From Monday the 19th of August, we will be making a change to Tutor Time classes (8.50am-9.00am); from this date, pupils will attend these classes in House Groups (i.e. mixed year group sections). Senior Phase pupil leaders will use this time to support younger pupils in meeting school standards and expectations, to build House Group identity, and to encourage participation in the wider life of our vibrant school.

If you wish to speak with any of the staff members above, please call the school on 0141 582 0030.

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