



**Bellahouston Academy**  
 30 Gower Terrace  
 Glasgow G41 5QE  
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**Head Teacher**  
 Barry Mochan BA(Hons) MEd

19<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

**December Holiday**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another busy term is now drawing to a close at Bellahouston Academy. Our senior pupils have been involved in prelim assessments, and we hope that, following this experience, they will feel fully prepared for the challenges which lie ahead later in the session. We have also enjoyed a number of festive social events, which have continued to develop the sense of community and belonging which exists within our school: our S1 pupils on the merit list were invited to attend the Staff Panto; our very talented musicians entertained us at the Winter Concert; our annual Jingle Jog had - as always - a very high number of enthusiastic participants. As we prepare for a break, there are a few matters on which I'd like to update you.



**Staffing**

I am delighted to confirm that, following recent interviews, Mr Struan Atha has been appointed to the post of Depute Headteacher. I am grateful for the involvement of our Parent Council, in the recruitment exercise for this important post. I have given a reminder of our House Teams below. These are the key people who you would contact in relation to any matters involving your child/children.

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

Our Developing the Young Workforce Co-ordinator, Ms Sharon Keenan, will be leaving Bellahouston Academy to take up a new post elsewhere from the beginning of the new term. We are very grateful to Sharon for the positive contribution she has made in her time at the school. I know that the young people and families who have benefitted from Sharon's support will wish her all the best in her new role.

**S2 Parents' Evening**

Our S2 Parents' Consultation Evening is scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. This - following on from our Pathways event in November - is a key aspect of our options processes, and I would encourage all parents/carers who are able to attend to join us. Appointment sheets will be issued to pupils on their return. Please contact your child's Pastoral Care teacher (see above) if there are any issues.

**Our Local Community**

We are very proud to serve our area of the city, and wish to enjoy positive relationships with the residents and businesses nearby. One of our school values is Respect, and we would hope that our neighbours would be able to see this reflected





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in the way we interact with them. Recently, we have been made aware of some concerns regarding littering within the community, and want to do our utmost as a school to ensure we play our part in keeping the local streets clean and tidy; for instance, we have recently had groups of young people undertake litter-picks in the local streets. We will continue to promote the importance of Respect within the community at assemblies, and would be appreciative if you could reinforce this message to your child/children where necessary.

### **Pupil Return on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January**

I hope our pupils return to school feeling refreshed on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025 at 8.50am. We continue to promote high expectations through our school policies and routines, and these reflect our school values of Belonging, Aspiration, Growth, Achievement and Respect. I have copied some of these (our OPENS classroom routine, our Uniform Policy and our Attendance Policy) at the end of this letter.

The key messages are:

- Pupils should attend school and arrive at all lessons on time;
- Pupils should attend school each day with a fully-charged iPad, 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 other devices;
- Pupils should be in full school uniform when attending school.

There has been an improvement in the number of young people wearing full school uniform (particularly in S1-S2, and in S6) and I am grateful to parents/carers for their support in this matter; we believe that uniform is important in promoting equality and a sense of belonging. **Some young people, however, are continuing to wear jogging trousers, leggings, or other items of sportswear, and these are not uniform items.** Even if they are timetabled to be in P.E. for period 1, pupils should 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 and Ms Mohammed in the Faculty of Technologies are the main points of contact for this. If you are able to donate any school uniform items you no longer require to our Blazing Squad initiative, these will be gratefully received.

I hope that our pupils and their families are able to enjoy a restful break over the next few weeks. To those within our school community who celebrate it, I wish you a very merry Christmas, and hope that all of our young people and their families enjoy a happy and New Year in 2025.


Yours faithfully,

Barry Mochan  
Headteacher  
Bellahouston Academy




Visit the *Blazing Squad* Initiative for help with all uniform items!


## Bellahouston Academy's... UNIFORM POLICY











By wearing our Bellahouston Academy uniform, we show that we **BELONG** here. We have **RESPECT** for ourselves, for pupils and staff, for our families for our community and for our school.






**BELONGING**



**RESPECT**

SCHOOL TIE 	WHITE SHIRT 	BLACK PULLOVER 	BLACK TROUSERS OR SKIRT 
BLACK CARDIGAN 	BLACK BLAZER 	BLACK HIJAB 	BLACK SHOES 

When your class teacher asks you to remove any pullovers, cardigans or hoodies with large logos, you should do as instructed.

**NOT ACCEPTABLE UNIFORM ITEMS:**

- SPORTS CLOTHING or large LOGOS
- joggers, leggings
- tracksuits


- Pullovers, cardigans, skirts or trousers in colours other than BLACK.
- Jeans or denim.

Even if you are timetabled for PE or to attend Glasgow School of Sport that day, you must arrive at school in full school uniform not in sports kit.


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To support all learners to maintain positive school attendance and time-keeping


## Bellahouston Academy's... ATTENDANCE POLICY




Maintain a positive sense of **WELLBEING** by:




developing supportive **RELATIONSHIPS**.




feeling a **CONNECTION** to school;




supporting purposeful daily **ROUTINES**.



building **OPTIMISM** for the future;



gradually developing **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS** each day




attaining **QUALIFICATIONS** which reflect their continuous progress

"It's nice to have the routine, to see my friends and keep busy in class."  
(an S2 pupil)


"I don't always like thinking about going to school, but it's always better than I think it will be when I get there."  
(an S3 pupil)

OUR LEARNERS TELL US...


**BELONGING**




**ASPIRATION**



**GROWTH**



**ACHIEVEMENT**



HOW WE WILL SUPPORT POSITIVE ATTENDANCE FOR ALL

**STAFF** will: monitor attendance; identify barriers; work with families to find solutions; and provide the agreed support.

**LEARNERS** will: attend school whenever possible; help parents/staff to identify barriers; work with parents/staff to find solutions; and accept the agreed support.

**PARENTS** will: ensure learners attend school whenever possible; help staff/learners to identify barriers; encourage learners to engage positively with agreed support

**PARTNER AGENCIES** will: offer advice on possible solutions; and supplement agreed support as required.

Our statistics tell us that:  
Learners who have an attendance rate of **above 98%** are **twice as likely** as those with around 80% attendance, to achieve **key benchmarks in literacy & numeracy.**

Our highest achieving S5 learners → average 94% attendance

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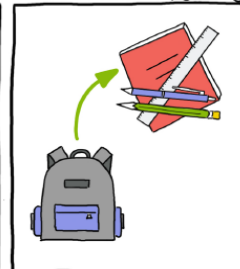
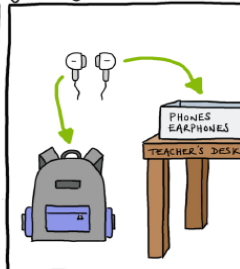
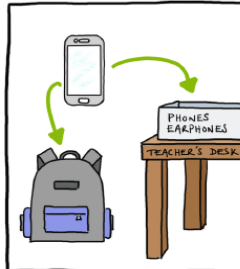
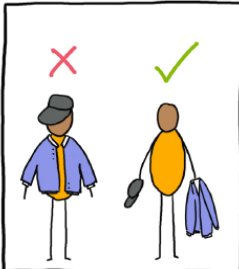
Bellahouston Academy's...  
**OPENS** Routine - The key to a great lesson is how it OPENS

Our **OPENS** routine reflects our school value of Growth, and Article 28 - The Right to Education in our Rights Respecting Schools Charter; by removing distractions, by encouraging pupils to take responsibility for the equipment they need, and by making sure lessons start efficiently, we create a classroom environment where effective learning can take place.



Our **LEARN** policy's focus on **ROUTINES** in **LEARNING** means that these expectations are consistent in every lesson.

**OUTDOOR CLOTHING** should be removed    **PHONES** and...    **EARPHONES** should go in your bag, or in the box    **NECESSARY EQUIPMENT** should be taken out of your bag    **STARTER ACTIVITIES**, should be attempted



**Our pupils said...**

"Pupils have clear expectations of what to do when they are entering the classroom, so it makes the lesson start quicker."

"It makes people ready and comfortable."

"It helps pupils focus and not get distracted."

PUPIL COUNCIL - Sept.-Oct. 2024

**Our teachers said...**

"This approach means that pupils hear a consistent message about expectations in every classroom."

"A big improvement; it gives pupils more structure at the beginning of lessons and leads to better engagement."

INSET DAY CONSULTATION - Oct. 2024

**Our parents said...**

"It is good that consistent messages about expectations are made clear across all departments, so that pupils always know what is expected of them."

PARENT COUNCIL - Sept.-Oct. 2024

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