



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

Head Teacher
Barry Mochan BA(Hons) MEd

Thursday the 24th of April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable time over the recent Spring Break. I am writing to update you on some matters of interest.

Staffing News

Our long-serving Janitor, Mr John Harris will retire this week. We are very grateful to Mr Harris for the many positive and helpful ways in which he has supported staff, pupils and parents/carers in his time at the school.

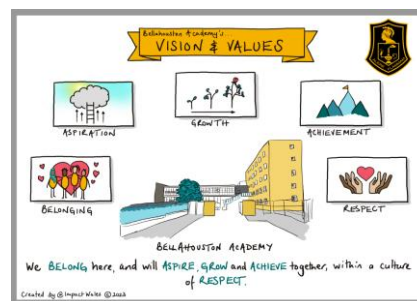
Ms Shaheen Rashid, Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care for Skye House will be moving to a new working pattern, and will now work on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are in the process of recruiting an Acting Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care who will have responsibility for pupils in Skye House on a Monday and Tuesday. In the meantime, parents of pupils in Skye House can contact Ms L. Galloway, the Deputy Headteacher responsible for Skye House, if they require support on a Monday or Tuesday. I will update parents/carers in due course when an Acting Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care appointment is made.

Changes to Tutor Time

Following consultation with staff and pupils, and discussion at recent Parent Council meetings, we have taken the decision to make some changes to our arrangements for Tutor Time, the shorter lesson which takes place from 8.50am-9.00am at the beginning of each school day. These changes will be effective from Monday the 28th of April; we have organised assemblies with S1-S3 pupils today, to ensure that they are aware of how Tutor Time will be different in the coming weeks, and to remind pupils that full attendance at Tutor Time is required. The key changes to note are:

- Pupils will attend Tutor Time in year groups classes, rather than in mixed-year group classes.
- All Tutor Time classes will follow a consistent programme, designed to support attendance and engagement.

We are making these changes in order to emphasise the importance and value of Tutor Time within our curriculum, and promote our school vision and values. At the moment, attendance at Tutor Time is inconsistent, and we are keen to ensure that all pupils attend each day. The consistent weekly programme will involve:



House Group Assemblies



We use our House Group Assembly programme to communicate important messages regarding standards and expectations, and to build House Group identity, thereby promoting our values of Belonging and Respect. We also use



this time to make young people aware of supports and opportunities available to them in school and in the community, and to promote engagement with school events. These assemblies also offer all pupils weekly access to their House Team (the Pastoral Care Teacher and the Depute Head Teacher responsible for their House Group). A reminder of our House Teams is given below:

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

Uniform Checks



We believe that the wearing of our school uniform is important, as it gives our pupils the opportunity to show that – reflecting our values of Belonging and Respect – they are proud to be a part of our school community. It is also important for



maintaining the security of our building, as – if all Bellahouston Academy pupils are wearing uniform – it is significantly easier to identify any young people (i.e. those not in uniform) who are not Bellahouston Academy pupils and may be on the premises without permission.

Tutor Teachers will make House Teams aware if pupils are arriving at school in non-uniform clothing items, so that parents/carers can then be contacted. We hope that parents/carers will then support our efforts to have all pupils wear our uniform.

Our Blazing Squad initiative (within the Business Department) means that young people can access uniform items free of charge, should cost be an issue for any of our families. Families can also get in touch with our Financial Inclusion Support Officer, Sharon Graham, on the following number:

You can view our uniform policy by using the link below:

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

iPad Checks

Pupils, shortly after joining Bellahouston Academy, are issued with an iPad, so that lessons across the curriculum can take advantage of the positive opportunities offered by digital learning;



we are always looking to continuously improve the quality of learning experiences, as one of our school values is Growth. Tutor Teachers will make House Teams aware if pupils are arriving at school without charged iPads, so that parents/carers can then be contacted. This will also make it easier for us to identify and address issues where broken or damaged iPads require attention.

We hope that parents/carers will then support our efforts to have all pupils bring a charged iPad to school each day.

Attendance Checks



We believe that positive attendance at school is important for supporting effective learning and attainment (reflecting our values of Aspiration, Growth and Achievement), and that it is also very significant in maintaining wellbeing and relationships, thereby promoting our value of Belonging.



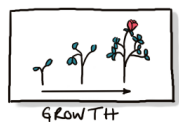
Each week, Tutor Teachers will give pupils an update on their current attendance levels, so that any issues preventing good attendance can be identified and addressed through the most relevant supports.



You can view our Attendance policy by using the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/bellahoustonacademy2019/attendance-policy/>

Class Discussion or Activity, based on a Focus of the Week



A calendar identifying important focus weeks will guide either a class discussion or activity, so that young people can learn together about relevant themes which may affect them, or may explore the different perspectives of others, reflecting our values of Growth and Respect. An example calendar for the remainder of

this term is given below.





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Week beginning	Focus
21 st April	World Immunisation Day
28 th April	Global Pay it Forward Day
5 th May	Deaf Awareness Week
12 th May	Sun Safety Awareness Week
19 th May	Water Saving Week
26 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
2 nd June	Pride Month
9 th June	Diabetes Awareness Week
16 th June	Refugee Week
23 rd June	Stay Safe in the Summer

SQA Examinations

As SQA examinations begin on Friday the 25th of April, we want to send all Senior Phase students our very best wishes. As mentioned in my previous letter issued prior to the Spring Break, there are a range of in-school supports available to young people during the Study Leave period, and I would encourage them to take full advantage of these.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any feedback or questions in relation to the above.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Mochan
Headteacher
Bellahouston Academy

