



## **Balfroon High School**

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**24 June 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I think we all recognise that this session has brought considerable challenge. Despite this, we have worked hard to ensure that we have maintained a positive approach to blended learning. I am very grateful to staff for their efforts.

I would like to thank you all for your support and contribution to the life and ethos of our school throughout the year and in recent months in particular. In addition to supporting home learning, it has been great to see so many of you joining in with inter-house activities and the Balfroon-a-thon. Thanks also for the many positive comments, emails and feedback that you shared.

### **Looking Forward**

Following Mr Swinney's announcement, we are now planning for a full return in August and have a timetable with a full curriculum ready to deliver to our young people. I know from pupil feedback, that our young people are desperate for some normality back in their lives.

To ensure that we are maximising safety and minimising risk, there will be a number of adaptations in place. Some of these are outlined below:

- Pupils will have staggered entry and exit from the school to avoid having big numbers of pupils in one place unnecessarily. This will be managed to and from buses.
- We will have a staggered/split lunch for young people and staff.
- There will be one way areas in the school to avoid unnecessary overlaps.
- Pupils and staff will be asked to sanitise hands on the way in and out of classes.
- As fully as possible, pupils should bring their own equipment and avoid sharing with others.
- Pupils will wipe down desks, chairs and equipment on arrival and departure from lessons.
- Practical subjects are being risk assessed and may be adapted.

- Until safe to do so, there will be no access to water fountains. Pupils are encouraged to bring full water bottles at the start of the day.
- Lockers will not be accessible to pupils. Pupils should carry their bags with them wherever they go.
- Public Health and Stirling Council protocols will be in place should any pupil or member of staff present with symptoms.

Your support in reinforcing these protocols at home will be really helpful as well as ensuring that school uniform and relevant kit are cleaned in line with public health advice as fully as possible.

### Calendar

10-11 August	Staff in-service days
12 August	<b>S1</b> Induction day (S1, S6 Head Prefects, House Captains, Senior Prefects only)
13 August	<b>All year groups return to school</b>
12-23 October	Holiday
26 October	School re-opens

Please note that we have planned an induction day for our new S1s on 13 August. We have prioritised this to ensure that they are well supported on their first day at Balforn High School.

Given that we have returned a week earlier than originally planned, it has been agreed that schools in Stirling council will now have two weeks holiday in October. The full holiday calendar can be accessed [here](#)

### School Transport

Stirling Council will communicate transport arrangements with families entitled to school travel over the summer.

### SQA Results & Re-coursing

SQA results will arrive in the post and shared electronically on 4 August. Pupils are encouraged to register for [My SQA](#) if they have not already done so. The senior team will be in touch with pupils by phone on 5 August to provide congratulations or support with results. Mrs Short will manage any re-coursing required by phone (440469) and email [shorta01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:shorta01s@glow.sch.uk)

### IT

In school, we will be maximising the use of IT to avoid unnecessary sharing of text books and resources. Pupils in S1-3 will have been issued with a Chromebook. Stirling Council will employ a 'Bring Your Own Device' approach for pupils in S4-6.

We plan to support pupils who have indicated that they will not have an appropriate device for school.

### **School Uniform**

I very much appreciate parental support in maintaining high standards of school uniform. This is a visible projection of our school values, removes peer pressure and provides a positive impression in the school and community. Our uniform can be ordered online from [Border Embroideries](#)

### **Contact Us**

Please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to provide any additional information that you may require.

### **Contingency planning**

In the event of further restrictions due to COVID-19, we have an alternative timetable planned that we could deliver if we are unable to have everyone back. This is based on a 50% model with pupils being organised by surname. Details can be found on our school website. Here is the [link](#). I very much hope we do not have to move to employ this plan but am confident that we will be ready should that happen.

Thanks, once again, for your patience and support over the session. Despite recent challenges, I feel very privileged to serve as Headteacher at Balfron High. I have been very proud of the work done by young people, staff and the support given by parents and carers. We are all looking forward to welcoming our young people back to school in August following the much needed summer break. I wish you all a happy holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Elaine Bannatyne  
Headteacher