



**Balf High School**  
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**18 September 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you and your family well. We seem to have settled in successfully to our new way of working here on campus. Our pupils have been great in taking responsibility for sanitising their work areas and hands regularly. It was fantastic to have our S4 pupils back this week following a period of self-isolation for many of them. It is both pleasing and reassuring to note that there has been no evidence of in school transmission at this time.

### Keeping safe

Split breaks and lunchtimes have successfully reduced numbers indoors. It is safest outdoors, and we are encouraging pupils to stay outside if the weather is dry, before school, at break and at lunchtime.



Gazebos arrived today. Six are being strategically placed in year group zones to help protect young people from the elements while allowing them to be more comfortable outside. Thirty additional picnic tables are due to arrive by Wednesday.

Help Keep You and Others Safe

Please scan this QR code and complete the form to help us with contact tracing.

To scan on a Chromebook visit:  
[www.the-qr-code-generator.com/scan](http://www.the-qr-code-generator.com/scan)

**You are at Table 63**



We have just added a **track and trace** system to tables on the atrium and theatre. This will help us identify exactly where young people are sitting if they are in the building on study periods, break or lunch. This will be particularly important in identifying contacts should any one of us test positive.

We continue our daily safety announcements to remind young people to wear their face covering safely, to keep left in the building, to sanitise, to avoid sharing equipment and to care for themselves and each other. Overall, everyone is doing this really

well. Please help us by reinforcing all of this, including wearing face coverings on school transport.

We would encourage you, along with staff and older students (aged 16 +) to download the 'Protect Scotland' app. This will also be a useful tool in quickly identifying and isolating COVID risk. We are committed to keeping our school open and safe.

### ICT to support learning

All S1-4 now have a Chromebook and teachers are working hard behind the scenes to upskill in all things technical. Google Suite is our format and most resources are being posted through Google Classroom. The leadership team is ensuring that plans are in place should we need to go back into lockdown. Let's hope that they are not needed. To support all of our pupils, S5-6 will be issued with a Chromebook as soon as they arrive.

### Google Guardian

If you are a parent of an **S1 pupil**, you will have received an email inviting you to become a Google Guardian. Please accept this. This will give you regular reports on the assignments and homework tasks that your child has been issued and turned in.

### Literacy S1-3

The English team have missed reading as part of lessons and are going to re-instate 10 minutes at the start of each lesson. We hope this will bring a welcome break from screens. Please encourage your child to bring a reading book from home to read in class. We will also have a selection of books in the department which we will sign out to pupils. In keeping with safety guidelines, these will be quarantined on their return.

### Wellbeing

We are delighted to have a school counsellor working with us 4 days per week. Karin Figliolini is already working with young people and helping us raise the profile of wellbeing, and how to improve it, throughout the school. Our Head Prefects have been working with Karin on a survey for young people. We will use this data to help inform our more targeted plans to support wellbeing.

### Uniform

We expect our students to wear school uniform and encourage them to be proud to do so. While changing rooms are out of action, pupils who have PE should come ready for taking part in sport outside. It is important that the sportswear worn to school is **appropriate for outdoor sport and school classes** in general. This means that pupils should be

**Something on your mind?**

**TIME 2 TALK**

Speak to Balfroon's counsellor, Karin.

SCAN ME

For a 15-minute check-in with Karin (during lunchtime or form time), please make an appointment by:

- Scanning the QR code with your phone and completing our short online form, or
- Completing the online form using the tile on Balfroon's launch pad on Glow.

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SCHOOL COUNSELLING

appropriately covered. Bare midriffs are not appropriate for school. This has been of particular concern in science labs. For safety reasons pupils should be covered. They may not take part in experiments should their clothing pose a risk. We ask that pupils bring and wear, tracksuit trousers and appropriate sweatshirts/hoodies on PE days. We recommend the kit provided by <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/balfron-high-school-pe.html>

This kit is appropriate for outdoor PE and will be safe and warm for other lessons.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

For now, we have no extra-curricular sport or music operating. In line with Education Scotland Guidelines, there is no indoor PE at all. We will update you and our young people as soon as this changes. As you can imagine, we are keen to get started again and will do so as soon as it is safe.

### **Staffing**

I am delighted to share that in Mrs Patrick's absence, Mr Cameron and Mrs Skinner are picking up Future Pathways events, activities and destination preparation. We are excited to be panning on-line versions to some of the already successful events. So, watch this space!

### **Prize Giving – SQA results 2020**

Dr Appelquist and I, with the support of the Principal Teachers are putting together a virtual Prize Giving to recognise the incredible achievements of our young people. The music team and students are helping with new recordings to accompany the pictures and video clips. We hope to be in a position to share this with you before the October holiday.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a query or an issue that we can help with.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely



Elaine Bannatyne