

November 2020

Dear Parents,

**BALCARRAS WINS
THE SUNDAY TIMES SOUTHWEST STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL
OF THE DECADE AWARD**

I am writing to share some fantastic news with you – Balcarras has won the Sunday Times Southwest State School of the Decade Award. This is a prestigious award and everyone connected with the school should take enormous pride in it.

News of the award will be included in the ***The Sunday Times Parent Power Supplement*** this weekend. Parent Power is published annually and is a guide to the best schools in the country based on achievement at A-level and GCSE. Balcarras has featured regularly over the years and often out-performs many of the selective schools in the region.

This year, as well as publishing the 2019 examinations results, Parent Power has selected 26 'Schools of the Decade' from all corners of the country in recognition of their sustained excellence. In each region of the country The Sunday Times has selected a State School of the Decade and an Independent School of the Decade. With over 350 state schools in the region, many of them selective, Balcarras has beaten off some pretty stiff competition.

It goes without saying that we are absolutely thrilled that Balcarras has been selected. We are immensely proud of the school and the young people it serves. The success of our youngsters is the result of a great collaboration between the staff of the school and you the parents at home. Together we should take enormous pride in it.

I want to pay particular tribute to my colleagues – the teachers, teaching assistants, site staff, catering staff, cleaners, support staff and everyone else who works here – this award recognises their exceptional commitment to this school. It is fitting also that I should mention the governors who have contributed enormously to our success over the years.

Finally, because the award is for continued success over a prolonged period, it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the contribution of those staff who have left in recent years and in particular the former Head, Chris Healy, who was absolutely delighted when I told him.

The Sunday Times sent me a draft press release and it contained the following quote from the Editor of Parent Power, Alastair McCall:

Rarely can a school live up to its motto – From strength to strength – quite as well as Balcarras, which is the thoroughly deserving winner of our Southwest State Secondary School of the Decade title.

If you don't buy The Sunday Times don't worry, I'll issue a news article next week with all of the details.

Have a nice weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Headteacher