



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



2 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter the final week of this first term, I would like to thank all of you for your support of the school and its staff as we have welcomed our pupils back to in-school learning. Almost all the pupils I speak to are very glad to be back in school and cope well with the designated entrances; hand sanitising; cleaning regimes in classes; the wearing of face coverings in communal areas and staggered break times. Staff too are glad to be back at school and working with young people - despite the restrictions and changes to their working practices and environment. As always, we have worked as a team to plan and implement the "new normal"! I know there is still a lot of uncertainty about the virus and how we respond to it. However, I will do my best – through these letters and other communications - to keep you informed about how any changes will impact on school and young people. The school's Parent Council is meeting once per month at the moment and are very helpful in ensuring I am fully aware of your perspective.

School Uniform

Tuesday 29 September was the deadline for all young people to be fully dressed in school uniform each day except for those when they have PE. On these days young people can wear their PE kit – no football tops or overly revealing cropped tops. As young people will be outdoors for PE layers are the best option. The school uniform consists of black trousers/skirt and plain all black shoes. A blouse or shirt and school tie with a black jumper/cardigan so the tie can be seen. Those who still have polo shirts and school jumpers can wear these for the rest of this session. Blazers are a requirement for returning to school in S5 and S6 however several young people in S1-S4 are choosing to wear one. Items which are not part of school uniform are jeans of any colour or leggings: these are both leisure wear. Despite the current situation we are encouraging young people to take pride in their appearance and their school by wearing full uniform. I would also ask that you encourage them to wear a jacket or at least put one in their bag for rainy days.

School Transport

As you all know young people travelling to and from school are required to wear face coverings on public buses and on school transport. I am asking for your support with reinforcing this message with your child(ren). We have had concerns raised by pupils and other parents/carers that young people wear face coverings as they get on the bus at the end of the day and I know this is the case because I supervise this at the end of the school day with Mr Jamieson, DHT. However, very disappointingly, we are being told that face coverings are being removed as the bus makes its way from school. This is not acceptable: it is not a hardship for a young person to wear a face covering for the entirety of the journey when the benefit is the health and safety of others. The bus company has face coverings for those who have either forgotten or misplaced them but the driver cannot be expected to deal with the wearing of face coverings this whilst driving the bus. This is a matter which is entirely in the hands of our young people. They are old enough to take this responsibility seriously and I am asking for your support in reinforcing this message at home. I will act on

any information passed to me about young people who are not taking this message seriously by contacting parents/carers directly.

We have had a number of other concerns raised by families in relation to school transport and these have been raised with Aberdeenshire Council who are responsible for the contract. Having discussed some of the issues with members of the Parent Council I will be writing to the officer in charge of school transport to discuss these further.

S5 and S6 Study periods

Almost all young people will have study periods on their timetable. This allows them to review and consolidate their learning from classes. It should not generally be used for homework, but this may be appropriate. S6 pupils are permitted to leave school and study at home for these periods after having signed out of the class (for registration purposes) and also at the school office (Fire Regulations). Young people in S5 **are not permitted to sign out** of study to work at home unless they are participating in a live teaching session run by NESCOL on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons only. They should not be signing out for home study at any other time.

S4-6 Reports

These will be posted to families at the end of term. A letter from Mrs Cruickshank DHT will be attached explaining the different parts of the reports. As always there will be an opportunity for you to respond to the report.

Reporting schedule: All year Groups

| Year | Type of Report | Date of Issue |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| S4-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Report on progress with advice on next steps. | 9 October |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full report on progress and recommendations for next steps to support preparation for final assessments/exams. | 8 March |
| S3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Report: grades for effort, behaviour and homework | 6 November |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Report with teacher comments to support subject choice | 12 February |
| S2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Report with teacher comments to support subject choice | 13 January |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S2 (new S3) settling into new courses report: grades for effort, behaviour and homework. | 25 June |
| S1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Report with teacher comments on "settling in". | 2 December |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Report with Teacher comments on progress in S1 | 21 May |

SQA and Announcement by John Swinney Tuesday 6 October 2020

Yesterday I published a letter on the school website from Eleanor Sheppard, Chief Education Officer for Aberdeen City Council. This explained that on Tuesday 6 October John Swinney, Deputy First Minister, will be announcing the assessment arrangements for young people in S4-6 undertaking National Qualifications this session 2020-21. I will update families as soon as possible following this announcement.

School Trips and Refunds

My thanks to families for your prompt responses to the requests for details so we can arrange the transfer of monies as refunds for trips which did not take place in May of this year. Voyager are now beginning the transfer of funds into ACC bank account. We are now in receipt of all bank account details for those who are entitled to a refund. The Creditor Upload form will be submitted to accounts today. ACC will process BACS payments on the 15th October. This should show in recipients' bank accounts one to two days later. We are not currently organising any new trips for this academic session on the advice of the Scottish Government.

College Courses

Young people undertaking college courses which require practical work as part of the assessment process received a communication from NESCOL on Thursday through Google classroom. They will be given more details through "Blackboard" which is the college's platform for engaging with young people. All young people who have signed up for their course will get details of the days they will be going into college for face to face learning and practical work. They will also receive details of the rules in place in college: social distancing, face coverings. Please note that the rules will be different to school rules and must be adhered to. This will be part of young people's preparation for and pathway to life beyond school where they will be expected to conform to different expectations and rules as young adults rather than school pupils. They will also be informed about the PPE that must be purchased; the requirements will depend of the course being undertaken. Mrs Cruickshank will talk to all pupils individually about this over this course of the last week of term to confirm what is required and how to go about purchasing it.

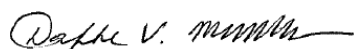
Parent Council

The Parent Council met through Microsoft Teams at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29 September and the new office bearers were confirmed. I have been asked to draw your attention to the 100 Club Monthly Draw: please see the poster at the end of this letter.

School Holidays

The school term ends on Friday 9 October at 2.55pm and the new term starts on Monday 26 October at the normal time. Things are changing rapidly at the moment and will no doubt continue to do so: it will be good for young people and staff to have some time to recharge their batteries and return refreshed for the new term.

Yours sincerely



Daphne McWilliam
Head Teacher

PARENT COUNCIL



£2 per
number

Win up to £50 in
the monthly
draw

100 Club

profits buy
learning and
teaching

Easy way
to support
the school!



The Manager

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..... Name, Address & Postcode
.....of **your own** Bank.
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Please arrange to pay **LLOYDS TSB Scotland plc
St Machar (873410) Branch
PO BOX 1000
BX1 1LT**

Sort Code **87-34-10**

For the credit of **BODA PARENT COUNCIL**

Account Number **88649860**

The sum of **£**

Commencing*

*When inserting a starting date, please ensure that the money will be transferred in time for the draw

Frequency **Monthly**

Date of last Payment

(or UFN - Until further notice -
perhaps work out the month /year your child will leave school)

Reference(insert your name)

Account to be debited
(i.e. the name(s) of the account holder(s))

Your Account Number _____ Sort code ____-____-____

Signature(s)

Date

SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR OWN BANK

Or better still – use on line banking to set it all up using these banking details