



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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9 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to send you my best wishes for a good break from school routines. I do realise that many of you will be continuing to work whilst young people are on holiday and this brings its own challenges. It is not easy when normal plans for this time of year have had to be adjusted considerably and expectations have had to be severely curtailed. Sadly, I also know that visiting with friends and family near and far is going to be so much more challenging if not impossible for many of us. But we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland and at the moment there is not a limit on travelling except into some parts of the central belt so hopefully we will be able to enjoy some time outdoors which always refreshes the spirit. Thank you for all your support this term, especially with the reinforcement of the messages we have been communicating about the new arrangements in place.

Refunds for School Trips

These are progressing as I previously intimated to you and will be paid directly into bank accounts with the details you have provided for us.

Family Holidays in the October Break

If you are venturing abroad during the October break, I draw your attention to the regulations regarding quarantine and self-isolation contained in the links below. We do understand that holidays may have been booked a long time in advance and it would incur considerable financial loss to cancel. Please inform the school office if this applies to your child(ren).

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>

S3 Reports

An interim report will come home after the October holidays for all pupils in S3. This will contain information as follows for all subjects your child/ren are studying.

Effort		Behaviour		Homework	
1	Always works conscientiously	1	Always behaves well	1	Always makes a good attempt
2	Usually works conscientiously	2	Usually behaves well	2	Usually makes a good attempt
3	Making some effort but capable of more	3	Some improvements required	3	Occasionally makes a good attempt
4	Rarely puts in the effort to make good progress	4	Serious concerns	4	Rarely makes a good attempt

SQA National Qualifications 2020-21

For further details of the changes to assessment for this year's National Qualifications for our S4 – S6 pupils please refer to my letter published on the school website yesterday Thursday 8 October 2020. Also, on the school website you will find links we have posted to support for pupils from Scholar and E-sgoil. For ease I have pasted the links below. Here young people will find links to a number of live on-line learning sessions and resources to support a range of subject areas.

<https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/sessions.html>

<http://www.e-sgoil.com/ssnocontentssummary2020/>

Health and Safety

Thank you for your support of the arrangements we have in place to keep our school community safe. Face coverings are required on school and public transport as well as in all areas of the school except for classrooms and outdoors with the exception of those young people who have an exemption. We will continue with the routines of desk cleaning, hand hygiene and use of designated doors on our return to school. We also remind young people that, where possible, they should continue to maintain social distancing from each other and at all time from staff in school. We will have sessions with young people about why all of these arrangements continue to be important after the holidays and thank you in advance for your support with this by reinforcing the messages at home.

CFINE

After the holidays we will begin preparations for collecting food and other items for the local food bank run by CFINE. Young people will be asked to bring in food and other non-perishable items which CFINE will distribute to local families. Rather than one big collection at the end of term CFINE will come in once per week to collect items which are much in demand at the moment. Teachers have volunteered to host collection points throughout the school and more information will be available next term. In the meantime, you can use the link below to find out more about the work of CFINE.

<https://www.cfine.org/>



Skills Development Scotland

All senior pupils will be given an invitation to an interview with our Careers Advisors Gillian Shand and Ruth Bell which will take place in school time via Google Meet. The invitation will be sent to their school GMail account and will be in their calendar. Gillian and Ruth will be working remotely and the young people will be able to attend their virtual meeting in F3 or the library where we have a Chromebook for them to use.

Free Aberdeen-Wide Holiday Club with Big Noise

This autumn, from Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 October, Big Noise is inviting young musicians from across Aberdeen and Stirling to take part in online music and fun activity sessions. Sessions will run as follows:

- 10.00am – 10.40am: Beginner sessions
- 10.50am – 11.30am: Fun activities for all with a choice of options to sign up to
- 11.40am – 12.20pm: Intermediate and Advanced sectionals

Repertoire will be sent out in advance via email. All sessions will be held online using Zoom. Further details and application form at

<https://www.makeabignoise.org.uk/big-noise/torry/aberdeen-wide/online-form/>

Support for Families

The Aberdeen City Council Support Line operates from 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Staff at the Support Line can offer a range of welfare advice, emotional support and help with food or prescription collection for example and can be contacted on 0800 0304 713. The Support Line is of great benefit to families who are advised to self-isolate and many families in this position throughout the city have already been in touch. In addition to this the Council has a range of further information and resources online to assist at

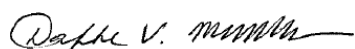
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19>

There is also the Aberdeen City Council Parent Hub

<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/parent-learning-hub/learning-at-home/teenage-years>

I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school on Monday 26 October. As ever please be in touch with any concerns or queries using the school email address or by telephone.

Yours sincerely



Daphne McWilliam
Head Teacher