



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



4 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been another busy week, but I am pleased to report that young people continue to enjoy being back in school learning. They are co-operating well with all the arrangements we have in place to allow for a return to full time learning in school with no distancing between young people. They have also been taking advantage of the finer weather during their breaks.

Learning Teaching and Assessment

All class teachers have been asked to create Google Classrooms for their classes. This is the platform we will use to provide online learning if it is required. We are also planning to make it possible for you to be able to view the homework/tasks set for young people by inviting you to be Google Guardian. The guide linked [here](#) explains how this works.

Over the course of the next 3-4 weeks teachers will be assessing the progress of young people in S4 – 6 undertaking National Qualification Courses in preparation for a report going home at the end of term. We always encourage young people to take assessments seriously. This year it will be particularly important that they make every effort to do their best because teachers will be gathering evidence throughout the session which will be used should we be in the position of having to estimate grades in the absence of exams. The more quality evidence teachers have the more accurate their estimates will be. I do not say this to put undue pressure on young people but to encourage them to do their best at all times.

College

At the moment college courses can only be delivered online. Discussions are on-going with Aberdeen City Council and NESCOL about how face to face teaching might resume: Colleges have a set of guidelines on implementing social distancing etc. that they must work to. The timetable for the delivery of the college online learning will be posted in the Google Classrooms for S4 – 6.

S5 and S6 pupils undertaking college courses

Where it is possible from Monday 7 September young people undertaking college courses as part of the travel afternoons (Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday) will be permitted to go home at these times to undertake online learning.

S4 pupils/school transport pupils undertaking college courses

For these young people we are making arrangements for them to undertake their on-line learning in school. If we do not have sufficient devices for this the sessions are being recorded and young people can access them during later study periods or at home. Some of the online learning is timetabled for outside the school day or during the time young people would be on school transport. In these cases, young people should go home and will be able to access the recorded sessions from home or later in school. Young people should bring in their own headphones to school if they need to access video/audio resources.

Face Coverings

Following the introduction of face coverings as detailed below I can report that this is going well. Young people who are not exempt comply willingly; a few needing reminders now and again to put them on as they enter the building after breaks. The school were given a supply of black cotton face coverings by the local authority which can be washed at 60 degrees as is required. All young people were given at least one of these, and some have been given extras when they forgot to take their own face covering with them. It would be very helpful if parents/carers would remind young people to take their face covering each morning – or better still pack one in a plastic bag (for storage) in their school bag the night before school. Having some spares would also be useful. The supplies we have will run out and money spent on face coverings cannot be spent on learning resources.

Face Coverings must be worn:

- On all school and public transport to and from school
- Entering and leaving the school
- Moving around in the corridors to get to their classes as well as back and forth to, and in, toilets
- Queuing in the dining area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating
- In any areas of the school when inside at break and lunchtime due to adverse weather

PE and School Uniform

We are still following Scottish Government and Education Scotland advice that all PE must be outdoors. This is likely to continue for some time. On the days they have PE young people should come dressed for PE. On all other days they must wear school uniform as specified in the school prospectus. It is disappointing that a few young people have been taking advantage of the fact that their teachers will not always know whether they have PE or not and wearing non-uniform kit on days when they do not have PE. We would appreciate your help with this – if you need an additional copy of your child's timetable to help with this please let us know. I am however delighted that almost all pupils are coming to school with a high standard of dress and on non-PE days are wearing their blazers and ties with pride and looking very smart. This is noticed and commented on positively by staff. Our ties and blazers are available from [ABstitch](#). We will expect full compliance with school uniform from Tuesday 29 September on days when young people do not have PE unless Scottish Government guidance changes.

Hand hygiene

We continue to ask young people to maintain high standards of hand hygiene. This is supported by hand sanitiser stations located throughout the school and beside the entrances for each year group. They comply well with the request to sanitise their hands when entering each morning and after each break. These entrances are all supervised by teachers to support this. In addition, we have supplies of soap and paper towels in all classrooms with sinks. We have asked teachers to build hand washing into their lesson routines where possible.

Staggered School Day

These arrangements are working well to increase separation and reduce congregation. For your information I have included a table illustrating the new structure of the school day and you will notice we have included a break for S1- S3 on Mondays and Tuesdays. By taking five minutes from the end of period 5 and five minutes from the beginning of period 6 we can break up what is a very long afternoon for younger pupils on these days which results from staggering the lunch breaks.

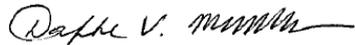
Morning break

I would appreciate your support in reminding all young people that they must not go off school grounds during morning break. The teaching staff are very stretched now: supervising multiples breaks and entrances. We cannot adequately supervise young people who are off school grounds during this short break. If they are not using the canteen to purchase snacks and drinks for break, young people must arrange to bring them with them each day.

Parent Council

I have been asked by the Parent Council to promote membership of the group. The next meeting is on Tuesday 29 September at 7.15 pm. Please contact the school using the contact details in this letter with your name, email address and the name and class of your child. If you would like to further support the Parent Council, you can join the 100 club. For £2.00 per month you can purchase a number which will be entered in a monthly draw. Half the money raised is used as a prize and the rest goes into a fund which the parent council invites bids for from teachers to purchase resources to enhance learning. Please contact the school to organise this.

Yours sincerely



Daphne McWilliam
Head Teacher

Bridge of Don Academy: Staggered School Day August 2020

Time	Monday and Tuesday	Wednesday to Friday
08.35 am	S1, S2 and S6 enter and go straight to period 1 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
08.45 am	S3, S4 and S5 enter and go straight to period 1 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
09.45 am	Change over from period 1 to 2	Same as Monday and Tuesday
10.20 am	S1 – S3 Morning Break begins	Same as Monday and Tuesday
10.40 am	S1 – S3 Morning Break ends - go back to period 2 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
10.45 am	S4 – 6 Morning Break Begins	Same as Monday and Tuesday
11.05 am	S4 – 6 go to period 3 class S1 – S3 go to period 3 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
12.05 pm	S1- S3 go to lunch S4 – S6 go to period 4 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
12.50 pm	S1 – S3 Lunch Break ends go to period 4 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
13.05 pm	S4- 6 Lunch Break Begins	Same as Monday and Tuesday
13.50 pm	S1- S3 go to period 5 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
13.55 pm	S4 – S6 Lunch break ends go to period 5 class	Same as Monday and Tuesday
14.50 pm	S1 – S3 Afternoon Break Begins (Monday and Tuesday only)	All pupils (S1-S6) still in class
14.55 pm	S4 – S6 go to period 6 class	End of school day for all pupils
15.00 pm	S1 – S3 go to period 6 class	
15.55 pm	End of school day for all pupils	