



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

Braehead Way • Bridge of Don • Aberdeen • AB22 8RR

Tel 01224 707583

Web: [www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk)

E-mail: [bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



30 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you were all able to enjoy some relaxing time during the October holidays. The young people have settled in well after the break. A number of updates follow:

## **Scottish National Standardised Assessment (SNSA)**

Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) were introduced in session 2018/19 and are carried out in all schools in Scotland. The results generated contribute to teacher professional judgement of pupil progress and achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels for Literacy and Numeracy **for pupils in S3 only**.

### **What is involved?**

Across Scotland every child in P1, P4, P7 and S3 undertakes National Standardised Assessments covering aspects of Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Assessments are completed online and are marked automatically by the online system, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress and plan next steps. There will be no pass or fail. The assessments will, as far as possible, accommodate the needs of children who require additional support.

### **When will the assessments take place?**

This year the assessments will be carried out during this term with the hope that all will be completed by the end of this term.

### **What does this mean for my child?**

Your child will not have to revise or prepare for National Standardised Assessments. There will be no additional work for your child and the assessments will offer no distraction from daily learning. Each pupil will undertake an online assessment in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Each assessment will take approximately 45 minutes, though there is no time limit on their completion. These assessments are administered by the English and Maths Faculties.

### **What does this mean for me as a parent?**

The SNSA is primarily for teachers. Teachers will use the results, alongside a range of other assessment information, to assess progress and achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels. SNSA assessment results are not routinely shared with parents/carers. However, these may inform discussions with you about your child's progress and achievement and their school report in literacy and numeracy.

Further information about SNSA is available here:

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/>

## **S3 Reports**

These will be posted home on Friday 6 November.

## Google Classroom

As a Google Guardian, you can get email summaries about your child's activity in Google Classroom. You can review:

- work not handed in when the summary was sent;
- work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails);
- announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers.

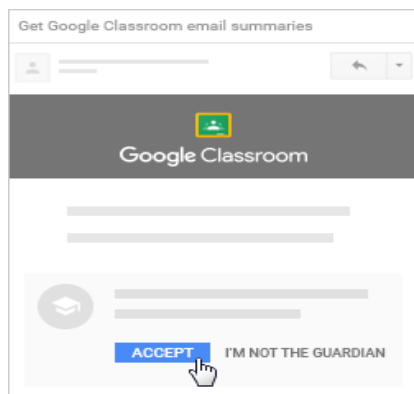
To get e-mail summaries of your child's work, you must accept an e-mail invitation from a teacher or administrator via Google Classroom. You have 120 days to accept an invitation before it expires.

To avoid issues we suggest you use a PC or laptop when accepting Guardian requests.

Before you begin please make sure the device you are using is not already logged in with your child's @ab-ed.org account. Uninstall the Google Classroom app if present.

Check your e-mail for an invitation to join your child's class. If you have missed this or need a new invitation please contact the school office.

1. Open your e-mail invitation.
2. Click 'Accept'.



3. Click 'Accept' again to confirm.

When you accept an invitation, you and your child get an email confirmation.

If there is no activity to report you might not get an e-mail summary.

To view or update e-mail summary settings, you will need to have a Google Account.

If you unsubscribe from e-mail summaries, you are still connected to a student as long as you have a Google Account. Otherwise, unsubscribing removes you as a guardian.

Please contact the school using the email address at the top of this letter if you have any issues.

## Communication

We do understand that this is a challenging time for our young people and their families and that sometimes young people do not share fully their experiences of school at home. Please be reassured that we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible to your queries or concerns. I have previously shared the reporting schedule with you but if there is something that you feel needs to be shared or addressed please contact your child's Head of House through the school email address above or by telephoning the school office.

## CFINE (Community Food Initiative North East)

This collection begins next week. Collection points are located on each floor and at the school office and assembly room. Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypgbo19ly9k>

✓	✗
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tinned food</li><li>• Cereals</li><li>• Pasta, rice, pasta sauce</li><li>• Condiments and spices</li><li>• Juices</li><li>• Toiletries</li><li>• Nappies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fresh food</li><li>• Frozen items</li><li>• Refrigerated items</li></ul>



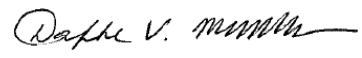
## Ventilation

We are waiting for the next stage of Scottish Government advice "Guidance on reducing the risk of Covid-19 in Schools" Version 1 which is due to be published today. This will provide advice for local authorities and schools on ventilation, indoor PE and how the tier system will impact on schools in terms of additional measures which may have to be put in place. In the meantime, Aberdeen City Council have issued advice to schools on how to maintain an airflow in classrooms. It will not be a surprise to hear that this involves having windows open during lessons and between lessons. There are a number of options for teachers which allow rooms to remain comfortable but at the same time maintain the airflow. These will vary across the school depending on the weather, and the position of the classroom. However, there will be times when some rooms will be cooler and young people should be dressing appropriately in layers in line with school uniform policy. This also applies on days when young people have PE and can still expect to be outdoors.

In the coming weeks I will be issuing further information about arrangements for assessment in the Senior phase (S4-6), including Prelims. As previously intimated there will be no study leave for pupils in S4 - 6 due to the ongoing public health restrictions and in order to maximise in-school learning. We have begun discussions with staff and pupils about

appropriate ways that we can mark the forthcoming festive season as many of our normal activities will not be possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Daphne McWilliam  
Head Teacher