



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



30 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

On 23 June, John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister (DFM), made a statement in Parliament which detailed the ambition of The Scottish Government for all children and young people to return to school full-time in August 2020. The DFM stressed that it is an aim which the Government is now working towards but it “remains conditional and dependent upon ongoing scientific and health advice.” Based on this statement we are planning to re-open on a full-time basis in August 2020.

I have also made available to you a copy of a letter written by Eleanor Sheppard Chief Education Officer of Aberdeen City Council which outlines the three possible scenarios for this return – dependent on the data relating to Covid 19 in six weeks’ time.

1. A 100% return to school with a few minimal adaptations (as detailed below) and dependent on no physical distancing requirement for young people as stated by John Swinney
2. A 100% return to school with several adaptations because of a requirement for physical distancing of less than 2m being in place.
3. A requirement for 2m social distancing which will mean us reverting to our blended learning offer – the contingency plan

I have made a copy of the contingency plan available to you as part of this communication.

All Aberdeen Secondary schools are planning an induction programme for pupils for the first week back. For all schools, the content and precise physical arrangements would vary depending on which of the three scenarios above is in place, but the days and timing will be the same. Pupils should only attend school as detailed below.

<b>Day and Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Times</b>
Monday 10 August 2020	Staff-in Service Day	8.34 am – 3.55 pm
Tuesday 11 August 2020	Staff Planning Day	8.34 am – 3.55 pm
Wednesday 12 August 2020	S1 Induction and Orientation S6 Induction and Leadership All S1 and S6 guides to meet in canteen	8.34 am – 1.05 pm for pupils
Thursday 13 August 2020	S2 and S3 Induction and Timetabled classes – go to registration	8.34 am – 1.05 pm for pupils
Friday 14 August 2020	S4 and S5 Induction and Timetabled classes – go to registration	8.34 am – 1.05 pm for pupils

### **The Purpose of Induction**

All young people will be briefed on the health and safety guidelines in place as well as the expectations regarding their responsibilities for social distancing. They will also be given (as appropriate) resources for their own use.

### **Orientation for S1**

There will be a need to make young people in S1 familiar with the building: they have had some limited experience of this – and in some cases none. Our S6 pupils may be able to help with this dependent on advice in place at the time.

### **Course choice: essential changes**

Young people in S5 and S6 who must make changes to their timetable following their SQA results should in the first instance contact their Head of House via Gmail as soon as possible. Heads of House **will not be back in touch until the week beginning 10 August.**

### **Health and Hygiene**

Many of the health and hygiene aspects of our contingency plan will also apply regardless of which scenario applies in August. Young people will be expected to follow the same rules in school as we are all expected to follow outside of school. This will include: regular handwashing and/or using hand sanitiser available in all class areas; sneezing into a tissue and then putting it in the bin; respecting the rules with regard to social distancing and school staff.

### **Uniform**

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform as follows - white shirt/blouse, black trousers/skirt, black jumper/cardigan, black shoes. **Pupils do not wear a tie or blazer until further notice.** The recommendation is that school clothing is washed after each in-school day.

### **Journey to and from School**

Pupils walking or cycling to school are expected to maintain social distancing, in line with Scottish Government advice.

Pupils who travel to school by service bus must wear face coverings as mandated by the Scottish Government and observe physical distancing guidelines in line with Scottish Government guidance in place in August.

School transport pupils will be dropped off in the rear car park. S1 pupils will be met by school staff.

Please note that parents/carers are not permitted in the school grounds to drop off or pick up their child(ren). Pupils should be dropped off outside school grounds.

### **Arrival at School**

Pupils will be required to use hand sanitiser on entering class. At all times, pupils must follow the instructions of staff and adhere to social distancing rules.

## **In Class**

Classrooms and class groupings will be organised in line with social distancing recommendations in place at the time. Pupils must bring their own materials (including pens, pencils, rulers, etc) to class and make sure that they leave nothing behind at the end of the lesson. Resource packs will be provided by each subject. There will be further guidance issued on the use of school lockers before pupils return in August. Pupils will not be permitted to share lockers. Pupils must use hand sanitiser on entering each classroom. At present the plan is that on leaving a classroom, pupils must wipe down their desk, chair and any surface they may have come into contact with. Cleaning materials will be provided for this purpose.

## **Break and Lunchtime**

During the induction week there will be no facility for young people to purchase food: there will be no canteen facilities available including breakfast club. Pupils will have no access to the local shops as they are required to stay on school grounds during break times. The provision of free school meal vouchers will continue. Pupils will not be in school over lunchtime during the induction week and will have to bring in their own clear bottle water filled with water and a snack for morning break. Water fountains will not be in use.

## **Toilets**

Toilet areas will be monitored with a limited number of pupils being allowed access at any one time. Pupils should not gather or socialise in toilet areas of the school.

## **Parental Communication with the School**

Parents/carers are not permitted in the school grounds or buildings unless by prior appointment. If a parent/carer wishes to talk to a member of school staff, they should email the school in the first instance [bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk) It will not be possible to meet with parents/carers who arrive in school without prior appointments.

## **Pupil Behaviour**

It is essential that all our young people adhere to social distancing rules in place at the time, and as such, the highest standards of behaviour are required. We cannot waste learning and teaching time. During lessons, teachers will be engaged in direct teaching and supporting learning activities so that young people can make appropriate progress following this long period of remote learning. Any young person engaging in persistent disruptive behaviour or not adhering to social distancing rules may be asked to work from home. This is for safety reasons and to maximise learning time.

## **Blended Learning**

Since Monday, 23 March our young people have been encouraged and supported to engage in digital learning at home. All the learning and teaching materials used during this period have been posted in Google Classrooms for each subject. It will be the responsibility of all pupils to ensure that they are up to date with work posted for each subject course. This will allow for continuity of learning and a productive start to the new academic session.

Pupils who are subject to shielding should continue to access learning through the relevant Google Classrooms.

### **Pupil Health and Wellbeing**

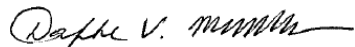
Young people's health and wellbeing will be as much of a priority as their academic progress next session. As a school we are currently working on what needs to be in place to support young people's mental wellbeing, relationships, and resilience. Our priority will be to assess the needs of our young people and respond to those needs. It is also important that young people have a break from online learning and technology in the holidays to allow a fresh start in August.

### **Planning for Success**

Simple guides for parents/carers on how to use Google Classroom may be accessed through the following link. <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/onlinelearning/>  
Our Library website also offers excellent advice and support for "at home" learning and gives access to a wide variety of learning resources. The librarians have set up their own Google classroom with access to many online resources to support young people's learning. The code is **cviklh**.

I understand that that this has been a particularly challenging and difficult time for young people and their families and for some more than others. We will continue to work to support our young people and their families in the somewhat uncertain times that are coming. In the meantime, I hope that you are all able to have some time to rest and relax together over the summer holiday period and we look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school in August.

Yours sincerely



Daphne McWilliam  
Head Teacher