



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



1 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 1 April 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- End of Term
- Easter Revision
- S4 - S6 Reports
- SQA Assemblies
- Parent Council
- Supporting an Anxious Child or Teen?
- Other Resources to Support Parents and Carers
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Revised Government Guidance for Schools
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Last Day of Spring Term:	Friday 1 April 2022
First Day of Summer Term:	Monday 18 April 2022
First Day of Study Leave:	Tuesday 26 April 2022
First SQA Exams for our pupils:	Wednesday 27 April 2022
May Day Holiday:	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day:	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee:	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable:	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

End of Term

This is the longest term in the school year and one where the focus on finishing courses and all the associated assessment puts extra strain and pressure on young people and staff. When you add Covid-19 and restrictions to that mix it makes for a challenging time for all so the holidays will be most welcome.

The break will be a chance for young people in S4 – S6 to continue with their revision programme for the examinations for the National Qualifications. The week (and one day) after the holidays will be an opportunity for the young people in S4 – S6 to speak to their teachers about any areas of concern and to seek further support. Study leave will commence on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

There will be an induction for young people returning for S5 and S6 – more information to follow - and the new timetable will commence on Monday 6 June 2022.

It has also been a challenging term for young people in S1 – S3. This is the first time that they have completed this term in its entirety since the beginning of lockdown: it is the longest term of the session without an extended break. Many are tired and need a holiday. Friendships and relationships between young people have been tested which is normal as they become more confident in their own identity and interests change and develop. What is important is that they all remember the values of honesty, kindness, and respect when they deal with the challenges this brings. We will continue to remind young people as we work more closely with them whilst seniors are on study leave and remind them of our expectations about learning, uniform, conduct and relationships. Their timetables will also change on Monday 6 June 2022 and they will begin S2, S3 and S4 courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on the grateful thanks of all staff for your continued support of the school and teachers this term and wish you all a restful holiday – if you are able to take time off during the school break.

Easter Revision

Some teachers are offering revision sessions in the Easter holidays. The details have been posted on the Google classrooms for S4 – S6 and I have included a copy at the end of this letter. In addition, a number of staff have been offering session throughout this term at lunch times and after school to which all pupils have been invited.

As previously intimated Revision Support is also available for a number of subjects through E-Sgoil <https://e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/> This information is also available to all young people in S4 – S6 through Google classroom. This was originally posted on 4 March by Mr Jamieson, and I have added a reminder today. Young people will need their Glow Log-in Credentials which can be reset if pupils email Mr Jamieson. He will be in school on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 April 2022.

The SQA have past papers which can also support revision available by using this [link](#).

S4 - S6 Reports

Just a reminder that we are extending the deadline for completion of the reports by teachers to 1 April and these will be issued to families after the holidays, by Friday 22 April. This will ensure that the estimate grades in the reports are based on the latest and best evidence produced by the young people so will be up to date. These will be the estimate grades which will be sent to the SQA.

SQA Assemblies

These took place for S4 to S6 pupils on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week where pupils were issued with a list of all qualifications they are currently entered for with the SQA and a copy of the SQA's [Your Exams 2022](#) booklet.

The booklet has attached to it a credit card sized SCN Candidate Card which they are permitted to take into the exam room to remind them of their candidate number, as required for the front of all their exam answer booklets.



After the holidays, they will be issued with a paper copy of their exam timetable and should note any exams where the start/finish time has been changed from those stated on the SQA website. They will be allocated a room and a seat which will also need to be recorded on the answer booklets.

A study leave letter which will summarise the main points of the assemblies will also be issued. A reminder that Study Leave begins on Tuesday 26 April and ends on Friday 3 June.

Parent Council

The first face-to-face meeting of the Parent Council took place on Tuesday of this week for the first time in two years. There was a lively discussion of some of the challenges facing parents of tweens and teens and then a positive start was made to identifying priorities from a parental point of view for next session 2022 -23.

The next meeting will be online using Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday 26 April 2022** and will be a continuation of this discussion focusing on Learning, Teaching and Assessment, Wellbeing and Employability.

The Parent Council would like to invite any parent or carer to come along – even if you are only able to come to this meeting. All you need to do is email the school with your name and the name of your child(ren) and give us an email address for the invite. .

It is a warm and welcoming group: the parents and carers who attend do so because they want to support the school but also because they want to find out more about how things work in education today and how they can support their children's learning and wellbeing.

Supporting an Anxious Child or Teen?

Details about the NHS Grampian offer of two new free online programmes from their partners SilverCloud: *Supporting an Anxious Child* and *Supporting an Anxious Teen* were sent home by email on Friday 1 April 2022. Using tried-and-tested, evidence-based approaches, both courses have been designed by experts to help parents, carers, and teachers — or any adults in a caring role — to support children and young people who are struggling with anxiety. We have been asked not to share the contact details on any social media platforms because there is a different contact for each Health Board area in Scotland. Please contact the school office if you did not receive the email and would like the details passed on.

Other Resources to Support Parents and Carers

Young Minds

Website: [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

Facebook: [\(8\) YoungMinds | Facebook](#)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/youngmindsuk>

Parent Club (on raising teens)

Website: [Raising a teenager | Parent Club](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentClubScotland/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parentclubscotland/>

Parenting Across Scotland

Website: [Got a teenager | Info for families | Parenting across Scotland](#)

Children First

Website: [Scotland's National Children's Charity | Children 1st](#)

Web link to phoneline info and option to webchat for parents: [Children 1st Parentline - Parenting Help, Advice & Support | Children 1st](#)

CFINE Food Bank Collection

Another great collection by staff and pupils was awaiting uplift by CFINE this morning. Staff and pupils filled 8 crates with non-perishable items and once again our donations were most gratefully received.

Revised Government Guidance for Schools

This came into schools on Thursday 17 March. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#). As I explained last week Head Teachers and Officers from Aberdeen City Council will be going through this, updating our risk assessments, and issuing these in time for 18 April when we return for the summer term. In the meantime, Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director has issued a letter to all families (sent by email) explaining these changes, detailing the routine protective measures that will remain

in place and explaining why the asymptomatic testing programme is coming to an end. This letter can also be accessed on the school website [here](#). Apart from an end to the routine asymptomatic testing programme we are expected to maintain the mitigations currently in place:

- Young people and staff should stay at home and self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid-19
- Good hand hygiene to be maintained
- Cleaning routines maintained
- Ventilation to be a priority
- Face coverings for staff and pupils in corridors and communal areas such as the canteen when not eating, unless exempt
- Physical distancing, as a reasonable precaution between staff and between staff and pupils – 1m is the recommendation
- Face coverings on school transport unless exempt

We appreciate all of you sending your child(ren) to school with appropriate face coverings. We will continue with separate entrances for each year group so that we can welcome young people to school each day, supply spare face coverings if required and ensure hands are sanitised. This will not apply to S4 – S6 pupils during exams: they should use the main entrance.

Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

DYW opportunities are regularly available on Google Classroom and the school website for young people to see. This week the following have been posted:

- Interested in Studying Medicine?
- Tullos Training Testing Information

Lots more DYW opportunities can be found [here](#).

Severe Weather

Hopefully we are now well into better weather, but we still have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have disruption due to bad weather.

All classwork and homework are posted on Google Classroom as assignments so parents/carers can see this using Google Guardian. If you need more help with the Google suite of resources, you will find the Google Support site under the *Parents* menu on the front page of the school website. You can also access it using this [link](#).

In severe weather conditions, emergency closure or other emergency circumstances, parents and pupils can receive up-to-date information via:

- **The School Information Line**
Tel: 0870 054 1999
PIN code 011020
- **Aberdeen City Council's School Closures website**
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/school-closures>

If we have an emergency during the school day and must send young people home early, we will contact parents/carers using Groupcall. Before we send young people home, we ask teachers to check that they have been able to contact home and will be able to get into the house. If any young person has not been able to do this, we ask them to wait in school until we or they have made contact.

We have separate arrangements for our more vulnerable learners who travel to school by taxi whereby one of our support team will telephone parent/carer directly.

Contact with School

When e-mailing please provide your child's name and registration class and a note of the nature of the concern so it can be forwarded appropriately.

Pastoral Care


Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty
S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank
S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

I know that times continue to be challenging for many of you and would encourage you to contact us here at school if you think we can help.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

EASTER REVISION CLASSES April 2022

DATE	DEPARTMENT	ROOM	SUBJECT	TIMES
4 th April	Art Department	G1A	Art & Design – folio support Nat5/Higher/Advanced Higher	08.45 – 15.55
	Art Department	G1B	Art & Design – folio support Nat5/Higher/Advanced Higher	08.45 – 15.55
5 th April	Art Department	G1A	Art & Design – folio support Nat5/Higher/Advanced Higher	08.45 – 15.55
	Art Department	G1B	Art & Design – folio support Nat5/Higher/Advanced Higher	08.45 – 15.55
	Modern Language	T2	Spanish National 5	12.00 – 14.00
	Modern Language	T3	French Nat5/Higher	12.00 – 14.00
6 th April	Modern Language	T2	Spanish National 5	12.00 – 14.00
	Modern Language	T3	French Nat5/Higher	12.00 – 14.00
	Modern Studies	G11	Modern Studies National 5	09.00 – 11.00
	Modern Studies	G11	Modern Studies Higher	11.00 – 13.00
13 th April	RMPS	F12	RMPS Higher	11.00 – 12.30
	Maths	F11	Maths Higher	10.00 – 14.30
	Maths	F15	Maths National 5	10.00 – 14.30
	Maths	F16	Maths National 5	10.00 – 14.30
14 th April	Maths	F15	Application of Maths National 5	10.00 – 14.30
	Maths	F6	Application of Maths Higher	10.00 – 14.30
	Maths	F16	Maths Advanced Higher	10.00 – 14.30
	RMPS	F12	RMPS National 5	11.00 – 12.30