



# 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**



1 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – End of Session 1 July 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Summer 2022
- School Day
- School Uniform
- Uniform Checks
- Parent Council
- ABZ Campus
- Water Safety in the Summer
- Summer in the City
- Torry Summer Club 2022
- Message from Police Scotland
- Support for Families
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Contact with School

### Calendar Dates

In-Service Day	Monday 22 August 2022
First Day of Term	Tuesday 23 August 2022
September Holiday weekend	Friday 23 September 2022 to Monday 26 September 2022
Last Day of Term	Friday 14 October 2022
First Day of Term	Monday 31 October 2022

### Summer 2022

It has been another challenging year for all our young people particularly those sitting exams for National Qualifications and for those who continue to face challenges following the Covid-19 Pandemic. which is still impacting on some families.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a chance to have some well-earned down time during the summer and gets to spend time doing the things they enjoy with family and friends.

I look forward to welcoming the staff and young people back to school in August feeling refreshed, re-invigorated and ready for the new session.

## School Day

From August 2022 we will be re-instating registration. This will allow us to carry out uniform checks and give out information directly to young people. Please note on Tuesday 23 August there will be an extended registration to allow new copies of updated timetables to be issued. The School Day will be as follows:

<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday to Friday</b>
08.34 - Warning bell - go to Registration	08.34 - Warning bell - go to Registration
08.39 - Registration begins	08.39 - Registration begins
08.45 - Go to Period 1 class	08.45 - Go to Period 1 class
09.45 - Go to Period 2 class	09.45 - Go to Period 2 class
10.45 - Morning interval	10.45 - Morning interval
11.05 - Go to Period 3 class	11.05 - Go to Period 3 class
12.05 - Go to Period 4 class	12.05 - Go to Period 4 class
13.05 - Lunch break	13.05 - Lunch break
13.50 - Warning bell - go to Period 5 class	13.50 - Warning bell - go to Period 5 class
13.55 - Period 5 begins	13.55 - Period 5 begins
14.55 - Go to Period 6 class	14.55 - School day ends
15.55 - School day ends	
<p>Lates will be recorded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arriving in class after 08.39 in the morning</li> <li>• arriving in class after 11.10 following morning interval</li> <li>• arriving in class after 13.55 following lunch</li> </ul>	

## School Uniform

I include a reminder about the school dress code for pupils at Bridge of Don Academy.

School uniform promotes a sense of identity, belonging and connectedness to school. It instils a sense of pride in both their appearance, themselves and attitude towards learning. Many of our young people will pursue a career where there is a dress code at work, and perhaps a standard uniform. Wearing the school uniform helps them to bridge the gap between school and the world of work. It also removes the competitiveness where young people feel they have to live up to a particular image of having to wear the latest trends which includes expensive items of clothing, especially at a time when families are under pressure to meet day-to-day household costs. By adopting the school uniform, parents and young people can source their own plain white shirts, trousers, skirts and shoes without fear of having to compete with others for the wearing of expensive 'leisure' items.

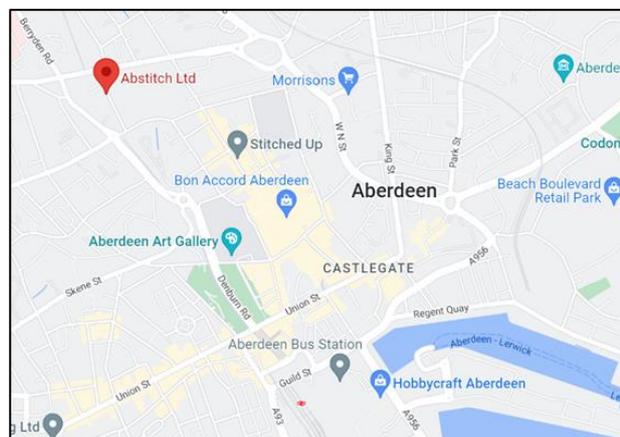
The only specialist items of uniform that need to be bought are those that identify the school: blue tie with school badge for S1 to S4, red tie for S5/S6, and blazer with the school badge on the breast pocket, which is a requirement for returning to senior school but is encouraged in years S1 to S4. All items are available from Abstitch whose details are below. Ties are £7.50 and blazers are between £33 and £39 depending on size and alterations required.

The Scottish Government have increased the school clothing grant to help families who need it most. We are happy to speak to you or your child if you are struggling to pay for any items of school clothing.

Senior pupils who have been allowed to return to S5 and S6 are reminded that by doing so they are required to comply the senior school dress code. Those who fail to do so, and are no longer legally required to be in education, i.e. over 16, will be issued with a leaver's form if they continue to dismiss the school's senior dress code.

Abstitch are open Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am until 4.00pm and plan to open on Saturdays later in the school holidays to help deal with the number of school pupils from across North-East school who will be buying uniform for the start of the new session on Tuesday 23 August.

**Abstitch (Aberdeen Embroidery Company Ltd)**  
35 Ann St  
Aberdeen  
AB25 3LH  
Tel: 01224 639152



## Uniform Checks

Registration Teachers will do a uniform check each morning, issue young people with a yellow uniform slip and record their lack of uniform on their register which will allow us to track this and let you know.

Each morning members of the senior leadership team will ask teachers to send young people from a particular year group or House group who are not wearing full uniform to the assembly room during registration. We will talk to them and by doing so see what support might be needed with uniform.

We will also use Group Call regularly to keep you informed about young people's uniform record.

We would also like to reinstate the incentive of a prize for the classes with the best uniform record. In the past this has been an outing or similar treat.

## Parent Council

The group is made up of parents/carers of children and young people attending school in almost all year groups who are interested in finding out more about how education works but also keen to support the school.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be in person in school on Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 19.00. If you would like to join the Parent Council please email the school office with your name and the name of your child(ren).

## ABZ Campus



**ABZ  
CAMPUS**

Learning to shape your future

In June 2023, we are launching a new range of courses across our secondary schools. Our new courses aim to boost skills and align with our fastest growing industries in the North-East of Scotland.

To find out more visit our employability website:  
[www.abzworks.co.uk](http://www.abzworks.co.uk)

This information was posted on the school website on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

More information about the courses and how young people in the senior phase (S4 – S6) can access them will be coming out for young people and families in time for course choice procedures next session.

## Water Safety in the Summer



# Water Safety 2022



### Water Safety Tips

- 1. Stop and Think** - Have a plan - check the weather forecast, tide times, wind direction and read local hazard signage.
- 2. Stay Together** - Keep a close eye on your friends and family, on the beach and in the water, don't allow them to swim alone.
- 3. Don't use inflatables** - They are meant for pool use only and are high risk on the beach.
- 4. If you fall into the water unexpectedly, FLOAT TO LIVE** - Fight your instinct to thrash around, lean back, extend your arms and legs, and float.
- 5. In an emergency dial 999**, look for beach signage, and ask for the Coastguard



Scottish Charity Number SC037736

Last weekend two young Kayakers had to be rescued 1 mile off the coast at Portsoy by the RNLI. If the fine weather continues, as we hope it will, many young people will be tempted to cool off in the water and there is a lot of it around Aberdeen: two rivers and the North Sea. We have been asked to share the water safety messages above with young people this week and I now share them with you so that you can also speak about them with your child(ren).

## Summer in the City

Please see the below link for further information on Sport Aberdeen's Summer In The City Programme which will be run in partnership with ACC this summer. Please can you pass along to parents? The spaces are ALL FREE and include family swimming, Ice skating & leadership opportunities for senior pupils.

<https://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk/activities/summer-in-the-city>

## Torry Summer Club 2022

When: Monday 4 July – Thursday 7 July  
Times: 09.30 – 14.30  
Where: Tullos Learning Centre  
Who: Children and young people from P4 to S2

See the poster at the end of this letter for more information and instructions on how to sign your child up for this. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any further information or support to do this.

## **Message from Police Scotland**

We have recently attended online meetings with Police Scotland where concern has been expressed about the increase in congregation of young people in Aberdeen City Centre, some of which has received negative attention.

Police Scotland will be increasing the level of patrols in the city centre over the next few weeks as part of their commitment to the communities of Aberdeen and keeping people safe. Officers will be engaging with young people and taking action where necessary to ensure the safety of all.

## **Support for Families**

We are all affected by the rise in the cost of living including fuel costs. I have posted on the school website a Finance Postcard detailing how families can access free help and support to ensure they are getting all the benefits and financial support they are entitled to. Use this [link](#) to access this or contact your child(ren)'s Head of House for support in accessing this.

## **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.

One opportunity that may be of interest is from the University of Aberdeen. ASME is providing free places for pupils from S5 or S6 to attend their conference at P&J Live in Aberdeen on the 7 July 2022. A total of 10 free places are up for grabs. These are open to any S5 or S6 pupil, no eligibility criteria apply.

The Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME) is a national organisation with a mission to advance scholarship in medical education. The ASME ENRICH Opportunities offers an exciting experience for a selected number of pupils in S5 or S6 in the summer of 2022 to attend the ASME national conference for free. This national initiative is designed to actively support young people interested in developing their interests and insight into the field of medical and healthcare education.

Pupils will receive the following funded package:

- Free one day ASME conference admission – Thursday 7 July 2022. Details can be found here: <https://www.asme.org.uk/events/asm2022>
- Free travel

- Opportunity to network with experienced healthcare professionals and educators
- Chance to enrich your interests and insights in the field of medicine and healthcare
- Gain practical experience that can help with your university application

Interested pupils should apply online at by 20 June [here](#)

## 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: Mrs Walburn  
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

### Year Heads

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher



**TORRY**

# Summer Club 2022

**Aberdeen-wide Week is BACK!**

**We are excited to once again be able to invite young musicians from across all of Aberdeen to join Big Noise for a week of friends, fun and music-making this summer!**

*If you're a string player in P4 - S2, at beginner to Grade 2 standard - this club is for YOU!*

**When:** Monday 4th - Thursday 7th July  
**Times:** 9.30am - 2.30pm  
**Location:** Tullos Learning Centre  
Girdleness Road, AB11 8FJ



Free breakfast roll, snacks and lunch provided

<https://forms.office.com/r/bfKvgvVj2m>

**Scan me to sign up!**



**To find out more**

Email us at

[torryadministrator@sistemascotland.org.uk](mailto:torryadministrator@sistemascotland.org.uk)

Telephone us on 01224 974707