



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



1 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 1 October 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- School Holidays
- Flu Vaccinations
- Theft of items from teaching areas
- SQA Exam Timetable
- Extra-Curricular Activities and clubs
- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day
- Advice for families following a case of Covid-19 in their child's year group
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

School Holidays

The last day of this term will be
The first day of the new term will be

Friday 8 October 2021
Monday 25 October 2021

Flu Vaccinations

These will take place in school From Monday 4 October – Wednesday 6 October.
More information can be found by using this link <https://www.nhsinform.scot/flu-vaccine/the-vaccines/the-child-flu-vaccine>

As you will know young people in secondary schools may be immunised after giving their own consent following discussion with the vaccinator even if the consent form has not been returned. Young people may also refuse the vaccination.

Theft of Items from Teaching Areas

I am disappointed to have to report that we have had several thefts of items from teaching areas in the school. Keys from glockenspiels in music; safety goggles from science and design & technology and keys and memory cards from desktops in computer suites. This means that, while equipment is awaiting repair, we cannot deliver the full curriculum to all young people some of whom will miss out on practical work. The costs of repairs and replacements will have to come from the school budget which we can ill-afford.

In addition, several items of stationery such as staplers, rulers, post-it notes and pens have been reported missing as well as face masks and hand sanitiser.

Our staff, who have been working hard to ensure young people have had a positive return to school since summer, are particularly disappointed that the behaviour of a few individuals is having an impact on their ability to deliver the curriculum to the majority who show every day their respect for each other, the school, and its environment.

We would appreciate any help you can give us in identifying the culprits so we can stop this and put appropriate sanctions in place. Any information we receive will be treated in confidence.

SQA Exam Timetable

The SQA has published the exam timetable for 2022. This gives the dates of each of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Exams. Please note that the school can change start times by up to 30 minutes to fit with our school day so the times published by the SQA may differ slightly from our own. You can use this [link](#) to access the timetable and the links to MySQA where young people can sign up to have their results sent to them by text or email.

We are planning a diet of practice examinations in January/February 2022 which will replicate as far as possible the experience of sitting formal exams for young people in S4 – S6 including study leave. For young people who will not be sitting any National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher exams there will be work to complete in school. Provisional dates are from 17 January until 4 February 2021. Actual dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Extra-Curricular Activities and clubs

The activities and clubs are detailed in my letter dated 23 September 2021 which can be seen on the school website using this [link](#). I have asked teachers to keep a register so that merits and house points for participating can be awarded. I am also pleased to say we have two additions:

The Manga Drawing Club

This club will meet every Monday at 1.20pm-1.50pm with Mr. English in Room G10. By participating you will get the chance to engage with another culture's art, to relax and be mindful, and, finally, to improve your drawing skills. Feel free to bring your own drawing materials but please do not worry if you don't have these, as there will be supplies available.

The Chess Club

This will start after the October holidays and will be organised by Miss Rafferty in the science department.

Procedure If A Young Person Becomes Ill During the School Day

All young people who become ill during the school day MUST report this to their class teacher, support staff or to the school office who will arrange for a first aider to see them who will then contact home if it is necessary for them to be taken home. We ask that if your child contacts you during the school day to tell you they are unwell that you do not immediately arrange with them to pick them up but ask them to report to the school office so this procedure can be followed. This ensures they are safe and looked after whilst feeling unwell, their absence is correctly recorded, and they are not reported as missing or truanting.

Sometimes, especially when it is warm, young people do become tired and if they have not drunk any water may be dehydrated. Having a re-usable bottle of water which can be filled at break or lunch from the water fountains will help prevent dehydration and support their learning.

If a young person is Covid-19 symptomatic during the school day, the same procedure as above applies. They will be supported by our first aid team and in addition isolated from others. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect them with the advice that they should have a PCR test. The latest NHS advice I have received is that any siblings should also go home and the family self-isolate until the results of the test are known. Thereafter the advice of public health should be followed about self-isolation for the family if the test result is positive.

Advice For Families Following A Case Of Covid-19 In Their Child's Year Group

All families will continue to receive a communication from school which is called a low-risk letter if a young person in their child/ren's year group tests positive for Covid-19. These letters have been updated in line with the advice contained in Jason Leitch's letter which went out to all families on Thursday 16 September. Advice continues to be as follows:

- If your child is identified by public health as a **high-risk close contact**, they will be asked to self-isolate until they have returned a negative PCR test. Please let us know that this is the case through the usual absence reporting procedure – phone or email school.
- **High-risk close contacts** are most likely to be household members or anybody they have stayed overnight with.
- All other contacts – such as those in their class or year group are considered **low-risk contacts** and should continue to be alert for symptoms but attend school.
- Before next attending school **low risk contacts** should take a lateral flow test wherever possible and continue to test twice a week in line with previous instructions. Advice on obtaining LFD kits from school is below.

If you are facing challenging financial or family circumstances or if you need help/support during self-isolation, please see my [HT update letter dated 10 September](#).

Lateral Flow Testing

Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases of Covid-19. LFD kits are available from school and following completion of the following can be issued to pupils though PSE or collected from the school office.

NHS Consent Form – <https://forms.gle/pEcG1dp1n7Pp1hpK8>

S1 – S3 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/Zh1Wdfa9qUwHm9YR8>

S4 – S6 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/4BssE34StXMDtJD87>

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:

- RGU Open Day – Face to Face
- RGU Insight Events – Virtual
- Interested in Accounting?
- Aspire – Careers Webinars
- Augean North Sea Services – Modern Apprenticeships

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link -

<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8252>

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

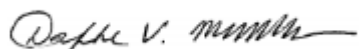
Braemar House	Miss Howard
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

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

I hope that you all continue to be well and, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher