



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



10 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 10 December 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Prelim Timetable
- Course Choice – Foundation Apprenticeships
- Christmas Card Competition
- Car Parking
- Covid-19 Vaccinations
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Severe Weather
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers
- Contact with School

Prelim Timetable

A draft copy of the Prelim Timetable was issued to Principal Teachers for review early this week and has now been published in the S4, S5 and S6 Google Classrooms for pupils to review and to support them in planning for these important Assessments.

The dates are Monday 17 January 2022 to Friday 28 January 2022 inclusive.

We have attempted to keep the exam diet to a two-week period to preserve as much learning and teaching time with senior classes as possible. This is a challenging exercise with 66 exams to schedule into ten school days, with six of these days finishing at 2.55pm and many pupils relying on school transport to take them home.

Several pupils will have two exams on the same day, but we have tried to ensure that there are no clashes where two of a pupil's exams are timetabled at the same time.

Anyone who has any questions regarding an exam should speak to their subject teacher who will refer them to their Year Head if necessary.

The SQA diet of examinations which is still planned can be accessed [here](#).

Course Choice – Foundation Apprenticeships

Is your son or daughter thinking about studying a Foundation Apprenticeship next year? Do you want to find out more? Skills Development Scotland and National Parents Forum for Scotland have arranged a session on Foundation Apprenticeships for parents and carers on Tuesday 14th December from 7pm-8pm.

This will give you the opportunity to find out about Foundation Apprenticeships including who they are for, how they work and their benefits. During this one-hour session they will talk through the value and equivalency of the qualification in terms of SCQF levels and UCAS points. They will also share pupil journeys and how Foundation Apprenticeships helped them progress onto a job such as a Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship, college, or university. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/npfs-sds-foundation-apprenticeships-a-session-for-parents-carers-tickets-217827286277>

Christmas Card Competition

I have posted a picture of the three prize winners in our Christmas Card Competition on the school website which can be viewed [here](#).

Car Parking

As you know from previous communications, we ask families not to use the school car park at the front of the school to drop off or collect young people at the beginning and end of the school day. This reduces congestion and the chance of accidents because the entry points to school for S4 and S5 pupils is located at this side of the school. The preferred drop-off and collection point for pupils is Braehead Way. This gives young people safe access to school grounds. However, we are aware that some families are still using the rear car park – beside the community/swimming pool entrance to the building. This can also lead to problems for pupils and the school buses. The area which must be kept clear for the buses is clearly marked to ensure that pupils can safely board the buses. As many young people who walk home also use the exits at this side of the school and then make their way across therefore cross the car park there is potential for an accident. It would be appreciated if families who are dropping off or collecting their child could plan to do so away from the school, for example on Braehead Way.

Anyone who is collecting a sick child during the school day can use the bays in the school car marked for visitors.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Any one over the age of 16 who has **not had a first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine** can do so by dropping in to one of the vaccination centres:



If you live in Aberdeen City use this [link](#) to find out where
If you live in Aberdeenshire, use this [link](#) to find out where

There is information about first and second doses of the Covid-19 vaccine for young people aged 12 – 17 years on the NHS Inform page linked [here](#).

CFINE Food Bank Collection

The next collection will be on **Monday 20 December**. We will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#).

| <i>Yes please</i> | <i>No thank you</i> |
|---|--|
| Tinned Food Cereals Pasta Condiments and spices Juices Toiletries Nappies | Fresh Food Frozen Items Refrigerated Items |



Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

- Admin block - Assembly Room
- Ground Floor - Home Economics classroom
- Ground Floor - G17 (Miss Strachan's room)
- First Floor - F12 (Miss Devlin's room)
- Top Floor - T3 (Mrs Lees' room)
- Staffroom

Severe Weather

We have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have periods of 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 Group call messages. 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.

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 Student Online Events
- Apprenticeship Opportunities
- Learn more about Foundation Apprenticeships
- Painter & Decorator Apprenticeship
- University of Glasgow: Graduate Apprenticeships

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

Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

- 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

Information on all the above is now located on the school website [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: 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

Daphne V. Munn

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher