



# 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**



10 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 10 February 2023

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- School Canteen: Litter
- S2 Parents' Evening
- S3 Reports and Parents' Evening 22 February 2023
- Course Choice for Session 2023/24
- Summer Festival 2023
- Parent Council and 100 Club
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

### Calendar Dates

Local Holiday:

Monday 13 February 2023

In-Service Days:

Tuesday 14 February 2023 &

Wednesday 15 February 2023

S3 Parents' Evening (In Person):<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday 22 February 2023

Last Day of Term:

Friday 31 March 2023

### Mid-Term Holiday

I hope that our young people enjoy the short break from school and return refreshed on Thursday 16 February.

### School Canteen: Litter

Our canteen is a busy place at morning break and lunch time. We are pleased that so many young people use this facility to eat their packed lunch or food purchased in the canteen. There is always at least one member of the senior leadership team on duty to support young people and ensure good order and discipline.

---

<sup>1</sup> Further details of how to sign up will be coming out next week.

However, we have become increasingly concerned about the amount of litter left behind after morning break and lunch time and by the reluctance of some young people to comply with requests to use the bins or to put litter from the tables they are sitting at in the bin. The canteen staff do clean tables and sweep the floors but should not have to deal with excessive litter which is clearly the result of some young people using the floor instead of the bin or leaving litter on the table when they leave. Almost all young people do respond positively if we present them with a bin, and ask them to sweep the table litter into it. However, it is disappointing that few will respond “it’s not mine” and refuse to help until pressed.

It would be very helpful if you could discuss this at home with your young person and if they have any suggestions as to how we could improve the situation we would love to hear them. I will be discussing this at Assemblies next week and will invite young people to contribute their ideas through Google Classroom. Respect – one of our key values is not just about respecting people but also the school environment.

## **S2 Parents’ Evening**

It was a pleasure to see so many of our parents and carers back in the school building on Wednesday of this week. I know that you appreciated the in-person meetings with teachers to find out more about the progress of your young people. As always if you have further concerns to discuss please let us know by contacting your child’s Head of House as detailed at the end of this letter.

## **S3 Reports and Parents’ Evening 22 February 2023**

S3 Reports were issued week beginning 30 January 2023. You should have received these by post. If you have not, please contact the school office by telephone or email. In the reports teachers shared information about your child(ren)’s progress, effort, behaviour and homework and their recommendation for next steps with regard to courses for S4.

The next step for parents and carers is the **in-person Parents’ Evening on Wednesday 22 February from 17.00 – 19.30**. More information will follow next week when the booking system is opened. You will have the chance to ask for clarification of any points made in the reports and to find out what young people themselves can do to improve their performance, attitude, effort, or homework.

Heads of House will be at Parents’ Evening and available for short 5-minute drop-in discussions about course choice or concerns you have arising from the report or discussions with teachers. Please note that if you anticipate requiring longer this would be the chance to organise a further appointment at a later date. In this way we can hopefully give as many parents and carers as possible an opportunity to speak with Heads of House.

Members of the senior leadership team will also be in attendance and will be happy to answer any questions or queries – again if you anticipate this taking longer an appointment can be made.

## **Course Choice for Session 2023/24**

All young people in S2 to S5 have been working through the course choice process in Personal and Social Education (PSE) with their Head of House. They have been provided with information about how the process works, the courses available to them and career pathway planning supports which will help them make the best choices for moving into their new year group.

A new support for young people and families is our [Google Site](#) which is now live. This is a replacement for our online course choice booklet. It contains all the same information about courses and pathways for young people from subject departments but in a more accessible format. There is also an 'Additional Information' section which provides key information to our learners about Pathways, Subject choice and DYW. Feel free to have a look around the site to familiarise yourself with the information that is being shared with pupils.

### **S2 moving into S3**

The deadline for the return of forms was Friday 10 February.

### **S3 moving into S4**

All young people have studied 9 subjects in S3. In addition, they have also continued with core PE and PSE. Learning has been more focused in S3 and allowed them to develop the in-depth knowledge and skills they need for their 9 subjects. The expectation is that almost all young people will make their choices for S4 from the pool of subjects studied in S3.

In S4 all pupils will continue with English and Maths and in addition choose 4 subjects from their S3 subjects. They will be guided through the process in PSE by their Guidance teacher. In addition, you will also receive an S3 Report which will support and inform discussions at home about subject choices.

Further information will be given to pupils and parents throughout the process for all year groups, however, pupils should contact their Guidance teacher should they have any questions.

### **S4/5 moving into S5/6**

All S4 and S5 pupil have undertaken estimate exams for the last two weeks and will start the course choice procedures when they return to school on Monday 30 January.

## **Deadlines for returning course choice forms**

S2 into S3:               **Friday 10 February**  
S3 into S4:               **Friday 3 March**  
S4/5 into S5/6:         **Friday 3 March**

Information for all year groups will continually be updated and shared in Classroom and our [Google Site](#).

## **Summer Festival 2023**

After being on hold for two years I am pleased to announce the return of this popular whole school event in June 2023. This is the final event in the inter-house programme where healthy competition and team spirit between the four houses - Braemar, Crathes, Drum and Fyvie – is encouraged. At stake is the inter-house trophy, sponsored by [The Barber's Pole](#).

Pupils are encouraged to compete in the Athletics finals and inter-house sports to gain house points. In addition, we also reward participation with house points by organising a wide range of activities and events which will keep young people active and moving for the duration of the event. Final timings are to be confirmed but the Summer Festival is an (almost) all-day event and the curriculum is suspended to allow everyone to participate.

We ensure all the externally provided activities are free of charge to the pupils to make the day accessible for all. However, this has only been made possible through the generous support of local businesses through monetary donations, vouchers and/or raffle prizes. This sponsorship means we can provide the young people with exciting activities on the day and allows us to make the event bigger and better each year.

We also organise local food vendors to provide food stalls so young people can be outside but on school grounds for the duration of the event instead of going to the local shops or the canteen. We try to ensure these are reasonably priced but also healthy for our young people. Arrangements will be made to ensure that no family faces financial hardship as a result of this change to normal school meals provision.

If you know of, or work for a company or a business who might be interested in sponsoring this event, please contact the school office. All sponsors will be given recognition of their support in the programme of events and on social media.

There will be more information coming from the staff group who are working hard on the complex arrangements for this special event over the next few months.

## **Parent Council and 100 Club**

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.

If you would like to join the Parent Council, please email the school office with your name and the name(s) of your child(ren) to join online you will also need to give us an email address to send the invitation to the online meeting.

The meetings for the session are scheduled from 19.00 – 20.00 as follows:

### **Future Meetings**

Tuesday 28 March 2023: Virtual meeting  
Tuesday 25 April 2023: Virtual meeting  
Tuesday 30 May 2023: AGM in person

The only fund raising the Parent Council does is their **100 Club**. You can download the form to join this from the school [website here](#) or use the bank details it contains to set up a direct debit using online banking.

### **Severe Weather**

We will use a variety of communication methods if severe weather impacts on school or school transport provision. On mornings of severe weather, I check that school transport is running directly with Central Coaches and Watermills and update the emergency information line as close to 07:00 as possible. If school transport is not running, this is a decision taken by the providers, not the school staff. If the school is open to all who can safely travel those who normally travel by school bus are also welcome if you are able to transport them to and from school or allow them to use public transport.

The parent School Closure details are: 0870 054 1999, School ID 011020

During the school day we will use Groupcall to inform parents/carers if it is necessary to close the school for any reason including severe weather. This will follow checking of forecasts, consultation with the authority and school transport providers. The timing will depend on how quickly bus companies can organise transport to return to school. Having decided on a time we will inform you so you can make any necessary arrangements. **We respectfully ask that you do not immediately contact your child(ren) because they may not yet know, and this has the potential to cause panic.**

Young people will be told in classes just prior to the time of the closure in time for school transport. They will be able to use their mobile devices to contact home to check they can safely be released. We take what they tell us on trust and the teacher completes a form with this information and young people depart school on foot or on school transport. We use the forms completed by teachers to follow any queries.

In the case of young people with complex additional support needs an individual plan is in place.

Please note that in the event of a young person telling us they cannot make personal contact with home we will keep them in school and try to make contact on their behalf. They will not be released until this contact is made so we know they can arrive home safely.

## 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.

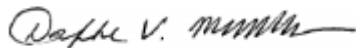
### Pastoral Care

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

## Reporting and Parents' Evening Calendar 2022 – 23 – Parent and Carer Information

Year Group	Interim Report – no teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Full Report – includes teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Parents' Evening Purpose and Dates
<b>S1</b>	Settling in Interim Report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework in each subject area.</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 11 November 2022</b></li> </ul>	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Progress and next steps comments</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 2 June 2023</b></li> </ul>	Meet your child's Teachers and follow up on Interim Report if you have questions about the effort, behaviour, and homework.  Teachers may also use this appointment to inform you about courses although this is on the school website. <b>30 November 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
<b>S2</b>	Interim Report for each subject including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Teacher</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 22 December 2022</b></li> </ul>	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• Progress and next steps comments</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 19 May 2023</b></li> </ul>	Progress including Curriculum for Excellence level achieved Next steps to meet full potential and discussion of potential pathways in the subject beyond choices already made for S3.  <b>8 February 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
<b>S3</b>	Interim Report for each subject including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework – please be honest with your assessment of this.</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 14 October 2022</b></li> </ul>	Final Report Progress and recommendations for Senior Phase (S4) for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Progress and next steps</li> <li>• Recommendation</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 26 January 2023</b></li> </ul>	Follow-up to the final Report Issued on 28 January to discuss progress to date including effort, behaviour, and homework and to offer advice on course choice for Senior Phase – S4.  <b>22 February 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
<b>S4- S6</b>	Interim Report 1 for each National Course <sup>2</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Grade (can be amended)</li> <li>• Working Grade.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 6 October 2022</b></li> </ul> Interim Report 2 for each National Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate Grade</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 24 April 2023</b></li> </ul>	Full Report for each National Course (following assessment period including prelim exams): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of assessments</li> <li>• Next steps to meet target grade</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Recommendation – although this is part of the separate course choice procedures.</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 27 February 2023</b></li> </ul>	To discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress to date with national courses and next steps to meet target grade.</li> <li>• Discussion of reasons for working grade and what needs to be done to prepare for assessment(s) in January.</li> </ul> Parents/carers choose <b>one</b> of the following options <b>9 November 2022 Online</b> <b>17 November 2022 Online</b>

<sup>2</sup> Please note that reports for courses undertaken at college and other schools may come at different times.