



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



10 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 10 March 2023

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- School Reports S4 – S6
- Activities Week 29 May 2023 – 2 June 2023
- S1 to S3: Local Activities
- Annual Awards ceremony Wednesday 14 June 2023
- Music Showcase Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 19.00
- Parent Council and 100 Club
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Term Three

Last Day of Term:

Friday 31 March 2023

Term Four

First day of term

Monday 17 April 2023

SQA Exams commence

Monday 24 April 2023

Study Leave for all S4, S5 and S6

Monday 24 April 2023

May Day Holiday

Monday 1 May 2023

Holiday to mark Coronation

Monday 8 May 2023

Activities Week for all S1, S2 and S3

Monday 29 May 2023 to

Friday 2 June 2023

SQA Exams end

Wednesday 31 May 2023

New Timetable commences for all

Monday 5 June 2023

Awards Ceremony

Wednesday 14 June 2023

Summer Festival

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Last Day of Term

Friday 7 July 2023

School Reports S4 – S6

These were issued by post to S4 families and via young people themselves in S5 and S6 on Wednesday 8 May. If you have not received your young person's report, please let us know.

NATIONAL E-LEARNING OFFER: E-SGOIL EASTER STUDY SUPPORT

The e-Sgoil Senior Phase Easter Study Support programme for 2023 is a key element of Scotland's National e-Learning Offer (NeLO).

Easter Study Support will run from 3 to 14 April 2023. The programme comprises live, interactive webinars delivered by experienced, GTCS registered teachers from across Scotland. A total of 80 webinar groups are on offer this year, covering 30 subjects. Each group will meet for three separate webinar sessions. Last year, there were over 15000 webinar registrations and learners' evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. The service is free to all learners.

Information on [how to register](#) as well as [support for learners](#) in local authorities like us who do not routinely use Glow.

Please note if young people need their Glow credentials they must speak to Mr Jamieson or email him gw08jamiesonmike@ab-ed.org

The following are some of the publicity materials which young people and families may find useful.

- [Easter Study Support Thinglink Overview](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [PPT slide](#)
- [Short promotional video](#)
- [Easter Study Support timetable \(Week 1\)](#)
- [Easter Study Support timetable \(Week 2\)](#)

Activities Week 29 May 2023 – 2 June 2023 S1 to S3: Local Activities

At Assemblies on Friday 10 March, we shared with young people the arrangements for Local Activities week: for all those who are **not going on residential trips**. We did this by going through the Google sites which you can access by using the links below.

S1

<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/s1localactivitiesinformation/home>

S2 and S3

<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/s23localactivitiesweekchoices/home>

Key points for parents and carers:

- This is not a holiday but a chance for young people to try new experiences, grow their confidence and perhaps develop new skills.
- It may push some young people out of their comfort zone but that should be viewed as a positive.
- Support will be available for the young people with Additional Support Needs who will need it. This is most likely to be in the form of additional staff to support the activity.
- S1 follow the same activities in a rota and there is a flat charge for each young person.
- S2 and S3 can make choices from a range of offers – we cannot guarantee first choices for everyone.
- Parents and carers of S2 and S3 pupils will receive an individual itinerary/bill for their choices.
- Young people's behaviour leading up to and during activities week must be in line with school rules and values.
- No-one should be excluded because of cost. We have a fund which can be used to pay for trips – please let us know if you require support to fund your child's choices.

Key Dates

Deadline for choices by S2 and S3

Friday 17 March 2023

Deadline for all payments

Friday 12 May 2023

Form for S2 and S3

The Google form is embedded in the Google Site above. Once young people have discussed their choices with you this is easy to complete – young people only need to make first second and third choices for:

- Monday and Tuesday
- Wednesday and Thursday
- Friday

Annual Awards ceremony Wednesday 14 June 2023

We are delighted that we are able to go ahead with this event to reward young people for their effort and application in subjects as well as their academic progress.

Subject prize (S4-S6) this is awarded to the pupil with the highest prelim mark.

Merit Award – This can be awarded to pupils who have achieved a very high academic standard.

Commendation Award – pupils can achieve this who have shown a positive attitude, endeavour and who always try to achieve their best.

Teachers in each subject are asked to put forward the names of four pupils. In addition, there are a number of other awards and prizes in subjects such as PE and science and a number of sponsored awards for academic excellence. We also have a caring award, the prefect of the year award and the house trophy. We do not have lots of speeches but we do say farewell to our S6 leavers, are entertained by the school choir and have a preview of the school show. Teachers have until the end of this term to get their nominations in.

This year we will be at The King's Church in the Boyd Orr Hall and so will be able to accommodate two members of each award winner's family. Award winners will be notified by letter.

Music Showcase Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 19.00

This will take place in the school Assembly Room. Tickets £5 and £3 (concessions) are available from Mrs Forbes in the Music Department. You can contact her through your child(ren) or via the school email address bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Please come along and support our pupils: you will be entertained by talented pupils presenting the pieces they have been preparing for their national qualifications as well as some superb ensemble pieces and our wonderful school choir.

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:	In person
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

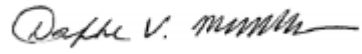
Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Mrs Walburn

Year Heads

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

Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam".

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
S1	Settling in Interim Report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effort, Behaviour and Homework in each subject area. • Issue Date 11 November 2022 	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework. • Progress and next steps comments • Issue Date 2 June 2023 	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. 30 November 2023 Face to Face in person
S2	Interim Report for each subject including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Teacher • Issue date 22 December 2022 	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework • Progress and next steps comments • Issue Date 19 May 2023 	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. 8 February 2023 Face to Face in person
S3	Interim Report for each subject including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework – please be honest with your assessment of this. • Issue Date 14 October 2022 	Final Report Progress and recommendations for Senior Phase (S4) for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework. • Progress and next steps • Recommendation • Issue Date 26 January 2023 	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. 22 February 2023 Face to Face in person
S4- S6	Interim Report 1 for each National Course ¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Grade (can be amended) • Working Grade. • Effort, Behaviour and Homework • Issue date 6 October 2022 Interim Report 2 for each National Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate Grade • Effort, Behaviour and Homework • Issue date 24 April 2023 	Full Report for each National Course (following assessment period including prelim exams): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of assessments • Next steps to meet target grade • Effort, Behaviour and Homework. • Recommendation – although this is part of the separate course choice procedures. • Issue date 27 February 2023 	To discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress to date with national courses and next steps to meet target grade. • Discussion of reasons for working grade and what needs to be done to prepare for assessment(s) in January. Parents/carers choose one of the following options 9 November 2022 Online 17 November 2022 Online

¹ Please note that reports for courses undertaken at college and other schools may come at different times.