



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

E-mail: bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



11 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 11 February 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Covid-19 Mitigations
- S3 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 23 February 2022
- Work for young people self-isolating
- S4 – S6 SQA Exams: Timetable and Study Leave
- Course Choice Procedures
- School Reports
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Session 21/22

Monday 14 February:	Half Term Holiday
Tuesday 15 February:	In-Service Day
Wednesday 16 February:	In-Service Day
Last Day of Term	Friday 1 April 2022

First Day of Summer Term:	Monday 18 April 2022
First Day of Study Leave	Tuesday 26 April 2022
First SQA Exams for our pupils	Wednesday 27 April 2022

May Day Holiday:	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day:	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee:	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

Covid-19 Mitigations

You will have seen announcements from the Scottish Government that face coverings no longer need to be worn in classrooms **from 28 February 2022**, but are still required when moving around the school and in communal areas such as corridors and in the school canteen when not eating or drinking.

Young people and staff can still wear face covering in classrooms if they wish to do so.

S3 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 23 February 2022

Parents' Evenings for session 2021/2022 will be held online using the same software which has been used by parents and staff in previous years when making appointments. A video calling module is now built into the software which allows meetings to take place within the browser.

For parents who are unfamiliar with the system, a letter will be issued a week before the Parents' Evening. A link will be given to the Parents' Evening Booking System web page which will ask for information to be entered to identify them as the parent/carer of their child. Once logged in, they will be able to make appointments with their child's teachers depending on availability.

On the evening itself, once logged in, parents will see a list of their appointments and a link to click which will automatically start a video call with each of their child's teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin a few seconds later.

Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.30pm, with a 15-minute comfort break at 6.00pm.

More information will be provided to parents when we open the system for bookings next week.

Work for young people self-isolating

I think we have all welcomed the reduction in time that anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 is required to self-isolate. However, for many young people this can still be up to a week of in school learning missed. Work is being provided through Google Classroom for young people who are well enough to work. Please let us know if they have difficulty accessing this because they do not have a suitable device or if there are other issues relating to schoolwork whilst self-isolating.

In this letter under severe weather there is a link to the Google support site for parents/carers.

S4 – S6 SQA Exams: Timetable and Study Leave

The SQA Exam Timetable can be accessed [here](#). On this page there is also a link for young people to create their own individual timetable.

Please note that schools can alter the start times of exams by up to 30 minutes to allow for local circumstances so young people should not use the times of the exams as published on the SQA website. All young people will be issued with a personalised exam timetable detailing the times (for this school) as well as the room number and seat number for each of the exams they are sitting at an assembly led by Mr Jamieson. They will be given time to check this which will also include the name to go on their certificate and the address to which their certificate will be sent. Any errors must be brought to our attention so they can be changed.

Young people can also sign up to have their results sent by text message or by email. Young people must sign up to MySQA for this service and can do that [here](#).

Study leave is for all S4 – S6 young people and will begin on Tuesday 26 April 2022. Therefore, their last day in school will be Monday 25 April.

Course Choice Procedures

Course Choice procedures are well under way for the current S2 to S5 Pupils. Information was issued in previous Head Teacher update letters issued Friday 21 and 28 January and can be read on the school website [here](#).

The Course Choice booklet and the presentations which were made to all young people in Personal and Social Education (PSE) lessons are available on the school website using this [link](#).

All additional resources to support young people in making the appropriate choices are available on Google Classroom and by using the following links below.

[S2 into S3 Course Choice](#)

[S3 into S4 Course Choice](#)

[S4/5 into S5/6 Course Choice](#)

Mrs Cruickshank has also added the NESCOL Course Choice booklet to these posts which contains the courses available for pupils in S4 – S6 still attending school.

Deadlines for returning course choice forms:

S2 into S3: Thursday 10 February

S3 into S4: Friday 25 February

S4/5 into S5/6: Friday 25 February

School Reports

The school's calendar for reporting and parents' evenings can be downloaded from the school website [here](#).

CFINE Food Bank Collection

The collection was uplifted today, Friday 11 February. The donated items which can be seen here ready for uplift by CFine included many purchased from cash donations made by young people

Thank You to everyone who donated. Each donation in cash or kind will make a difference.



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:

- Technip Apprenticeships
- Engineering the Future for Girls
- Grant Thornton – Accountancy
- Medical Research and STEM Subjects
- University of Glasgow

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

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 Groupcall. 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.

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

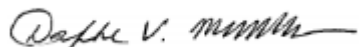
Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

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

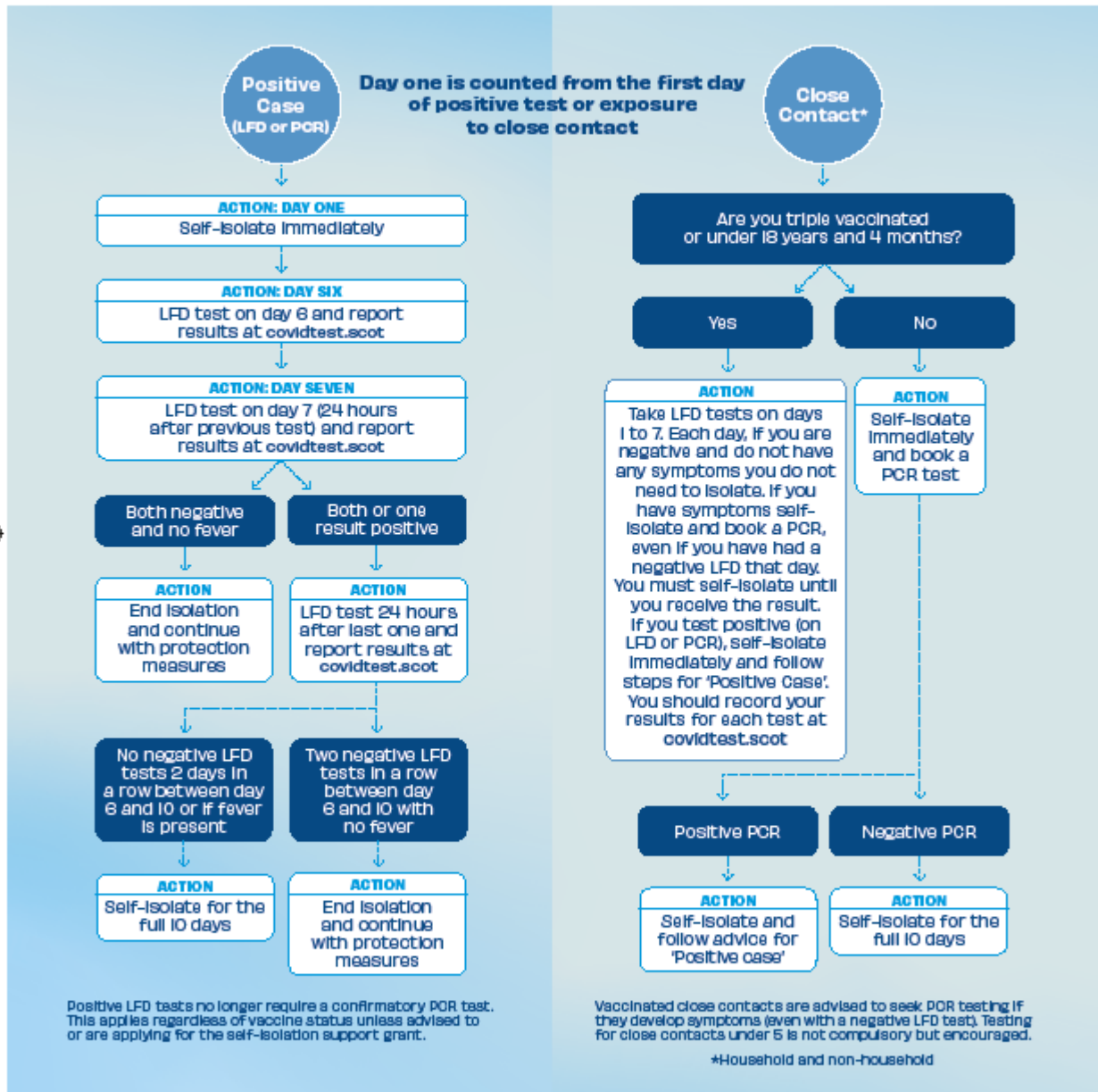


Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher



Living safely this winter

Changes to Self-Isolation and Testing



For more details visit [NHSinform.scot/isolation](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/articles/2022/01/24/covid-19-self-isolation/)

Being fully vaccinated reduces your risk of serious ill-health or hospitalisation from COVID-19 and time in self-isolation if you are a close contact. If you are not fully vaccinated visit [NHSinform.scot](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/articles/2022/01/24/covid-19-self-isolation/) or call 0800 030 8013 for details on how to get your first or next dose.

