



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



11 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 11 June 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- SQA Results: Communication from school
- College Course Results
- School Buses
- School Uniform
- Acrylic Nails in Technologies & Health and Wellbeing Faculties
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

SQA Results: Communication

Today, Friday 11 June, a letter has been posted home to all young people explaining how we will communicate with them the provisional results of the National Qualification courses they have completed and the process we have been through to check and double check that these are correct. A copy will also be posted in each of the appropriate year group Google Classrooms.

I have also arranged for a copy of this letter to be emailed to all parents/carers for your information.

College Course Results

North East Scotland College (NESCol) Student Records will arrange for students to be informed by e-mail of their provisional results, providing them with written confirmation from 18 June. Pupils should access their NESCol email account to check results from 18 June.

Pupils will have until 25 June to raise any concerns regarding their provisional grade with their lecturer. NESCol Student Records will then submit the results to SQA by the 25 June. Any concerns regarding provisional grades raised after 25 June, should be through the formal SQA Appeals Process.

School Buses

It has been brought to my attention that on occasions young people who are not entitled to use school transport are doing so at the end of the school day because they are going home with and socialising with friends who are entitled to school transport to Balmedie, Potterton, Belhelvie etc. This is not permitted – school transport is provided by Aberdeenshire Council for the use of young people who are entitled to such school transport only. In addition, young people will not be covered

by Aberdeenshire or school transport provider insurance. Drivers should be checking bus passes.

The transport providers have reported that there have been some issues with food on school transport home at the end of the school day. They have had to clean coaches on at least two occasions in the last week because food (prepared in HE lessons by young people) has been thrown about causing considerable mess. The bus company have informed us that if there are issues of this kind in future on the way home that they will turn the buses round, return to school and we have agreed we will help them identify the culprits.

School Uniform

This [link](#) will take you to the page of the school website which has been updated and contains the details of our supplier of school ties: Abstich.

The Scottish Government are keen to eradicate the financial challenges for some families created by uniform policies which mean you have to buy particular items of clothing from particular outlets. We have reduced this requirement to the absolute minimum – a school tie – and all other items such as shirts, trousers, skirts and jumpers can be purchased from any retail outlet.

The following Frequently Asked Questions further explain our thinking behind the policy.

Why can't I wear leggings?

There are two main reasons for this:

- Leggings are leisure wear and acceptable for PE but not uniform.
- Some leggings are so thin that underwear can be seen through them: this is not acceptable in a school environment.

Why can't I wear plain black jeans?

- Jeans and denim are part of leisure wear. They are recognisable because of the studs and pocket arrangements.

Why can't I wear trainers with flashes or white/coloured bits?

- Our preference would be for black "proper" school shoes. But we accept that these can be expensive and not always the most comfortable thing for young people. Therefore, we will accept "all black" trainer type shoes as an alternative. Plain black boots are also acceptable.

Why can't I wear a round necked jumper or hoodie?

- These are also part of leisure wear and so not acceptable
- They make it difficult to see the school tie which is how we can quickly identify pupils as ours and therefore identify strangers.

We understand that young people express themselves through their clothes and their appearance is important to them as they grow and mature. We are not looking to squash that creativity or expression of self. However, we also need to ensure that young people come to school ready for work and not leisure and

encourage good habits about how they present themselves which will be important when they move on to the world of work. There are also health and safety considerations in school – clothing should be safe for practical work and not a potential cause of embarrassment to others.

Young people may continue to wear PE kit on the days they have PE: however, jeans are never suitable for PE and as detailed in our policy not part of school uniform. Hats and hoods must be removed whilst in the school building.

Blazers are part of the uniform for senior school and an expectation. These are also available from Abstitch and can be adjusted by them to fit. Pupils in year S1 to S4 may also wear a blazer if they choose.

Thank you for supporting the school's uniform policy. If you face particular challenges with this, please let us know and we will do what we can to support you and your child(ren).

Clothing grants and support with uniform are available: please speak to your child(ren)s' Head of House.

Acrylic Nails in School

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of pupils who are attending school wearing acrylic nail extensions. These are inappropriate for school because they are a Health and Safety issue for practical subjects. Due to the length and shape of their nails some students are unable to fully access the curriculum: they make using the tools and machinery in Design and Technology dangerous and obstruct their use of IT equipment like keyboards. There are also concerns around health and safety of these in subjects like PE and HE. The wearing of nail extensions and nail polish is not allowed in many industries including manufacturing, food preparation and personal care/nursing.

Therefore, after the summer holidays, students will no longer be allowed to wear acrylic nails or nail extensions in their Technologies, HE or PE classes. We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring students have these removed prior to returning to school after the summer break.

Pupils should ensure their nails are a sensible length that will not affect their participation in the curriculum. Any pupils who arrive to class with these nails will not be able to take part in practical elements of the course and will be given theory work to complete instead.

Lateral Flow Testing

Please see below for a reminder of the procedure for this. We would encourage as many pupils as possible to take up and continue with testing to keep themselves and others safe. Individuals test regularly at home, twice a week (we would recommend Wednesday and Sunday, ideally in the morning or before school).

Guidance on conducting self-testing will can be found in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which accompanies the test kits.

There is a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

Once the test has been conducted individuals must log the test result – whether positive, negative or void – online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Please contact school if you have a positive test. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

NB: It is important to note that this regular testing is only for individuals without symptoms. Those with symptoms must continue to follow the usual guidance. They must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre or via a home test kit at the earliest opportunity. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

NB: A negative test result must not be taken as leave to relax or ignore physical distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission – testing is an additional intervention that contributes to reducing risk.

Lateral Flow Test kits are available from the school during PSE Classes. To request kits please click on the following link

S1-S3 <https://forms.gle/4DWx7c19rmoFfz72A>

S4-S6 <https://forms.gle/a4Bi73X3GCdvAM1m8>

NHS Test & Protect Consent form must also be completed before lateral flow test kits can be handed out

<https://forms.gle/Zf2P13DBfME3D2Rf7>

Pathway Planning

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms and on the school website.

- North of Scotland Universities Collaborative Project
- University of Aberdeen and Other Events
- Modern Apprenticeship in Administration
- Job Opportunities – AFC
- Bristow Cadet Programme
- Doctors at Work Programme

Young people also have access to My World of Work to find out more information about careers and pathways available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link -
<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8054>

In addition to the weekly opportunities, DYW also plan a yearly event which provides information for parents, carers, teachers, pupils & businesses.

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. For the final two weeks of term and until the appointment of a new Head of Braemar House is completed Mrs Napier, Mrs Marshall and Miss Smith will continue to support the young people they have been responsible for this year.

Pastoral Care

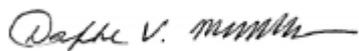
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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