



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



11 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update –Thursday 11 March 2021

I write to update you following the First Minister's confirmation today that we can go ahead with our plans to further re-open school.

As I explained last week our phase 2 plan runs from 15 March to 26 March: the last two weeks of term. The timing of the Easter holidays in Aberdeen means that we will return, subject to confirmation in the holidays, to full time learning for all from 12 April 2021: one week earlier than many other authorities in Scotland.

Phase 2 Plan

- ***All staff and pupils in the school building must maintain 2m physical distance from one another at all times.***

This means we cannot have all pupils in school full time for the last two weeks of term. Therefore, we have prioritised the following.

- ***Maintenance of:***

the provision for all the children of key workers and our vulnerable learners who are in school full time already.

The provision for each of the subjects who are bringing in learners from S4- 6 to complete essential practical work to support certification: so young people can get their qualifications.

The provision of online learning for all young people, including essential work and Google Meets for our Senior Phase (S4-6) young people undertaking National Qualifications.

- ***Extension of our offer to Senior Phase (S4 – S6) Learners for the following reasons:***

A young person with additional support needs requires time in school for targeted support to complete work for their National Courses. We will use our tracking of pupil engagement to identify these young people.

Teachers need to work in person with identified groups of learners in S4 – S6 to support certification: so young people are supported to get their qualifications.

- **Providing a two-hour wellbeing session in school each week until the end of term for all other Senior Phase (S4-6) learners and those in S1-S3 for the following:**

An opportunity for young people to reconnect with staff and friends, for young people to make sense of current circumstances and prepare for in school learning next term.

Due to the physical size of our rooms, register classes have had to be subdivided into as many as four smaller groups of between 7 and 10. Pupils will not necessarily be in the same subgroup as best friends, but will be in with others from their register class.

These sessions will also offer an opportunity for staff to identify any further young people who may need some additional support prior to the end of term.

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| Children of key workers and vulnerable learners | Continue to attend school as arranged |
| S4 – S6 Pupils who are attending school to work on SQA practical activities. | Continue to attend school, as arranged , and detailed in Google classroom for Art & Design, Drama, Music, Practical Woodwork, Practical Cookery and Graphic Communication. |
| S4 – S6 pupils on NESCOL Courses | Continue to access online learning |
| All S6 Pupils | Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form. |
| All S6 Pupils (except those already in school for practical courses) | Attend school on Friday 19 March and Friday 26 March from 08.45 am – 10.45 am for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of arrangements for assessment next term to support SQA Certification. • Support with study/ wellbeing |
| All S5 Pupils | Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form. |

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| <p>All S5 Pupils (except those already in school for practical courses)</p> | <p>Attend school on Friday 19 March and Friday 26 March from 08.45 am – 10.45 am for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of arrangements for assessment next term to support SQA Certification. • Support with study/ wellbeing • Timetable arrangements for 2021-22 |
| <p>All S4 Pupils</p> <p>All S4 Pupils (Except those already in school for practical courses)</p> | <p>Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend school on Thursday 18 March and Thursday 25 March from 08.45 to 10.45 for: • Outline of arrangements for assessment next term to support SQA Certification. • Support with study/ wellbeing • Timetable arrangements for 2021-22 |
| <p>All S3 Pupils</p> | <p>Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form.</p> <p>Attend School on Wednesday 17 March and Wednesday 24 March from 08.45 to 10.45 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Activities • Presentation on return to School including Covid Mitigations. • Timetable arrangements for 2021-22 |
| <p>All S2 Pupils</p> | <p>Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form.</p> <p>Attend School on Tuesday 16 March and Tuesday 23 March from 13.55 – 15.55 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Activities |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on return to School including Covid Mitigations. • Timetable arrangements for 2021-22 |
| All S1 Pupils | <p>Continue to follow Online Learning Programme and submit daily attendance form.</p> <p>Attend School on Monday 15 March and Monday 22 March from 13.55 – 15.55 Tuesday for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Activities • Presentation on return to School including Covid Mitigations. |

Practical Matters

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform will not be practical for the activities we are planning. Therefore, comfortable clothes and shoes including a jacket for being outside will be required. As usual no over revealing clothes or football colours should be worn.

School Transport

We are waiting for final confirmation that school transport will be able to support these arrangements. Group call messages will be sent to confirm.

Entrances

Young people should use the usual entrances designated for their year group or continue using the entrances they have been using for practical classes. They must maintain 2m distance whilst waiting and must not arrive too far in advance of the start time. If you are dropping off your children can we please remind you to use Braehead way and not come into the school car parks. If you are collecting your children, we would ask you to do the same.

Staff will meet pupils as usual.

Information for young people

The details of sessions in school will be posted in Google Classrooms for each year group.

COVID Mitigations

- All pupils (S1 – S6) must wear a face mask on entry to the school building and at all times whilst in the building unless an exemption is in place.
- All pupils must maintain 2m physical distance from one another inside the school building including in corridors.
- Pupils must maintain 2m physical distance from staff.
- Pupils must use hand sanitiser on entry to the building and when entering and leaving classrooms.
- Pupils must remain within the allocated classroom to minimise movement except when going to or coming back from the playing fields.
- Access to toilets will be as required with teacher permission. Pupils must adhere to limits on numbers in toilet blocks.
- Pupils will be responsible for cleaning their own workspace with cleaning materials provided.
- Pupils should bring their own water bottle to school.
- If any pupil is displaying unsafe behaviors parents/carers will be contacted and alternative arrangements made.
- Information about lateral flow testing has already been issued for S4 – S6 pupils.
- If your child is feeling unwell or displaying any Covid symptoms please do not send them to school. Our online Learning Programme can be followed from home.
- As soon as their session in school is complete young people must make their way home and not gather in school grounds or the community.

What is described above for the period from 15 March is for the final two weeks of term which is ten school days. We will be following the guidance issued on Monday 8 March by the Scottish Government.

Finally we are all sincerely delighted that after the Easter holidays, on Monday 12 April, we will be welcoming all our pupils and staff back to school for full time learning, subject to a final checkpoint by the Scottish Government in the Easter holidays. The mitigations in place will be the same as those in place prior to the Christmas holidays with the exception that, as with the period prior to Easter **all pupils and staff in secondary schools must wear face coverings at all times unless an exemption is in place.**

Lateral Flow Testing

This will be available for all pupils S1 – S3 after the Easter holidays and more information about this will come out in due course. It is most likely to involve young people collecting testing kits when they are in school for the final week of term. Please note that in all cases young people are not required to carry on testing during the school holidays.

Senior Phase Assessment Arrangements

This will be the focus of my next communication to families which will come out before the Easter holidays.

Contact with School

You can telephone or email the school to let us know of any concerns you have or to alert us to your child not being able to take part in on-line learning due to illness. Please note that the school office is staffed on a minimal basis by rota and that phone calls may not be answered as quickly as normal.

When emailing 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

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

Year Heads

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| 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

