



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – Friday 12 February 2021

I write this week to update you on the following issues:

- Key Dates
- Senior Phase In-School Practical Classes
- Schools Asymptomatic Testing programme
- Monitoring Pupil Engagement in Online Learning
- Online Safety Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee
- NESCoL advice for young people on school/college link courses

### Key Dates

Monday 15 February Holiday:	School Closed
Tuesday 16 February In-service Day:	School Closed
Wednesday 17 February In-service Day:	School Closed

### Thursday 18 and Friday 19 February

On these dates teachers will not be delivering or posting any new work. This will provide the following opportunities for all young people.

- to look over and act on feedback they have been given by their teachers which will consolidate this term's learning.
- to seek clarification or support from teachers if they have missed work or to go over an aspect of their work.

### Senior Phase In-School Practical Classes

As you know we have been planning for the return to the school building from 22 February 2021 of a small number of Senior Phase (S4 – S6) pupils to complete practical work for SQA certification. I have been discussing with the Faculty Principal Teachers the purpose and the time needed to complete this practical work. We will be sharing a timetable for these practical activities with young people through Google Classroom.

### Schools Asymptomatic Testing programme

As part of the package of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools across Scotland, Senior Phase Pupils who are required to be in school will have the opportunity to participate in the Schools/ELC Asymptomatic Testing Programme.

Information about this programme has been produced by NHS Test and Protect - please see below.

### **Why is our school participating in the programme?**

Along with the other protective measures we are implementing to keep our school community safe, regular testing of staff and senior phase pupils attending school will help to further reduce risks for all. By helping to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity and asking them and their close contacts to self-isolate, we minimise the likelihood of them passing on the virus.

### **Who can take part?**

Regular testing is open to staff and senior phase pupils who are regularly coming into the school building.

### **Does everyone have to take part?**

Testing is voluntary and no-one will be prevented from attending school if they choose not to participate. However, we strongly encourage all school staff and Senior Phase pupils who are attending school to participate in order to contribute to the wellbeing of our school community. **Please note that staff and pupils working or learning exclusively from home will not be asked to participate.**

### **What will the testing involve?**

Schools will be provided with a supply of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits by the Scottish Government and the UK Department of Health and Social Care for use at home. Schools will then issue these test kits, free of charge, to identified staff and pupils for their use at home.

Each participating pupil will be given a supply of test kits to take home together with the "Instructions for Use". Each pupil will also be asked to sign a log when the test kits are issued to them.

Pupils will be asked to test themselves at home twice a week. It is recommended to administer the tests on Wednesdays and Sundays, ideally in the morning or before school.

Guidance on conducting self-testing can be found in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which will be provided with the test kit. There is also a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

LFD tests do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. 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](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

### **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 – i.e. 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.

- 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 which contributes to reducing risk.

### **What happens next?**

Please discuss the contents of this letter and the consent to participate [privacy notice](#) with your child. If your child wishes to participate in testing, and you are content for them to do so, please complete the Google Form, which will be issued directly from the school over the next couple of days. **Please note that young people over 16 should complete this form on their own behalf.**

Test kits will be distributed to participating pupils in the week beginning 15 February. We will contact you and your child with the date and time for your child to collect his/her test kits.

Additional information on the testing programme is contained in a “Frequently Asked Questions” appendix at the end of this letter,

I must emphasise again that, at this stage, testing is restricted to staff and senior pupils (S4 – S6) who will be working in school. I will continue to communicate with you as we work with the Scottish Government and ACC to implement the Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme.

### **Monitoring Pupil Engagement in Online Learning**

Class teachers are recording information when they have concerns about a pupil's level of engagement as follows:

- 0: No engagement: no attendance at Google Meets and/or no work completed.
- 1: Little/poor engagement: concerns about participation in Google Meets and/or standard of work.

Class teachers supported by Faculty Principal Teachers will inform you about these concerns by telephone or by letter sent via e-mail.

If there are a number of concerns from different teachers we had hoped we could send just one letter with the details from each of those teachers but there is not a way to do this with the corporate devices we have for our use. Therefore, you will get a separate letter from each subject area.

I am pleased to report that most of our young people are engaging well with their online learning and showing flair and imagination in the ways they complete tasks set by teachers. I have been sent a number of videos which are fun and show a real depth of learning. I hear from teachers every day about the quality of work being produced by our pupils.

## Online Safety Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee

A live online safety talk will take place on Facebook on 24 February beginning at 7pm.



The following is a direct link [Online Safety Facebook Live | Facebook](#) so parents/carers and teachers can get it in their Facebook diary if they are interested and then join live from there.

Please send any questions you have about social media apps/ online safety to this e-mail address so we can answer them on 24 Feb - [info@cybersafescotland.org](mailto:info@cybersafescotland.org)

## Top Tips for studying Remotely for young people on School College Link Courses

Check your College Email account regularly – you will receive updates from your lecturer and Blackboard Announcements to your College email address. Your student email address will be your Student ID number followed by @nescol.ac.uk

- If you have any technical problems with the software you are being asked to use, please email your lecturer for advice on alternatives.
- If you don't know your lecturer's email address, please send your query to [schools@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:schools@nescol.ac.uk)
- If you are in attendance in an online lesson at the correct time and your lecturer is not present, please email [schools@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:schools@nescol.ac.uk)
- If you cannot use email, please phone **01224 612020**.

## 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

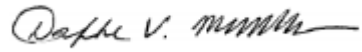
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith/Miss Howard
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

### 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dafne V. Munn". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher

## **Appendix – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How will my child know how to use the tests?**

The school will provide those participating with the most up to date Instructions for Use along with their test kits. Participants will be asked to ensure they use these, and not the ones that are pre-packaged in the test kits.

The Instructions for Use set out clearly how to use the test kits, or how to support someone to do so. They also provide a number to call if there are any problems with the test kits.

### **Are the tests safe and accurate?**

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the use of these at-home tests for these purposes.

LFD tests are very accurate, which means that only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (false positive). The tests are better at picking up true positive cases when a person has a higher viral load and is more contagious. There is a risk of returning a false negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health Scotland recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If someone tests positive using an LFD, it is likely that they are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a 'Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)' test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the LFD, we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further.

### **What happens if there is a problem with the tests?**

Any incidents that could potentially impact the quality or safety of testing should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). For incidents occurring in a home setting, please report any issues (for example: something damaged, or missing or difficult to use in the kit, you are unable to log a result) to **0300 303 2713**.

If there is a clinical incident which led to, or has the potential for, harm (e.g. swab breaks in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction on using the kit etc.) please report it on <https://coronavirussyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk>.

This is not for seeking immediate medical care. Medical care should be sought through the usual route of contacting 111 or 999.

### **What happens if my child tests positive?**

If your child receives a positive result on your Lateral Flow Device at home, they must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result), self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be done via <https://www.gov.uk/get->

[coronavirus-test](#). We advise visiting a community or drive-through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested, or you can order a home test kit.

It is important that your child begins self-isolation immediately after they receive the positive result from the LFD test, and does not wait until the result of their PCR test.

### **What happens if my child tests negative?**

They must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Individuals who test negative will be able to stay in schools and resume their activities as normal.

### **What happens if the test result is “void”?**

This means the test has not run correctly. Your child must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). They will need to take another test. Use a new test kit, and do not reuse anything from the first kit.

### **What if my child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive?**

If a pupil or member of staff has tested positive, they will have to self-isolate as per government guidelines. The pupil or member of staff should also inform the school of their absence, and are strongly encouraged to report a positive case to their school to support contact tracing activities.

Both Test and Protect and, once informed, the school will get in contact with staff members and pupils who were in close contact with a positive case to inform them that they need to self-isolate.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 0800 028 2816 or visiting <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

### **Can staff/pupils' families get tested too?**

No, this asymptomatic LFD testing is aimed at staff and senior phase pupils only. The tests will be handed to staff and senior phase pupils for personal use and should not be used for anyone else. Family members of staff or senior phase pupils taking part are not eligible.

If family members experience COVID-19 symptoms, they must follow standard Government guidance, including self-isolating immediately and booking a test through the NHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) service or by calling 0300 303 2713 in Scotland.