



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Head Teacher's Update – 14 May 2021**

I write to update you as follows:

- Google Guardian
- S4 and S5 Lift Off Event
- EU Citizens who arrived in Scotland before 31 December 2021
- Assemblies for S1 – S3
- Pathway Planning

### **Google Guardians Not Receiving Guardian Summary emails - Fix**

We are aware that some of you have not been receiving your daily/weekly updates on your child(ren)'s activity in Google Classroom. To fix this you should manage your Google Guardian Summaries and change the updates to weekly. You will then need to wait for the first weekly email to arrive and then you can change it back to daily updates.

Daily updates are only available for Gmail email accounts now, so if you wish to receive daily updates you will need to sign up for a Gmail account. Please see the link below for instructions on how to *Manage your Google Guardian Summaries*.

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6388136?hl=en#zippy=%2Cview-or-update-your-email-summary-settings>

### **S4 and S5 Lift-Off Event 31 May – 3 June**

All current S4 and S5 young people in Aberdeen City will be participating in an event designed to support them as they move on in senior school and consider their future options and potential career pathways.

On 31 May and 1 June an exciting virtual even has been planned. This **Lift Off** event will model a strengths-based approach, emphasising the range of future prospects open to them and what our young people can offer future employers. This will be explored through the following themes, "Who Am I?" and "What's My Story?".

The Lift Off presentations will raise awareness of different sectors of the Labour market and exciting job profiles which will be of value when considering future career pathways.

Lift Off 2021 comprises of presentations and S4s and S5s will be invited to participate in several sessions on Monday 31 May and Tuesday 1 June. See the poster for the event at the end of this letter.

Students will attend an introduction and keynote speaker at the start of each day. Following this they will engage with at least five sessions on **Monday 31 May** from a variety of local employers. On **Tuesday 1 June** students will attend an opening presentation and then engage in three sessions from a range of educational training providers. The day will conclude with a Q&A with the keynote speaker followed by closing remarks.

The keynote speaker will be Carl E Walz who is the Director of Business Development at Oceaneering Space Systems in Houston Texas. He has also held several positions within NASA. He had a distinguished career as an astronaut, and is a veteran of four space flights, logging a total of 231 days in space. He was a mission specialist on STS-51 (1993), where he deployed the Advanced Communications Technology satellite and performed a 7-hour spacewalk. He also served as the Orbiter flight engineer (MS-2) on STS-65 (1994) and was a mission specialist on the STS-79 (1996) mission to the Russian Mir Space Station. Carl Walz was a flight engineer (FE-1) on ISS Expedition 4 (2001-2002), where he performed science experiments, assembly tasks, and maintenance tasks. He completed two spacewalks totaling almost 12 hours in both in the Russian and US spacesuits.

S4s and S5s are now invited to send in a question for Carl. Please note that the questions need to be provided by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

<https://forms.gle/z8fmeFw37AdDdrw27>

Further information will be shared over the next two weeks about how to sign up for the sessions on 31 May and 1 June.

On Wednesday 2 June and Thursday 3 June young people will continue to work at home on tasks arising from these two days which will then be built on in school when they return from 7 June onwards when their new timetable begins.

There may be some young people who will be required in school by their teachers to complete last pieces of assessment work for their National Courses. This will be arranged by teaches with individual young people.

We are very conscious that young people in S4 and S5 will have been heavily focussed on assessment for the entire month of May. This week's activities will support young people as they plan for the future however it will also provide a natural break between the end of their National Courses for session 2020 – 21 and their new courses for session 2021 – 22.

## **S1 – S3 Assemblies week beginning 17 May 2021**

We will be holding assemblies for young people in S1 – S3 next week. We have become increasingly concerned about a number of issues including vandalism of the toilets, litter in the community, mobile phone use and general conduct around the school.

As always, the behaviour of the majority of our young people is something we are proud of. However, this is a good time to remind everyone about our school values and expectations with regard to conduct and behaviour.

The school's policies and expectations in relation to these areas are all detailed in the school, prospectus.

## **EU Citizens who arrived in Scotland before 31 December 2021**

If you are staying in the UK after the 30 June, you must apply for Settled or Pre-Settled Status:

- To remain legally in the UK.
- To be able to rent a property and access benefits in the UK
- To secure employment in the UK
- To access education and health services in the UK

Please note:

- Children who are not UK citizens must be registered as well, even if they were born in the UK.
- You do not need a National Insurance number to complete your application.
- After 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, you may be required to prove that you have at least submitted your application.

You can use this link to apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

## **Pathway Planning**

### **Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities**

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- NHS Virtual Work Experience
- Career in Government and Politics
- Dental Nurse Apprenticeship
- Webinar – Career in Accounting & Finance
- University of Dundee – opportunities/webinars/information & guidance
- UCAS Application Conference

- Business & Finance Webinar

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/archives/8002>

### **Contact with School**

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**

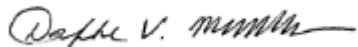
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

### **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

# LIFT OFF 2021

Aberdeen City Schools Senior Students Event 31 May - 1 June



Our Lift Off Event is for S4s and S5s and the following themes will be explored, “Who Am I?” and “What’s My Story?”

DAY 1 Monday, 31st May 2021	
8:45am - 9:00am	Blast Off - Welcome!
9:00am - 9:30am	Join Carl Walz (Oceaneering and former NASA astronaut)
10.00am - 3:00pm	Students can select 5 presentations from over 50 employers
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Round Up - Drew Drummond (Columba 1400)

DAY 2 Tuesday, 1st June 2021	
9:00am - 9:30am	Blast Off - Sarah Chew (Managing Director TechFest)
9:30am - 1:30pm	Students select up to 3 presentations from over 30 providers
1:30pm - 2:15pm	Q&A with Carl Walz (Oceaneering and former NASA astronaut)