



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



15 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Head Teacher's Update – Friday 15 January 2021**

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

- Online Learning
- Wellbeing
- SQA National Qualifications
- Attendance procedures
- Pathway planning and course Choice procedures for pupils in S2 - S5

### **Online Learning**

On Friday of each week we are sending out a document summarising the learning being provided by faculties/departments so that families have an overview of what is being provided for their child(ren).

In addition, I have posted on the school website the Digital Learning Online Advice for Pupils and Parents. <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/archives/7803>

If there is anything further we can do to support you and your child(ren) please let us know.

### **Wellbeing**

Aberdeen City Council have provided sources of help for families and young people on their website. If you have specific concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact their Head of House (details at the end of this letter).

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/tips-staying-positive-during-difficult-times>

### **SQA National Qualifications**

A letter went out this on Wednesday of this week to the families of all pupils in S4-6 from the Aberdeen City Council Chief Education Officer Eleanor Sheppard. This was emailed out if you do not have it please let us know and we will forward a paper copy. The SQA have asked schools to focus this month on continued learning and teaching of course content and skills. They will be issuing further advice about assessment. Please be assured we will keep you informed as soon as we have further information.

## **Attendance procedures**

The Scottish Government has instructed all local authorities to have a daily check-in with all young people who are learning remotely at home. Aberdeen City Council officers have organised this as follows:

- Each morning a Google Form is posted in each of the year group Google Classrooms.
- Pupils must log in and complete this form with their OWN school Google account. This is what the system uses to identify which pupils have signed in. Pupils logging in using a different Google account has led to a number of pupils being marked as absent despite having accessed the form. Pupils should not use a sibling's account to record their attendance.
- If the number of submitted responses by mid-morning is low, we may send out a Groupcall text in the morning to **all** parents to remind **all** pupils to complete the form, even if some have done it already.
- Young people must complete the form before 12 noon.
- After 12 noon we compile a list of pupils who have not done this and send a Groupcall text home.
- Pupil absences are reported to the local authority by 1pm.
- We update our system following responses from parents/carers to the Groupcall messages.

We have noted that a number of young people sign in as requested but then are not turning up to timetabled meetings with their teachers. These absences will be followed up by class teachers using a procedure we have in place to ensure young people are actively engaged with their learning.

If your child or young person is having difficulty accessing appropriate technology or needs support with accessing Google Classroom, please make contact with his/her Head of House. Details at the end of this letter.

Young people who are unwell can be reported as not being "present" for online learning in the normal way that you would report an absence from school through a phone call or an email.

## **Pathway Planning and Course Choice Procedures for Pupils in S2 - S5**

This week, young people will begin Course choice procedures for their timetable 2021-22. Although the process will be different, young people will still have all the information they need to make their choices. There will be presentations in PSE/assemblies which will guide them through the decision making and support from our school, careers advisors and Heads of House/Year Heads. We will also be providing presentations for families so they can support their children. It is important that pupils check their Google Classroom and School Gmail account for information provided on course choice.

## **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 appropriately forwarded.

**Pastoral Care**

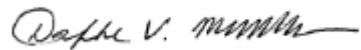
|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Crathes House | Mrs Napier             |
| Drum House    | Miss Smith/Miss Howard |
| Fyvie House   | Mrs Marshall           |

**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



Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher