



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



16 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – Tuesday 16 February 2021

I write to update you on the following issues:

- **Return of Senior Phase (S4 – S6) Learners**
- **Schools Asymptomatic Testing programme**

I know there is a lot of information contained in this letter. However, this is all necessary in the interests of transparency and so that you have all the information you require about these two changes.

Return of Senior Phase Learners

Today, the Scottish Government confirmed its intention to allow the return of a small number of Senior Phase Learners to school.

Education Scotland have also published guidance for providing senior phase practical work in-school.

The two key principles are to:

- Support learning and teaching in subjects where there are the **highest levels** of practical work that feature in-school facilities and **cannot** be done remotely.
- Maintain remote learning for all across the Broad General Education (S1 to S3) and Senior Phase (S4 to S6) to protect the continuity of learning and teaching.

The document also provides a number of working principles which allow local authorities and schools to plan for the provision of in-school practical work. The document states:

- The priority for the Senior Phase learners at this time remains learning and teaching, to ensure that they have a secure foundation and course coverage prior to formal assessment taking place later in the 2020/2021 academic session.
- Remote delivery of practical work should be supported as much as possible. In some cases, it will be possible to provide pupils with resource packs which, after initial teacher input, will allow learners to continue to work from home. This will be the case for some of our learners in subjects such as Art & Design and Graphic Communication.

There needs to be a clear purpose for learners coming into school.

We have spoken to all our Principal Teachers with a practical element to their courses and have identified specific subjects where learners require in-school facilities. These are:

- Art & Design
- Drama
- Graphic Communication
- Home Economics
- Music
- Photography
- Practical Woodworking (Only Mrs Essiet's class)

Note that as Physical Education is unable to be delivered indoors, the subject will continue to be delivered online.

How will pupils know when to come to school?

The rota with names will be posted in the year group Google Classrooms and reminders sent/communicated by class teachers. Young people must take responsibility for checking the rota and ensuring they come to school on the appropriate day. If they are not sure they should contact their class teacher. The schedule runs over a two-week cycle and please note that in some cases teachers only require one or two slots for young people to attend school to complete work.

Mitigations in place

The following mitigations will be in place and the school Risk Assessment has been updated accordingly. **NB. Young People are not returning to school buildings under the same conditions as they did in August 2020.** The Scottish Government has detailed the strict Covid-19 mitigations which **must** be followed and are included in the information below.

The guidance states that schools can only take in between 5 to 8% of its school roll for the number of S4 to S6 learners who can attend. In order to meet these restrictions, we will operate the following model:

1. Young people will be in class only from 08.45 – 13.05.
2. School Transport will be available for those who are normally transported to and from school. If school transport can only provide one pick up each day S4- S6 pupils will be allocated a space in school to complete their online learning until the normal finishing time of 14.55/15.55. Therefore, they will need to bring their fully charged Chromebook to school. Alternatively, they can be collected by you or, with your permission, be allowed to make their own way home. Please note we are currently waiting for the final guidance on school transport including the requirement for young people to be 2m apart on school buses.

3. Designated entrances/exits must be used – ones closest to the faculties to minimise contact with others in the building. See below.
4. Young people should arrive in time for the 08.45 start and must maintain 2 metre distance from one another on their way to class.
5. Strict handwashing/sanitising and desk cleaning routines will be in place as they were from August to December.
6. All Senior Phase pupils and their teachers must wear face coverings for the duration of lessons. We will give all teachers a supply of blue, fluid resistant masks so that senior pupils can wear these. They offer more protection to the wearer. If a young person is exempt that exemption will remain in place.
7. Teachers **must** maintain a 2-metre distance between themselves and young people and young people are expected to respect that requirement.
8. Young people **must** always maintain a 2-metre distance between themselves and other young people in and around the school building as well as in the community.
9. Teachers must have a seating plan for each lesson or one for every lesson with this group of young people and keep to this arrangement. Young people are expected to comply with this.
10. Breaks will be taken in the classroom.
11. Access to the toilet will be as and when required to minimise number of young people in toilets. Teachers will draw young people's attention to the maximum numbers in allowed in each toilet block.
12. Ventilation: previous advice about having at least one window open to provide adequate ventilation will apply.
13. Young people should wear appropriate clothing for the activities in which they are participating. Full school uniform is not required.
14. Young people can take snacks into school and will be permitted to eat them in the classroom during a break determined by the teacher.
15. Young people should bring their own drinking water with them. The school fountains can only be used to fill water bottles. Some classrooms have a drinking water supply.

Entrance/Exit Points to be used by S4 to S6 Pupils

| Subject | Door |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Art & Design | S2 door at the Art Department |
| Drama | Drama Studio Fire Exit |
| Graphic Communication | S5 door beside the Library |
| Home Economics | S3 door outside G10 |
| Music | S4 door beside GP2 |
| Photography | S2 door at the Art Department |
| Practical Woodworking | S5 door beside the Library |

The rota is reproduced below for your information.

Two Week Rota from 22 February until Further Notice

WEEK A (See Google Classrooms for names in Group A)

Monday

Music Advanced Higher Column A (Mrs Forbes) – All Pupils
Practical Cookery Nat 5/Nat 4 Column C (Miss Clarke) – Group A
Practical Woodworking Nat 5 Column C (Mrs Essiet) – Group A

Tuesday

Art & Design Nat 5 Column E (Miss Crawford) – Group A
Music Nat 5 Column E (Mrs Forbes) – All Pupils
Graphic Communication Nat 5 Column E (Mr Ness) – Group A
Practical Cookery Nat 5 Column E (Miss Morton) – Group A

Wednesday

Graphic Communication Higher Column F (Mrs Essiet) – All Pupils
Art & Design Nat 5 Column F (Miss Crawford) – Group A
Music Higher Column F (Mrs Thomson) – All Pupils
Practical Cookery Nat 5 Column F (Miss Clarke) – Group A

Thursday

Drama Nat 5 Column D (Miss James) – All Pupils
Art & Design Nat 5 Column D (Mrs Redpath) – Group A
Photography Higher Column D (Miss Crawford) – All Pupils

Friday

Art & Design Advanced Higher Column B (Miss Crawford) – All Pupils
Drama Higher Column B (Miss James) – All Pupils
Drama Advanced Higher Column B (Miss James) – All Pupils
Music Nat 5 Column D (Mrs Thomson) – All Pupils

WEEK B (See Google Classrooms for names in Group B)

Monday

Music Advanced Higher Column A (Mrs Forbes)
Practical Cookery Nat 5/Nat 4 Column C (Miss Clarke) – Group B
Practical Woodworking Nat 5 Column C (Mrs Essiet) – Group B

Tuesday

Art & Design Nat 5 Column E (Miss Crawford) – Group B
Music Nat 5 Column E (Mrs Forbes) – All Pupils
Graphic Communication Nat 5 Column E (Mr Ness) – Group B
Practical Cookery Nat 5 Column E (Miss Morton) – Group B

Wednesday

Graphic Communication Higher Column F (Mrs Essiet) – All Pupils
Art & Design Nat 5 Column F (Miss Crawford) – Group B
Music Higher Column F (Mrs Thomson) – All Pupils
Practical Cookery Nat 5 Column F (Miss Clarke) – Group B

Thursday

Drama Nat 5 Column D (Miss James) – All Pupils
Art & Design Nat 5 Column D (Mrs Redpath) – Group B
Photography Higher Column D (Miss Crawford) – All Pupils

Friday

Art & Design Advanced Higher Column B (Miss Crawford) – All Pupils
Drama Higher Column B (Miss James) – All Pupils
Drama Advanced Higher Column B (Miss James) – All Pupils
Music Nat 5 Column D (Mrs Thomson) – All Pupils

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.

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?

1. Please discuss the contents of this letter and the consent to participate [privacy notice](#) with your child.
2. If your child wishes to participate in testing, and you are content for them to do so, please complete the online Consent Form below. **Please note that young people over 16 should complete this form on their own behalf.**

<https://forms.gle/CkHtyUuTU3D6JhUP7>

3. Ask your child to book a slot for collection of test kits.

Link to Pupil Test Collection Schedule 1
18 and 19 February

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-JO4jAez872zEoAq9jcOl2DnpDmFEjuOIsX-mD366kA/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to Pupil Test Collection Schedule 2
22 and 23 February

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10tILpRTsUbvIOKy_u1plzvceY6Ai8zDG-LLosTOz5A8/edit?usp=sharing

The links are accessible by pupils as long as they are logged in to Google Classroom or their Gmail account with their Aberdeen City Google credentials.

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.

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

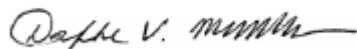
| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Crathes House | Mrs Napier |
| Drum House | Miss Smith/Miss Howard |
| Fyvie House | Mrs Marshall |

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



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, 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. 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. 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.