



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



17 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 17 December 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Christmas Holidays
- End of Term Message
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers
- Prelim Timetable
- SQA 'Your National Qualifications 2021-2022'
- Learner Booklets
- North East Scotland College
- Access to Technology and Chromebooks
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Christmas Holidays

Last Day of term: Tuesday 21 December 2021 (Christmas Jumper Day)

First day of Term: Thursday 6 January 2021

End of Term Message

It has been a very busy term and again a time for review and change of policies and procedures. On a positive note, the removal of split lunch breaks means we have been able to re-instate extra-curricular activities and lunchtime clubs, which have been welcomed. All are well attended and some, including the Debate Club have been so popular that they now have a group for senior pupils which meets separately to the meetings for juniors. The clubs run thanks to staff and senior pupils giving up their time to support them. Next term the Chess Club will begin on Monday lunch times. The full updated programme is [here](#).

We held our first online parents' evenings which appeared to go well – meeting online is never as good as meeting in person but it was good to be able to discuss pupil progress one-to-one. You can access the full schedule of reporting and

parents' evenings [here](#) which includes the dates for the S2 and S3 Parents Evenings.

We have been working with staff and young people to reduce late coming, especially after break and lunch, and this appears to be working. The promise of a lunchtime detention, which reduces young people's social time, seems to be enough of an incentive to get young people to their door on time after break and lunch. We have also successfully reduced the number of unnecessary toilet visits which means young people are where they need to be in class learning. We have just completed a review of our mobile phones policy, and this will be issued in the new term.

All our policies recognise young people's rights but also emphasise their responsibilities to be organised, on time and in class.

The Parent Council have supported the school to purchase resources to support young people's learning. Over £1500 has been raised and spent in total and I am sure they would welcome your support with the 100 Club which is their principal fundraiser. More information [here](#).

We know that there is a degree of uncertainty about the new term. We are awaiting further guidance from the Scottish government which is expected today. Please be assured that, whatever the circumstances, we will do all we can to support our young people, especially those in the senior phase S4 – S6. The SQA have issued their plans which can be accessed [here](#).

As you can see below, we are still planning and working towards holding estimate exams with study leave for S4 – S6 pupils and we have prepared Learner Booklets for all courses – Nationals 4 and 5, Higher and Advanced Higher – to help with this. In addition, departments have been given funds to purchase additional resources and are planning study sessions to support young people. The resources will be loaned out to young people for them to use to support their preparation for assessments and study sessions will take place at lunchtime, after school and during the Easter holidays.

In the new term I will be discussing with the Parent Council other ways we can support families to support their children and we will be working with young people to gather their views on what works well to support their learning. The meeting will be held remotely on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 19.30. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office with your contact details and the name of your child(ren)

Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

As you know we are getting almost daily updates about changes to government advice and rules. We have updated our advice based on the guidance we have now.

The current rules on self-isolation are that if anyone in a household has symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19, the whole household must self-isolate for ten

days regardless of vaccination status or results of a PCR test. Please follow public health advice on when isolation ends.

- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day: this remains the same.
- Lateral Flow Testing **updated 14 December 2021**

Information on the above is located on the school website [here](#) including the updated LFD testing letter emailed home 14 December 2021.

We are waiting for further guidance on the new term from the Scottish Government. We have been told to expect this today Friday 17 December.

Prelim Timetable

As mentioned last week, a draft copy of the Prelim Timetable was issued to Principal Teachers for review early this week and published in the S4, S5 and S6 Google Classrooms for pupils to review and to support them in planning for these important Assessments.

Two changes to the timetable have been (Maths AH and Business Management H) and the updated version has now been posted to Google Classroom.

Study Leave will be given to S4 to S6 pupils from Monday 17 January 2022 until Friday 28 January 2022 inclusive. More details about study leave and the exam procedures will be issued to pupils on their return to school after the holidays.

The SQA diet of examinations is still scheduled and the dates for each exam can be accessed [here](#).

SQA ‘Your National Qualifications 2021-2022’

Pupils should now have been issued with a copy of the SQA’s document *Your National Qualifications 2021-2022*, which can be viewed/downloaded at this address. https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Your-NQ-2021-22.pdf

This has been discussed during PSE with particular attention drawn to the sections on *Plagiarism*, *Collusion* and *Language & Writing*. We would encourage you to read the document and reinforce the points made by the SQA.

Learner Booklets

Please find below the link to the Learner Booklets for Nationals 4 and 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. These booklets contain useful information for each subject giving details of what learning young people should be revisiting as well as other useful information such as websites or resources they can access. This is a great resource provided by class teachers to enable you, parents/carers, to support your young person at home in preparation for their assessments and estimate exams.

If anyone requires a hard copy of this document pupils should speak to their Guidance teacher.

Click this link to access the [Learner Booklets](#) from the school website.

North East Scotland College

The following is for the parents and carers of young people who attend North East Scotland College (NESCOL) for one or more of their courses.

College buildings will be closed from 5 pm on Friday 17 December 2021. Students were due to return to blended learning on Monday 10 January 2022, however, this is now not possible. However, we will offer all timetabled online classes during the week commencing Monday 10 January 2022, but if this is not possible, then work will be set and issued to pupils via Blackboard and e-mail.

The plan is to resume blended learning on Monday 17 January 2022, with a return to the on-campus activity that has been safely and successfully delivered during the session to date. This will be reviewed by the Leadership Team of the College on 6 January 2022, in line with the latest Scottish Government guidance and any change will be communicated through the usual channels.

The Supported Learning groups will be postponed until Thursday 20 and Friday 21 Jan 2022, or until further notice.

Access to Technology and Chromebooks

S4 – S6

All young people should now have their allocated Chromebook to allow them to work remotely if they are absent from school for any reason. S5 and S6 will have their device from last year and all S4 devices have now been distributed.

S1

Devices are being distributed now and this should be complete by the end of this term. If your child is currently absent and needs a device to work from home please contact the school office and we will try to issue their allocated device to you to support this. If not, they will be issued after the holidays.

All school devices should be transported to and from school each day in a suitable bag or carrier and be fully charged so they can be used in lessons.

S2 and S3

The long-term strategy is that all young people will be given their own device to use throughout their time in school. We are waiting to hear how this will be funded by Scottish Government. In the meantime, we need to know about the situation of our pupils in S2 and S3 if they had to work from home. A mobile phone would not be considered a suitable device to work on from home because the screen is too small. However, some may have access to their own or a family laptop/chrome book. If your child has no access to such a device, we ask that you let us know by

completing the Google Form [here](#). This information will help us to plan how we could support your child(ren).

Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

DYW opportunities are regularly available on Google Classroom and the school website for young people to see. This week the following have been posted:

- Jobs – Paper Deliverer
- Interested in Finance?
- BP Finance
- University of Glasgow Graduate Apprenticeships

Lots more DYW opportunities can be found [here](#).

Founders4Schools January 2002 sessions

Founders4Schools is running a series of four 'subject choice for careers' sessions on Tuesday, 18 January, covering Maths, Humanities, STEAM and Business. More information and booking [here](#).

AAB's 2022 Apprenticeship Programme

AAB's 2022 Apprenticeship Programme is now open for applications, with opportunities across the organisation's Audit, Business Advisory and Payroll teams. Closing date is 1 March 2002, with training beginning in the summer. More info and applications [here](#).

CFINE Food Bank Collection

Our donations will be collected on Monday 20 December. To find out more about CFINE please use this [link](#).

Thank you to all the families, staff and pupils who have made contributions and to Miss Strachan in Modern Studies for organising it. I will post pictures of the collection on the school website.

At the end of this letter, I have included information about support for families over the festive period including how to access the CFINE foodbank.

Severe Weather

We have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have periods of bad weather.

All classwork and homework are posted on Google Classroom as assignments so parents/carers can see this using Google Guardian. If you need more help with the Google suite of resources, you will find the Google Support site under the *Parents* menu on the front page of the school website. You can also access it using this [link](#).

In severe weather conditions, emergency closure or other emergency circumstances, parents and pupils can receive up-to-date information via:

- The School Information Line
Tel: 0870 054 1999
PIN code 011020
- Aberdeen City Council's School Closures website
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/school-closures>

If we have an emergency during the school day and must send young people home early, we will contact parents/carers using Groupcall. Before we send young people home, we ask teachers to check that they have been able to contact home and will be able to get into the house. If any young person has not been able to do this, we ask them to wait in school until we or they have made contact.

We have separate arrangements for our more vulnerable learners who travel to school by taxi whereby one of our support team will telephone parent/carer directly.

Contact with School

When e-mailing 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

Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

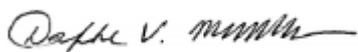
Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty
S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank
S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

I know that times continue to be challenging for many of you and would encourage you to contact us here at school if you think we can help.

I sincerely wish all of you a Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

2021



If you need help over the Christmas period, there are people and places to support you and your family.

FOOD

If you are struggling to feed your family and need an emergency food parcel help is available. You can contact the Aberdeen City Support Line on 0800 034 713.

The following food banks are operating across the city during the festive period:

Instant Neighbour

5 St Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3YJ
Tel: 01224 489955

Closed from 12pm on Thursday 23 December and re-opens on Wednesday 5 January 2022.
The food bank will be open 10am - 2pm on Wednesday 29 December.

CFINE

2-4 Poynerook Rd, Aberdeen, AB11 5RW
Tel: 01224 596156
Email: info@cfine.org

If you are running low on food and essential items due to financial constraints, please contact CFINE on 01224 596156.

During your phone call, you can tell them what items you need and book a slot to collect your parcel from their premises.

Your food parcel will be available at the call and collect point which is open Monday to Friday 12-2pm.
Closed 25 December, 26 December, 1 January and 2 January.

Free school meals

Information about the criteria to receive free school meals and applying for this benefit is available online at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

NHS24

If you feel unwell over the festive period phone NHS 24 on 111 if you:

- think you need to go to A&E but it's not life threatening
- are too ill to wait for your GP practice to open
- have worsening symptoms of coronavirus

NHS 24 will help you get the right care in the right place, often closer to home and without the need to go to A&E.

NHS Inform have further information on how to access a test if you have symptoms of coronavirus.