



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

Braehead Way • Bridge of Don • Aberdeen • AB22 8RR

Tel 01224 707583

Web: [www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk)

E-mail: [bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



17 June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 17 June 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- S5 and S6 Pupil Survey
- Primary 7 Three Day Visit
- New Head Team
- Torry Summer Club 2022
- The Cost of the School Day
- Uniform S1 – S4
- Senior School Uniform
- Parent Council
- Support for Families
- Take a Break
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Contact with School

## Calendar Dates

Last Day of Term:

Friday 1 July 2022

In-Service Day

Monday 22 August 2022

First Day of Term

Tuesday 23 August 2022

## S5 and S6 Pupil Survey

As you know during study leave members of the senior leadership team spoke with small groups of young people in S1 – S3 and asked them about their learning experiences in school and what we could do to make things better. All the young people engaged with this and gave us some very useful information that will be shared with staff, young people, and families.

Rather than pull senior pupils out of classes as they are settling into their new courses, we decided to use a Google form to gather the view of all young people in S5 and S6 so that we have a balanced view of young people's experiences right

across all year groups. This was issued through Google classroom yesterday and so far about 50 young people have completed it. Can I please ask that you ask your child(ren) about this and if they have not completed it yet encourage them to do so.

## **Primary 7 Three Day Visit**

This takes place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week. Several senior pupils will be acting as guides for this visit and will be taking families on a tour of the school during the parents' evening. However, all young people should think of themselves as role models for this new cohort who will be as nervous and excited as they were when they first joined the school. By turning out next week in their school uniform and being kind and considerate towards the Primary 7s they will be demonstrating the BODA B's in person.

## **New Head Team**

The interviews for the positions of Head Students and Deputy Head Students took place on Friday 17 June 2022. The results will be shared with the candidates on Monday and announced thereafter.

We are fortunate each year that we have a great group of senior pupils who are willing to put themselves forward for these important leadership roles as well as the roles of House Captain and prefect. It benefits them as they further develop their confidence and their leadership skills and the school because they contribute so much to creating a positive learning environment for all.

## **Torry Summer Club 2022**

When: Monday 4 – Thursday 7 July  
Times 09.30 – 14.30  
Where Tullos Learning Centre  
Who children and young people in P4 – S2

See the poster at the end of this letter for more information and instructions on how to sign your child up for this. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any further information or support to do this.

## **The Cost of the School Day**

As you know we want to make sure that all young people who attend Bridge of Don Academy feel included in all aspects of school life. Cost should not be a barrier to participation in every aspect of school life for any young person or prevent them from having the same educational and social chances as their peers.

*“Education is free but a lot of school things are not.” (Member of the Children’s Parliament, age 11)<sup>1</sup>*

As we begin preparations for next session, I can confirm that the following is all in place to ensure that school things have no cost attached at Bridge of Don Academy.

- No charge will be made for any aspect of a course or programme of work a young person is following. This includes no charges being made for materials, consumables, or equipment in practical subjects.
- Young people who are entitled to free school meals can access food items which can be eaten outside of school – so young people can socialise with friends.
- Young people who bring packed lunches can eat these alongside their friends in the canteen – no separate areas.
- Uniform has been planned to cost as little as possible whilst keeping young people safe and ensuring that families are not pressurised into buying expensive fashion items for wearing to school.
- Heads of House will have sensitive discussions with families they know well to offer help which will be given sensitively, with a minimum of fuss and in complete confidence.
- Learning boxes including a variety of stationery items are in all teaching areas and young people can access these items freely.
- All trips associated with the curriculum to support learning will be free of charge for all young people.
- We no longer ask young people to bring a £1 on non-uniform days: we are looking at other ways we can raise funds for the school fund.
- Activities Week (S1 – S3) is planned to offer a range of trips and activities some of which are free of any cost.
- As with uniform items our Heads of House contact families to discuss sensitively the ways we can support them so their children can participate fully
- All S1 pupils experience the same rolling programme of Activities to ensure equity.
- For pupils in S2 – S3 a range of activities will be on offer from those which cost nothing to residential trips which have a higher cost.
- The grants and financial support available to families are highlighted.
- Payment plans are available for residential trips and as much notice as possible is given so families can spread the cost.
- All young people in Scotland have access to free bus transport.

Plans for the future:

- To use the toolkit linked below<sup>2</sup> to support discussions with staff and pupils about what else we could do to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation in school life.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/CoSD/toolkit>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/CoSD/toolkit>

- To invite the views of parents and carers on what else we can do: I will issue a questionnaire at the beginning of the new term.
- To ensure young people are given an opportunity to learn about poverty and its impact on families.

## Uniform S1 – S4

The details of school uniform are on the school website [here](#). As I have previously intimated the uniform is planned to keep costs as low as possible for families. All items except the school tie can be purchased from shops and outlets of a family's choice.

We understand that washing machines break down and that young people have growth spurts and need new trousers or shoes which puts financial pressure on families. If your child(ren) cannot attend in uniform for a valid reason, please just let the school know. We also understand that fuel costs and unforeseen expenses can put extra pressure on families who may just need help in the short term. Please let us help where we can – contact your child's Head of House directly or just email the school and we will do what we can to support the purchase of appropriate uniform items.

## Senior School Uniform

Pupils who have been accepted for return to school in S5 and S6 are expected to wear Senior School uniform, which comprises school blazer, white/black shirt, red senior tie, black trousers/skirt and black shoes.

Our blazers and tie are available from Abstitch in the centre of town. Their address is: 35 Ann St, Aberdeen, AB25 3LH, telephone number 01224 639152. Their opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9am until 4pm.

Blazers are measured to fit and are easily kept. They are light and practical and can be washed at home.

We have been informed that a large number of our seniors have been into Abstitch over the study leave but more stock is due in on Monday.

Prices as of 27 May are:

School tie: £7.50

Blazer: £33 to £39, depending on size



## Parent Council

The last meeting of the PC for this session took place on Tuesday 7 June 2022 remotely. Members of the PC will also be attending the Primary 7 Parents' evening which takes place on Tuesday 21 June 2022 to encourage new members to join the PC and the 100Club.

The group is made up of parents/carers of children and young people attending school in almost all year groups who are interested in finding out more about how education works but also keen to support the school.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be in person in school on Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 19.00. If you would like to join the Parent Council please email the school office with your name and the name of your child(ren).

## Support for Families

We are all affected by the rise in the cost of living including fuel costs. I have posted on the school website a Finance Postcard detailing how families can access free help and support to ensure they are getting all the benefits and financial support they are entitled to. Use this [link](#) to access this or contact your child(ren)'s Head of House for support in accessing this.

## Take a Break

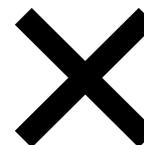
The Scottish Government funded [Take a Break Scotland](#) administered by Family Fund, opened for applications on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 and will remain open until 5:00pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This fund supports families of children with disabilities.

## CFINE Food Bank Collection

The final collection of the year will be on **Monday 27 June 2022**. Times are challenging for many of our families now because of rising fuel costs and the cost of living so I am aware some of you may not feel able to contribute. But because there is also an increasing demand for the services of foodbanks for the same reasons it is important to give this chance to contribute to those who feel they can. This is for our own community here in Aberdeen and so whatever you can contribute will, I know, be appreciated by CFINE. As always, we will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items as detailed below. To find out more use this [link](#).

In addition, Miss Strachan has a collection tin in her room (G17) for small change that young people may wish to donate which we will then use to purchase items for the foodbank.

<b>Yes please</b>	<b>No thank you</b>
Tinned Food Cereals Pasta Condiments and spices Juices Toiletries Nappies	Fresh Food Frozen Items Refrigerated Items



Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

- Admin block - Assembly Room
- Ground Floor - Home Economics classroom
- Ground Floor - G17 (Miss Strachan's room)
- First Floor - F12 (Miss Devlin's room)
- Top Floor - T3 (Mrs Lees' room)
- Staffroom

## **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.

One opportunity that may be of interest is from the University of Aberdeen. ASME is providing free places for pupils from S5 or S6 to attend their conference at P&J Live in Aberdeen on the 7th July 2022. A total of 10 free places are up for grabs. These are open to any S5 or S6 pupil, no eligibility criteria apply.

The Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME) is a national organisation with a mission to advance scholarship in medical education. The ASME ENRICH Opportunities offers an exciting experience for a selected number of pupils in S5 or S6 in the summer of 2022 to attend the ASME national conference for free. This national initiative is designed to actively support young people interested in developing their interests and insight into the field of medical and healthcare education.

Pupils will receive the following funded package:

- Free one day ASME conference admission – Thursday 7th July 2022. Details can be found here: <https://www.asme.org.uk/events/asm2022>
- Free travel
- Opportunity to network with experienced healthcare professionals and educators
- Chance to enrich your interests and insights in the field of medicine and healthcare
- Gain practical experience that can help with your university application

Interested pupils should apply online at by 20th June [here](#)

## 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: Mrs Walburn  
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

### Year Heads

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher



**TORRY**

# Summer Club 2022

**Aberdeen-wide Week is BACK!**

**We are excited to once again be able to invite young musicians from across all of Aberdeen to join Big Noise for a week of friends, fun and music-making this summer!**

*If you're a string player in P4 - S2, at beginner to Grade 2 standard - this club is for YOU!*

**When:** Monday 4th - Thursday 7th July  
**Times:** 9.30am - 2.30pm  
**Location:** Tullos Learning Centre  
Girdleness Road, AB11 8FJ



Free breakfast roll, snacks and lunch provided

<https://forms.office.com/r/bfKvgvVj2m>

**Scan me to sign up!**



**To find out more**

Email us at

[torryadministrator@sistemascotland.org.uk](mailto:torryadministrator@sistemascotland.org.uk)

Telephone us on 01224 974707