



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



17 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 17 September 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Staff Changes
- Break and Lunch and our Extra-Curricular Offer
- Covid-19 Vaccinations for 12- to 15-year-olds
- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day
- Advice for families following a case of Covid-19 in their child's year group
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

Staff Changes

Teacher of Physics & Teacher of English

On Monday we will welcome Miss Rafferty, Teacher of Physics, and Mr David English, Teacher of English.

Break and Lunch and our Extra-Curricular Offer

As you know we currently operate a split break and lunch time for S1 – S3 and S4 – S6. Following the September holiday weekend on Tuesday 28 September we will revert to the same break and lunch for all. We will trial this for the last two weeks of term and hopefully if all goes well continue with this after the October Holidays.

From Tuesday 28 September

Break 10.45 – 11.05

Lunch 13.05 – 13.55

There are several reasons for this, primarily to do with the quality of young people's learning experience and their wellbeing. This is permitted under Scottish Government Guidance because we are no longer required to maintain the S1 – S3 and S4 – S6 bubbles.

Currently S1 – S3 pupils have a morning break within period 2. They have 35 minutes of their period 2 lesson from 09.45 to 10.20, then a 20-minute break, before returning for the final 25 minutes of their lesson from 10.40 – 11.05. This break in learning can be avoided by reverting to the same break time for all pupils at the end of period 2 at 10.45.

A change is required at lunch time because some teachers who are keen to offer extra-curricular activities are not able to do so because they are teaching a senior class at that time.

We feel the benefits of clubs and activities like those listed below to young people's sense of wellbeing, confidence and enjoyment of school are such that they warrant this change to our mitigations. In addition, whilst we cannot offer our full range of extra-curricular experiences, this provision would go some way to giving young people a more normalised school experience than has been possible up to now.

Some of the activities also require the support of senior pupils to work – this helps them gain the valuable experience of taking on a leadership role and develops their skills in working with others and they are role models for younger pupils and can support them well because of their own experiences in school. This is not possible when we have separate lunch breaks.

Finally, as the weather worsens through winter these activities will provide alternatives to young people spending time outdoors at lunch time. Staff will ensure rooms are well ventilated maintain 2 metres distance between themselves and young people whilst supporting them as they do in lessons.

The activities listed below are being finalised by staff and a programme of days, times and room numbers will be available for young people through PSE and Google Classroom next week. I will also publish the final timetable – with these details – as part of my HT Update Letter at the end of the week.

Cosplay Drama Club S2 Board Games Global Goals Group Homework Club Netball Spanish Speaking Practice Amnesty International Science Club	Senior Choir S3-S6 S1 Board Games Debate Club D&T practical catch ups Safe space drop-in Badminton Conversational Italian Maths Homework Club	Junior Choir S1 -2 S1/2 Book Club Open Group LGBT+ Lego Club Volleyball Craft Club Conversational German Warhammer Club
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We will expect the same courtesy and standards of behaviour as we do in all lessons and teachers will keep registers so that we can issue house points for attendance and merits and certificates for attendance /contributions. I think you will agree that these activities will suit a wide range and I thank the teachers for giving their time to prepare for and run the clubs.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for 12 - 15-year-olds

The vaccine is being offered to 12–15-year-olds subject to parent/carer consent. This will take place at the new vaccination centre at what was John Lewis.

Procedure If A Young Person Becomes Ill During The School Day

All young people who become ill during the school day MUST report this to their class teacher, support staff or to the school office who will arrange for a first aider to see them who will then contact home if it is necessary for them to be taken home.

We ask that if your child contacts you during the school day to tell you they are unwell that you do not immediately arrange with them to pick them up but ask them to report to the school office so this procedure can be followed. This ensures they are safe and looked after whilst feeling unwell, their absence is correctly recorded, and they are not reported as missing or truanting.

Sometimes, especially when it is warm, young people do become tired and if they have not drunk any water may be dehydrated. Having a re-usable bottle of water which can be filled at break or lunch from the water fountains will help prevent dehydration and support their learning.

If a young person is Covid-19 symptomatic during the school day, the same procedure as above applies. They will be supported by our first aid team and in addition isolated from others. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect them with the advice that they should have a PCR test. The latest NHS advice I have received is that any siblings should also go home and the family self-isolate until the results of the test are known. Thereafter the advice of public health should be followed about self-isolation for the family if the test result is positive.

Advice For Families Following A Case Of Covid-19 In Their Child's Year Group

All families will continue to receive a communication from school which is called a low-risk letter if a young person in their child/ren's year group tests positive for Covid-19. These letters have been updated in line with the advice contained in Jason Leitch's letter which went out to all families on Thursday 16 September. Advice continues to be as follows:

- If your child is identified by public health as a **high-risk close contact**, they will be asked to self-isolate until they have returned a negative PCR test. Please let us know that this is the case through the usual absence reporting procedure – phone or email school.
- **High-risk close contacts** are most likely to be household members or anybody they have stayed overnight with.
- All other contacts – such as those in their class or year group are considered **low-risk contacts** and should continue to be alert for symptoms but attend school.
- Before next attending school **low risk contacts** should take a lateral flow test wherever possible and continue to test twice a week in line with previous instructions. Advice on obtaining LFD kits from school is below.

If you are facing challenging financial or family circumstances or if you need help/support during self-isolation, please see my [HT update letter dated 10 September](#).

Lateral Flow Testing

Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases of Covid-19. LFD kits are available from school and following completion of the following can be issued to pupils through PSE or collected from the school office.

NHS Consent Form – <https://forms.gle/pEcG1dp1n7Pp1hpK8>
S1 – S3 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/Zh1Wdfa9qUwHm9YR8>
S4 – S6 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/4BssE34StXMDtJD87>

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:

- Opportunity from Young Professionals
- Free Live Virtual Work Experience Programmes for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
- UCAS Sessions
- Receptionist/Admin Job Opportunity
- Office Junior/Trainee Job Opportunity
- Early Years Assistant Graduate Apprenticeship
- Ishoka Hairdressing Opportunities

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8221>

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

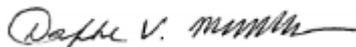
Braemar House	Miss Howard
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

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

I 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