



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 18 June 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- SQA Results: Communication from school
- College Course Results
- Senior Phase Pupils and Study classes
- Summer of Play
- Return to School August 2021
- Expectations: Our School Values
- Pupils going off school grounds
- School Uniform
- Lateral Flow Testing including over the summer period
- Pathway Planning

SQA Results: Communication

Today, Friday 18 June, a letter has been posted home to all young people with their Provisional Grades which will be sent to the SQA. Young people have been advised that if they have any concerns to speak to their Head of House (Guidance Teacher) before Wednesday 23 June 2021.

College Course Results

North East Scotland College (NESCol) Student Records will arrange for students to be informed by e-mail of their provisional results, providing them with written confirmation from 18 June. Pupils should therefore access their NESCol email account to check results from 18 June.

Pupils will have until 25 June to raise any concerns regarding their provisional grade with their lecturer. NESCol Student Records will then submit the results to SQA by the 25 June. Any concerns regarding provisional grades raised after 25 June, should be through the formal SQA Appeals Process.

Senior Phase Pupils and Study classes

S4

Young people must stay in the study class allocated unless they have a scheduled remote meeting for a college course, or they are signing out of school to attend college in person.

S5

As above and in addition young people can sign out of study to work on a subject where they need the practical equipment, for example, Music, Art or Design and Technology subjects like Graphic Communication or Computing Science. This must be with the permission of the teacher in whose classroom they are working who will supervise them. They must ensure that for all other study periods they have sufficient work with them to complete.

S6

As above and in addition young people may sign out to go home to study which means leaving the school building – not going to the canteen. This is good preparation for life beyond school when young people will be expected to organise themselves to attend university or college lectures at different times in the day as well as scheduling personal study time.

In all cases young people must sign out personally and if going home (S6 only) also sign out at the school office.

Summer of Play

The Scottish Government have provided funding for local authorities to provide activities for young people who have been particularly impacted by the Pandemic. These activities are for young people living in Aberdeen City. The range of activities can be seen in the link I previously sent by Group call and are now available for booking.

https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/summer-play?fbclid=IwAR0YfHotTI5IDbBj3Odvq9VrIEI0eq_krTKtdoY_LtkDTA0In9CiKqGoONU

Return to School August 2021

Monday 16 August 2021

In-Service Day

Tuesday 17 August 2021

First Day of Term

We have been advised to plan to return to school in August with the current mitigations in place:

- Separate entrances for each year group.
- Continued use of hand sanitising gel on entering school and on entering and leaving each class.
- The wearing of face coverings (unless exempt) for all young people and staff.
- The use of provided cleaning materials to clean desk and equipment under the direction of teachers.
- Staggered break and lunch times for S1 – S3 pupils and S4 – S6 pupils.

There is no doubt that young people have found the last 15 months challenging and for some the restrictions have had a particularly negative impact. We hope to start the new term with the prospect of a return to more normal practices and routines in school. We will begin the first day back with a reminder for all young people of our expectations.

Expectations: Our School Values:

**Be Caring
Be Respectful
Be Honest
Be Your Best**

Our BoDA Bs are the basis of all our work in school and what we expect of our entire school community: pupils and staff and, I would respectfully suggest, our parents and carers. The rules we have in place – all of which can be read in the School Prospectus – are there to keep young people safe and to ensure the good order within the school so that everyone can focus on what we are here to do – learn together.

Pupils Going Off School Grounds

Morning Break

All young people must stay on school grounds for morning break. They should ensure that have their own Accord Card to purchase snacks in the canteen or take their own snack to school. There is no time at morning break for young people to be able to get to the shops and back and be on time for classes. In addition, we are responsible for young people and can only supervise the school canteen and patrol school grounds: we cannot patrol the community to ensure young people are safe. Although we do make spot checks on the shops on Braehead Way and will direct pupils back to school. Persistent offenders will be put on detention at morning break.

Lunch Break

Young people in S1 are expected to stay on school grounds at lunch time unless they go home for lunch.

Young people in S2 – S6 may leave school grounds to buy their lunch locally and we would expect them to be able to do this and return to class on time. Persistent lateness after lunch will be dealt with in the same way as lateness in the mornings.

We have a well-developed system for recording lateness and consequences for those who are persistently late. This includes keeping parent/carers informed. We will remind all young people about this system on our return to school in August.

The **school grounds** extend as far as the school playing fields but do not extend to the grounds of St Columba's Church. This area is out of bounds for all young people at break and lunch because we never know when there may be a funeral or service taking place which could be disturbed by the noise of young people congregating nearby.

School grounds do not include the skatepark or the playground beside the Alex Collie Centre.

School Uniform

This [link](#) will take you to the page of the school website which has been updated and contains the details of our supplier of school ties: Abstich. If you require any

further information about school uniform, please refer to my Head Teacher Update letter dated 11 June 2021.

Lateral Flow Testing Including Over Summer

Please encourage your child(ren) to continue with lateral flow testing until the end of term. You will have seen in the news that Aberdeen is experiencing an increase in the number of cases especially amongst our young people. If you need a reminder of how this all works then please see my Head Teacher Update letter dated 11 June 2021.

If you can, please keep testing through the summer period. Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases. LFD kits can be ordered via the NHS Inform website (details below) or collected from participating community pharmacies. If that is not possible, we would definitely encourage your child(ren) to resume testing just before the start of the new term. Remember, if they or you develop any of the known symptoms of COVID-19, you must arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. All the information you need on testing – both PCR and LFD – can be found on the NHS Inform website (www.nhsinform.scot), just click on the red banner at the top of the page for all the latest COVID-19 information and advice.

If you require test kits to restart testing in the week prior to return to school please complete the google form below

S1-S3	https://forms.gle/K4Wj7MFCqvkaNesK9
S4-S6	https://forms.gle/47MBrMQc7kvF9wH17
NHS Consent	https://forms.gle/Gn85rMhKt25nNxY17

In the summer holidays lateral flow tests can be accessed from NHS Grampian.
<https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-19-public-information/subpages/covid-19-community-testing/>

Pathway Planning

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following have been posted this week:

- ASV Aquatics Training Opportunity
- RGU Late Applicants Event
- Modern Apprenticeship – Travel Consultant
- Service Desk Analyst Apprenticeship
- Mechanical Technician Vacancy
- Trainee Tax Advisor
- Engineering Apprenticeship

Young people also have access to My World of Work to find out more information about careers and pathways available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link -
<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8089>

In addition to the weekly opportunities, DYW also plan a yearly event which provides information for parents, carers, teachers, pupils & businesses.

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. For the final week of term and until the appointment of a new Head of Braemar House is completed Mrs Napier, Mrs Marshall and Miss Smith will continue to support the young people they have been responsible for this year.

Pastoral Care

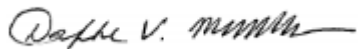
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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