



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



18 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 18 March 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Revised Government Guidance for schools
- S4 - S6 Reports
- Assemblies
- Canteen Summer Menus
- Parent Council
- Immunisation HPV and DTP/Men ACWY
- Free Transport – over 16s
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Last Day of Spring Term:	Friday 1 April 2022
First Day of Summer Term:	Monday 18 April 2022
First Day of Study Leave:	Tuesday 26 April 2022
First SQA Exams for our pupils:	Wednesday 27 April 2022
May Day Holiday:	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day:	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee:	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable:	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

Revised Government Guidance for schools

This came into schools yesterday. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#). Head Teachers and Officers from Aberdeen City Council will be going through this in more detail in the next two weeks, updating our risk assessments and issuing these in time for 18 April when we return for the summer term.

S4 - S6 Reports

Just a reminder that we are extending the deadline for completion of the reports by teachers to 1 April and these will be issued to families after the holidays: by Friday 22 April. This will ensure that the estimate grades in the reports are based on the latest and best evidence produced by the young people so will be up to date. These will be the grades which will be sent to the SQA.

Assemblies

These have taken place this week and covered the following:

- We acknowledged that the experiences of young people over the last two years have been challenging and so different to what we normally would provide.
- For S1 and S2 pupils we looked forward to next term and session 2022 -23: telling and showing young people what a normal session in school will be like for them as restrictions are lifted.
- We also reminded them about our school values - the BODA Bs and our expectations.
- We also explained that we will be using the information from the wellbeing surveys to make our plans for next session but will also be inviting groups of young people to tell us about what helps them to learn well in school and what we can do to further support their learning and life in school.

Additionally, for young people in S3 we covered:

- The many different pathways for them on the road to their chosen career destination.
- Looking forward to S4 and senior school when they will be working hard for their National Qualifications but also developing the skills they will need for life, learning and work beyond school: the skills which are as important as the qualifications.
- As they move into senior school our expectations in line with their growing maturity.

Assemblies for young people in S4 – S6 will focus on the exams and assessments and will be led by Mr Jamieson, year head for S5 and S6 and our SQA Co-ordinator.

If time allows, we will also take this opportunity to also tell our seniors about the opportunities open to them to take on leadership roles through the Head Team, prefect system, buddies' team, and mentors as well as our extra -curricular programme as they move into S5 and S6.

Canteen Summer Menus

These have been uploaded to the school website and can be accessed [here](#).

Parent Council

As you know the parent council are keen to gather the views of other parents and carers as we plan for the future, and how to do this will be the main topic for the next meeting which takes place on **Tuesday 29 March at 19.00 in person in school**.

The Parent Council would like to warmly invite any parent or carer who would like to attend to come along – even if only for this meeting. All you need to do is email the school with your name and the name of your child(ren).

The Parent Council will revert to online meetings for the meetings in April, May and June but plan two face-to-face meetings each year. At the beginning of the new session in September and at the end of the Spring term in March the meetings will be face-to-face.

Please come along to be part of the discussions and to share your views.

Immunisation HPV and DTP/Men ACWY

The Immunisation team will be delivering this vaccination programme on Monday 21st March as follows for 1B2 and S3 pupils. In addition, there is a catch-up session for absentees from previous days. Please ensure your child is wearing a short-sleeved top and has had breakfast. Please note your child can consent on the day if they wish to take the vaccine. Any queries please contact

gram.immsservices@nhs.scot

0900	Catch Up
0925	1B2 (HPV Vaccine)
0950	3B Girls
1015	3B Boys
1110	3C Girls
1135	3C Boys
1210	3D Girls
1235	3D Boys
1400	3F1 Girls
1425	3F1 Boys
1500	3F2 Girls
1515	3F2 Boys – please note slight change of time

If any young person feels anxious about the vaccine when it is their turn, they can speak to a member of the vaccination team and arrange to have it at a quieter time during morning break or lunch time.

Free Transport – over 16s

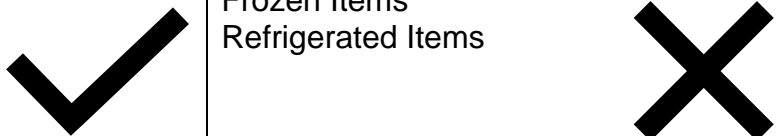
At the end of this letter, I have included instructions for young people who are over 16 on how they can add their free bus travel to their mobile phone. I have also added this to the Google classrooms of each year group from S4 – S6.

CFINE Food Bank Collection

You will recall the success of our last two collections – particularly the one at Christmas. The next collection will be on **Friday 1 April 2022**. This is going to be a very challenging time for many of our families because the cost of fuel, gas and electricity is rising and putting a lot of pressure on household budgets which means some of you will not feel able to contribute this time. However, because it is for our local community anything you can contribute will be very much 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.

<i>Yes please</i>	<i>No thank you</i>
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. This week the following have been posted:

- MA in Business Administration

- Maven – Financial Sector
- P&J – Danestone
- Engineering Apprenticeships
- PwC Virtual Insight Week
- Morrison Construction IT Trainee

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

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

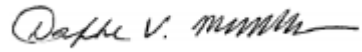
Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

Transport Scotland's *Pass Collect* app

If you are aged between 16 and 21 and already have an active NEC or Young Scot NEC you can download your free bus travel using the Transport Scot Pass Collect app onto your mobile phone.

Active cards are those received since 2016 – they'll have a long number next to the ITSO logo and, if there's a date of birth shown, it will be highlighted with a pink strip. Please note, any NECs which are dedicated matriculation cards aren't compatible with the app.



Download the Transport Scot Pass Collect app on the App Store or Google Play to add free bus travel your existing card:



[Download on the App Store](#)



[Download on the Google Play Store](#)

How to download the app

You can use the app with an Android (version 6 or later) or iOS (version 6 or later) phone that is connected to the internet by Wi-Fi or mobile connection. The phone must have Near Field Communication (NFC) compatibility. This is the same function you use for mobile contactless payments and is usually available on newer smartphones. To download the app you will need to either be connected to Wi-Fi, or have 3G, 4G or 5G network connection with good mobile signal.

How to use the app

The app is simple and easy to use – just follow the instructions to read your card and download your free bus travel. Watch this video from Young Scot for a useful step-by-step guide on how to use the app.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDHtlSzmwK0>