



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



21 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 21 May 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- In-service Days
- S4 and S5 Lift Off Event
- Pupil Behaviour
- School Mobile Phone Policy
- Pathway Planning
- Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening Event Series 2021

In-Service Days

- Friday 28 May 2021
- Friday 4 June 2021

S4 and S5 Lift-Off Event 31 May – 3 June

As I explained last week all young people currently in S4 and S5 in Aberdeen City will be participating in an event designed to support them as they move on in senior school and consider their future options and potential career pathways.

I have now posted information in the Google Classroom for our S4 and S5 students. This includes the pupil booklet they will use over the four days; a video explaining the booklet and a form to complete if they have a question for the astronaut.

There are several prizes to be won as a result of participating in the events on Monday 31 May and Tuesday 1 June.

PRIZES

- 1 x £250 [Marischal Square](#) Voucher
- 1x £250 [Union Square](#) voucher
- 1 x £250 [Transition Extreme](#) voucher
- 10 x £100 [Aberdeen Gift Cards](#)
- 5 x £50 Mackies ice-cream vouchers

On the Monday young people will only have access to the Monday programme and on the Tuesday will only have access to the Tuesday programme. However, on the Wednesday and Thursday they will have access to the recordings of the presentations from both days.

The organisers are still keen to have questions from the young people which can be posed using the following form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecZG-T8W40n5tjp83RL7dNHTp-DKTqxuU7kJu5BJg3IRhg/viewform>

As I explained last week on Wednesday 2 June and Thursday 3 June young people will continue to work at home on tasks arising from these two days which will then be built on in school when they return from 7 June onwards when their new timetable begins.

There may be some young people who will be required in school by their teachers to complete last pieces of assessment work for their National Courses. This will be arranged by teachers with individual young people.

We are very conscious that young people in S4 and S5 will have been heavily focussed on assessment for the entire month of May. This week's activities will support young people as they plan for the future however it will also provide a natural break between the end of their National Courses for session 2020 – 21 and their new courses for session 2021 – 22.

Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing

As I intimated last week, we held assemblies this week for young people in S1 – S3 to remind them all about the importance of our core school values. We related these to some of the concerns we have had over the conduct of some pupils in the last few weeks.

We have had reports from concerned members of the community about the amount of litter which is being discarded on the way back from the shops at lunchtime and vandalism to the school toilets which has resulted in some being closed until they can be cleaned and repaired. Neither of these is acceptable. These problems can be solved easily by young people taking their responsibilities as part of the school and wider community seriously. Litter goes in the bin or recycling. Toilets should be respected, and any damage reported to a teacher or member of staff.

Furthermore, anyone who knows anything should pass this information on so that appropriate action can be taken and no-one suffers because the toilets have to be closed for repairs or our local paths and gardens are littered.

More concerning is the way that a few young people have attempted to resolve disagreements with other pupils in inappropriate ways rather than seeking support from staff to sort things out. In some cases, it would appear that young people had been "persuaded" and encouraged by others to take this approach to solving disputes.

Parents/carers have been informed and appropriate sanctions put in place.

The message that all young people involved have been given is that any disputes impacting on school that cannot be resolved by themselves must be brought to the attention of a member of staff or discussed at home so that parents/carers can contact us to help resolve the situation. Physical violence is never the solution and never acceptable.

There is no doubt that some young people have found the return to school since April more challenging than the return to school in August. We are also aware that there are some who have forgotten and need reminding of their responsibilities as members of the school community and the wider community here in Bridge of Don. The assemblies were a useful starting point to remind young people about their responsibilities and to praise those who, every day, demonstrate their respect, honesty, caring and always give us their best in and out of school. We reminded these young people that as they move on in and beyond school that these qualities will be valued by staff and future employers.

We also reminded young people that their digital footprint needs to be carefully managed and cared for. I asked them to think about the image they convey of themselves on their social media platforms and reminded them that anything they say or post is “out there” forever to be seen by anyone who has access to it.

Young people who have been fighting with one another in particular need to be aware that these altercations are often filmed and then posted online by others.

Next week our Pupil Support Team will discuss the further supports we need to put in place for the final few weeks of this term and our longer-term plans for next session to build up young people’s resilience and confidence in their own social skills and ability to work well with others. These are necessary life skills and will be essential whatever career path young people follow.

School Mobile Phone Policy

We understand that young people need their mobile phones at certain points in the day in order to communicate with parents/carers. We have devised a policy which is very straight forward. It is in the school prospectus but for ease I have included it as an appendix to this letter.

There are red, amber and green areas of the school with regard to mobile phone use.

Red	no mobile phone use	corridors and stairwells where use of a mobile phone is a risk to health and safety. Young people need to see where they are going.
Amber	– teacher permission	Classrooms when it may be appropriate to record homework or be used to support learning.

Green – use permitted

social areas of the school: canteen and school grounds

On no occasion should a phone be used to film or take photographs of others in the school building.

Anyone in breach of these conditions will risk their phone being confiscated and kept in the school office as per school policy. We understand that for some young people their mobile phone is like an extension of their arm and as such it should be looked after carefully, and they should ensure that it is always used in line with school policy.

Pathway Planning

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- Sky Virtual Work Experience
- My World of Work Virtual Sessions
- Business and Accounting Webinars
- British Gas Apprenticeships

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/archives/8009>

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

Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening Event Series 2021: What do you need to know?

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is putting together an event series called Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening 2021. The event series will highlight current and future job opportunities and pathways.

DYW wants the sessions to be as useful as possible for parents, carers and guardians. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey below – this will help DYW shape this year's offering to best meet your needs.

The survey can be accessed [here](#) and closes on Friday, 4th June. Information on last year's event series can be viewed [here](#).

Contact with School

When emailing 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

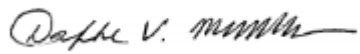
Crathes House Mrs Napier
Drum House Miss Smith
Fyvie House Mrs Marshall

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

Mobile Technology

1. Pupils are permitted to use mobile technology in the school canteen and school grounds before school, during interval and lunchtime only. These areas are denoted by green signs.
2. The use of mobile devices is **not** permitted in any teaching area of the school unless there has been specific permission granted by the class teacher for specific educational purposes e.g. Google Translate, recording speaking assessments, using stopwatch facilities. These areas are indicated by orange signs.
3. When moving around the school all earphones should be removed and out of sight. All phones should be in bags or pockets all cables/ headphones should be out of sight at all times. This is a health and safety matter when moving around the building as pupils cannot hear as well with earphones in. Areas where the use of a mobile device is not allowed is denoted by a red sign.



4. Anyone found to be using a mobile phone in a non-permitted area will:
 - i) On the first occasion – have the item removed and it will be placed in the School Office until the end of the day. This information will be recorded in the Mobile Phone Folder in the School Office.
 - ii) On the second occasion – have the item removed and it will be placed in the School Office until the end of the day. This information will be recorded in the Mobile Phone Folder in the School Office. Pupils will be allowed to collect their mobile phone from the School Office at the end of the day however as they are a repeat offender they will be required to hand in their mobile phone to the School Office at the beginning of each day (and collect at the end) until the end of that week.
 - iii) On the third occasion – have the item removed and it will be placed in the School Office until the end of the day. Pupils can collect their mobile phone from the School Office at the end of the day however as they are a repeat offender they will be required to hand in their mobile phone to the School Office at the beginning of each day (and collect at the end) until the end of that week. Parents will be contacted by a member of SMT and informed of this.
5. Inappropriate use of mobile phone technology in any area of the school building or its grounds is not permitted. For example: taking photographs, videos or cyber-bullying.

6. Mobile phone devices, iPods or Smart Watches are not permitted in any exam room. Pupils found to have taken these items into the exam room, regardless of whether they are on or off, will result in the SQA allocating zero marks for that exam.
7. Pupils are not permitted to listen to music on any personal devices in any class - including study. This is a health and safety matter as staff will not be in a position to monitor: volume, content being accessed by pupils but also pupils will not be able to hear any instructions given by their teacher.
8. Pupils who have been placed on an interval/lunchtime detention at the school office will not be permitted to access their mobile devices during this time.