



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



22 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 22 April 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- SQA Exams and Study Leave S4 – S6
- Face Coverings
- Parent Council
- Information from Police Scotland and Grampian Fire and Rescue
- Extra-Curricular Update
- Supporting an Anxious Child or Teen?
- Other Resources to Support Parents and Carers
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Study Leave for S4 – S6	Tuesday 26 April 2022
May Day Holiday	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Induction for New S5 and S6	Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable begins	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

SQA Exams and Study Leave S4 – S6

Mr Jamieson, Depute Head Teacher has issued a letter to all families detailing expectations of young people sitting National Qualification examinations starting next week. This can be accessed on the school website [here](#).

Please note that we have changed the times of exams as published by the SQA to be in line with our school day.

As well as explaining study leave and the exams this also contains information about the results service and post-results service the SQA provide for young people.

Face Coverings

On Monday I sent out an update about changes to the requirement for face coverings in school. This brings schools into line with wider society where the requirement for face coverings is now advisory (to be encouraged) rather than mandatory or governed by law. I am sure this will be a welcome change for most staff and young people. Anyone who wishes to continue wearing a face covering in class or communal areas will be supported to do so.

Parent Council

The next meeting will be online using Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 19.30** and will be a continuation of this discussion focusing on Learning, Teaching and Assessment, Wellbeing and Employability.

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

It is a warm and welcoming group: the parents and carers who attend do so because they want to support the school but also because they want to find out more about how things work in education today and how they can support their children's learning and wellbeing.

Information from Police Scotland and Grampian Fire and Rescue

We have been contacted by Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service asking us to do what we can to inform young people about the very serious potential hazards of accessing buildings which are not in use currently and have been boarded up.

We can all well imagine the dangers of such activities. Recently the Police and Fire services have had to deal with a high frequency of incidents at one such building in the Bridge of Don area. They have had information that young people have been accessing this building and lighting fires – not to vandalise but as a source of warmth to support social gatherings.

The landlords have been contacted and asked to make the building more secure but in the meantime the police have asked us as a school community to do what we can to stop this and protect young people from potentially serious harm. I am not going to talk to all pupils in assemblies because that has the potential to create curiosity in some who are not currently involved and could make the problem worse. However, the Fire and Rescue Service have volunteered to come into school to talk in general about fire safety in the community which will cover this too.

It is important that you are made aware of this so that if you have concerns you can address these with your own children and young people. The Police have indicated that because of the lack of ventilation anyone in the building at a time when fires have been lit would inevitably smell strongly of smoke. In addition, if you have any information which would help identify those involved, please pass it on in order that they can be spoken to directly regarding the dangers and potential risks to themselves and their friends.

Any information you pass on to me will be treated in confidence and young people not made aware of the sources.

Extra-Curricular Update

The clubs and societies available for young people have been updated. The popular Manga/Anime Club has returned on Mondays. The complete list can be accessed on the school website [here](#).

Supporting an Anxious Child or Teen?

Details about the NHS Grampian offer of two new free online programmes from their partners SilverCloud: *Supporting an Anxious Child* and *Supporting an Anxious Teen* were sent home by email on Friday 1 April 2022. Using tried-and-tested, evidence-based approaches, both courses have been designed by experts to help parents, carers, and teachers — or any adults in a caring role — to support children and young people who are struggling with anxiety. We have been asked not to share the contact details on any social media platforms because there is a different contact for each Health Board area in Scotland. Please contact the school office if you did not receive the email and would like the details passed on.

Other Resources to Support Parents and Carers

Young Minds

Website: [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

Facebook: [\(8\) YoungMinds | Facebook](#)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/youngmindsuk>

Parent Club (on raising teens)

Website: [Raising a teenager | Parent Club](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentClubScotland/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parentclubscotland/>

Parenting Across Scotland

Website: [Got a teenager | Info for families | Parenting across Scotland](#)

Children First

Website: [Scotland's National Children's Charity | Children 1st](#)

Web link to phonenumber info and option to webchat for parents: [Children 1st Parentline - Parenting Help, Advice & Support | Children 1st](#)

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. There are also lots more DYW opportunities can be found [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

(name change only)

Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

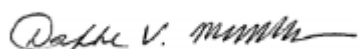
Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty

S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank

S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher