



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 23 April 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- Key Dates
- The Alternative Certification Model: Supporting our young people in S4 – S6
- Parent Council Meeting
- Litter Issues in Bridge of Don
- School Library
- Pathway Planning

### Key Dates

Monday 3 May: May Day Holiday  
Tuesday 4 May: In-service Day  
Friday 28 May: In-service Day  
Friday 4 June: In-Service Day  
Friday 25 June: End of Term

### The Alternative Certification Model: Supporting our young people in S4 – S6

This week in PSE all S4-S6 pupils have started to create an individual Assessment Timetable. This will help pupils to plan, prepare and organise themselves for assessments in the coming weeks. All classes have new PSE Google classrooms for targeted support with this. The Heads of House will be supporting pupils closely during this period of assessment. In the coming weeks PSE lessons will respond to the needs of our young people and will focus on discussing the following key areas:

- Time management and prioritisation
- Study skills
- Reinforcement of revision and memory techniques
- Developing a flexible mindset and building resilience
- Confidence and Personal Responsibility
- Managing anxieties and managing emotions
- Breaking down the barriers of studying with a focus on attitudes, resilience and motivation
- Wellbeing and mental health checklists

These inserts build on the work done by young people in the Live N Learn which they participated in during remote learning from January to March. Live N Learn are an organisation who provide motivational/support sessions for young people in an engaging and informative way. As part of their package of support, they provide schools with access to resources which we can freely use with our young people.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council meets remotely on Tuesday 27 April at 19:30. As always, if anyone wishes to join the Parent Council, please contact the school by telephone or email.

### **Litter Issues in Bridge of Don**

I have had a number of reports of litter causing problems for local residents since we returned to school in April. It is very disappointing that the behaviour of some pupils tarnishes the reputation of the school community as a whole. At the moment we are not able to meet with whole year groups, but I plan to do an assembly with a voice over which will be delivered in PSE to all young people about their responsibilities in ensuring litter is disposed of properly and praising those who already do so. The main issue seems to be on the way back from the shops or other food outlets after lunch. I would really appreciate any support you can give us and the local community in reinforcing the message that the proper place for litter is in the bin and not in the gardens of residents or on the paths and walkways around the school. In addition, bringing a refillable clear water bottle to school which can be filled from the water fountains will do away with the need to buy drinks and so further limit waste and litter.

Later this year it may be possible to organise a litter pick with younger pupils but at the moment our efforts are focussed on supporting pupils with reintegrating into school and the assessments associated with National Qualifications. Such litter picks require planning which takes some time and also the support of the local authority which I am confident we will get. I have been contacted by one of our local councillors and we will discuss this further when we meet.

### **School Library – a message from our School Librarians Mrs Marshall and Mrs Kennedy**

We have a Shelf Help section in the Library, a dedicated focal point for health and wellbeing resources. Pupils can browse and borrow books on subjects such as anxiety, resilience, and self-esteem. Full details of these resources can be found on our website <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/bodalibrary/home>

We also promote any new resources or useful links we come across, on our Google Classroom (code: cviklhw).

The very act of reading can contribute to mental wellbeing, so we regularly highlight mind boosting, feel-good fiction books on the website (under reading for pleasure), in our Google Classroom and in library displays.

## **Pathway Planning**

### **Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities**

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- Insight into Property Development
- IBM Insight Evening
- The Deloitte Aspire Programme
- Apprenticeships with KMPG
- Genesis Virtual Work Experience
- UCAS Discovery Days

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/7982>

### **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**

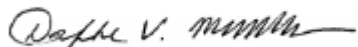
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

### **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