



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



23 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 23 September 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Holiday Weekend
- Break And Lunch Arrangements
- Extra-Curricular Offer
- Google Classroom Codes For Each Year Group
- Designated Doors For Each Year Group
- Abz Website
- School Uniform
- Covid-19 Vaccinations For 12 To 15-Year-Olds
- Procedure If A Young Person Becomes Ill During The School Day
- Advice For Families Following A Case Of Covid-19 In Their Child's Year Group
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

Holiday Weekend

School will be closed Friday 24 September 2021 and Monday 27 September for the holiday weekend. School resumes on Tuesday 28 September 2021.

Break and Lunch

From Tuesday of next week, we will revert to the same break and lunch for all. We will trial this for the last two weeks of term and hopefully, if all goes well, continue with this after the October Holidays.

**For all young people from S1 – S6 From Tuesday 28 September,
Break 10.45 – 11.05
Lunch 13.05 – 13.55**

Extra-curricular Programme

A programme of activities and clubs for is detailed at the end of this letter and has been shared with young people through PSE and Google Classroom. On the appropriate day young people should:

- If the club/activity allows lunch to be eaten in the room, go straight to that room from their period 4 class.
- If they have been asked to have lunch first – sign back into school using the S3 door (outside G10) where senior pupils will sign them in.
- Teachers will keep a register so that attendance and participation can be recorded for house points and potential merits.

There will be one or two additions to this programme as teachers finalise arrangements. Young people should continue to check their year group Google Classroom for the most up-to-date version. A paper copy will be displayed in the House noticeboards in the canteen and Heads of House have been promoting this in PSE.

Google Classroom Codes for each year group

S1 iggjtue
S2 gulakzl
S3 n3guhjt
S4 rx7gi6g
S5 67jutwd
S6 iku72rs

Please note these are for the use of young people only to access resources posted in their year group Google Classroom. Parents can receive updates through the Google Guardians daily or weekly report.

Designated Doors for each Year Group

We will continue to use designated doors for each year group first thing in the morning, after break and after lunch. This will allow us to check that all young people have face coverings and that they sanitise their hands. It will also relieve some of the congestion in the corridors.

Hydrogen Challenge

Nine of the eleven secondary schools in Aberdeen participated. Please see the end of this letter for more pictures from the Aberdeen final held at the Beach Ballroom on Friday 10 September. The three winning teams came from Bridge of Don, Bucksburn and Cults Academies. They will all go on to represent Aberdeen at the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

ABZ Website

Aberdeen City Council has launched a new website which will be a great resource for parents, carers and pupils. Details from the launch are below.
<https://abzworks.co.uk/>

This allows young people and parents/carers to easily find local information about career pathways, as well as access wider support, such as financial help, health and wellbeing advice.

The website has been developed to mitigate the economic impacts of both the pandemic and the oil and gas downturn. Developed with partners, including Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Developing the Young Workforce North East (DYWNE), the website promotes growth industry sectors, highlighting training, education and employment options in Aberdeen.

Although the pandemic has had an impact on the economy and jobs, Aberdeen is a city of opportunity with new technologies, new industries, and new jobs. We have key industries that are growing as a result of demand for new products and new services, such as health and social care, life sciences and energy, particularly renewables. These growth industries are supported with more routes into careers, including apprenticeships, college, and university courses as well as other work-based pathways, including work experience and volunteering. The website uses a mixture of animations, infographics, videos, and text to link to higher and further education providers, as well as wider support services in Aberdeen.

There are also resources, specifically developed for parents and carers to support their children to make informed career choices.

School Uniform

The school website has all the information you and young people need about what correct uniform should be. It can be accessed using this [link](#). You will also find a link here to Abstitch the company who provide our school ties and blazers. They will be open this Friday and Monday when school is closed.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for 12 - 15-year-olds

The vaccine is being offered to 12 to 15-year-olds subject to parent/carer consent. This will take place at the new vaccination centre at what was formerly the John Lewis building.

Procedure If A Young Person Becomes Ill During the School Day

All young people who become ill during the school day MUST report this to their class teacher, support staff or to the school office who will arrange for a first aider to see them who will then contact home if it is necessary for them to be taken home. We ask that if your child contacts you during the school day to tell you they are unwell that you do not immediately arrange with them to pick them up but ask them to report to the school office so this procedure can be followed. This ensures they are safe and looked after whilst feeling unwell, their absence is correctly recorded, and they are not reported as missing or truanting.

Sometimes, especially when it is warm, young people do become tired and may be dehydrated if they haven't been drinking enough water. Having a re-usable bottle of water which can be filled at break or lunch from the water fountains will help prevent dehydration and support their learning.

If a young person is Covid-19 symptomatic during the school day, the same procedure as above applies. They will be supported by our first aid team and, in addition, isolated from others. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect them with the advice that they should have a PCR test. The latest NHS advice I have received is that any siblings should also go home and the family must self-isolate until the results of the test are known. Thereafter the advice of public health should be followed about self-isolation for the family if the test result is positive.

Advice For Families Following A Case Of Covid-19 In Their Child's Year Group

All families will continue to receive a communication from school which is called a low-risk letter if a young person in their child/children's year group tests positive for Covid-19. These letters have been updated in line with the advice contained in Jason Leitch's letter which went out to all families on Thursday 16 September. Advice continues to be as follows:

- If your child is identified by public health as a **high-risk close contact**, they will be asked to self-isolate until they have returned a negative PCR test. Please let us know that this is the case through the usual absence reporting procedure – phone or email school.
- **High-risk close contacts** are most likely to be household members or anybody they have stayed overnight with.
- All other contacts – such as those in their class or year group are considered **low-risk contacts** and should continue to be alert for symptoms but attend school.
- Before next attending school **low risk contacts** should take a lateral flow test wherever possible and continue to test twice a week in line with previous instructions. Advice on obtaining LFD kits from school is below.

If you are facing challenging financial or family circumstances or if you need help/support during self-isolation, please see my [HT update letter dated 10 September](#).

Lateral Flow Testing

Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases of Covid-19. LFD kits are available from school and following completion of the following can be issued to pupils through PSE or collected from the school office.

NHS Consent Form: <https://forms.gle/pEcG1dp1n7Pp1hpK8>

S1 – S3 Renewal: <https://forms.gle/Zh1Wdfa9qUwHm9YR8>

S4 – S6 Renewal: <https://forms.gle/4BssE34StXMDtJD87>

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:

- Interested in Accounting?
- Student Online Oxford Workshop
- ABZ Live – Employability Website
- Allied Health Opportunity
- MA in Administration

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8240>

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

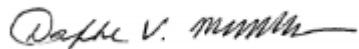
Braemar House Miss Howard
 Crathes House Mrs Napier
 Drum House Miss Smith
 Fyvie House Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

S1 and S2 Mr Haggarty
 S3 and S4 Mrs Cruickshank
 S5 and S6 Mr Jamieson

I 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



Hydrogen Challenge City Final @ The Beach Ballroom 20/09/21

Last week was a very exciting week for some of our S2's who participated in the Hydrogen Challenge workshop, ran by Arcola Energy & Aberdeen University. The workshop was designed to inform and inspire the next generation of renewable energy engineers, guiding them towards careers in engineering, environmental sciences and the development of cleaner, greener transport. 68 of our S2's were able to design, build and race their hydrogen powered Lego car. A small handful of participants were successful in the first round and attended the Beach Ballroom on Friday to do it all again, this time competing against teams from across the city. Well done to all of our S2's who took part in such a fantastic event. A huge congratulations to Liam & Tyler who came 2nd in the Inter-city final. They will be heading to Glasgow in October to compete against winning teams from across Scotland at the COP26 conference.



Timetable of Extra Curricular Activities – starting from Tuesday 28 September 2021

(Further details of all activities available in the information below – please check times and arrangements for each activity – **especially if you can bring your lunch or not**)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Support/catch up sessions for pupils sitting National Qualifications are planned for later in the year.				
Maths		Homework Club			
Modern Languages			N5 Spanish Speaking Conversational German	Conversational Italian	Conversational German
Science		Science Club			Warhammer Club
Technologies	Lego Club	D&T Practical Catch Up			
Expressive Arts	Junior Choir Drama Club		Cosplay		Senior Choir
Social Studies		Welcoming Space - Name of Group to be confirmed.	Debating Club	Global Goals	
PE		Volleyball	Netball	Badminton	
Wellbeing			Lunchtime Homework Club	Safe Space Club	
Home Economics				Craft Club	
Library		S1 Board Games	S1/2 Book Group	S2 Board Games	
RMPS		Amnesty International			

Extra-Curricular Activities 2021 - 22

MONDAY

Junior Choir

In Mrs Thomson's Room G21 for S1 and S2 at 1.30. Please have your lunch first.

Drama Club

In the Drama Studio from 1.20 – 1.50. Please have your lunch first. Learn to build your confidence, and creativity whilst experiencing performing and drama activities each week. This group is run by senior pupils who aim to lead S1 and S2 pupils to a performance at the end of the year.

Lego Club

In F17 with Mr Duff and Mr Anthony from 1.20 – 1.50. Please have your lunch first. Should the club prove a success, we may be able to enter teams into the "Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) FIRST® LEGO® League Scotland" competition to design and build a programmable robot.

TUESDAY

S1 Board Games

Board Games and other activities including manga drawing, mindful colouring and bookmark making. 1.30 pm – 1.50 pm in the Library, please have your lunch first.

Welcoming Space - Name of Group – to be confirmed

From 1-.05 – 1.50 with Miss Dyer and Miss Milne in G11. You may bring your lunch. Open to all S1 – S6 a welcoming space for LGBT+ and questioning pupils. Young people will direct the activities and function of the group, whether that is learning about LGBT+ sexuality and history, or participating in raising awareness of key issues, while functioning as a safe space for discussion and community.

D&T Practical Catch-up

In the workshop led by Mrs Essiet from 1:20- 1:50 have your lunch first. . This would be for any pupils who have workshop projects to finish off.

Volleyball

Led by Miss Hall at 13:20 Games Hall. Please have your lunch first and bring PE Kit to change into

Maths Homework Club

Get help and support with your mathematics homework every week. F9 or F15 at 1.30. Please have your lunch first.

Science Club

Fun Project led science activities leading to a Crest Award. In T10A led by all members of the science department. Bring your lunch. 1.05 – 1.50.

Amnesty International

F12 from 1.05 – 1.50 with Miss Devlin. You may bring your lunch. Amnesty International is a group that work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth, and dignity are denied. It is a global movement of ten million people and is the world's largest human rights organisations. As part of the Youth group, we will look at current campaign, raise awareness of human rights and think of what action we can take to help make a difference within our local community. We will also do fundraising for Amnesty International to support their work.

WEDNESDAY

Cosplay

Art Department 1.05 and you may bring your lunch. In this club pupils can create a whole range of different 3D props and costume pieces from cardboard and junk in the Art & Design Dept. Whether it's a mask, helmet, shield, weapon, wand, or other prop idea the creativity of every pupil can be supported in its creation by staff in the club. Geeky/nerdy chat encouraged, come along with lots of ideas! All artistic abilities welcome! Pupils can eat their packed lunch in the department, or they can come after eating lunch. Cards will be issued to pupils who sign up and regularly want to attend.

S1/S2 Book Group

Library 1.05 pm – 1.50 pm. Books, Biscuits and Banter. Love reading? then why not come along to the S1/S2 Book Group? To include reading, discussing, and voting for Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2022 and other book related activities. Bring your lunch and biscuits will be provided!

Debate Club

Led by Miss Strachan in G17 at 1.05 and you may bring your lunch. We will debate a new topic each week (topics can be requested by pupils). The club will be open for S1-S6 initially, but if there is enough engagement, we could potentially split it into S1-S3 and S4-S6 on different days.

Lunchtime Homework Club

In G11 – you may bring your lunch. Senior Peer Support pupils will run a drop in homework club, open to all pupils. This will be a quiet space to get help with homework from pupils who have been there and done it! For more information see Mrs Beattie/Mrs Walkden or anyone with a “Peer Mentor” badge.

Netball

Led by Miss Mustard in the Games Hall at 13.20. Please have your lunch first and bring PE Kit to change into.

Spanish speaking practice

For National 5. In T1 with Miss McBoyle 1.10 – 1.40 and you may bring your lunch.

Conversational German

In T2 with Mrs Lees from 1.10 pm to 1.40pm: This will be available Wednesday and Friday and you may bring your lunch.

THURSDAY

Cosplay

Art Department 1.05. In this club pupils can create a whole range of different 3D props and costume pieces from cardboard and junk in the Art & Design Dept. Whether it's a mask, helmet, shield, weapon, wand, or other prop idea the creativity of every pupil can be supported in its creation by staff in the club. Geeky/nerdy chat encouraged, come along with lots of ideas! All artistic abilities welcome! Pupils can eat their packed lunch in the department, or they can come after eating lunch. Cards will be issued to pupils who sign up and regularly want to attend.

Global Goals Group

In G12 and bring your lunch - are you interested in the rights of children? Fairtrade? Climate change? Other global issues? Then come along to the Global Goals group where you can help act towards making the world a more fair and environmentally friendly place. One of our first actions will be taking on the UNICEF Outright Campaign. For more information see Mrs Walkden.

S2 Board Games

S2 Board Games and other activities including manga drawing, mindful colouring and bookmark making. 1.30 pm – 1.50 pm in the Library, please have your lunch first.

Safe space drop-in

In G11 and you may bring your lunch. Senior Peer Support pupils will run a drop in at lunchtime, open to all pupils. This is a chance to come and talk to trained S6 pupils about anything you would like to. We will be focussing on mental health, mindfulness and inclusivity. For more information see Mrs Beattie/Mrs Walkden or anyone with a "Peer Mentor" badge.

Badminton

Led by Mr Jappy in the Games Hall at 13.20. Please have your lunch first and bring PE Kit to change into.

Craft Club

Led by Miss Rennie in G8: Card marking and craft activities for S1 – S3. You can bring your lunch with you.

Conversational Italian

Led by Miss Prior in T2 from 1.10pm to 1.40 pm. You may bring your lunch with you.

FRIDAY

Senior Choir

Led by Mrs Forbes at 13.30 Assembly Room, please have your lunch first. Open to S3 – S6 and new members welcome.

Conversational German

In T2 with Mrs Lees 1.10 pm to 1.40pm: This will be available Wednesday and Friday and you may bring your lunch.

Warhammer Club

In F23 led by Mr Windmill at 13.05. A chance to get into the world's most popular tabletop wargame. Roll dice, defeat your opponents! Talk with likeminded people. Learn to paint miniatures! Suitable for both experienced and new players. Bring a cold lunch and eat in the room for a swift start.

Arrangements

1. If you can take your lunch, please bring a packed lunch, or take cold food from the canteen which you can purchase at morning break to save time.
2. If the club starts at 1.05 or 1.10 then go straight from your period 4 class.
3. If the club starts later and you must eat lunch before you go you must sign in at the S3 door. There will be senior pupils on duty to help you with this.
4. If the activity is in PE – you can enter the department through the PE door as you would normally for a lesson.
5. Teachers will keep a register and house points will be awarded for participation/contribution and attendance.