



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



24 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 24 February 2023

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- School Reports S4 – S6
- Assemblies S1, S2 and S3
- S3 Parents' Evening 22 February 2023
- ACC Children and Young People's Plan: Consultation
- Parent Council and 100 Club
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

### Calendar Dates

#### Term Three

Last Day of Term:

Friday 31 March 2023

#### Term Four

First day of term

Monday 17 April 2023

SQA Exams commence

Monday 24 April 2023

Study Leave for all S4, S5 and S6

Monday 24 April 2023

May Day Holiday

Monday 1 May 2023

Holiday to mark Coronation

Monday 8 May 2023

Activities Week for all S1, S2 and S3

Monday 29 May 2023 to

Friday 2 June 2023

SQA Exams end

Wednesday 31 May 2023

New Timetable commences for all

Monday 5 June 2023

Summer Festival

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Last Day of Term

Friday 7 July 2023

### School Reports S4 – S6

These are due to be issued week beginning 27 February 2023 and will contain teacher statements about effort, behaviour and homework and comments about: progress to date including assessment results, next steps to meet target grades and

suggestions for further study which form an important part of the course choice process.

There will be one further report for each pupil with the estimate grade which will be submitted to the SQA for each of the subjects. This grade will not solely be based on the results of the exams sat in January but on a range of evidence gathered by teachers across the year including further assessments from this term.

There is a section for you to respond to the report if you wish. Please feel free to use this or the school email address to feedback to us.

I have detailed in previous HT update letters the sources of support for young people undertaking national qualifications. Teachers also provide catch up/ revision sessions in school and these are detailed below.

### **Art and Design**

Monday lunchtime - Photography and Nat 4/5/Higher/Adv Higher Art & Design  
Wednesday lunchtime - Nat 4/5/Higher/Adv Higher Art & Design  
Thursday lunchtime - Nat 4/5/Higher/Adv Higher Art & Design  
Friday lunchtime - Photography and Nat 4/5/Higher/Adv Higher Art & Design

### **Biology**

Supported study on Tuesday Lunchtimes for N5 and Higher: run on opposite weeks to the Chemistry sessions so that pupils can attend both if need be. All information is on the revision noticeboard in the science corridor.

### **Chemistry**

Chemistry is Tuesday lunchtime in T10C. It alternates week about from N5 and Higher. All details are on the noticeboard outside Miss Maitland's room.

### **English**

#### **Drop-In English Portfolio Help**

*National 5: W/B Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February*

*Higher: W/B Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March*

Monday –Mr Duncan in F5  
Tuesday – Mrs Tortolano in T20  
Wednesday – Miss MacDonald in G10  
Thursday – Mrs Forbes in F23  
Friday – Mr Warrender in T18

### **French and Spanish**

Miss McBoyle

Every lunchtime throughout March and after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Miss Tulloch

Wednesday lunchtimes for Nat 5 Spanish reading/listening in T2

Mrs Lees: any lunch time by arrangement.

### **Geography**

Higher Geography lunch time session by arrangement.

### **History**

Supported study on a Wednesday lunch time in G15.

### **Home Economics**

Tuesday lunchtimes G8 for Practical Cookery and Health and Food Technology.

### **Mathematics**

F9 every Thursday at 1.30pm.

### **Modern Studies**

Alternate weeks Wednesday/Thursday from 15.00 – 16.00 with Mrs Beattie. Lunch time sessions by arrangement.

### **Physical Education**

Tuesday Lunch time in GP2 – Higher and N5

### **Physics**

Physics N5 and H: Tuesday Lunchtime from 1.15pm.

### **RMPS**

National 5 revision session Thursday lunchtime starting from next week.

Higher and Advanced Higher start after the Easter Holidays and will continue during study leave,

## **Assemblies S1, S2 and S3**

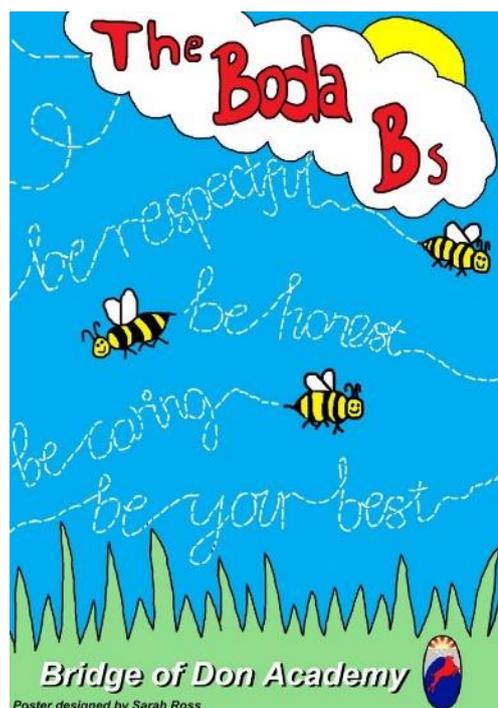
These took place on Friday 24 February 2023 to remind young people of our expectations linked to our school values.

### **Be Your Best**

I reminded young people that we are looking for them to be the best version of themselves and comparing yourself to others is not always a good idea. Young people make academic progress at different rates and have a range of skills and talents. But we can all be caring, respectful and honest. These are the core values that future employers and education establishments will be looking for. Qualifications are important but so is the kind of person you are.

### **Be Respectful**

I reminded young people about being respectful of our environment by putting litter in the bin in the canteen and when out and about in the



community at lunchtime. I also spoke about the need to show respect to one another and school staff. For example, canteen staff are not employed to pick up excessive amounts of litter because young people cannot be bothered to use one of the eight bins in the canteen. Respect is also at the heart of positive relationships – between young people and between young people and school staff.

### **Be Caring**

I reminded young people about the need to use kind words when speaking to one another. In Personal and Social Education (PSE) young people learn about the protected characteristics: Age, disability, Gender, Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation are just some examples. I reminded young people that using racial slurs, homophobic slurs and unkind words relating to any of the above characteristics is not only offensive but also potentially a hate crime.

### **Be Honest**

I asked all young people to reflect honestly about themselves and their progress in school. As I looked round the room, I could see lots of young people who are shining examples of our school values every day in and out of school. I explained about the reports and the grades for effort, behaviour and homework will be one of the ways that we monitor their progress through school as well as looking at the levels they achieve.

We want all our young people to be

**Successful learners  
Confident individuals  
Responsible citizens  
Effective contributors**

We went over some of the basics as a reminder of our expectations and consequences related to the following:

- Uniform
- Being on time
- Arriving ready to learn in lessons
- Mobile Phones
- Use of toilets

Finally, I reminded them of the good things coming – Activities Week and the Summer Festival. Both of which are opportunities for them to try some new experience and grow their confidence. In addition, for young people in S3 Mrs Cruickshank will be looking for young people to take on prefect roles whilst the seniors are on study leave. A great chance to develop new skills and confidence.

## **S3 Parents' Evening 22 February 2023**

I enjoyed meeting and speaking with so many of you at the parents evening this week. You commented that you were glad to be able to meet teachers in person to

discuss your child/ren's progress and as always, we welcome your feedback on the evening.

Please remember if you still have concerns you can use the response section of the report or email directly the school office and speak with your child's Head of House or Year head.

## School Show Sponsorship Opportunities

This year, Bridge of Don Academy pupils are delighted to make their return to the stage at Aberdeen Arts Centre from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with their production of The Addams Family.

With rehearsals for the show well underway and fundraising ongoing, we are looking for sponsorship from local businesses to support us with the costs this involves.

We would LOVE to hear from you if you think you or your employer might be able to assist with sponsoring our school show.

Please have a read through our sponsorship opportunities and if you wish to make a contribution or purchase advertising space, please contact Mrs Martin via email: [AliMartin@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:AliMartin@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

<b>SPONSORSHIP LEVEL</b>	<b>GOLD £200</b>	<b>SILVER £100</b>	<b>BRONZE £50</b>	<b>CAST MEMBER £25</b>
<b>COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS</b>	4	2	-	-
<b>PROGRAMME ADVERT SIZE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE</b>	<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	-
<b>SPECIAL MENTION IN PROGRAMME CREDITS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

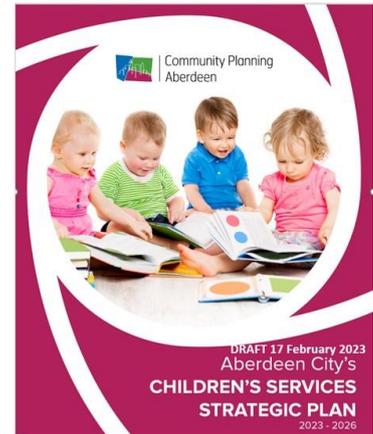
The School Show Production Team

## ACC Children and Young People's Plan: Consultation

Please see the following communication from Aberdeen City council. All relevant documents for young people are in their year group Google Classroom.

### **What are we consulting on?**

*The Children's Services Board is consulting on the draft revised Children's Services Strategic Plan 2023-26 which sets out the priorities we have identified to help improve outcomes for children, young people, and their families in Aberdeen.*



**We'd like to hear your views on our draft Plan** *The draft Children's Services Plan 2023-26 is now open for consultation until **12 March 2023**. The consultation gives all citizens the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan before it is considered by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 19 April 2023.*

*The views of our children and young people are also vital to informing the Plan and ensuring that our priorities are the right ones. To assist with engagement, we have developed a **children and young people's version** of the Plan, along with a **Microsoft Form** to capture their views. Children and Young People can complete the form individually, or as part of a group.*

[The Full Plan](#) including links to submit your responses  
[The Children's Version of the plan](#)

*If you have any queries or would like to give us feedback, please use the comments boxes in the link or email us at [communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk)*

## Parent Council and 100 Club

The group is made up of parents/carers of children and young people attending school in almost all year groups who are interested in finding out more about how education works but also keen to support the school.

If you would like to join the Parent Council, please email the school office with your name and the name(s) of your child(ren) to join online you will also need to give us an email address to send the invitation to the online meeting.

The meetings for the session are scheduled from 19.00 – 20.00 as follows:

### Future Meetings

Tuesday 28 March 2023:	Virtual meeting
Tuesday 25 April 2023:	Virtual meeting
Tuesday 30 May 2023:	AGM in person

The only fund raising the Parent Council does is their **100 Club**. You can download the form to join this from the school [website here](#) or use the bank details it contains to set up a direct debit using online banking.

## Severe Weather

We will use a variety of communication methods if severe weather impacts on school or school transport provision. On mornings of severe weather, I check that school transport is running directly with Central Coaches and Watermills and update the emergency information line as close to 07:00 as possible. If school transport is not running, this is a decision taken by the providers, not the school staff. If the school is open to all who can safely travel those who normally travel by school bus are also welcome if you are able to transport them to and from school or allow them to use public transport.

The parent School Closure details are: 0870 054 1999, School ID 011020

During the school day we will use Groupcall to inform parents/carers if it is necessary to close the school for any reason including severe weather. This will follow checking of forecasts, consultation with the authority and school transport providers. The timing will depend on how quickly bus companies can organise transport to return to school. Having decided on a time we will inform you so you can make any necessary arrangements. **We respectfully ask that you do not immediately contact your child(ren) because they may not yet know, and this has the potential to cause panic.**

Young people will be told in classes just prior to the time of the closure in time for school transport. They will be able to use their mobile devices to contact home to check they can safely be released. We take what they tell us on trust and the teacher completes a form with this information and young people depart school on foot or on school transport. We use the forms completed by teachers to follow any queries.

In the case of young people with complex additional support needs an individual plan is in place.

Please note that in the event of a young person telling us they cannot make personal contact with home we will keep them in school and try to make contact on their behalf. They will not be released until this contact is made so we know they can arrive home safely.

## 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

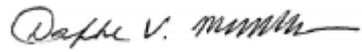
### Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty

Crathes House: Mrs Napier  
Drum House: Mrs Walburn  
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank  
S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher

## Reporting and Parents' Evening Calendar 2022 – 23 – Parent and Carer Information

Year Group	Interim Report – no teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Full Report – includes teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Parents' Evening Purpose and Dates
S1	Settling in Interim Report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework in each subject area.</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 11 November 2022</b></li> </ul>	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Progress and next steps comments</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 2 June 2023</b></li> </ul>	Meet your child's Teachers and follow up on Interim Report if you have questions about the effort, behaviour, and homework.  Teachers may also use this appointment to inform you about courses although this is on the school website. <b>30 November 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
S2	Interim Report for each subject including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Teacher</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 22 December 2022</b></li> </ul>	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• Progress and next steps comments</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 19 May 2023</b></li> </ul>	Progress including Curriculum for Excellence level achieved Next steps to meet full potential and discussion of potential pathways in the subject beyond choices already made for S3.  <b>8 February 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
S3	Interim Report for each subject including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework – please be honest with your assessment of this.</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 14 October 2022</b></li> </ul>	Final Report Progress and recommendations for Senior Phase (S4) for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum for Excellence level achieved.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Progress and next steps</li> <li>• Recommendation</li> <li>• <b>Issue Date 26 January 2023</b></li> </ul>	Follow-up to the final Report Issued on 28 January to discuss progress to date including effort, behaviour, and homework and to offer advice on course choice for Senior Phase – S4.  <b>22 February 2023 Face to Face in person</b>
S4- S6	Interim Report 1 for each National Course <sup>1</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Grade (can be amended)</li> <li>• Working Grade.</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 6 October 2022</b></li> </ul> Interim Report 2 for each National Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate Grade</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 24 April 2023</b></li> </ul>	Full Report for each National Course (following assessment period including prelim exams): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of assessments</li> <li>• Next steps to meet target grade</li> <li>• Effort, Behaviour and Homework.</li> <li>• Recommendation – although this is part of the separate course choice procedures.</li> <li>• <b>Issue date 27 February 2023</b></li> </ul>	To discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress to date with national courses and next steps to meet target grade.</li> <li>• Discussion of reasons for working grade and what needs to be done to prepare for assessment(s) in January.</li> </ul> Parents/carers choose <b>one</b> of the following options <b>9 November 2022 Online</b> <b>17 November 2022 Online</b>

<sup>1</sup> Please note that reports for courses undertaken at college and other schools may come at different times.