



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



25 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 25 February 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Covid Mitigations
- Wellbeing
- S2 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 9 March 2022
- Course Choice Procedures
- School Reports
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Last Day of Spring Term: | Friday 1 April 2022 |
| First Day of Summer Term: | Monday 18 April 2022 |
| First Day of Study Leave: | Tuesday 26 April 2022 |
| First SQA Exams for our pupils: | Wednesday 27 April 2022 |
| May Day Holiday: | Monday 2 May 2022 |
| In-Service Day: | Tuesday 3 May 2022 |
| Queen's Platinum Jubilee: | Friday 3 June 2022 |
| New Timetable: | Monday 6 June 2022 |
| Last Day of Term: | Friday 1 July 2022 |

Covid Mitigations

As you are aware young people no longer need to wear a face covering in classes, however pupils and staff **MUST** still wear one (unless exempt) in all communal areas of the school which includes corridors and the school canteen unless they are sitting down and eating.

I am sure this will support positive relationships in classrooms. It is so much easier to listen to and understand one another when we can see each other's faces.

Thank you for continuing to supply your child(ren) with a face covering each day for school.

Wellbeing

The Parent Council met on Tuesday 22 February 2022 and discussed how best to gather the views of the wider parent body on how we work together to support young people's wellbeing.

The general discussion was that as restrictions are lifted the aspects of school that enhance young people's enjoyment and support their skills development and learning will be possible. We spoke about the benefits of school trips and excursions; school shows and concerts and sporting events and competitions that support positive relationships between staff and pupils and between young people.

You are already aware of the wellbeing questionnaires that young people will be completing which will give us rich data about where we need to focus our efforts in the next few months and years.

The parent council are keen to gather the views of other parents and carers, and how to do this will be the main topic for the next meeting which takes place on **Tuesday 29 March at 19.00 in person in school**. The Parent Council would like to warmly invite any parent or carer who would like to attend to come along – even if only for this meeting. All you need to do is email the school with your name and the name of your child(ren).

The Parent Council will revert to online meetings for the rest of this session but plan two face-to-face meetings each year at the beginning of the new session in September and at the end of the Spring term in March.

S2 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 9 March 2022

The S2 Parents' Evenings will be held online using the same software which has been used by parents and staff in previous years to make appointments. A video calling module is now built into the software which allows meetings to take place within a browser.

For parents who are unfamiliar with the system, a letter will be issued a week before the Parents' Evening. A link will be given to the Parents' Evening Booking System web page which will ask for information to be entered to identify them as the parent/carer of their child. Once logged in, they will be able to make appointments with their child's teachers depending on availability.

On the evening itself, once logged in, parents will see a list of their appointments and a link to click which will automatically start a video call with each of their child's teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin a few seconds later.

Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.30pm, with a 15-minute comfort break at 6.00pm. It is important to note that this allows 30 five-minute slots for teachers to speak with parent/carers. However, some teachers may have more than one class, which means it won't be possible for them to meet with the parent/carer of every young person they teach. We apologise if you are unable to secure an appointment with a teacher but would ask you to contact your child's Guidance Teacher if you wish to receive feedback on their progress.

More information will be provided to parents via Groupcall before we open the system for bookings next week.

Course Choice Procedures

Course Choice procedures are completed for most of our young people. Work will continue with those that require additional support to do this.

The deadline for handing in course choice forms has been extended to Friday 4 March for all S4 – S6 pupils.

Many of the senior pupils have applied to undertake a City Campus course or a School Links College course. These courses require the young person to complete an online application form to be considered for the course. The Guidance team will be supporting young people in PSE to do this. The deadline for these applications is 18 March 2022.

The forms that they require to complete are available in Google Classroom.

Mrs Cruickshank would like to express her thanks to parents/carers for all of their help and support to our young people during their course choice procedures.

School Reports

The school's calendar for reporting and parents' evenings can be downloaded from the school website [here](#).

S3 reports previously went out with administrative errors. These have now been corrected and all parents/carers should now have received an updated version of their child's report.

S4 to S6 Senior Reports have also been sent home this week by post. If you did not receive your child's report please contact the school office.

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:

- RGU Online and Campus Events
- City of Glasgow College Open Day
- Audit Apprentices
- SSE Apprenticeship Programme
- Graduate Apprenticeship: Student Commercial Surveyor
- MA Senior Office Administrator

Lots more DYW opportunities can be found [here](#).

Severe Weather

We have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have periods of bad weather.

All classwork and homework are posted on Google Classroom as assignments so parents/carers can see this using Google Guardian. If you need more help with the Google suite of resources, you will find the Google Support site under the *Parents* menu on the front page of the school website. You can also access it using this [link](#).

In severe weather conditions, emergency closure or other emergency circumstances, parents and pupils can receive up-to-date information via:

- **The School Information Line**
Tel: 0870 054 1999
PIN code 011020
- **Aberdeen City Council's School Closures website**
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/school-closures>

If we have an emergency during the school day and must send young people home early, we will contact parents/carers using Groupcall. Before we send young people home, we ask teachers to check that they have been able to contact home and will be able to get into the house. If any young person has not been able to do this, we ask them to wait in school until we or they have made contact.

We have separate arrangements for our more vulnerable learners who travel to school by taxi whereby one of our support team will telephone parent/carer directly.

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

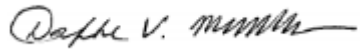
S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty

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

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

I know that times continue to be challenging for many of you and would encourage you to contact us here at school if you think we can help.

Yours sincerely

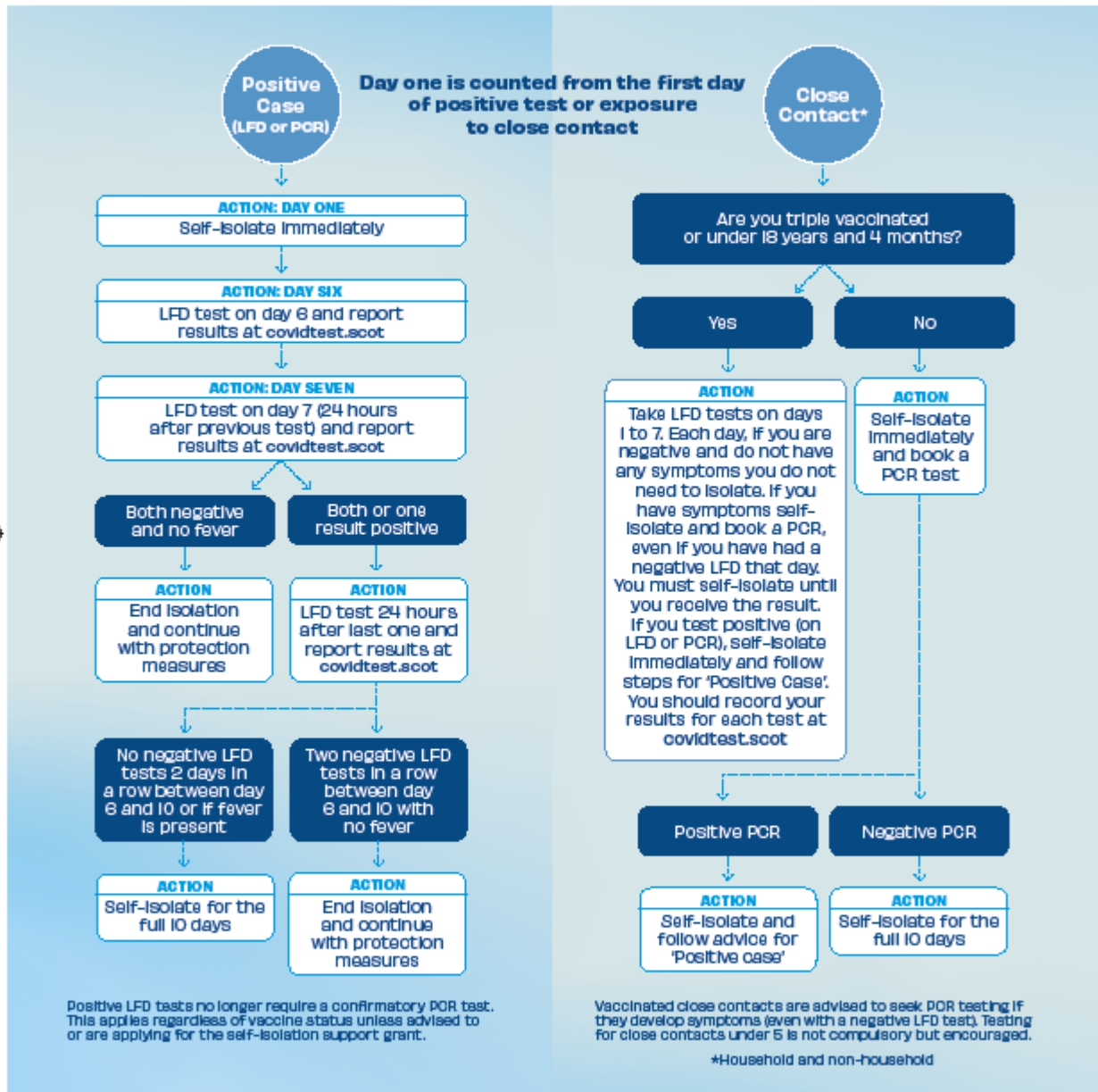


Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher



Living safely this winter

Changes to Self-Isolation and Testing



For more details visit [NHSinform.scot/isolation](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/sections/covid-19/self-isolation)

Being fully vaccinated reduces your risk of serious ill-health or hospitalisation from COVID-19 and time in self-isolation if you are a close contact. If you are not fully vaccinated visit [NHSinform.scot](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/sections/covid-19/self-isolation) or call 0800 030 8013 for details on how to get your first or next dose.

