



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

Braehead Way • Bridge of Don • Aberdeen • AB22 8RR

Tel 01224 707583

Web: [www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk)

E-mail: [bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



25 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 25 March 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Revised Government Guidance for Schools
- LFD Test Packs
- S4 - S6 Reports
- SQA Assemblies
- Parent Council
- Resources to Support Parents and Carers
- Free Transport – Over 16s
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

## Calendar Dates

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

## Revised Government Guidance for Schools

This came into schools on Thursday 17 March. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#). As I explained last week Head Teachers and Officers from Aberdeen City Council will be going through this, updating our risk assessments, and issuing these in time for 18 April when we return for the summer term. In the meantime, Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director has issued a letter to all families (sent by email)

explaining these changes, detailing the routine protective measures that will remain in place and explaining why the asymptomatic testing programme is coming to an end. This letter can also be accessed on the school website [here](#). Apart from an end to the routine asymptomatic testing programme we are expected to maintain the mitigations currently in place:

- Young people and staff should stay at home and self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid-19
- Good hand hygiene to be maintained
- Cleaning routines maintained
- Ventilation to be a priority
- Face coverings for staff and pupils in corridors and communal areas such as the canteen when not eating, unless exempt
- Physical distancing, as a reasonable precaution between staff and between staff and pupils – 1m is the recommendation
- Face coverings on school transport unless exempt

We appreciate all of you sending your child(ren) to school with appropriate face coverings. We will continue with separate entrances for each year group so that we can welcome young people to school each day, supply spare face coverings if required and ensure hands are sanitised. This will not apply to S4 – S6 pupils during exams: they should use the main entrance.

## **LFD Test Packs**

We still have a number of these in school which will be available for young people to collect from either the school office or Heads of House. We will no longer be distributing them after the holidays because as detailed above the asymptomatic testing programme is coming to an end.

## **S4 - S6 Reports**

Just a reminder that we are extending the deadline for completion of the reports by teachers to 1 April and these will be issued to families after the holidays, by Friday 22 April. This will ensure that the estimate grades in the reports are based on the latest and best evidence produced by the young people so will be up to date. These will be the estimate grades which will be sent to the SQA.

## **SQA Assemblies**

Assemblies for young people in S4 – S6 will focus on the forthcoming SQA Examinations and the regulations governing them including the following:

- Conduct
- Items not allowed in exam rooms

- The role of Invigilators
- What to do if you are late or ill during and exam

Mr Jamieson will also issue each young person with the following:

- A summary of the courses they are entered for to check for accuracy
- The contact details we have on the system which is where exam certificates will be sent to check for accuracy and confirmation of the name which will appear on exam certificates.

In addition, a booklet produced by the SQA will be issued to each young person detailing the above and other rules set by the SQA. It contains the small tear-out card on which young people can record their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) which must be written on all exam papers. This is the only item, apart from pens and a clear unlabelled water bottle which can be taken into the exam room. Much of this information can be viewed [here](#)

Assembly dates:

S5 and S6:	Tuesday 29 March, Period 3 or 4
S4:	Thursday 31 March, Period 2 or Friday 1 April, Period 2

The year groups are large and so will be split to be accommodated comfortably in the Assembly Room.

If time allows, we will also take this opportunity to tell our seniors about the opportunities open to them to take on leadership roles through the Head Team, Prefect system, Buddies' team, mentors and our extra -curricular programme as they move into S5 and S6.

Study Leave will begin for all on Tuesday 25 April. A letter from the school reminding young people about the exam procedures discussed at Assemblies will follow over the next few weeks and a copy e-mailed home.

## Parent Council

As you know the parent council are keen to gather the views of other parents and carers as we plan for the future, 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 meetings in April, May and June 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 the meetings will be face-to-face.

Please come along to be part of the discussions and to share your views.

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

## Free Transport – Over 16s

At the end of this letter, I have included instructions for young people who are over 16 on how they can add their free bus travel to their mobile phone. I have also added this to the Google classrooms of each year group from S4 – S6.

## CFINE Food Bank Collection

You will recall the success of our last two collections – particularly the one at Christmas. The next collection will be on **Friday 1 April 2022**. This is going to be a very challenging time for many of our families because the cost of fuel, gas and electricity is rising and putting a lot of pressure on household budgets which means some of you will not feel able to contribute this time. However, because it is for our local community anything you can contribute will be very much appreciated by CFINE. As always, we will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items as detailed below. To find out more use this [link](#).

In addition, Miss Strachan has a collection tin in her room (G17) for small change that young people may wish to donate which we will then use to purchase items for the foodbank.

<b>Yes please</b>	<b>No thank you</b>
Tinned Food Cereals Pasta Condiments and spices Juices Toiletries Nappies	Fresh Food Frozen Items Refrigerated Items



Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

- Admin block - Assembly Room
- Ground Floor - Home Economics classroom
- Ground Floor - G17 (Miss Strachan's room)
- First Floor - F12 (Miss Devlin's room)
- Top Floor - T3 (Mrs Lees' room)
- Staffroom

## **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 Studying Medicine?
- Virtual Insight Week
- EY Accounting Summer Work Experience
- Nuffield Research Placements

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

## **Severe Weather**

Hopefully we are now well into better weather, but we still have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have disruption due to 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  
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 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

## Transport Scotland's *Pass Collect* app

If you are aged between 16 and 21 and already have an active NEC or Young Scot NEC you can download your free bus travel using the Transport Scot Pass Collect app onto your mobile phone.

Active cards are those received since 2016 – they'll have a long number next to the ITSO logo and, if there's a date of birth shown, it will be highlighted with a pink strip. Please note, any NECs which are dedicated matriculation cards aren't compatible with the app.



Download the Transport Scot Pass Collect app on the App Store or Google Play to add free bus travel your existing card:



[Download on the App Store](#)



[Download on the Google Play Store](#)

### How to download the app

You can use the app with an Android (version 6 or later) or iOS (version 6 or later) phone that is connected to the internet by Wi-Fi or mobile connection. The phone must have Near Field Communication (NFC) compatibility. This is the same function you use for mobile contactless payments and is usually available on newer smartphones. To download the app you will need to either be connected to Wi-Fi, or have 3G, 4G or 5G network connection with good mobile signal.

### How to use the app

The app is simple and easy to use – just follow the instructions to read your card and download your free bus travel. Watch this video from Young Scot for a useful step-by-step guide on how to use the app.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDHtlSzmwK0>