



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



26 August 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – Beginning of Term 26 August 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Welcome back everyone
- Parent Council and 100 Club
- Exam Results and Appeals
- School Day
- School Uniform
- Uniform Checks
- Supporting families with uniform purchases
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Support for Families
- Communication
- Litter, recycling and waste collections
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

September Holiday weekend

Friday 23 September 2022 to

Monday 26 September 2022

Last Day of Term

Friday 14 October 2022

First Day of Term

Monday 31 October 2022

Welcome back everyone

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week. I sincerely hope that everyone managed to have some time to rest, relax and re-charge their batteries during the summer holidays. However, I am also aware that the long break can be a challenge for families juggling work and other responsibilities with childcare and supporting young people. Hopefully the good weather made this a little easier.

We return to school almost “back to normal” except for additional cleaning which still takes place. We have also been told that there will be a flu vaccination programme

in schools in the Autumn – the school administration team will have more information on this soon.

We look forward to a positive session , planning for more trips and activities for young people and a return of traditional events which add so much to school life and learning for everyone.

In the week beginning 5 September Live-n-Learn will be delivering workshops for all young people from S1 – S6 to support them in beginning the session with a positive can-do attitude to life and work in school and beyond. If you are interested, you can find out more about these [here](#). Please note that the workshops for our school will be bespoke and draw on the different elements of those described on the website. It will be good to return to these being in person – we were able to keep them going during Covid restrictions but only online.

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.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be in person in school on Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 19.00. 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).

The only fund raising the PC does is their 100 Club – I have included information about this at the end of this letter.

Exam Results and Appeals

Our young people worked hard for the examinations for their National Qualification courses and are to be praised and commended for their efforts. For the majority their results were as expected, and they are now moving on with life beyond school or their new courses in school.

Our results were good across the board and I will share more detail in our Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan this term.

We have a list of young people who are entitled to appeal because their final grade was not as good as their estimate grade. A Google Form was posted in their Year Group Google Classroom and posted on the school website [here](#). Young people can also register an appeal directly with the SQA [here](#). They need to do this by Tuesday 30 August 2022.

We will not appeal unless we have the permission of the young person. In some cases, grades can go down as well as up, but young people should discuss this with their teacher or a member of staff in school. A Groupcall message went home today to all parents/carers to alert them once again to this process.

School Day

From August 2022 we have reinstated registration. This will allow us to carry out uniform checks and give out information directly to young people. The School Day is as follows:

Monday and Tuesday	Wednesday to Friday
08.34 - Warning bell - go to Registration	08.34 - Warning bell - go to Registration
08.39 - Registration begins	08.39 - Registration begins
08.45 - Go to Period 1 class	08.45 - Go to Period 1 class
09.45 - Go to Period 2 class	09.45 - Go to Period 2 class
10.45 - Morning interval	10.45 - Morning interval
11.05 - Go to Period 3 class	11.05 - Go to Period 3 class
12.05 - Go to Period 4 class	12.05 - Go to Period 4 class
13.05 - Lunch break	13.05 - Lunch break
13.50 - Warning bell - go to Period 5 class	13.50 - Warning bell - go to Period 5 class
13.55 - Period 5 begins	13.55 - Period 5 begins
14.55 - Go to Period 6 class	14.55 - School day ends
15.55 - School day ends	

Lates will be recorded for:

- arriving in class after 08.39 in the morning
- arriving in class after 11.10 following morning interval
- arriving in class after 13.55 following lunch

School Uniform

I include a reminder about the school dress code for pupils at Bridge of Don Academy.

School uniform promotes a sense of identity, belonging and connectedness to school. It instils a sense of pride in both their appearance, themselves and attitude towards learning. Many of our young people will pursue a career where there is a dress code at work, and perhaps a standard uniform. Wearing the school uniform helps them to bridge the gap between school and the world of work. It also removes the competitiveness where young people feel they have to live up to a particular

image of having to wear the latest trends which includes expensive items of clothing, especially at a time when families are under pressure to meet day-to-day household costs. By adopting the school uniform, parents and young people can source their own plain white shirts, trousers, skirts and shoes without fear of having to compete with others for the wearing of expensive 'leisure' items.

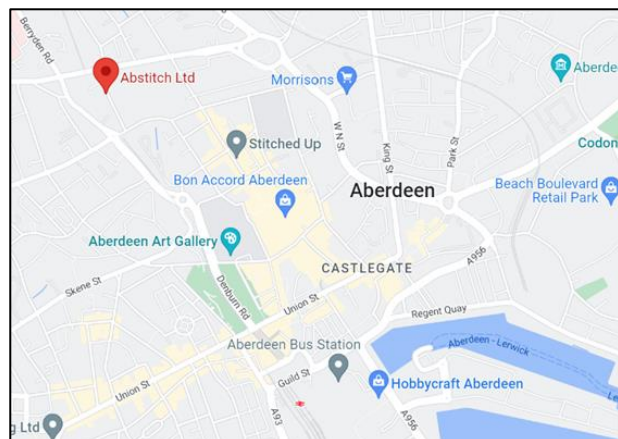
The only specialist items of uniform that need to be bought are those that identify the school: blue tie with school badge for S1 to S4, red tie for S5/S6, and blazer with the school badge on the breast pocket, which is a requirement for returning to senior school but is encouraged in years S1 to S4. All items are available from Abstitch whose details are below. Ties are £7.50 and blazers are between £33 and £39 depending on size and alterations required.

Senior pupils who have been allowed to return to S5 and S6 are reminded that by doing so they are required to comply the senior school dress code. Those who fail to do so, and are no longer legally required to be in education, i.e. over 16, will be issued with a leaver's form if they continue to dismiss the school's senior dress code.

Abstitch are open Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am until 4.00pm.

Abstitch (Aberdeen Embroidery Company Ltd)

35 Ann St
Aberdeen
AB25 3LH
Tel: 01224 639152



Uniform Checks

Registration Teachers will do a uniform check each morning, issue young people with a yellow uniform slip and record their lack of uniform on their register which will allow us to track this and let you know. They will send these young people to the Assembly Room to meet with a member of the senior leadership team. As I explained in my email earlier this week this is so we can support young people and families. Sometimes we refer them to Heads of House or sometimes we will just have a chat and remind them about the importance of uniform.

Following this meeting a Group call will be sent home to keep you informed. There have been occasions when parents/carers send their youngsters to school appropriately dressed and they do not arrive in the same state.

Please contact school to let us know if your child(ren) will have an issue wearing uniform whether that is in the long term or short-term. For example, some young

people have sensory issues which make certain fabrics very uncomfortable and so parents/carers purchase items which are comfortable and as close as possible to the dress code. In other cases, circumstances make replacing worn out or damaged items a challenge especially as young people grow quickly and items such as shoes become more expensive. As soon as we know we can record this, and no uniform check will be issued or group call sent until the date you give us when the item will be replaced.

We would also like to reinstate the incentive of a prize for the classes with the best uniform record which, in the past, has been an outing or similar treat. More information on this to follow when we have finalised plans.

Supporting families with uniform purchases

We have a fund available to help families purchase uniform items and The Scottish Government have increased the school clothing grant to help families who need it most. We are happy to speak to you or your child if you are struggling to pay for any items of school clothing.

We plan to have a stall with used but serviceable uniform items available on each Parents' Evening. The items will be free. This will be managed by a member of the school Administration team, but it would be very helpful if they could be assisted on these evenings by a volunteer parent/carer. I will be issuing the dates for these evenings soon and if you are available for one or more this help would be very gratefully accepted. If you wish to donate items such as ties, blazers or jumpers please let the school office know and they will tell you how to drop them off.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Some of these have resumed informally this week but almost all will start properly next week. This [link](#) will take you directly to the page on the website where you can download the information about days, times, and rooms. Hopefully we will soon have some pictures to share with you of young people participating. Please encourage your young people to participate in activities – it is a good way to make new friends and get to know teachers.

Support for Families

We are all affected by the rise in the cost of living including fuel costs. I have posted on the school website a Finance Postcard detailing how families can access free help and support to ensure they are getting all the benefits and financial support they are entitled to. Use this [link](#) to access this or contact your child(ren)'s Head of House for support in accessing this.

Communication

My plan is to send a Head Teacher Letter once a month from now on. This will include the usual updates about events in and out of school and I will try to include pictures of trips such as the Dram trip to the Fringe and the S6 trip to RGU taking place today.

The Developing Young Workforce announcements about careers and pathway planning including college and university opportunities will continue to be published on the school website and in year group Google Classrooms.

Litter, recycling and waste collections

As you know the waste collections in Aberdeen will be impacted by strike action. Therefore, we strongly encourage all young people to reduce waste by bring a re-usable bottle for drinking water to school each day. This can be filled at one of the three water fountains located in and just outside the school canteen at break or lunch. This will reduce recycling and waste. We have contingency plans in place but ask for your support at a challenging time for all.

As always, we want our school grounds and the community to be clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy and so all young people are encouraged to minimise waste and dispose of their litter appropriately. Those in S2 – S6 who choose to go off school grounds at lunch time are particularly reminded to use the bins or take their litter home.

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: Mrs Walburn
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

PARENT



COUNCIL

£2 per number to win up
to £50 each month!

100 Club

Profits buy learning and teaching resources e.g.

- Subscription to *My Maths* for all pupils S1-6
- Textbooks for Higher and N5 RMPS
- Maths Textbooks for S4 pupils
- Personal and Social Education resources for Drugs Education and Sex Education
- Subscription to online research resource "Issues".
- Library Books: fiction to support personal reading

1. Set up direct debit using the form below or use your online banking app with the sort code and account number from the form.
2. Cost - £2 per month per number.
3. Email the school bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk to tell us you have done this and the information will be passed onto the treasurer who will allocate a number(s). Include your name, email, and phone number – to contact you if you win!



Please note you can download the form referred to from the school [website here](#) or use the bank details it contains to set up a direct debit using online banking.