



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Head Teacher's Update – Friday 26 February 2021**

I write to update you on the following issues:

- **Parent Council**
- **Support for Families**
- **Senior Phase Return and potential Extension of Senior Phase Return**
- **Developing the Young Workforce**

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council continues to meet virtually during this period of school closure. They are the voice of the wider parent/carer body and give feedback on policies from their perspective and so support decision making. They are a very good sounding board and support for me as we navigate these challenging times as a school community and I thank them for their support. If any parent/carer is interested in joining the Parent Council to support the school or just to find out more about how things work please email or telephone the school office using the contact details at the top of this letter. All meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month and the next is on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 19.30.

We all recognise that parents and carers are not teachers and that these times are very challenging for all of you who are balancing supporting your children and your own work and family commitments. The recent survey undertaken by Aberdeen City Council has just come in and the overwhelming message is that our children all need to be back in school. There were a number of different constructive suggestions about distance learning which echoed those of the Parent Council. Thank you to all of you who recognised the hard work of the staff in supporting your children whilst balancing their own commitments with their school work.

### **Support for Families**

On the ACC Parent Hub you will find information and links to sign up for the following series of P7 – S3 Parents/Carer virtual wellbeing sessions for families. This link will take you directly to the page.

[Parent Learning Hub - Stronger Families Series \(google.com\)](#)

**Thursday 4 March 7.30-8.15pm Teenage Brain Development Part 1 -**

An introduction to teen brain development; join Shona Duff, Social Work Team Manager to look at how brain development can influence behaviour and discuss the impact social media has on the teenage brain.

### **Wednesday 10 March 7.30-8pm Teenage Brain Development Part 2**

Join Zandra Morrison, Depute Manager at ACIS Youth to learn some more about the teenage brain and its development, and what parents can do to make life easier for everyone.

### **Thursday 18 March 7.30-8.15pm Stress, Worry and Loneliness**

Are you the parent of a tween (age 10-14) who is bothered by stress, worry or loneliness? Join Dr Caitlin Napier and Dr Louise Foubister, Senior Registrars in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, for an informal discussion about the practical strategies that might be able to help your child.

### **Wednesday 24 March 7.30-8.30pm An Introduction to Drugs Awareness**

Join Kira Weir, Training and Communications Officer for CREW to increase your knowledge and understanding of drugs, emerging drug trends and effective strategies to support your child.

### **Senior Phase Return**

This has gone well. This week young people have enjoyed being back in class and welcomed the opportunity to get on with their practical work for their certificate courses. They have complied very well with the additional measures we have in place to support their health and safety and that of their teachers. Teachers have enjoyed doing what they do best – teaching young people in school. Young people can still sign up for Covid-19 Self Testing if they are going to be in school for practical lessons – see last week's HT Update letter to families for more details.

### **Extension of Senior Phase Return**

The First Minister announced on Tuesday of this week that all P4 – P7 pupils will return to school from 15 March 2021. She also stated that more Senior Phase (S4 – S6) pupils will also return but no detail of who or how many. We are now waiting for further information which we expect in an announcement on Tuesday 2 March 2021. As usual I will update you as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)**

This is a strategy developed by the Scottish Government and supported by industry to enhance young people's progress from early years, through the senior phase and beyond. It provides opportunities, for our young people, to develop the important skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

It also supports us to work in partnership with organisations such as Skills Development Scotland, employer groups, colleges, universities, and community learning and development (CLD). We have now also been allocated a DYW

Coordinator, Mark Dalgarno, from DYW North-East. Further information on his role will be issued in the future.

One part of our DYW work is providing our young people with information on opportunities available to them such as work placements, webinars, apprenticeships, open days and many more. All these opportunities are being advertised in the year group Google Classrooms and if they have any further questions or require support to find out more about these, young people should contact their Guidance teacher or Year Head.

The following opportunities have been advertised in the last week and will be continually updated throughout the term:

- Hospitality Apprenticeship
- Work Insight Week
- So you want to be a Doctor?' online event
- Career in Physiotherapy
- Modern Apprenticeships
- Scottish Apprenticeship Week
- University of Dundee
- UCAS Hub Live: Career Hour
- Interested in Law?
- Engineering Apprenticeship

In addition, you will see at the end of this letter an appendix with other links to access DYW information.

### **Contact with School**

You can telephone or email the school to let us know of any concerns you have or to alert us to your child not being able to take part in on-line learning due to illness. Please note that the school office is staffed on a minimal basis by rota and that phone calls may not be answered as quickly as normal.

When emailing 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**

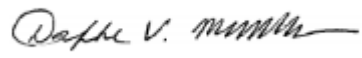
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

### **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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dafne V. Munn" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs D McWilliam  
Head Teacher

## Bridge of Don Academy DYW Update – 26/02

### Latest News

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- Adopt an Apprentice - [Funding increase for businesses through Adopt an Apprentice | Skills Development Scotland](#)

### Scottish Apprenticeship Week

- ATAC Lunch and Learn - Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2021 – Life Sciences - [ATAC Lunch and Learn - Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2021 Registration, Wed 3 Mar 2021 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- Scottish Apprenticeship week - Business Backing Apprenticeship Talent, A conversation with employers - [Business Backing Apprenticeship Talent, A conversation with employers Tickets, Tue 2 Mar 2021 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2021 - [Apprenticeships | Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2021](#)

### Work experience Opportunities

- CMS Prime Law Work Experience - [CMS PRIME Work Experience \(virtual\) for S5/S6 students - 15-18 June 2021 | My World of Work](#)
- Ringlink - [Ringlink Scotland welcome applications for Summer intake of Pre-Apprentices \(dyw.org.uk\)](#)

### Further upcoming Events

- Founders4Schools – Careers in Spotlight - [Careers in the Spotlight 3rd March 2021 | My World of Work](#)
- CMS Law Masterclass - [CMS Masterclass: make connections, get ahead! Tickets, Wed 28 Apr 2021 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### DYW North East News

- DYW North East are recruiting! [We're recruiting: Developing the Young Workforce Employer School Coordinator \(Secondary\) \(dyw.org.uk\)](#)

### Resources

- E-DYW - [E-DYW - DYW - Scotland](#)
- My World of Work - [My World of Work |](#)
- Apprentice.scot - [Apprenticeships | Apprenticeships.scot: Work, Learn & Earn](#)
- Nescol Foundation Apprenticeships - [Foundation Apprenticeships - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](#)
- Nescol School Links - [School Links - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](#)