



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update –Friday 26 March 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- Arrangements in place for Monday 12 April
- Additional Closure Days
- Assessment for S4 – S6
- Uniform
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Return of borrowed Chromebooks
- Costa Rica Online Quiz Fundraising Event
- Resources to support Mental Health and Wellbeing from CAMHS
- Developing Young Workforce Opportunities

Arrangements in place for Monday 12 April (after Easter Holidays)

Following the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday 16 March and subject to a final check on 6 April in the Easter holidays we expect to be welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 12 April with **no requirement for 2 metres physical distancing between pupils**. However, there will still be a requirement for young people to maintain 2 metres physical distance from their teachers. In addition, there is a requirement that all staff and pupils wear face coverings in the school building unless they are exempt. The mitigations that will be in place are the same as those in place prior to the Christmas holidays. For ease they are detailed below:

- Pupils will use their year group entrances.
- Pupils will report straight to their period 1 class.
- Pupils will be required to sanitise their hands when entering the building and when entering and leaving each class.
- Pupils will be required to use paper towels to clean their own workspace as directed by their teacher who will have sprayed it with Covid Guard.
- Staggered breaks and lunch will be in place for S1 to S3 and S4 to S6
- When moving through the school pupils must use the one-way system in place on the stairs and keep left in corridors.
- When leaving the building pupils must use the nearest exit to their classroom, as directed by their teacher to prevent congestion on the central staircase.
- In the school canteen pupils can remove their face covering whilst eating but must replace it thereafter.
- Pupils will be encouraged to go outside when they have finished eating.

- Unless exempt all staff and pupils **must** wear face coverings at all times when in the school building.
- In addition, pupils must avoid unnecessary physical contact with one another or sharing of food/drink or other personal items such as mobile phones.

All of these points were made in a presentation to pupils in school and which has been posted on each year group Google Classroom. In addition teachers have been reminded about the importance of good ventilation in classrooms as per Aberdeen City Council advice.

Additional Closure Days

In order to support staff in assessing and submitting grades for young people undertaking National Qualifications the Scottish Government have agreed to two additional closure days for all school in Scotland. This is in addition to any planned in-service days. Therefore, school will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

In-service Day:	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Additional Closure Day:	Friday 28 May 2021
Additional Closure Day:	Friday 4 June 2021

Assessment for S4 – S6

We are currently preparing an assessment calendar that will be shared with pupils early next term. A number of resources to support revision have been shared with young people during in school sessions and posted on Google Classroom. I draw your attention to the following:

e-Sgoil is offering an Easter programme of real-time, interactive webinars covering Nat 4 to Advanced Higher, for Scottish learners in the Senior Phase. The programme is not designed to deliver whole course content but will focus on key aspects of the subject(s) and hints and tips on how to be successful in assessments.

From 6 April to 16 April there will be three Live Webinars per course. They will be delivering over 60 courses offering 3 webinars each, over 2 weeks. All the pupils who are already registered for e-Sgoil Study Support in the evenings will be included in the Team but will have to register for e-Sgoil Easter Study Programme. Webinars will use a 'flipped learning' approach. This means that young people will have had access to high quality, online resources prior to attending each webinar.

Uniform

From 12 April 2021 we will revert to the same arrangements for school uniform as were in place before the Christmas Holidays. Uniform is an expectation except on days when young people have PE when they should come to school in their PE kit.

Lateral Flow Testing S1 – S6

Details will come out shortly about pickup up arrangements for further test kits for use after the holidays. Please note that if parents/carers are picking up kits that they

will not need to enter school building. A booking system is planned, and collections will take place outside of the school building. All collections must be by prior arrangement. Any issues please contact our Covid Co-ordinator Mrs Heather Whiteford by telephone or the school email address.

Procedure for Return of Chromebooks

All S1 – S3 pupils who were loaned a Chromebooks during lockdown **must** return the device to school week commencing Monday 12 of April.

Please hand the Chromebooks into the main school office.

All senior pupils who have been issued with a Chromebooks **must** bring their device into school, fully charged every day. Exceptions would only apply where it is known the device is not required on a particular day.

Senior pupils who haven't been issued with their device yet can collect it from T6.

Appropriate consent form to be completed in advance.

Costa Rica Online Quiz Fundraising Event

A team of young people in S4 and S5 are fundraising to embark on an expedition to Costa Rica in summer 2022. On expedition the team will be participating in activities including volunteering at a turtle conservation project, helping improve a local women's community infrastructure, and trekking through Rincon de la Vieja National Park.

The pupils are organising an online quiz which will take place on Friday the 23rd April at 7pm via the online platform Google Meet. You will need to have a Google account in order to access this platform. The entry fee will be £5 per team with a maximum of 6 per team. The winning team will receive a £30 Amazon voucher. Further details are in the appendix at the end of this letter.

Resources To Support Parents To Support Themselves And Their Children

The NHS Grampian CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Early Intervention team have developed a series of webinars to support parents to support themselves and their children during a time when we know anxiety is likely to be increased. This is the link to access these webinars.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCID3OzHwIngMuHVcoQXZvYQ>



Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- DYW Virtual Event
- Bakery Apprenticeship
- Thinking of starting your own business?
- Modern Apprenticeship Opportunity in Healthcare Support (Nursing & Midwifery)
- Aberdeen Medic Outreach Society (AMOS)

- NHS Virtual Work Experience
- Floor Layers Apprenticeship
- Meet the Expert Sessions
- University of Dundee Open Days and Webinars

Young people also have access to My World of Work to find out more information about careers and pathways available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/archives/category/information/weekly-updates-summary>

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

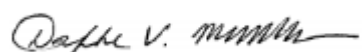
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

Appendix:

Costa Rica Online Quiz Fundraising Event

How to register:

1. Email your team name and names of your team members to:
gw16mustardmarisa1@ab-ed.org. Only one team member to register on behalf of the team.
2. You will be invited to the online quiz and you will receive a confirmation email acknowledging your team's registration along with an invitation to join the Google Meet.
3. Pay your entry fee to:
 - a) One of the Costa Rica team members
 - b) Miss Mustard in the PE department
 - c) The school via post:
 - i. Cash - £5.
 - ii. Cheques - £5 made payable to "Bridge of Don Academy"

If you are sending your entry fee to the school please:

- Write your team name and team members names on the envelope
- Use the following address: FAO: Miss M Mustard, Bridge of Don Academy, Braehead Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB22 8RR.

Joining the Google Meet:

1. You will need to have a Google account set up prior to the event. If you register using a non-Google email address the invitation will be sent to this email address. When you click on the link it will ask you to join through your Google account.
2. You can join the Google Meet by:
 - a) Clicking the link in your invitation under "joining info: join with Google Meet"
 - b) Going to the Google Meet app and clicking the green box with the name of the Google Meet ("Costa Rica Online Quiz Fundraising Event") on the right hand side of the screen
3. You can join any time between 6.45pm and 7pm. The quiz will commence at 7.10pm.

Google Meet expectations:

- When you join the meet you are welcome to join with your cameras on - the more faces we see, the better. However please make sure your microphones are off so there are no background noises during the quiz. Please be aware that the host will be able to mute or remove individuals. You will NOT be refunded if this happens.
- As this is an online school event the meet will be recorded in line with ACC policy for Google Meet.
- Due to the online nature of the event there will be an element of honesty and trust required from teams when answering the questions. We would appreciate it if you worked as a team to provide your answers without the use of the internet. This will keep it fair and more enjoyable for everyone involved.
- Some rounds will involve your team completing your answers via the links, which will be put in the chat box, to the Google Forms document.

The Costa Rica team