



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



26 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 26 November 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Cash for Kids Mission Christmas
- S1 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 1 December 2021
- UCAS (University and College Applications Service)
- Parent Learning Hub
- School Photographs
- SQA Research – Your Views are Being Sought
- Forgotten Kit, Equipment or Other Items
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers
- Contact with School

Cash for Kids Mission Christmas

We are asking again for any family who is worried about being able to provide gifts for **their** child(ren) to get in touch to let us know. We can access a range of age-appropriate gifts suitable for each young person which have been donated to this appeal for exactly this purpose. We don't need any private financial details about your circumstances just to know that this would be helpful and welcome. To organise this please phone the school and ask to speak to your child(rens)'s Head of House or e-mail asking them to contact you. bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk

We can arrange for you to collect the gifts and then you can give them to your child(ren) as you see fit – the gifts won't come wrapped and no-one but you and the small number of staff who organise this will know about it.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation to this worthwhile cause can find out more about how they can support it by using this [link](#). You can donate gifts or cash and your contributions can be made online or at key drop-off points.

S1 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 1 December 2021

Our S1 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 1 December 2021 from 4.45pm until 7.30pm and for those of you who haven't been part of a Parents' Evening at Bridge of Don Academy you may find it different from those held in your child's previous school.

Covid mitigations have led to Aberdeen City schools adopting an online system where parents can discuss their child's progress by video call.

Information was issued to S1 Parents via Groupcall on Wednesday this week, 24 November, providing details on how to access the system, make appointments and use the system on the evening itself. If you didn't receive these, please contact the school office on Monday to ensure you are able to make bookings ahead of the system closing at late Tuesday evening.

Note that your child's Guidance Teacher does not appear in the list of teachers for appointments but are happy to be contacted in school to discuss your child without the restriction of a five-minute slot.

Please bear in mind, as detailed in the information, that Apple have introduced a bug into their latest operating system, iOS 15.1, which prevents iPads and iPhones from using video on a number of web pages, including the one used for the Parents' Evening Booking System. This will be fixed by Apple in a future update, but Windows and Android devices will continue to work as expected, along with any Apple devices using an older version of the operating system.

UCAS (University and College Applications Service)

S5 and S6 pupils who are applying through UCAS for 2022 entry to university are currently completing their applications with the support and guidance of their Head of House. The school deadline for applications to be completed is **Thursday 9 December 2021**. This allows time for applications to be checked, processed, and sent before the end of term.

Please note that young people applying to NESCol (North East Scotland College) will apply directly through NESCol's online college system. They will also be supported through this process by their Head of House in the New Year.

Parent Learning Hub

You can use this [link](#) to access the Aberdeen City Parent Hub. This has information and videos on topics such as:

- *The Importance Of Sleep;*
- *How Smart Phones Keep You Awake*
- Links to online courses such as "*Understanding your Teenager's Brain.*"

School Photographs

All S1-S6 individual and family photographs were taken in school today, Friday 26 November. All pupils who had their photograph taken will have a proof home with them. All orders for school photographs will be online this year. The school will receive a 25% commission for all orders placed online.

The four steps in the ordering process are:

- Visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk
- Enter the reference number. This can be found under the proof picture
- View your photos, make your selection and check out your order
- Choose delivery option

Delivery to school is free if order is placed within 14 days. Any order placed after that will incur a postage & packaging fee which you will be required to pay.

If you experience any issues with placing your order, please the contact the school.

SQA Research – Your Views are Being Sought

The SQA is currently carrying out research into people's perceptions of educational assessment standards in light of the disruption due to COVID-19. It is important for them to develop a deeper understanding of the views of a range of individuals, including learners, parents, employers, and practitioners. They anticipate that the key findings of this research will be published in the early part of 2022. A team of researchers from the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow have been asked by the SQA to carry out a large-scale survey of learners, practitioners, employers, and parents, and they are very keen to get as many responses as possible.

The survey can be accessed by using this [link](#).

I would encourage you to take the time to share your views with SQA. I will be posting this in the S5 and S6 Google Classrooms.

Forgotten Kit, Equipment or Other Items



Sometimes young people forget items such as those above – including their lunch money or packed lunch. Whilst we can take such items for them parents/carers are still not permitted in the school building unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore, we ask that you:

- Consider whether or not it is essential – sometimes young people need to learn the importance of organising themselves and experiencing the consequence of forgetting homework or kit can be a valuable lesson. We do understand that for some young people this would not be an appropriate way for them to learn this particular life skill due to their additional support needs.

- If it is essential to drop off an item please wait outside the main entrance and telephone the school so someone can come and help you from the office. Please note that first thing in the morning is a busy time with calls.

CFINE Food Bank Collection

Seven Crates were collected from school on Thursday 19 November made up of donations from pupils and staff. The next collection will be on **Monday 20 December**. We will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#).

<i>Yes please</i>	<i>No thank you</i>
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:

- INEOS Modern Apprenticeships
- Modern Apprenticeship Business Administration
- Career in Construction
- NESCol February Courses and Open Days:
<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/archives/8361>

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link:
<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8376>

Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day
- Advice for families following a case of Covid-19 in their child's year group
- Lateral Flow Testing

Information on all the above is now located on the school website [here](#).

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

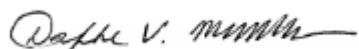
Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

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