



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



27 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 27 May 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Induction for new S5 and S6 pupils: session 2022 – 23
- Senior School Uniform
- Vaping and Vape Products
- Support for Families
- Take a Break
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Induction for New S5 and S6
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day
New Timetable begins
Last Day of Term:

Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June 2022
Friday 3 June 2022
Monday 6 June 2022
Friday 1 July 2022

New S5 and S6 Induction: Lift Off 2022: Lift Off and Grow 1/2 June



Your child is invited to be part of Lift Off 2022: Lift Off & Grow – the online induction event for Aberdeen City’s new senior pupils LIVE and online on Wednesday 1st June 2022 and Thursday 2nd June 2022!

Over 3000 North East pupils are set to gain an understanding of future learning and career pathways when they attend Lift Off & Grow 2022 from 1-2 June.

The two-day online event organised by Aberdeen City Council in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) North East, will be streamed to senior pupils across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

The event is being delivered by a sophisticated digital platform, BigMarker, allowing companies to participate in a way that suits them best – from taking part in live panels to presenting virtually. Pupils will have the opportunity to hear and interact directly with employers.

The event aims to inform and inspire young people about the variety of career and study opportunities in the region as it rises to the challenge of climate change. Over 40 companies are involved to cover sectors including: Energy, Tourism, Hospitality, Life Sciences, Health, Media, Communication, Finance, Law, and ICT. [This booklet](#) will help pupils to keep a record and notes from any sessions that you attend. Pupils will also work through the government promoted [Climate Accelerator course](#) from Jump Digital, which provide them with SCQF Tariff points upon completion.

Councillor Martin Greig, convener of the education committee, said “This is a fantastic opportunity for the senior pupils to get an insight into the options ahead of them as they prepare to leave school.”

“This can be an overwhelming time as they navigate their next steps, with events like this we aim to prepare them for not only this transition but also the future, where climate change will be the focus for years to come.”

Councillor Jessica Mennie, vice-convenor of the education committee, said “We are delighted to be working with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) North East to deliver this event to pupils across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.”

“It is a chance for them to discover the evolving opportunities that exist within organisations as we move towards a more sustainable future.”



Lift Off 2022 will be opened by keynote speaker Megan McCubbin. A zoologist, wildlife TV presenter and conservationist, Megan is best-known for her appearances on BBC’s Springwatch, Autumnwatch and Winterwatch programmes.

In the next few days pupils will receive an email invite from BigMarker to create an account for the event. They will also receive a separate invite from Jump Digital to create an account to complete the Climate Solutions Accelerator Course. **Attendance is not compulsory but will be monitored.** Your school will follow up with you to complete the Climate Solutions

Accelerator Course in June. When pupils join the event their cameras and mics are disabled, with pupils able to ask questions in a moderated Q&A section.

Ten £100 Aberdeen City vouchers, that can be used in most shops and restaurants across Aberdeen, are prizes for participation over the two days. Prizes will be decided upon: questions that pupils answer over the two days; participating in the most sessions; and for completing the participant survey after the event.

Senior School Uniform

Pupils who have been accepted for return to school in S5 and S6 are expected to wear Senior School uniform, which comprises of: school blazer, white shirt, red senior tie, black trousers/skirt and black shoes.

Our blazers and tie are available from Abstitch in the centre of town. Their address is: 35 Ann St, Aberdeen, AB25 3LH, telephone number 01224 639152. Their opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9am until 4pm.

Blazers are measured to fit and are easily kept. They are light and practical and can be washed at home.

We have been informed that a large number of our seniors have been into Abstitch over the study leave but more stock is due in on Monday.

Pupils who have yet to get their senior school uniform can visit Abstitch next week before returning to school on Monday 6 June for the new timetable.

Prices as of 27 May are:

School tie: £7.50

Blazer: £33 to £39, depending on size



Vaping and Vape Products

Smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes or vapes are not permitted on any Aberdeen City Council property. Young people are not permitted to purchase these items under the age of 18 largely because of the potential harmful effects of nicotine on young people who are still growing and because of its highly addictive properties.

I sent information home some time ago about the worrying trend of manufacturers producing so called “elf bars” which look like marker pens and appear to be deliberately aimed at young people with their fruity flavours such as blueberry. The pictures below are of an empty package found in one of the school toilets.



We suspect that the recent evacuation on Tuesday of this week was the result of young people using items such as these in school toilets. However, it is a small number of pupils who are involved.

We will continue to monitor toilet visits and length of absence from class and tackle this with individual young people. We will also continue to have regular patrols of school grounds by staff at lunch and break.

We know that risk taking is a part of adolescent behaviour patterns: more so in some young people than others. As part of our Personal and Social Education (PSE) programme we cover the dangers of e-cigarettes; elf bars or vapes so

young people should be aware of the dangers of becoming addicted to nicotine and the potential harmful long-term effects of nicotine on brain development in teenagers. I will continue to look for appropriate resources I can pass on to families who may be concerned about this for their own child(ren).

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.

Take a Break

The Scottish Government funded [Take a Break Scotland](#) administered by Family Fund, opened for applications on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 and will remain open until 5:00pm on Monday 20th June 2022. This fund supports families of children with disabilities.

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. Some of the opportunities include:

- Engineering Apprenticeships
- UCAT Bursary

- Junior Administrator

There are also lots more DYW opportunities which can be found [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.

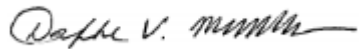
Pastoral Care

Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Mrs Walburn
(name change only)
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