



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 28 May 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- In-service Day 4 June 2021
- S4 and S5 Lift Off Event
- School Uniform
- Support for S4, S5 and S6 leavers
- Fourth House
- S6 Leavers' Picnic
- Pathway Planning
- Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening Event Series 2021

In-Service Day

- Friday 4 June 2021

S4 and S5 Lift-Off Event 31 May – 3 June

'LIFT-OFF!' Update

This link will take young people to the website. At the moment the website is effectively an advert for the event. From Monday all links and videos for that day will be available. From Tuesday the links needed on that day will be available. Then from Wednesday the whole website will be 'live' until the summer break.

Monday 31st May 2021

8.30am: Access the site [here](#). Have your saved copy of the [E-Booklet](#) available to work on throughout the day.

8.45am: Introductory session from Richard Sweetnam

9.00am: Carl Walz (Former NASA Astronaut) talk

9.30am: Work through three sessions from employers of your choosing

12pm-1pm: Kahoot quizzes open until 1pm to answer questions based on your chosen presentations

1pm: Work through a further two sessions from employers of your choice

3pm: Closing remarks from Drew Drummond of Columba 1400

3pm-4pm: Kahoot quizzes open until 4pm to answer questions based on your chosen presentations

4pm: Closing thanks slides

Tuesday 1st June 2021

8.45am: Access the site [here](#). Have your saved copy of the [E-Booklet](#) available to work on throughout the day.

9.00am: Sarah Chew (Techfest)

9.30am: Work through three sessions from providers of your choosing

12pm-1pm: Kahoot quizzes open until 1pm to answer questions based on your chosen presentations

1pm: Q&A with Sarah Chew (Techfest) hosting and Carl Walz (Former NASA Astronaut) answering your questions.

3pm: Closing remarks from Drew Drummond of Columba 1400

3pm-4pm: Kahoot quizzes open until 4pm to answer questions based on your chosen presentations

4pm: Closing thanks slides

Wednesday 2nd June

Eighteen winners from the [Kahoot quizzes](#) will be emailed and invited to an extra session at 3pm to hear about their prize

There may be some young people who will be required in school by their teachers to complete last pieces of assessment work for their National Courses. This will be arranged by teaches with individual young people.

We are very conscious that young people in S4 and S5 will have been heavily focussed on assessment for the entire month of May. This week's activities will support young people as they plan for the future however it will also provide a natural break between the end of their National Courses for session 2020 – 21 and their new courses for session 2021 – 22.

This information has been posted in the Google Classroom for all current S4 and S5 pupils.

The prizes to be won as a result of participating in the events on Monday 31 May and Tuesday 1 June are as follows:

1 x £250 [Marischal Square](#) Voucher

1x £250 [Union Square](#) voucher

1 x £250 [Transition Extreme](#) voucher

10 x £100 [Aberdeen Gift Cards](#)

5 x £50 Mackies ice-cream vouchers

School Uniform

This [link](#) will take you to the page of the school website which has been updated. It might be also be helpful to understand some of the thinking behind the decisions which have been made about acceptable and unacceptable uniform items.

The Scottish Government are keen to eradicate the financial challenges for some families created by uniform policies which mean you have to buy particular items of clothing from particular outlets. We have reduced this requirement to the absolute minimum – a school tie - and all other items such as shirts, trousers, skirts and jumpers can be purchased from any retail outlet.

The following Frequently Asked Questions further explain our thinking behind the policy.

Why can't I wear leggings?

There are two main reasons for this:

- Leggings are leisure wear and acceptable for PE but not uniform.
- Some leggings are so thin that underwear can be seen through them: this is not acceptable in a school environment.

Why can't I wear plain black jeans?

- Jeans and denim are part of leisure wear. They are recognisable because of the studs and pocket arrangements.

Why can't I wear trainers with flashes or white/coloured bits?

- Our preference would be for black "proper" school shoes. But we accept that these can be expensive and not always the most comfortable thing for young people. Therefore, we will accept "all black" trainer type shoes as an alternative. Plain black boots are also acceptable.

Why can't I wear a round necked jumper or hoodie?

- These are also part of leisure wear and so not acceptable
- They make it difficult to see the school tie which is how we can quickly identify pupils as ours and therefore identify strangers.

We understand that young people express themselves through their clothes and their appearance is important to them as they grow and mature. We are not looking to squash that creativity or expression of self. However, we also need to ensure that young people come to school ready for work and not leisure and encourage good habits with regard to how they present themselves which will be important when they move on to the world of work. There are also health and safety considerations in school – clothing should be safe for practical work and not a potential cause of embarrassment to others.

One final point. There is a current fashion for very long fingernails. This is potentially dangerous to the wearer and others in practical activities. If this is the case a teacher will speak to your child(ren) to explain this and they will be asked not to wear them for future practical work.

Support for S4, S5 and S6 Leavers

Our Skills Development Scotland Advisor Ruth Bell has passed on an email to be sent to all leavers this summer. The school office will forward this to young people via their Google email address when they hand in their leaver's form. It covers the following supports which are available to school leavers:

1. Post School work coaching service: 1-1 support to explore options and build on Career Management Skills. This can link to training providers who run courses to build up confidence and employability skills.
2. SDS all-age service to help career development now and in the future. Available through the local SDS office on 01224 285200 or visit the SDS Facebook page on <https://en-gb.facebook.com/SDSAberdeen/> or Twitter page on <https://twitter.com/sdsaberdeen?lang=en> These pages are also a great source of jobs, modern apprenticeships and other local opportunities and are well worth following.
3. For young people looking for work who need help with a CV or Cover Letter, the resources on <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/> are useful. There is also a range of information about jobs and the skills and strengths required for them. Email addresses should be updated to personal ones if pupils are registered with their personal ones. This will be carried forward on to a CV if young people use the CV builder.
4. <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/> is regularly updated with local apprenticeships information – Filter this to Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire to see what is going on in your area.
5. It can be difficult to narrow down the search and where to look can be a challenge. The websites at the end of this letter will help. Local job opportunities are also posted on Facebook, Twitter and even Gumtree.

Fourth House

Because our school roll is rising we are now entitled to introduce a fourth house and a fourth Head of House Guidance Teacher. Some classes will therefore have to be reallocated to balance the numbers in each house. We will issue more information when the details of this have been finalised.

S6 Leavers' Picnic

This will take place on Thursday 3 June 2021 from 13.05 – 14.55. It is planned to be outdoors weather permitting, but we have a contingency in case of rain. Plans are currently being finalised but we hope to give our S6 pupils a suitable send off to the next phase of their lives.

Young people should bring a blanket or groundsheet and their lunch. We will provide some additional treats and hope to have a photographer to take photos which we can share digitally with young people.

Pathway Planning

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- Futures4Students' Virtual Careers Jam!
- North of Scotland Universities- Online Event Series

- UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair
- Applications are welcome for the following (please note short deadlines)

Weber Shandwick	Creative & Digital Media Assistant My World of Work	3 rd June
Drillmar Resources, Inverurie	Administrator Apprenticeships.scot	3 rd June
Overton Automotive	E-Commerce Assistant Apprenticeships.scot	9 th June

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/?p=8015>

In addition to the weekly opportunities, DYW also plan a yearly event which provides information for parents, carers, teachers, pupils & businesses.

Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening Event Series 2021: What do you need to know?

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is putting together an event series called Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening 2021. The event series will highlight current and future job opportunities and pathways.

DYW wants the sessions to be as useful as possible for parents, carers and guardians. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey below – this will help DYW shape this year's offering to best meet your needs.

The survey can be accessed [here](#) and closes on Friday, 4th June. Information on last year's event series can be viewed [here](#).

Contact with School

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

Daphne V. Munn

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

Recruitment Websites

Listed below are just a few of the many recruitment websites.

www.gov.uk	Job Centre vacancies. Click on link to Find a Job and to start registration for benefits process
www.eurojobs.com	Jobs throughout Europe.
www.workcircle.co.uk	Searches other job sites
www.totaljobs.com	
www.jobsite.co.uk	
www.monster.co.uk	
www.careerjet.co.uk	
www.cv-library.co.uk	
www.indeed.co.uk	
www.scotjobsnet.co.uk	Jobs throughout Scotland. Plus blog on career news, stories and tips.
www.fish4.co.uk	Vacancies throughout Scotland.
www.s1jobs.com	
www.pressandjournal.co.uk	
www.eveningexpress.co.uk	
Bon Accord & St Nicholas Centre http://www.bonaccordaberdeen.com	Retail and security
Union Square Aberdeen www.unionsquareaberdeen.com	Retail and security
NHS Grampian www.jobs.nhsgrampian.org	
NHS Scotland www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk	NHS jobs throughout Scotland.
www.scottishambulance.com	Vacancies for emergency and non-emergency service staff.
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Local government jobs in Aberdeen (view only). Local government jobs in Aberdeenshire (view only)
www.myjobscotland.gov.uk	Applications for <u>all</u> local government jobs in Scotland must be made online via this website.

www.work-for-scotland.org	Scottish Government jobs.
www.goodmoves.org.uk	Voluntary sector jobs in Scotland.
www.volunteeraberdeen.org.uk	
www.scottish-paralegal.org.uk	Paralegal jobs in Scotland.
OIL AND GAS	
www.rigzone.com	
www.oilandgasjobsearch.com	
www.gulftalent.com	Jobs in UAE and Middle East.
www.energyvoice.com	
http://www.oilandgasvisionjobs.com	
OFFSHORE CATERING	
www.sodexo.co.uk	
www.aramark.co.uk	
www.entier-services.com	
GRADUATE JOBS	
http://www.prospects.ac.uk	Graduate jobs, schemes and internships.
www.targetjobs.com	Graduate jobs, schemes and internships
www.jobs.ac.uk	Jobs in science, research, academic and administrative work in UK and abroad.
www.talentscotland.com	

SCIENCE/ENGINEERING/IT	
https://entrusts.com/	Science jobs throughout UK.
www.theengineer.co.uk/	Jobs for professional and graduate engineers.
www.justengineers.net	Engineering jobs throughout UK.
www.gradcracker.com	Engineering & Technology jobs.
www.datascope.co.uk	Focus on games, online & mobile roles in programming, sales, marketing, PR, design, producing, art and animation.
www.technojobs.co.uk	IT & Technical jobs.

www.cwjobs.co.uk	IT & Technical jobs.
RENEWABLE ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT	
http://www.renewableenergyjobs.com/uk	
www.talentscotland.com	
www.endsjobsearch.co.uk	
www.countryside-jobs.com	
www.conservationsjobs.co.uk	
RETAIL	
www.inretail.co.uk	
www.retailcareers.co.uk	
HOSPITALITY/LEISURE	
www.caterer.com	Hotel, restaurant, bar jobs. Also cruise jobs.
www.leisureopportunities.co.uk	Jobs in the leisure industry.
www.leisurejobs.com	Leisure jobs in the UK and Europe.

CHARITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR	
www.acvo.org.uk	
www.goodmoves.org.uk	
http://www.charityjob.co.uk	
http://www.scvo.org.uk	Voluntary bodies in Scotland
MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT	
www.mediaweekjobs.co.uk	
Jobs Bear	Media jobs in Scotland
Adzuna - Media	Media jobs in Aberdeen