



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



29 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 29 April 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- SQA Exams and Study Leave S4 – S6
- Public Health Advice from 1 May 2022
- Expectations
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

May Day Holiday	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Induction for New S5 and S6	Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable begins	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

SQA Exams and Study Leave S4 – S6

The examinations for National Qualifications are now well underway. Young people are welcome to come into school to study or seek support from their teachers. We ask that they sign in and out at the school office: this is a requirement, so we know who is in the building in the event of an emergency.

Public Health Advice from 1 May 2022

As you will be aware advice to the public regarding self-isolation and testing for Covid-19 changes from 1 May 2022. This will also affect schools. We are currently waiting for the advice/guidance from the Scottish Government and Aberdeen City and I will pass this on as soon as I have it in the usual way.

Expectations

Now that seniors are on study leave, we can take more time to work with and respond to the needs of young people in S1 – S3 as they prepare for S2, S3 and S4. We plan a further series of assemblies where we will be reminding them about the expectations in relation to the following:

Attendance and late coming

Young people who are not in class on time are missing out on learning. Young people who are late three or more times in a week will have lunch time detention from 13.05 – 13.30. This still gives them long enough to get something to eat from the canteen or the closest local shops. It takes away social time which we have found most effective as a deterrent.

We have noticed that some young people think that this is permission to be late twice which, of course, is not the case. We explain the importance of getting into good habits now before they enter senior phase or the world of work – which for some could be just 13 months away. The current S3s will complete S4 by 31 May 2023 and will be entitled to leave school on that date if their 16th birthday is between 1 March 2023 and 30 September 2023.

We would expect that young people who want to return to school for a fifth year would have demonstrated throughout S1 - S4 that they can arrive on time for school in the morning and after breaks. This and good study habits will help them to take full advantage of all the opportunities that senior school life offers them to develop the skills they need for further study or work.

Toilet Visits

Some young people, for medical reasons, need access to the toilet on asking and this information is shared with all teachers. All other young people should be able to wait until a break time. To deter visits which are pre-arranged or for the purposes of socialising rather than using the facilities young people are asked to leave jackets, bags and mobile phones in the class and teachers will record the visit so we can monitor the frequency of visits.

There have been some very disappointing instances of vandalism to toilets, and it appears to happen when young people meet up by chance or pre-arrangement. These incidents are being investigated.

Mobile Phones

Red Areas – no mobile phones or devices allowed. This is to ensure young people can see and hear well as they move about the building and so is a matter of health and safety. If young people have their phones out in corridors teachers will remind them to put them away. All headphones or air pods **MUST** be removed before entering the building. Many workplaces have similar rules because of health and safety concerns and is something young people must get used to.

Amber Areas – classrooms. Teacher will decide if it is necessary or appropriate for young people to use their phones to support learning and teaching. Otherwise, they should be switched off and out of sight in a bag or pocket.

Green Areas – canteen and school grounds. Phones can be used but not to take photos or videos. These can often be the source of conflict as friendships change or breakdown. Under no circumstances should photos be taken of school staff.

School Uniform

We will be working with young people to improve the standard of school uniform. By wearing appropriate uniform young people demonstrate that they are coming to school ready to work not play.

- Uniform can help us to ensure young people are safe. In a school where all young people are in uniform it is much easier to spot a stranger who should not be in school.
- Young people will have to follow a dress code at work either to comply with health and safety rules such as the requirement for hard hats and steel toe capped boots in the construction industry or the uniform of an organisation such as the NHS or retail outlet.
- It also demonstrates an individual's commitment to the values of the organisation or team they are part of.
- Uniform can prevent some of the pressure young people feel to wear expensive designer items.
- We expect young people who are going to represent the school as part of a team or on a school trip to follow expectations when in school which includes wearing school uniform.
- Senior pupils are role models for younger pupils, and we expect them to model good standards of uniform.

Some might argue that clothes cannot influence how well a young person learns. However, a willingness to commit to teamwork and the values of the school by wearing uniform is often an indication of a young person's commitment to learning. There is lots of scope for individual expression within the uniform. We also have access to funds to support families with uniform who do not qualify for clothing grants.

The uniform itself is designed to allow families to purchase items from supermarkets and other outlets which stock them at a reasonable price: We know young people grow quickly at this age and it can be challenge keeping up with these growth spurts.

The blazer is not compulsory in S1 – S4 but some young people in S4 have chosen to wear it this year.

Stage	S1 – S4	S5/6
Above the waist	White Shirt or Blouse School Tie	White or Black Shirt School Tie

	Plain Black jumper or cardigan worn so tie can be seen.	Plain Black jumper or cardigan worn so tie can be seen.
Legs	Plain black trousers or skirt	Plain black trousers or skirt
Footwear	All black Shoes	All black shoes

What not to wear:

- Jeans of any kind – jeans can be identified by the pockets and studs and the fact that denim fades over time.
- Jogging bottoms with or without logos
- Gym leggings with or without logos
- Leggings – which are see through and therefore inappropriate for school
- Football tops

Hats and hoods should be removed on entry to the building and whilst moving about in corridors. On arrival in class young people are expected to remove jackets and outerwear including hoodies that are worn as outer wear.

We appreciate all the support our families give us in ensuring our young people arrive at school ready and dressed to learn. We will share with you our plans to work with young

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:

- University of Aberdeen Pupil Conference
- Opito Apprenticeships
- So you want to be a Doctor?
- Work Opportunity – Techfest

There are also lots more DYW opportunities 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

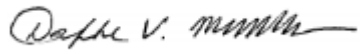
Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty
S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank

Drum House: Mrs Walburn
(name change only)
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam".

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher