



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



29 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – Friday 29 January 2021

I write this week to update you on the following issues:

- S2-S5 Course Choice Procedures
- S3 Reports
- Senior Phase Reports
- Careers and Pathway Planning
- The SQA and Senior Phase Assessment Phase (S4-6) Assessment.
- Support for parents/carers with the Google Suite for Education
- College Courses – NESCol

S2 - S5 Course Choice Procedures

Pupils in S2 started S3 course choice procedures last week with an introduction to My World of Work. Over the coming weeks, young people in S3-S5 will also begin course choice procedures for their timetable 2021-22. Although the process will be different from previous years, young people will still have all the information they need to make their choices. There will be presentations in PSE/assemblies which will guide them through the decision making and support from our Careers Advisors and Heads of House/Year Heads. We will also be providing presentations for families so they can support their children. It is important that pupils check their Google Classroom and School Gmail account for information provided on course choice.

S3 Reports

S3 reports will be coming home at the beginning of February. These are being completed by teachers and will then be checked Principal Teachers. The reports have information about pupil progress and next steps which will be useful to inform decisions about course choices for S4.

Senior Phase Reports

In the Senior Phase, a report will come home at the beginning of March which will contain information about target and working grade, effort, behaviour and homework and a teacher comment on their current progress and next steps. The report will

differ slightly as it will not report on a prelim as in previous years, but it will give an indication of how your young person has progressed with their learning prior to and during lockdown. In addition, it will give advice as to how they can work towards their target grade in the coming months.

Careers and Pathway Planning

Unfortunately, the annual Careers Evening, which normally takes place in February, cannot go ahead due to the current circumstances. However, we are receiving information regularly about universities, colleges, apprenticeships and many other potential career opportunities for our young people. All careers information will be posted on their year group Google Classrooms and will be uploaded on to the school website for parents/carers to see. This information will be important to those who are looking at their next steps towards their career post school or looking at what to study next at either college or university.

The SQA and Senior Phase Assessment Phase (S4-6) Assessment.

You will have seen the communication sent out on Thursday of this week from the SQA. This confirmed the date of submission for schools of all grades for young people undertaking National Qualifications this year.

The SQA emphasised the need for schools and teachers to continue with the teaching of course content and skills and not to become too focussed on assessment. However young people will still be completing tasks and assignments, assessed by their teachers who will then give feedback so that both pupils and teachers have a good understanding of where they are in their learning and what needs to be done to progress. Young people should give these tasks and assignments the attention and time they deserve so they and their teachers have an accurate picture of their progress. However, they must remember that mistakes and errors which can be corrected as they move through their courses are a natural part of learning and the primary purpose of these pieces of work is to support that improvement,

Support for parents/carers with the Google Suite for Education

The Parent Council met this week and gave me feedback on how learning online is progressing for their children. This was helpful and allowed me to give feedback to teachers. The general view was that parents were content with the amount and type of work being provided for their children and that the feedback teachers are giving is supporting their progress and confidence.

The parents suggested that we had a “hints and tips” section in this update letter to support families. We can do even better than that: I am pleased to be able to tell you about a new development being undertaken by our school lead for Google. Mrs Essiet in our Design and Technology department has developed a website which is linked below,

<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/boda-gsupport/home>

Here you will find support for pupils and parents including a range of short videos giving further information on Google Calendar, Google Meets, Google Docs, Gmail and Google Classroom. If these resources do not answer your questions or queries there is a Support Request form on the home page. The website is a work in progress, and we welcome your feedback on how it could be further developed. It can also be accessed through the school website.

It has come to our attention that some young people may be sending in a blank assignment so that their parents/carers are not alerted to the fact that a piece of work has not been completed. In this case teachers will return the work and expect the work to be completed. If that does not work will make contact with parent/carer via Google Guardian email.

College Courses – NESCol

Further to ongoing restrictions, a decision has been made by NESCol to continue all learning on an entirely remote online basis until at least **1st March 2021**. This applies to all School Links pupils and Foundation Apprentices. During this time, pupils are expected to attend their virtual lessons according to the instructions provided by their lecturers, and in the main, should be online at the timetabled start of their lesson for further instruction. We would encourage any pupils who have difficulty accessing the online resources to contact us by email to schools@nescol.ac.uk for further advice and guidance.

Additional support tools and an online student community is available to School Links pupils at this link - www.togetherall.com For further information on our continued online delivery, please see link below:

<https://www.nescol.ac.uk/college-update-online-learning-extended-to-1-march/>

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

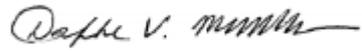
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith/Miss Howard
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher