



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

Braehead Way • Bridge of Don • Aberdeen • AB22 8RR

Tel 01224 707583

Web: [www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk)

E-mail: [bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



29 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 29 October 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- In-Service Day
- S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings
- S4 to S6 Study Support
- Cop26 Survey of young people's views
- Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs
- Parent Council Treasurer Update
- Flu Vaccinations
- School Uniform
- Aberdeen Endowment Trust – Bursaries
- Pathway Planning
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

### In-Service Day

November In-Service Day: Friday 19 November 2021

### S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings

Our first Parents' Evening this session is for S4 to S6 pupils and offers two dates, Wednesday 10 November and Thursday 18 November. Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.25pm, with a 15-minute comfort break built-in at 6.00pm.

Parents' Evenings for session 2021/2022 will be held online using the same software which has been used by parents and staff in previous years when making appointments. A video calling module is now built into the software which allows meetings to take place within the browser.

A letter and instruction sheet will be sent out on Monday via Group call and we will open the system for bookings on Tuesday evening at 7pm.

For parents who are unfamiliar with the system, the letter will provide a link to the Parents' Evening Booking System webpage, which will then ask for information to be entered to identify them as the parent/carer of their child. Once logged in, they will be able to make appointments with their child's teachers as detailed in the instructions.

On the evening itself, after logged in, parents/carers will see a list of their appointments and a link to click which will automatically start a video call with each of their child's teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin right away.

## **S4 to S6 Study Support**

We are currently working on several supports for young people in our senior phase to help them to prepare for the assessments and examinations for their courses and also to support their planning for the future.

Class teachers have been assessing the progress of young people and reports were posted home at the end of last term. A letter accompanying the reports explained their content. Any questions arising from this report can be asked at the Parents Evenings as detailed above.

These reports will be reviewed by senior staff together with Heads of House and Principal Teachers of the Faculties. This will allow us to identify young people who may need additional support or interventions.

Study skills and approaches to revision will be covered by our Heads of House in PSE lessons and specific subject related revision approaches and advice will be covered by teachers in classes. In PSE the following will be covered over the course of this term:

- Creating individual, bespoke Revision Timetables.
- RGU talks on Note taking for S5 and S6
- Reinforcing Revision Booklet
- Presentation on growth mindsets, marginal gains, and work ethic
- Revision and study techniques – with examples of specific approaches which will be helpful particularly for S4.
- One to one conversations with individuals to discuss how they are feeling as we approach the Estimates. Identifying areas of concern to respond, support and advise accordingly.
- Advice on looking after themselves and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing
- All to be sprinkled with a positive can-do attitude and ability to take responsibility for their own learning as they enter and leave the room!

- All classes will end in the last week of term with Christmas themed lesson on memory skills. Heads of House are creating activities and games for this which will hopefully be fun but also recap and reinforce some of the content covered and help develop memory skills.

There will also be support for young people applying for North East Scotland College (NESCOL) as follows:

Tuesday 16 November S5/S6

Friday 26 November S4

## **Cop26 Survey of Young People**

A slide show and survey have been posted in all year group Google Classrooms for young people to complete. Young people in S1 - S4 will complete this during their time in social studies in week beginning 1 November 2021 and young people in S5 and S6 when they are in study. All young people in Aberdeen's schools have been asked to do this. The purpose of the survey is for officers, officials and councillors to hear the ideas of our pupils, but also to gauge their knowledge and understanding of both COP 26 and NET ZERO so that we have benchmark data that hopefully we can improve on in the years to come. I have posted a copy of the slideshow on the school website for your information [here](#).

Please note the survey is embedded in the slideshow and young people should work their way through the slides before completing the survey at the end.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs**

The activities and clubs are detailed in a post on the school website can be accessed on the school website using this [link](#). I have asked teachers to keep a register so that merits and house points for participating can be awarded to young people.

## **Parent Council – Treasurer update for parents and carers**

With grateful thanks to the parents and friends of BODA Parent Council through the PC 100 Club we have been able to offer much needed support to the Academy this last 12 months and ensure all the children receive the best support they can. However, this level of support can only continue if enough parents/friends and family support us through our 100 Club fundraising. For a minimum of £2 a month your contribution allows us to support departments across the entire school network.

During this Academic Year so far, we have provided:

- Art Boards for the Art and Design department (Approx. £300)

- Headphones for Design and Technology (£540)
- Spanish Dictionaries for the Modern Language Dept (£105)
- Subscriptions for the Library and support of Awards Scheme (£205)
- Magazine Subscription for the RMPS Dept (£120)
- Goggles for Science Dept (£56)
- HE Specialist Equipment to help with additional learning/neuro diverse practical classes (£145)
- Visualizers for Text Annotations for the English Department (£300)

Over £1800 of support has been funded from the Parent Council 100 Club this academic year. We want to be able to continue to offer this level of support, but we need your support to do this.

Join the PC 100 Club now for £2 per number per month. Monthly Draw takes place during the monthly Parent Council Meeting and the winner receives 25% of the income that month. Use this [link](#) to the information poster and standing order form on the school website. Fill in the form and send to your bank or use the details to set up a standing order using your online banking app. Whatever method you choose please email the school with your name and contact details which will be passed onto me so I can let you know when you win!

Thank you for your continued support of the BODA PC: helping us to help the children.

Caroline Cuthill,  
Treasurer,  
BODA Parent Council

## Flu Vaccinations

An information sheet was sent by Group call email last term to all families. This detailed what to do if your child was absent when they should have had their flu vaccination.

Flu vaccinations will be available from community pharmacies listed on the Grampian Flu Vaccination Website from 1 November 2021. [www.fluvaxgrampian.com](http://www.fluvaxgrampian.com). If you do not have access to the internet, please telephone:

Aberdeenshire: 0330 128 9919  
Aberdeen City: 0800 030 4713

## School Uniform

As a result of opening our PE changing rooms, we will now expect all young people to attend school in full school uniform every day. Details of this are available on the school website by using this [link](#). Can I please ask any parent/carer who is worried

about the cost of this to contact me or your child's head of house because we can support you with this?

We have deliberately moved away from school polo shirts and sweatshirts because of the expense for families and the only item which cannot be purchased in local shops of your choice is the school tie.

I have checked with Abstich and can confirm confirmed that red ties for senior (S5 and S6) pupils and blue ties for S1 – S4 pupils are both now in stock. They will be open for pupils and parents to buy ties and blazers which will be measured and tailored to fit. They are located at:

35 Ann Street  
Aberdeen  
AB25 3LH  
Tel: 01224 639152  
Email: [info@abstitch.co.uk](mailto:info@abstitch.co.uk)

All other items: shirts/blouses, jumpers/cardigans, trousers/skirts and shoes can be purchased from supermarkets or other clothing stores of your choice.

### **Aberdeen Endowment Trust – Bursaries**

A bursary is available to low-income families with a child attending secondary school from S1-S4 and is normally awarded as £100 per year. It can be applied for at any time from S1-S4 but cannot be granted retrospectively. This may be of benefit to families. More information can be found [here](#). The form to complete can be emailed to you. Please contact the school office if you require a form. It should then be completed and returned either by email to [aet1909@btinternet.com](mailto:aet1909@btinternet.com) or by post to the address below.

Gail Gordon  
Clerk to the Aberdeen Endowments Trust  
19 Albert Street  
Aberdeen AB25 1QF  
01224 640194  
Scottish Charity SC010507

### **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:

- Virtual Higher Education Expo
- Interested in a Career in Music and Sound?
- North of Scotland Universities Collaborative Project
- UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair
- MA in Administration

- Career with Police Scotland

In addition, there is an opt-in session being delivered by Morrison Construction on Tuesday 16 November during period 4. Pupils will be encouraged to sign up for the event if they would like to hear more about the construction industries and the opportunities available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8314>

### **Event for Parents - Is Your Young Person A School Leaver?**

As part of Scottish Careers Week, parents and carers can find how they can support their young person make career decisions and move on from school by joining Skills Development Scotland's webinar on Wednesday 17th November, from 6.30pm – 7.15pm. Details [here](#).

### **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**

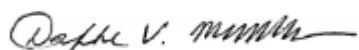
Braemar House	Miss Howard
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

#### **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