



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



3 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 3 December 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Cash for Kids Mission Christmas
- Severe Weather
- S1 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 1 December 2021
- UCAS (University and College Applications Service)
- School Photographs
- SQA Research – Your Views are Being Sought
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers
- Contact with School

Cash for Kids Mission Christmas

We are asking again for any family who is worried about being able to provide gifts for **their** child(ren) to get in touch to let us know. We can access a range of age-appropriate gifts suitable for each young person which have been donated to this appeal for exactly this purpose. We don't need any private financial details about your circumstances just to know that this would be helpful and welcome. To organise this please phone the school and ask to speak to your child(rens)'s Head of House or e-mail asking them to contact you. bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk

We can arrange for you to collect the gifts and then you can give them to your child(ren) as you see fit – the gifts won't come wrapped and no-one but you and the small number of staff who organise this will know about it.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation to this worthwhile cause can find out more about how they can support it by using this [link](#). You can donate gifts or cash and your contributions can be made online or at key drop-off points.

Christmas Jumper day 21 December 2021

We have decided that the last day of term will be our Christmas jumper day and we invite families, where possible to make a small donation to the [UNICEF appeal](#). We are limiting the handling of cash at the moment and so are unable to take cash donations in school.

Severe Weather

We have in place policies to ensure learning can continue when we have periods of bad weather.

All classwork and homework are posted on Google Classroom as assignments so parents/carers can see this using Google Guardian. If you need more help with the Google suite of resources, you will find the Google Support site under the **Parents** menu on the front page of the school website. You can also access it using this [link](#).

In severe weather conditions, emergency closure or other emergency circumstances, parents and pupils can receive up-to-date information via:

- The School Information Line
Tel: 0870 054 1999
PIN code 011020
- Aberdeen City Council's School Closures website
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/school-closures>

If we have an emergency during the school day and must send young people home early, we will contact parents/carers using Groupcall messages. Before we send young people home, we ask teachers to check that they have been able to contact home and will be able to get into the house. If any young person has not been able to do this, we ask them to wait in school until we or they have made contact.

We have separate arrangements for our more vulnerable learners who travel to school by taxi whereby one of our support team will telephone parent/carer directly.

S1 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 1 December 2021

Our S1 Parents' Evening took place on Wednesday 1 December 2021. This was a chance for parents to meet their children's teachers and find out how they have settled into S1.

We welcome your views on how you found the experience. You can give us feedback through the system itself or e-mail us using the school's e-mail address.

Unfortunately, many of our teachers have more than one first year class and only 30 available slots over the two and a half hours. As a result, they would not have been able to meet with the parents/carers of all the pupils in their classes.

Hopefully, after meeting with the majority of your child's teachers, you will have a good picture of how they have settled into S1 and no further queries about their progress to date. If you have concerns following these discussions or if you feel you need further information from a particular teacher, please contact your child's Head of House by phone or e-mail to discuss next steps.

UCAS (University and College Applications Service)

S5 and S6 pupils who are applying through UCAS for 2022 entry to university are currently completing their applications with the support and guidance of their Head of House. The school deadline for applications to be completed is **Thursday 9 December 2021**. This allows time for applications to be checked, processed, and sent before the end of term.

Please note that young people applying to NESCol (North East Scotland College) will apply directly through NESCol's online college system. They will also be supported through this process by their Head of House in the New Year.

School Photographs

All S1-S6 individual and family photographs have been taken and all pupils who had their photograph taken took a proof home with them last week. All orders for school photographs will be online this year. The school will receive a 25% commission for all orders placed online.

The four steps in the ordering process are:

- Visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk
- Enter the reference number. This can be found under the proof picture
- View your photos, make your selection and check out your order
- Choose delivery option

For those who are yet to order **online**, you have until **Tuesday 7th December 2021** to take advantage of free delivery back to school. Any order placed after that will incur a postage & packaging fee which you will be required to pay.

If you experience any issues with placing your order, please contact the school.

SQA Research – Your Views are Being Sought

The SQA is currently carrying out research into people's perceptions of educational assessment standards in light of the disruption due to COVID-19. It is important for them to develop a deeper understanding of the views of a range of individuals, including learners, parents, employers, and practitioners. They anticipate that the key findings of this research will be published in the early part of 2022. A team of researchers from the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow have been asked by the

SQA to carry out a large-scale survey of learners, practitioners, employers, and parents, and they are very keen to get as many responses as possible.

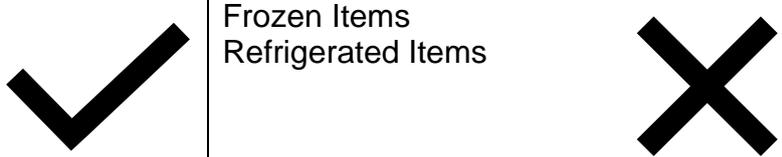
The survey can be accessed by using this [link](#).

I would encourage you to take the time to share your views with SQA. I have posted this in the S5 and S6 Google Classrooms.

CFINE Food Bank Collection

The next collection will be on **Monday 20 December**. We will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#).

<i>Yes please</i>	<i>No thank you</i>
Tinned Food Cereals Pasta Condiments and spices Juices Toiletries Nappies	Fresh Food Frozen Items Refrigerated Items



Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

- Admin block - Assembly Room
- Ground Floor - Home Economics classroom
- Ground Floor - G17 (Miss Strachan's room)
- First Floor - F12 (Miss Devlin's room)
- Top Floor - T3 (Mrs Lees' room)
- Staffroom

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:

- Danscentre Academy for Boys
- Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (Online Event)
- Tullos Training Event
- Expro – Mechanical/Electrical Engineering Apprenticeships

Lots more DYW opportunities can be found [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