



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



3 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 3 September 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Parents' Evenings and Reporting
- Winter Coat Appeal
- Mission Christmas
- How We Can Support Families Experiencing Financial Hardship
- Parent Council
- Covid-19 Vaccinations
- Autumn Flu Vaccination Programme
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

Parents' Evenings and Reporting

At the end of this letter, I have included a schedule for these with brief explanations of the purpose of each event. Following the guidance from the Scottish Government the plan is for schools to hold virtual parents' evenings and not face to face in-school events. There will be more information coming out about how this will work for parents and carers: I believe the software is straightforward and works well and supports both staff and parents/carers to stick to the five-minute appointment time slots allocated.

Winter Coats: Help Available For Families

As August ended there was a definite Autumnal nip in the air and your thoughts may well be turning to the need to provide a winter coat for your child(ren). I want to draw your attention to a [source of help](#) with this which we can help you to apply for. If you are worried about not being able to afford to buy your child(ren) a coat suitable for a north-east winter – which can last a long time – please contact your child's Guidance Teacher and we can apply on your behalf. You could receive a £50 Primark voucher which would be enough to buy a warm coat.

Mission Christmas (Northsound Appeal 2021)

Sorry for mentioning Christmas so early this term but we wanted to bring this to your attention as soon as possible. Using this [link](#) you can find out more about this worthwhile appeal and might wish to donate! We have a long tradition in this school

of supporting families throughout the year but also at what can be a very challenging time of year. We apply on behalf of a family and are given gift items to pass on to parents/carers, suitable, for the age of the young people applied for. We do this with the agreement and support of families and do everything to make it as straightforward as possible for parents and carers to be able to give these gifts to their children from themselves or from the man in the red suit!

Covid-19 and Challenging Family Circumstances

We are very conscious that covid-19 has had a much wider impact on our families than the challenges of home schooling, working from home and the mitigations in place since our return to school. We know that the downturn in the local economy has had an impact on employment in a number of industries which will have resulted in under-employment, unemployment, redundancies and more zero hours contracts. We know that there have been glimmers of hope as more contracts have been secured by the energy sector which means fewer families may be living with the threat of redundancy and that as hospitality has opened there are encouraging signs of employment opportunities increasing in this sector. However, we also know that there have been many challenges in importing resources needed by the construction industry which means contracts cannot be fulfilled which also has an impact on security of employment.

We are very aware that this impacts on family incomes and we want to help where we can. As well as drawing parents and carers attention to sources of help like those detailed above, we do have access to funds which can support young people to make life in school easier when their family is experiencing either long- or short-term financial hardship. As always, the first point of contact is your child's guidance teacher/Head of House. Please be assured that if you make contact, we will respect your privacy and be sensitive to the family's circumstances.

Parent Council

The Parent Council met on Tuesday 31 August 2021. This group of parents and carers meets once per month throughout the school year. The following are their objectives:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils, and its parents.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.

They would like to ensure we have representation across all the year groups and especially our new S1 parents and carers. All meetings are taking place remotely through Microsoft Teams from 19.30 – 20.30 on the last Tuesday of the month as

follows:

Tuesday 28 September 2021

Tuesday 26 October 2021

Tuesday 30 November 2021

Tuesday 25 January 2022

Tuesday 29 March 2022

Tuesday 26 April 2022

Tuesday 31 May 2022

We will also schedule a meeting in June to meet with the families of new S1 parents and carers: date TBC. If you would like to join the Parent Council or to come along and meet us to find out more please email the school with your name, the name of your child(ren) and an email address and we will invite you to the next meeting.

The Parent Council 100 Club

As you can see from above the Parent Council does not have fund raising at the heart of its aims. However, they do fundraise through their 100 club. The details of how this works and benefits the school can be found in the poster at the end of this letter.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for 16 and 17-year-olds

There are a number of options for young people and indeed anyone aged over 18 years who has still to get their first or second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The city has several clinics for drop-ins and options for appointment booking. Clinic information can be viewed using this link: <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-19-public-information/covid-19-vaccination-clinics-aberdeen/>

To book an appointment: please call the Aberdeen Covid-19 contact centre free on **0800 0304 713**, open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, to book into one of the clinics.

P&J Live: Anyone over 16 years can drop-in for both first and second dose (Second dose must be at least 8 weeks after first) - Monday to Sunday, 9am – 6pm.

Autumn Flu Vaccination Programme

The local authority and the NHS have set dates for the flu vaccination programme which will take place in schools. Our allocated dates are 4, 5 and 6 October. The vaccine will be administered via a nasal spray. More information can be found by using this link <https://www.nhsinform.scot/flu-vaccine/the-vaccines/the-child-flu-vaccine>. All forms were due to be returned on Friday 3 September if you would still like your child(ren) to have a flu vaccination please return the form by Monday at the latest.

Lateral Flow Testing

Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases of Covid-19. LFD kits are available from school and following completion of the following can be issued to pupils through PSE.

NHS Consent Form – <https://forms.gle/pEcG1dp1n7Pp1hpK8>

S1 – S3 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/Zh1Wdfa9qUwHm9YR8>

S4 – S6 – Renewal - <https://forms.gle/4BssE34StXMDtJD87>

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:

- Balfour Beatty
- Scania UK Apprenticeships
- Aberdeen Audit School Leaver Programme
- Balmoral Group in Aberdeen - Graduate Apprentice Design Engineer
- Law Society of Scotland Insight Day
- Love Rara Job Opportunities
- The University of Aberdeen School of Social Sciences
- DYW Live – The Virtual Employer

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8209>

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. Until the recruitment process for a new Head of Braemar House is completed Mrs Napier, Mrs Marshall and Miss Smith will continue to support the young people they were responsible for in sessions 2020/21. For our new S1 pupils in Braemar we will direct your enquiry to an appropriate member of staff to until the vacancy is filled in September.

Pastoral Care

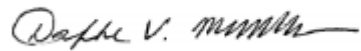
Braemar House	Vacancy
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daphne V. McWilliam', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

PARENT COUNCIL



£2 per number to win up to
£50 each month!

100 Club

Profits buy learning and teaching resources e.g.

- Subscription to *My Maths* for all pupils S1-6
- Textbooks for Higher and N5 RMPS
- Maths Textbooks for S4 pupils
- Personal and Social Education resources for Drugs Education and Sex Education
- Subscription to online research resource "Issues".
- Library Books: fiction to support personal reading

1. Set up direct debit using the form below or use your online banking app with the sort code and account number from the form.
2. Cost - £2 per month per number.
3. Email the school bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk to tell us you have done this and the information will be passed onto the treasurer who will allocate a number(s). Include your name, email, and phone number – to contact you if you win!



The Manager

..... Please insert the
..... Name, Address & Postcode
..... of **your own** Bank.
.....

Please arrange to pay **LLOYDS TSB Scotland plc
St Machar (873410) Branch
PO BOX 1000
BX1 1LT**

Sort Code **87-34-10**

For the credit of **BODA PARENT COUNCIL**

Account Number **88649860**

The sum of **£**

Commencing*

— — / — — / — — —

*When inserting a starting date, please ensure that the money will be transferred in time for the draw

Frequency **Monthly**

Date of last Payment

(or UFN - Until further notice -

perhaps work out the month /year your child will leave school)

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Reference(insert your name)

Account to be debited
(i.e. the name(s) of the account holder(s))

Your Account Number — — — — — Sort code — — - — —

Signature(s)

Date

SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR OWN BANK

Or better still – use online banking to set it all up using the details above

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-the-public/Fundraising-and-promotions/Fundraising/Fundraising-with-100-200-500-clubs.aspx#:~:text=In%20most%20cases%20members%20of,of%20the%20club%20or%20society>

Reporting and Parents' Evening Calendar 2021 – 22 – Parent and Carer Information

Year Group	Interim Report – no teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Full Report – includes teacher comment Purpose and Dates	Parents' Evening Purpose and Dates
S1	Settling in Interim Report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effort, Behaviour and Homework in each subject area. Issue Date 12 November. 	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Progress and next steps comments Issue Date 3 June 2022 	Meet your child's Teachers and follow up on Interim Report if you have questions about the effort, behaviour, and homework. Teachers may also use this appointment to inform you about courses although this is on the school website. 1 December 2021
S2	Interim Report for each subject including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Teacher Issue date 21 December 2021 	End of Session Report for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. Effort, Behaviour and Homework Progress and next steps comments Issue Date 20 May 2022 	Progress including Curriculum for Excellence level achieved Next steps to meet full potential and discussion of potential pathways in the subject beyond choices already made for S3. 9 March 2022
S3	Interim Report for each subject including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. Effort, Behaviour and Homework – please be honest with your assessment of this. Issue Date 29 October 2021 	Final Report Progress and recommendations for Senior Phase for each subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum for Excellence level achieved. Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Progress and next steps Recommendation Issue Date 28 January 2022 	Follow-up to the final Report Issued on 28 January to discuss progress to date including effort, behaviour, and homework and to offer advice on course choice for Senior Phase. 23 February 2022
S4- S6	Interim Report 1 for each National Course ¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Grade (can be amended) Working Grade. Effort, Behaviour and Homework Issue date 7 October 2021. Interim Report 2 for each National Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Grade (can be amended) Working Grade Effort, Behaviour and Homework Issue date 28 March 2022 	Full Report for each National Course (following assessment period which may include prelim exams): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of assessments Next steps to meet target grade Effort, Behaviour and Homework. Recommendation – although this is part of the separate course choice procedures. Issue date 22 February 2022 	To discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> progress to date with national courses and next steps to meet target grade. Discussion of reasons for working grade and what needs to be done to prepare for assessment(s) in January. Parents/carers choose one of the following options 10 November 2021 18 November 2021

¹ Please note that reports for courses undertaken at college and other schools may come at different times.