



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



30 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – Monday 30 November 2020

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

- Litter
- Toilets
- Christmas at Bridge of Don Academy

Litter

There have been some concerns raised by members of the local community about the issue of litter in the area immediately around the school. I know that the vast majority of our pupils dispose of their litter responsibly either in the bins provided around the school or by taking it home. However a small number are not doing so and this is causing some concern in our community. Next week during visits to all classes I, along with the three Depute Head Teachers: Mrs Cruickshank, Mr Haggarty and Mr Jamieson will remind young people about being considerate when they are out and about in the community before and after school and at lunch time.

In the past we have carried out litter picks in our school grounds but given the current situation that is not something we can do at the moment. We need to rely on the good citizenship of all in our community to bin their litter responsibly so that we can all enjoy our time outside.

Toilets

This week we have had to close toilet blocks on the top floor and ground floor due to damage caused by vandalism. All the toilets in school have been refurbished in the last two years so it is disappointing that a few young people are wasting their time causing damage to facilities that have been long awaited. Tax-payers money is being wasted in making repairs at a time when we need all of our resources to support key services like health and education. We are currently investigating and the culprits, when identified, will be dealt with and family contacted. As a parent/carers you can support us by having a conversation with your child and asking them to report damage and names to us so that we can take action and not have to close toilets to await repairs. This is not "grassing" or telling tales but responsible citizenship: standing by and doing nothing allows this behaviour to continue and everyone suffers as a result.

Christmas Plans

- The tree is now up in the Foyer
- Senior pupils are planning and creating a video to replace our normal face-to-face Christmas Assemblies which will take place in the last week of term in PSE.
- **Christmas Lunch** is being served in the canteen on Tuesday 15 December.
- My thanks to all the young people who submitted an entry for the school, **Christmas Card Competition**. The winners were given their prizes on Friday.

First Prize £25 Voucher and the card to be printed and sent to all our partners, local businesses and schools

Second Prize £15 WH Smith Voucher

Third Prize £10 WH Smith Voucher

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- **Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 11 December.** Please note this is not a dress as you please day. Young people have the option **to wear a Christmas Jumper as part of their school uniform** that day, or on top of their PE kit. We will not collect any monies from pupils: although families may wish to make a donation privately to a charity of their choice or make an extra donation to our foodbank collection.

SQA Assessment Arrangements

We are still waiting for final confirmation of the date for the submission of estimates (for AH and Higher courses) and grades for National 5 courses. We anticipate this will be issued on 10 December which is the date for the next SQA update to school. In the meantime our teachers continue to work on gathering of evidence of young people's attainment in their National Courses. We are currently preparing further communications for families and young people which will contain further information about assessment and be issued before the end of term.

Weather Arrangements: a reminder

Our staff were reminded last week about the procedures regarding school closure or late starts due to the severe weather. It is extremely rare for the school to be closed, but in the event of severe weather during the night or in the early hours of the morning, the following options are all possible:

- open school one hour later than normal for all pupils and staff;
- open school one hour later than normal for non-bus pupils and staff;
- open school for non-bus pupils and staff;
- close school to all pupils, open to staff;
- close school to all pupils and staff.

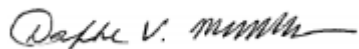
30% of the teaching staff live in outlying areas and, despite leaving home earlier when there's bad weather, can still be held up due to increased traffic or unsafe road conditions. If we do not have enough staff available to cover classes, the opening may be delayed by one hour to give colleagues the chance to arrive safely to school.

The decision to cancel buses is ultimately down to the transport companies who will assess the risk to pupils and drivers.

In the event that the school is closed or opens later than normal, we will notify parents via:

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher