



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



4 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 4 February 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- S4 – S6 National Courses – update from the SQA
- Course Choice Procedures
- School Reports
- Extra-Curricular Offer
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Monday 14 February: Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 15 February: In-Service Day

Wednesday 16 February: In-Service Day

S4 – S6 National Courses – update from the SQA

The SQA have now published information for young people and parents/carers about the additional support that will be provided for young people sitting national qualification examinations this year.

[Information for young people](#)

[Information for parents/carers](#)

The SQA publish regular blogposts for parents/carers, and you can subscribe for regular updates by using [this link](#) and entering your email address.

Revision Support for learners will be available from 7 March 2022. This support will take the form of ONE of the following for each course:

- Advance notice of content/contexts that will be assessed.

- Advance notice of further content that will not be assessed
- A Study Guide

In addition, the SQA have provided information about the following

- Exam Exceptional Circumstances Service (available while exams are taking place). What happens if a young person is not able to sit part of or an entire examination.
- Grading (this takes place once examinations have been sat).
- Appeals Service 2022 after results have been published on Tuesday 9 August 2022.

As well as subscribing to the SQA blog you can keep up to date by following the SQA on Facebook @ScottishQualificationsAuthority.

Course Choice Procedures

The course choice procedures are well under way for the current S2 to S5 Pupils. Information was issued in previous Head Teacher update letters issued Friday 21 and 28 January and available [here](#).

The course choice booklet and the presentations which were made to all young people in Personal and Social Education (PSE) lessons are available on the school website using this [link](#).

All additional resources to support young people in making the appropriate choices are available on Google Classroom and by using the following links below.

[S2 into S3 Course Choice](#)

[S3 into S4 Course Choice](#)

[S4/5 into S5/6 Course Choice](#)

Mrs Cruickshank has also added the NESCOL course choice booklet to these posts which contains the courses available for pupils in S4 – S6 still attending school.

Deadlines for returning course choice forms:

S2 into S3:	Thursday 10 February
S3 into S4:	Friday 25 February
S4/5 into S5/6:	Friday 25 February

School Reports

The school's calendar for reporting and parents' evenings can be downloaded from the school website [here](#).

Extra-Curricular Offer



This has been updated following some changes. You can access it [here](#).

CFINE Food Bank Collection

The next collection will be on **Friday 11 February**. We will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#).

In addition, Miss Strachan has a collection tin in her room (G17) for small change that young people may wish to donate which we will then use to purchase items for the foodbank.

<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:

- Technip Apprenticeships
- Accountancy Apprenticeships
- NESCol Exam Preparation
- Career in Technology
- Cyber Scotland Week
- Career in Social Care
- Bon Accord Care Apprenticeships
- C-FINE Cookery Course for 16+
- Scottish Space School

Lots more DYW opportunities can be found [here](#).

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. 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.

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

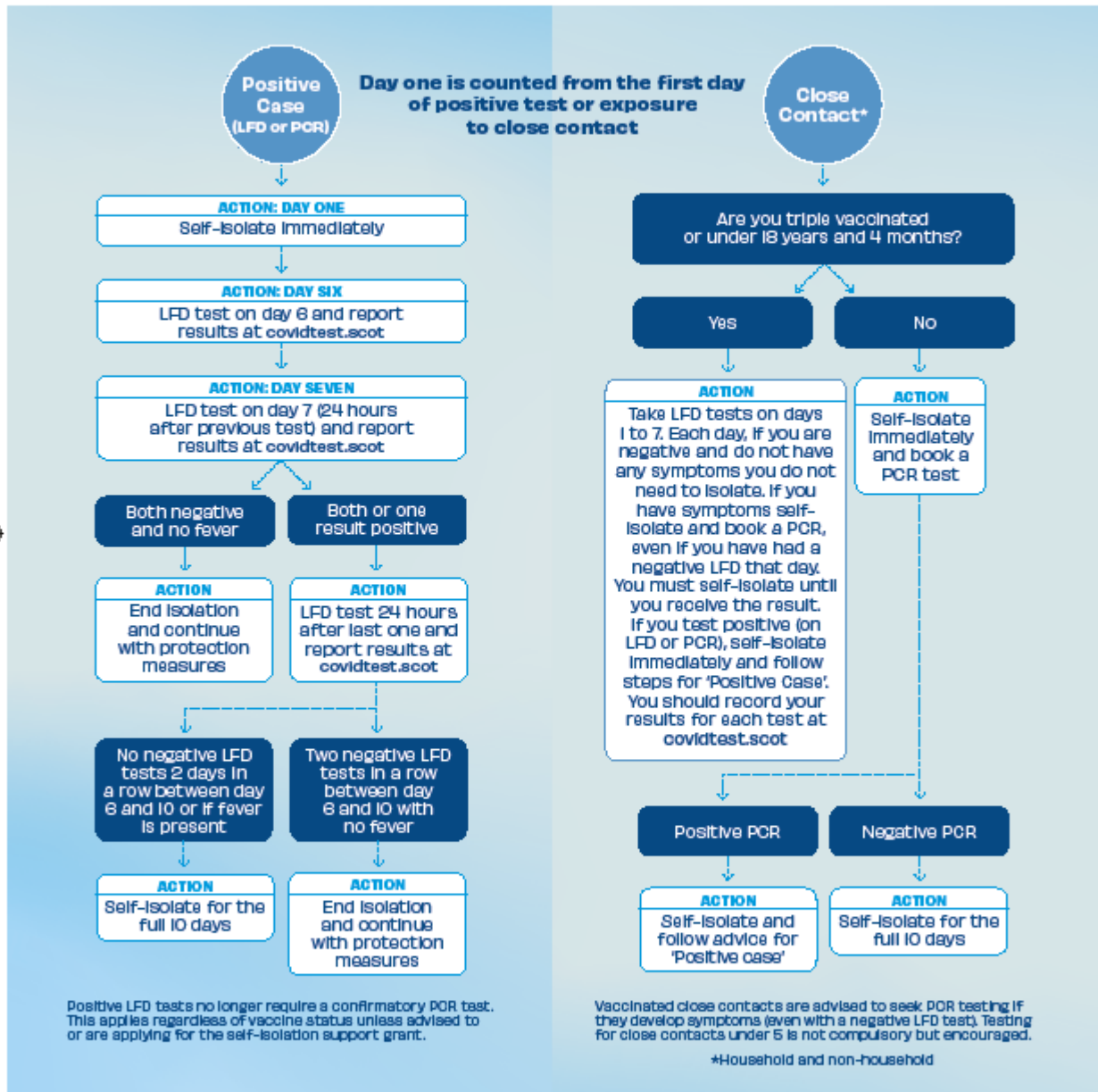
Daphne V. Munn

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher



Living safely this winter

Changes to Self-Isolation and Testing



For more details visit [NHSinform.scot/isolation](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/sections/134474411)

Being fully vaccinated reduces your risk of serious ill-health or hospitalisation from COVID-19 and time in self-isolation if you are a close contact. If you are not fully vaccinated visit [NHSinform.scot](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/sections/134474411) or call 0800 030 8013 for details on how to get your first or next dose.

