



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



4 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 4 June 2021

I write to update you as follows:

- Laura Fettes Teacher of Modern Languages
- SQA Appeals
- Fourth House and changes to registration classes
- Reduction of registration classes for S2 Into S3
- New Timetable Monday 7 June practical arrangements
- S4 and S5 Lift Off Event
- Lateral Flow Testing
- Pathway Planning

Laura Fettes Teacher of Modern Languages

On Thursday 3 June the funeral took place of Laura Fettes retired teacher of Modern Languages and Invigilator at Bridge of Don Academy. Laura worked here for over 30 years and many of you who were pupils here yourselves will remember her. We have heard many stories over the years about the incredibly positive impact Laura had on young people who went on to study Modern Languages at university. She will be sadly missed by friends and colleagues on the staff and the many pupils she supported over the years. She died after a valiant battle with illness only 5 years after retiring.

SQA Appeals

More information will be coming to you and young people in due course. In the meantime, the SQA is sending a [booklet](#) to all young people who are sitting National Qualifications this year which contains all the deadlines.

The Important points to note are that throughout this session teachers have been gathering assessment evidence which will support the decisions being made about the grades young people will be awarded. Teachers have also been sharing feedback with young people on their progress and giving advice on how to make further improvements throughout the year. Individual teachers are not making decisions about grades on their own. Papers and assessments are being marked and then cross marked and checked by groups of teachers, including colleagues from other schools, and then decisions arrived at collectively based on the evidence.

These grades will then be checked by Faculty Heads and by members of the senior leadership team.

Fourth House and changes to registration classes

In recent years the school roll has increased and one impact of this is that we are required to introduce an additional Principal Teacher of Guidance (Head of House) and create a new house group for the cohort of young people for whom they will take responsibility for pastoral care.

The process of appointing the new Principal Teacher of Guidance is at an advanced stage. In line with the theme linking the names of the three existing Houses – Crathes, Drum and Fyvie – the new House will be called Braemar.

This will involve some movement of young people in order to populate Braemar and ensure an equitable spread of pupils across the four Houses. In most cases, registration classes have been moved intact: so, the name of a pupil's class and their Principal Teacher of Guidance (Head of House) may change but those pupils in their class will remain the same.

Below are details of all the classes that are changing house. All other classes will remain the same next session, with the exception of the S2 class discussed below.

Current (2020-21)	New (2021-22)
1 Fyvie 1	2 Braemar
2 Crathes 1	3 Braemar
3 Crathes 2	4 Braemar
4 Fyvie 1	5 Braemar
5 Drum 1	6 Braemar

Reduction of registration classes for S2 Into S3

In addition, an increasing school roll means that we must be particularly attentive in making sure that staffing and timetabling are as efficient and flexible as possible in order that we can best meet the needs of all learners. There are 6 registration classes in the current S2 when the numbers suggest that 5 would be far more efficient: this reduction by one class creates teaching capacity across the school. To this end, we are making this reduction as the classes move into S3.

The pupils of 2D1 have already been informed by their Head of House that they will be moving to other classes and they know the classes to which they will move. For many, but not all, their Principal Teacher of Guidance will change. In most classes in S3, pupils are in class with others who chose the same subjects as they did and not the pupils from their registration class so the impact on peer relationships should be minimal. The registration class is a much less significant unit from S3 onwards.

These changes will come into effect when the new timetable begins on Monday 7th June.

Pastoral Support until the end of term

This will continue to be provided by the Head of House (Guidance Teacher) currently responsible for your child(ren) until August and the new teacher is in post.

New Timetable Monday 7 June practical arrangements

Young people should continue to use the door they have been using to access school each morning and following breaks. On Monday young people should go to their new registration class as detailed in the appendix at the end of this letter. This information has also been posted in Google classroom and we will have copies of this information available at the entrance doors on Monday morning.

Young people will be in this class until 09.00 at which point, they will go to the period 1 class on their new timetable.

There are arrangements in place which will be shared with young people in S4 – S6 who need to make changes to their timetable.

New Timetable – PE Classes

Pupils in the following courses/classes should wear PE kit on Monday.

Higher PE
N5 PE
S3 Elective PE
S3 Leadership Classes
3C which was 2C2
3F1 which was 2F1
2C1 which was 1C1
2F2 which was 1F2

All other pupils should come to school in school uniform. From Tuesday pupils must only wear PE kit on days when they have PE.

S4 and S5 Lift Off Event

Officers in ACC organising the event are pleased with the responses from our young people across the city. Late on Tuesday afternoon there were still 185 pupils online on the site – despite the sunshine. The site will remain active and available until the end of term. Feedback is now invited from young people using the following link.

<https://forms.gle/CDNriMo4S9HJQdAKA>

There is already a link to this form embedded within the Pupil Booklet. Pupil prizes will be hand-delivered to schools next week.

Lateral Flow Testing

Please see below for a reminder of the procedure for this. We would encourage as many pupils as possible to take up and continue with testing to keep themselves and others safe. Individuals test regularly at home, twice a week (we would recommend Wednesday and Sunday, ideally in the morning or before school).

Guidance on conducting self-testing will can be found in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which accompanies the test kits.

There is a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

Once the test has been conducted individuals must log the test result – whether positive, negative or void – online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Please contact school if you have a positive test. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

NB: It is important to note that this regular testing is only for individuals without symptoms. Those with symptoms must continue to follow the usual guidance. They must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre or via a home test kit at the earliest opportunity. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

NB: A negative test result must not be taken as leave to relax or ignore physical distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission – testing is an additional intervention that contributes to reducing risk.

Lateral Flow Test kits are available from the school during PSE Classes. To request kits please click on the following link

S1-S3 <https://forms.gle/4DWx7c19rmoFz72A>

S4-S6 <https://forms.gle/a4Bi73X3GCdvAM1m8>

NHS Test & Protect Consent form must also be completed before lateral flow test kits can be handed out

<https://forms.gle/Zf2P13DBfME3D2Rf7>

Pathway Planning

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

The following were posted in Year Group Google Classrooms.

- Predict '21 Virtual Event
- Virgin Money Bank opportunity
- Summer events at the University of Aberdeen
- Young Professionals Virtual Work Experience

Young people also have access to My World of Work to find out more information about careers and pathways available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link -

<https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/archives/8026>

In addition to the weekly opportunities, DYW also plan a yearly event which provides information for parents, carers, teachers, pupils & businesses.

Contact with School

When emailing 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

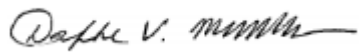
Crathes House	Mrs Napier
Drum House	Miss Smith
Fyvie House	Mrs Marshall

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



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher

REGISTER CLASSES FOR PERIOD 1 ON MONDAY 7 JUNE

2 Braemar (1F1)	Ms L McBoyle	T1
2 Crathes 1	Miss S Devlin	F12
2 Crathes 2	Mrs M Clark	G14
2 Drum	Mrs Paul	F2
2 Fyvie	Ms A Strachan	G17
3 Braemar (2C1)	Miss C Taylor	T20
3 Crathes	Mrs L Anderson	T5
3 Drum	Mrs S O'Reilly	F11
3 Fyvie 1	Mrs E Tortolano	F1
3 Fyvie 2	Miss J Clarke	G1A
4 Braemar (3C2)	Mrs L Redpath	G1B
4 Crathes	Mrs K Forbes	T4
4 Drum 1	Mrs E Forbes	F23
4 Drum 2	Miss L McShannon	T10C
4 Fyvie	Dr A Taylor	F9
5 Braemar (4F1)	Miss S James	G22
5 Crathes	Mr C Wallace/Mr D Ness	GP2
5 Drum	Mr S Warrender	T18
5 Fyvie	Mr C Cooper	F16
6 Braemar (5D1)	Miss E Hall	F6
6 Crathes	Mrs Beattie	G11
6 Drum (5D2)	Miss L Maitland	T10B
6 Fyvie	Mr A Jappy	G10