



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



4 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 4 March 2022

I write to update you on the following:

- Calendar Dates
- Easter of Play
- Wellbeing Surveys
- Parent Council
- S2 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 9 March 2022
- School Football
- Course Choice Procedures
- School Reports
- Pathway Planning – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Severe Weather
- Contact with School

Calendar Dates

Last Day of Spring Term:	Friday 1 April 2022
First Day of Summer Term:	Monday 18 April 2022
First Day of Study Leave:	Tuesday 26 April 2022
First SQA Exams for our pupils:	Wednesday 27 April 2022
May Day Holiday:	Monday 2 May 2022
In-Service Day:	Tuesday 3 May 2022
Queen's Platinum Jubilee:	Friday 3 June 2022
New Timetable:	Monday 6 June 2022
Last Day of Term:	Friday 1 July 2022

Easter of Play

Aberdeen City Council hopes to offer a range of activities for children and young people over the Easter holiday. They are keen to understand the kind of activities young people most enjoy so that they can get planning and would be really grateful if young people would help by filling in the very short online survey.

<https://forms.gle/eZBheXTRM6ebqiAN7>

The deadline for submission is Monday 7 March 2022.

Wellbeing Surveys

You will recall that I mentioned these in last week's update letter. These will give us valuable information about young people so we can plan how to support them with their learning and wellbeing.

The two surveys we are doing are taking place across the school in PSE week beginning 7 March 2022 and week beginning 14 March 2022. S6 is the exception, they did one yesterday Thursday 3 March as we have a speaker for S6 next week.

Parent Council

The wellbeing surveys detailed above will give us rich data about where we need to focus our efforts in the next few months and years.

The parent council are keen to gather the views of other parents and carers, and how to do this will be the main topic for the next meeting which takes place on **Tuesday 29 March at 19.00 in person in school**. The Parent Council would like to warmly invite any parent or carer who would like to attend to come along – even if only for this meeting. All you need to do is email the school with your name and the name of your child(ren).

The Parent Council will revert to online meetings for the rest of this session but plan two face-to-face meetings each year at the beginning of the new session in September and at the end of the Spring term in March.

S2 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 9 March 2022

Parents' Evenings for session 2021/2022 will be held online using the same software which has been used by parents and staff in previous years when making appointments. A video calling module is now built into the software which allows meetings to take place within the browser.

For parents who are unfamiliar with the system, a letter and instructions were issued to parents on Thursday this week. The system was opened up at 7pm that evening for parents to schedule appointments with teachers.

On the evening itself, once logged in, parents will see a list of their appointments and a link to automatically start a video call with each of the teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin a few seconds later.

Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.30pm, with a 15-minute comfort break at 6.00pm.

If you wish to speak to your child's Guidance Teacher about their progress, or if you have any questions about future pathways, please do not hesitate to contact them in school.

School Football

For the first time in two years, school football is back!

S2

Our S2 team travelled to Lochside Academy to take on their B team in a friendly. The boys started the game with intensity and dictated the play from start to finish. This was a good chance for the S2s to get a game under their belt and start to gel as a team for the games to come. All boys represented the school with class and showed respect through the full duration of the event.

Seniors

Our senior boys team kicked off their season with a challenging contest against Cults Academy. In previous years, this has been a tight game with the score going all the way. This was the first league game of the season and the seniors wanted to get off on the right foot. The seniors from start to finish dominated the game, demonstrating teamwork and motivation to work together. There was some exceptional play on show with a variety of goals scored. There was a great turn out from fellow pupils, parents and guardians which gave the seniors added motivation to keep up the intensity. In the end, seniors ran away with a convincing victory and the 3 points. Next up, Albyn School.

In all cases young people who want to represent the school at events such as these must comply with school uniform in school.

Course Choice Procedures

All forms should now have been completed and handed in. If there are any further queries pupils should arrange to see their Guidance in the first instance.

Once we are certain that all Choice forms are completed and handed in, Mrs Cruickshank will work on creating the column structure and thereafter the timetable. There may be instances that some classes may not be able to run due to staffing capacity or low pupil numbers. If this is the case, your child may be asked to consider one of their reserve choices. Both parent/carer and child will be kept up to date with information throughout the process. We do aim to provide pupils with as many of their choices as possible, but we cannot guarantee that everyone will get all their first choices.

A reminder that those pupils who have applied for a School Links College course or a City Campus course must complete the relevant Google Application form. This has been discussed in PSE and pupils can access the link for these in Google Classroom. The deadline for these applications is **18 March 2022**.

School Reports

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

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:

- Software Engineering Webinar
- English Literature & Linguistics/Modern Languages webinar
- Interested in becoming a Doctor?
- Scottish Apprenticeship Week – 7-11 March

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

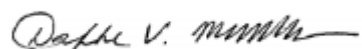
Braemar House: Miss Howard
Crathes House: Mrs Napier
Drum House: Miss Smith
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

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

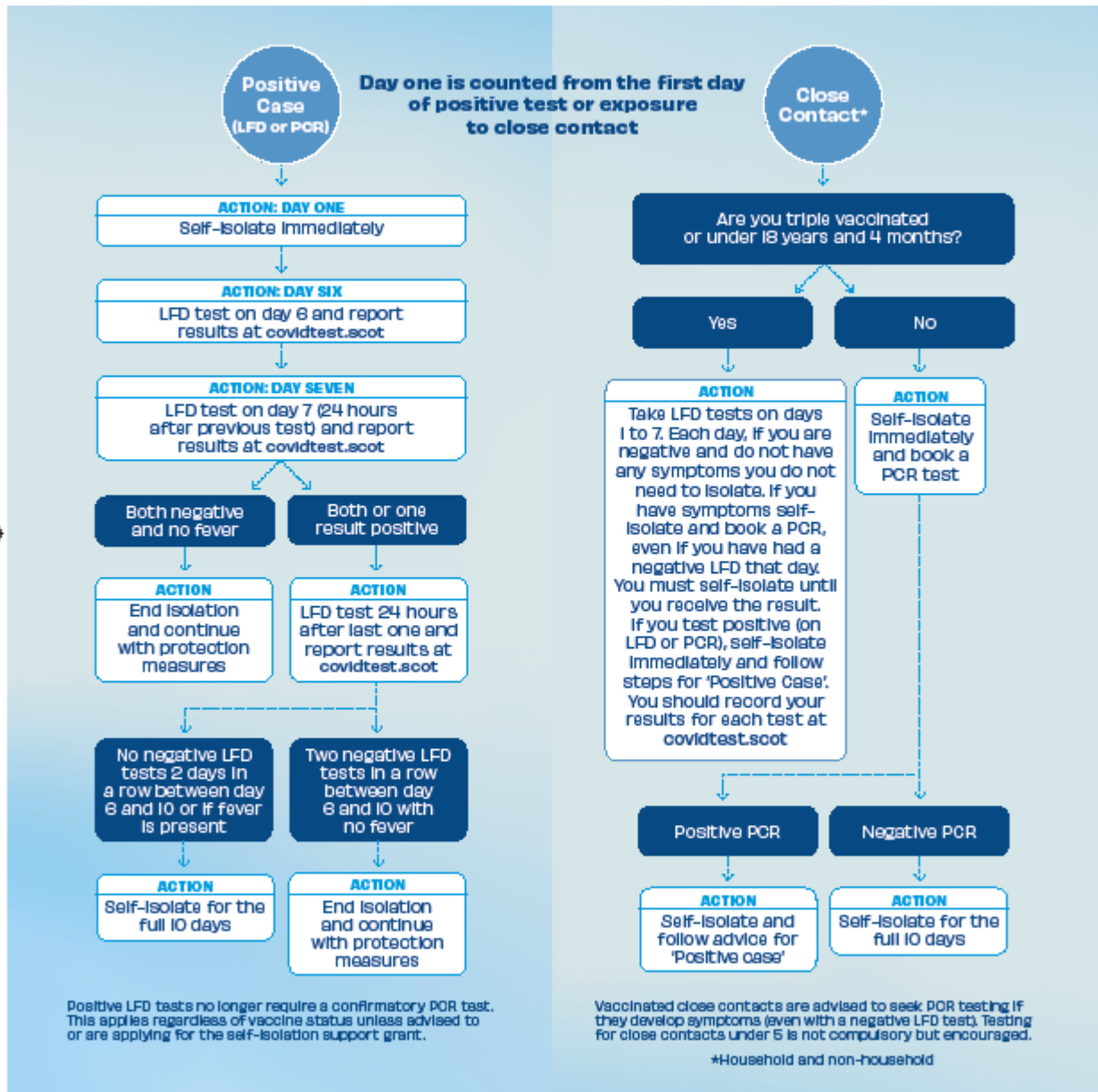


Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher



**Living safely
this winter**

Changes to Self-Isolation and Testing



For more details visit NHSinform.scot/isolation

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 or call 0800 030 8013 for details on how to get your first or next dose.

