



# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

*Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best*

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**Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam**



5 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Teacher's Update – 5 November 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- In-Service Day
- S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings
- S4 to S6 Study Support
- S3 Reports
- Reporting and Parents Evenings Schedule All Year Groups
- Bonfire Night Safety
- Disposable Vapes – Information from Trading Standards
- School Uniform
- Aberdeen Endowment Trust – Bursaries
- School Photographs
- Pathway Planning
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

### In-Service Day

November In-Service Day: Friday 19 November 2021

### S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings

Our first evening will be on Wednesday 10 November. You should have all the information you need from documents sent home via Groupcall on Monday this week.

On the evening itself, after logged in, parents/carers will see a list of their appointments and a link to click which will automatically start a video call with each of their child's teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin right away.

Normally our Heads of House offer a "drop-in" service at each of our Parents' Evenings which allows you to decide whether you wish to see them after you have met with teachers or prior to speaking with teachers. We cannot replicate this online.

Our Heads of House will therefore be available for appointments on Thursday 18 November 2021, which is the second of the two S4/S5/S6 Parents' Evenings. However, if there is an issue relating to your young person's progress that you would like to discuss further, please contact your child's Head of House by telephone or using the Bridge of Don Academy e-mail address.

### **S4 to S6 Study Support**

This week in PSE all young people had a session on revision strategies followed by time to write their own revision and preparation plan for the coming week, with the support of their Head of House. This information was sent home via Groupcall to families. There will also be support for young people applying for North-East Scotland College (NESCol) during PSE on Tuesday 16 November (S5/S6) and Friday 26 November (S4).

### **S3 Reports**

Interim reports were posted home on Monday of this week and contain information on the Curriculum for Excellence level achieved as well as Effort, Behaviour and Homework.

### **Reporting and Parents' Evening Schedule – All Year Groups**

I have posted a summary document on the school website which you can access using this [link](#).

### **Bonfire Night Safety**

It was not possible for Scottish Fire and Rescue to speak to all our S1 and S2 pupils this year and so they provided us with a presentation which was shared with all young people in S1 and S2 in PSE this week. For your information here is a [link](#) to the presentation which I have uploaded to the school website.

### **Disposable Vapes – information from Trading Standards**

Officers from the Trading Standards team have been visiting retailers in Aberdeen and finding that they all now stock disposable vapes with a good number of illegal products found. Some vapes have tanks that are too large for the UK market, and these have been seized by officers. There are also many products that have labelling issues or have not been registered with the Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. They continue to visit, give advice, seize, etc, and this is happening across Scotland.

They have anecdotal evidence that shops are turning away an increasing number of young people who are attempting to buy these vapes but have no complaints regarding actual sales to those under 18.

We have been asked to pass on any information indicating any concerns with use of these vapes.

Trading Standards have issued a media release on the illegal disposable vapes that have been found at <https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/unsafe-vapes-sized-in-aberdeen/>

There are concerns from across the UK that the presentation of some of the vapes is very appealing to young people and is resulting in an increasing number of under 18s using these products. The current legislation does not prohibit the product or packaging to be brightly coloured etc nor is there any prohibition on using sweet sickly flavours.

We have been asked to pass on any information we have to Trading Standards. The School Prospectus details the rules with regard to any smoking materials – they cannot be brought into school and, if they are, they will be confiscated and parent/carer contacted to collect them.

## **School Uniform**

As you all know we have returned to our expectation that all young people come to school each day in full school uniform and take separate kit with them for PE lessons. Thank you for your support with this. Several young people are continuing to attend school in non-uniform items, and we are tackling this in a number of ways which will include monitoring in school and keeping you informed. On a positive note, we will also be offering rewards at the end of the session for the classes with the best uniform record.

## **Aberdeen Endowment Trust – Bursaries**

A bursary is available to low-income families with a child attending secondary school from S1 to S4 and is normally awarded as £100 per year. It can be applied for at any time from S1 to S4 but cannot be granted retrospectively. This may be of benefit to families. More information can be found [here](#). The form to complete can be emailed to you. Please contact the school office if you require a form. It should then be completed and returned either by e-mail to [aet1909@btinternet.com](mailto:aet1909@btinternet.com) or by post to the address below.

## **School Photographs**

Individual and family portrait photographs will be taken in school on Friday 26 November 2021. Class photographs will be taken later this term or in the New Year.

## CFINE Food Bank Collection



Once again, we will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#). The next collection date from the school is Thursday 18 November 2021, the day before the In-service Day.

Yes Please	No Thank You
Tinned Food	Fresh Food
Cereals	Frozen Items
Pasta	Refrigerated Items
Condiments and spices	
Juices	
Toiletries	
Nappies	

✓

✗

Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

Assembly Room,  
Home Economics classroom,  
G17 (Miss Strachan's room),  
F12 (Miss Devlin's room),  
Staff Room  
T3 (Mrs Lees' room).

## 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:

- BBC Young Reporter
- Morrison Construction Event
- Microbiology Taster Sessions
- NHS Scotland Virtual Event

In addition, there is an opt-in session being delivered by Morrison Construction on Tuesday 16 November during period 4. Pupils will be encouraged to sign up for the event if they would like to hear more about the construction industries and the opportunities available to them.

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8339>

## Event for Parents - Is Your Young Person A School Leaver?

As part of Scottish Careers Week, parents and carers can find how they can support their young person make career decisions and move on from school by joining Skills

Development Scotland's webinar on Wednesday 17th November, from 6.30pm – 7.15pm. Details [here](#).

## Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day
- Advice for families following a case of Covid-19 in their child's year group
- Lateral Flow Testing

Information on all the above is now located on the school website [here](#).

## 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

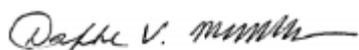
Braemar House: Miss Howard  
Crathes House: Mrs Napier  
Drum House: Miss Smith  
Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

### 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