



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



8 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 8 October 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- School Holidays
- In-Service Day
- Canteen Menus
- S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings
- S4 to S6 Study Support
- Wet Weather Arrangements
- Flu Vaccinations
- PE Changing Rooms
- School Uniform
- Theft of items from teaching areas
- Extra-Curricular Activities and clubs
- 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
- Pathway Planning

School Holidays

October Break

The last day of this term is: Friday 8 October 2021

The first day of the new term will be: Monday 25 October 2021

I hope all our young people have a restful and enjoyable break from school. They have risen well to the challenges of this term and I look forward to seeing them all again on 25 October.

In-Service Day

November In-Service Day: Friday 19 November 2021

Canteen Menus

The canteen menus will change after the October holidays. The new menus can be viewed [here](#).

S4 to S6 Online Parents' Evenings

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. No other software is required.

For those parents who are unfamiliar with the system, a letter will be issued a week before the Parents' Evening. A link will be given to the Parents' Evening Booking System web page which will ask for information to be entered in order to identify them as the parent/carer of their child. Once logged in, they will be able to make appointments with their child's teachers depending on availability.

On the evening itself, once logged in, parents 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.

More information will be provided to parents when we open the system for bookings after the October break.

Our first Parents' Evening this session is for S4 to S6 pupils and offers two dates, Wednesday 10 November and Thursday 18 November. Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.25pm, with a 15-minute comfort break built-in at 6.00pm.

S4 to S6 Study Support

We are currently working on several supports for young people in our senior phase to help them to prepare for the assessments and examinations associated with their courses.

Class teachers have been assessing the progress of young people and reports are being posted home at the end of this term. A letter will accompany the reports explaining their content. Any questions arising from this report can be asked at the Parents Evenings as detailed above.

These reports will be reviewed by senior staff together with Heads of House and Principal Teachers of the Faculties. This will allow us to identify young people who may need additional support or interventions.

Study skills and approaches to revision will be covered by our Heads of House in PSE lessons and specific subject related revision approaches and advice will be covered by teachers in classes.

Wet Weather Arrangements

These will be as follows:

Morning: Pupil doors will open at 8.20am to allow pupils to access the school building. They will go straight to their period 1 class.

Break: to ease the congestion in the canteen we will allocate different areas of the school for specific year groups .

Lunch Time: we have monitored this, and young people are still happy to go out of school for lunch despite the rain. The congestion in the canteen is also much reduced by participation in clubs and activities. So, by the time seniors return from lunch many of the younger pupils are elsewhere.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated.

Flu Vaccinations

An information sheet was sent by Groupcall email yesterday to all families. This detailed what to do if your child was absent when they should have had their flu vaccination.

Flu vaccinations will be available from community pharmacies listed on the Grampian Flu Vaccination Website from 1 November 2021.

www.fluvaxgrampian.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please telephone:

Aberdeenshire 0330 128 9919

Aberdeen City: 0800 030 4713

PE Changing Rooms

We have monitored the use of these since they were opened for pupils in senior school. We are satisfied that measures in place to ensure adequate ventilation are working well. After the holidays they will also be in use for young people in S1 to S3. All young people will now be expected to bring their PE kit into school to change into for PE lessons. They should bring a change of top and bottom and shoes. T shirts or appropriate exercise tops and shorts/leggings are all acceptable but no football kits or tops. Low cut tops or tops that show midriff are not appropriate for school and should not be worn. For swimming young people who are self-conscious can wear a top over their swimsuit or shorts and T shirts.

School Uniform

As a result of opening our PE changing rooms, we will now expect all young people to attend school in full school uniform every day. Details of this are available on the school website by using this [link](#). I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back after the October holidays in full uniform. Can I please any parent/carer who is worried about the cost of this to contact me or your child's head of house because we can support you with this?

We have deliberately moved away from school polo shirts and sweatshirts because of the expense for families and the only item which cannot be purchased in local shops of your choice is the school tie.

I have checked with Abstitch and have confirmed that red ties for senior (S5 and S6) pupils and blue ties for S1 – S4 pupils are both now in stock. They will be open for pupils and parents to buy ties and blazers which will be measured and tailored to fit. They are located at:

35 Ann Street
Aberdeen
AB25 3LH
Tel: 01224 639152
Email: info@abstitch.co.uk

All other items: shirts/blouses, jumpers/cardigans, trousers/skirts and shoes can be purchased from supermarkets or other clothing stores of your choice.

Theft of Items from Teaching Areas

We have identified several young people who have admitted to taking items as described in my letter last week. In all cases consequences have been put in place and parents/carers informed.

Extra-Curricular Activities and clubs

The activities and clubs are detailed in my letter dated 23 September 2021 which can be seen on the school website using this [link](#). I have asked teachers to keep a register so that merits and house points for participating can be awarded.

Procedure If A Young Person Becomes Ill During the School Day

All young people who become ill during the school day MUST report this to their class teacher, support staff or to the school office who will arrange for a first aider to see them who will then contact home if it is necessary for them to be taken home. We ask that if your child contacts you during the school day to tell you they are unwell that you do not immediately arrange with them to pick them up but ask them to report to the school office so this procedure can be followed. This ensures they are safe and looked after whilst feeling unwell, their absence is correctly recorded, and they are not reported as missing or truanting.

Sometimes, especially when it is warm, young people do become tired and if they have not drunk any water may be dehydrated. Having a re-usable bottle of water which can be filled at break or lunch from the water fountains will help prevent dehydration and support their learning.

If a young person is Covid-19 symptomatic during the school day, the same procedure as above applies. They will be supported by our first aid team and in addition isolated from others. Parents/carers will be contacted to collect them with the advice that they should have a PCR test. The latest NHS advice I have received is that any siblings should also go home and the family self-isolate until the results of the test are known. Thereafter the advice of public health should be followed about self-isolation for the family if the test result is positive.

Advice For Families Following A Case Of Covid-19 In Their Child's Year Group

All families will continue to receive a communication from school which is called a low-risk letter if a young person in their child/ren's year group tests positive for Covid-19. These letters have been updated in line with the advice contained in Jason Leitch's letter which went out to all families on Thursday 16 September. Advice continues to be as follows:

- If your child is identified by public health as a **high-risk close contact**, they will be asked to self-isolate until they have returned a negative PCR test. Please let us know that this is the case through the usual absence reporting procedure – phone or email school.
- **High-risk close contacts** are most likely to be household members or anybody they have stayed overnight with.
- All other contacts – such as those in their class or year group are considered **low-risk contacts** and should continue to be alert for symptoms but attend school.
- Before next attending school **low risk contacts** should take a lateral flow test wherever possible and continue to test twice a week in line with previous instructions. Advice on obtaining LFD kits from school is below.

If you are facing challenging financial or family circumstances or if you need help/support during self-isolation, please see my [HT update letter dated 10 September](#).

Lateral Flow Testing

Taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, ideally twice a week, helps with early detection of cases of Covid-19. LFD kits are available from school and following completion of the following can be issued to pupils though PSE or collected from the school office.

NHS Consent Form – <https://forms.gle/pEcG1dp1n7Pp1hpK8>

S1 – S3 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/Zh1Wdfa9qUwHm9YR8>

S4 – S6 Renewal - <https://forms.gle/4BssE34StXMDtJD87>

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:

- Augean North Sea Services – Modern Apprenticeships
- Allied Health Professionals at Work
- RGU – 6 week virtual programme
- Modern Apprenticeship in Business Administration
- Aspire Webinar Series

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8270>

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