



# ABOYNE ACADEMY

RESPECT | PARTICIPATION  
TEAMWORK | DETERMINATION

**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



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11<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Start of term August 2021 – Update

### WELCOME BACK

I hope that all pupils and families had a safe and relaxing Summer break. I am looking forward to welcoming all pupils, and particularly our new S1's, back to school as the new session starts next week on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

### COVID MITIGATIONS

You may have seen in the media that existing Covid mitigations are expected to remain in place for a period of up to 6 weeks (until the end of September), following which further information will be provided. This means that during this period pupils and staff must continue to:

- Wear face coverings inside the school building and on transport unless medically exempt.
- Regularly wash/sanitise hands and always when entering/exiting and before/after eating.
- Maintain physical distancing between staff and pupils.

Pupils should continue to do twice weekly lateral flow tests and record the results online. Details of how to collect additional test kits will be available in school via the daily bulletin. It would be helpful if pupils could test themselves before Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August using the test kits picked up before Summer or from school this week.

### PUPIL RETURN: TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

Pupils should continue to enter the building via the Walker and Astro entrances using whichever one is closest to their form class. New S1s should all enter through the Walker entrance. S3 Buddies will escort them from the buses and as they arrive at school. They will also chaperone S1's to and from all classes for the first two weeks.

There will be an extended Form Time from 9.00-10.05am. Pupils will be given an updated copy of their timetable and key information for the start of term. There will also be a whole school virtual assembly. Normal classes will resume from Period 2.

### PUPIL WELLBEING

All young people have shown remarkable resilience over the last 18 months, but it has been a difficult and unusual time for everyone. We will be monitoring both the welfare and academic progress of pupils this session very closely. The Guidance team will stay in close touch with parents where any concerns are identified. The tracking and reporting calendar this year has been developed to support each year group appropriately and we have invested in increased Maths staffing to support numeracy across the school during this session.



### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE**

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mr Alex Priest as our third Depute Head Teacher. Mr Priest is an experienced DHT who will take up the post towards the end of Term 1. The DHT Team will then be as below:

Mr MacIntyre – Head of Birsemore House  
Mrs Mercer (Acting) – Head of Morven House  
Mr Priest – Head of Lochnagar and Clachnaben Houses

Prior to Mr Priest starting Miss Easton will cover this DHT role on a temporary basis which I know will reassure parents during this interim period. Mr Rennie will delay starting his new role supporting the Guidance team to cover Miss Easton's Lochnagar Guidance role during these first few weeks of term.

### **TEACHING STAFF UPDATE**

I am delighted to welcome six new members of staff to the Aboyne Academy team at the start of this term. Jed MacKinnon (Business), Jennifer Dolan (Maths), Richard Bruce (English), Jack Taylor (Geography), Rachel Coffey (PE) and Andrew Turner (Music) will all join us from 16<sup>th</sup> August.

### **SQA RESULTS**

We are all proud of the performance of our young people in the 2021 SQA Alternative Certification process following the challenging circumstances of the last 18 months. There were a huge number of fantastic individual achievements across S4-6 and also for our Community Resource Hub pupils.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

All pupils are expected to return to school in full school uniform apart from days where they have PE. We are currently not allowed to use school changing rooms so PE kit must be worn to school on PE days. S1 pupils will not know if they have PE on day 1 and should wear uniform. The Health Faculty are aware of this and will organise activities appropriately.

### **S1 TRANSPORT**

The Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) have written to S1 parents/carers with pick up/drop off points and times. Bus passes have been sent directly to school and we will distribute them in week 1. If you have any queries regarding transport, there is an e-mail address and contact number included on the PTU letter for you to get in contact with them directly. We have asked current Aboyne Academy pupils to support the S1s for the first week on their bus journeys.

Also accompanying this letter are a parental information booklet and a parent/carer communication guide. I hope this information is helpful.

If you have any queries please contact us via the parental support email at [aboyne.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:aboyne.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) and we will get the appropriate member of staff to respond.

I look forward to working with you all this session.

Yours sincerely

Michael Foy  
Head Teacher