



## NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

Granitehill Place

Aberdeen

AB16 7AU

**Tel:** 01224 699715

**Fax:** 01224 685239

**Email:** [northfieldacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:northfieldacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.northfield.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://www.northfield.aberdeen.sch.uk)

17/05/2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As part of their induction into S5 and S6, students across Aberdeen City will have the opportunity to take part in an online City-Wide event. 'LIFT-OFF!' has been organised on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June for pupils in Aberdeen who are moving to S5 and S6 in Session 2021-22 (current S4s and S5s). This will involve all pupils accessing this event on these days.

School pupils, like all of us, have had a challenging twelve-months. A lot of media coverage of young people and their pandemic experience has been very challenging. We have been impressed with pupil's adaptability and resilience, especially around the way most individuals grasped online learning in a mature way developing several new skills. 'LIFT-OFF!' is an opportunity for Aberdeen City to further support our young people by highlighting the opportunities that are out there for them both in employment, and training or further education opportunities, while demonstrating the skills and character strengths that they have.

'LIFT-OFF!' is an online event that is split over two days. On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 our key-note speaker will be Carl Walz, and ex-NASA Astronaut. He is central to the experience of the day and has given us the overall theme of 'LIFT-OFF!' and the imagery around it. We are excited to have him delivering a talk where he will mirror his own experiences as an Astronaut and match this to the experiences of Lockdown and the pandemic: isolation from loved ones and friends, limited opportunities for cultural experiences, the fears of re-integration to 'normal' life.

This talk will be followed by pupils receiving the opportunity to select at least five presentations from around 60 local employers. These employers will be highlighting their own career pathway, the history of the company they represent, their response to the pandemic, as well as importantly opportunities that they have for our young people.

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, pupils will have the opportunity to select at least three presentations from around 30 training and further education providers. Similar to Day 1, these providers will be highlighting their own career pathway, the history of the company they represent, their response to the pandemic, as well as importantly opportunities that they have for our young people. Day 2 will be concluded with a Q&A with Carl Walz answering questions that have been provided by the students. Throughout both days there are a series of quizzes for pupils to interact with and encourage engagement with £1000s of pounds of prizes available.

We thank you in advance for your support in making this exciting and innovative experience a success for our young people.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Simpson  
Depute Head Teacher

*Aspire to be outstanding*