



'Personal Best'

Rector's News Letter - August 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I am delighted to welcome pupils and staff back to school after what has been a lovely summer in the North East of Scotland. On our first day back, every pupil looked so smart in uniform, signifying pride and commitment to our school which in turn gives an air of promise for the coming year ahead. We appreciate your continued support with this going forward this year. Pictured on the left are some of our pupils earning their new school blazers and to the right, some of our pupils who performed well in assessments and exams from National 2 to Advanced Higher Level.

Pauline Buchan, Rector.



Exam Success: The vast majority of our senior pupils are to be congratulated on their personal best exam successes. Exam results are unique to each individual learner and it is clear that high percentages of our pupils have achieved or exceeded their personal best in gaining the best set of results for them. Our Ellon Academy Vision embodies our hopes for each learner:

Personal Best

"At Ellon Academy we work together to achieve and exceed our personal best in all that we do, striving to ensure that all learners have equal opportunities and are able to raise their aspirations, reach their goals and realise their full potential." #personalbest

At whole school level, our S4 (new S5) pupils have performed exceptionally well and 69% of pupils have achieved 5 or more awards at National 5 level. This is the highest percentage of S4 NAT 5 awards at Ellon Academy for 6 years and it is testament to the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff. This is also well above the Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools average. In S5 (new S6) we have exceeded our passes at Higher by 12% and 25 of our pupils across the senior school have achieved straight A passes at all subjects and levels.

Congratulations to everyone and to you, our parents and carers who have supported our learners at home too.

Staffing at Ellon Academy:

As we look towards a new school year, I am delighted to say that our staffing situation is increasingly positive and we are in a good position going forward. We welcome our new staff to the school community:

Faculty	First Name	Surname	Post
SLT	Mr P	McCabe	DHT
Health & Wellbeing	Mr M	Lawson	PT
Admin	Ms E	Dinnes	Admin Assistant
ASL	Ms F	Capocci	Teacher
Business	Mr L	McDonald	Teacher
Business	Mrs D	Penny	Teacher
English	Mr D	Campbell	Teacher
English	Miss H	Judge	Teacher
Health & Wellbeing	Miss E	Campbell	Teacher (PE)
Health & Wellbeing	Mr D	Grant	Teacher (PE)
Humanities	Mr S	Murdoch	Teacher (History)
Maths	Mr A	Murdoch	Teacher
Modern Languages	Miss R	Sleigh	Teacher (starting 10.9.19)
Technology	Mr N	Wyllie	Teacher (starting 10.9.19)

Settling In – Our New S1 Pupils

Our new S1 pupils are making a great first impression as Ellon Academy students.

We have high hopes and expectations of them and it is so encouraging to see them all smiling, fresh faced and smart, proud to be pupils of our school and part of the Ellon Academy community. There are so many opportunities for them to get involved in through a vast array of extra-curricular clubs, groups and leadership opportunities such as Pupil Senate Class Reps, Eco-Warriors etc.

Pupils will be invited to an Activities Fair in the next couple of weeks during school time and will receive a booklet detailing all of the clubs and activities offered by Ellon Academy.

We encourage them all to participate!



Pupil Voice

You Said, We Did!

We listen. We care. We try to make it happen!

Some of our senior pupils asked us to consider offering breakfast for pupils who at times, may come to school hungry.

Aberdeenshire Council is now adding £1 on a daily basis to the National Entitlement Cards of those pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals. Ellon Academy support this initiative and light breakfasts are available for all pupils at a low cost. Our Humanities staff are also planning to offer toast for any young person who'd like to join them for breakfast on school day mornings.



Comfort Cabinet

We have set up a "Comfort Closet" for any of our young people in genuine need to access privately.

The Cabinet enables young people to access toiletries, school dress items, school bags, pens, pencils etc in total privacy. These cabinets are sited in a space out of view of others to enable young people to be left to choose what they need in private. Popular items are:

Toiletries, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant etc.

Clothing new or used, School uniform, jackets, Shoes/trainers etc.

Stationery, pencils, pens, highlighters, folders, dividers etc.

School bags, school ties, books for them to read, old DVD's, colouring books etc.

At the moment our cabinet is full to capacity thanks to the generosity of parents and members of the community and we want to thank everyone who has so generously donated items. We will let you know when we are running low on specific items in the future.



School Dress

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported us on school dress standards this summer. We really appreciate your support and acknowledge and it may have been a challenge for some!

We will continue to maintain high standards of school dress and we are currently looking at the best and most economical deals with School Blazer companies, so more information will follow if your child would like the option of wearing a school blazer. We will issue order forms via expressions to all parents and carers and you can consider if this is an option for your child/children.

Here is what we expect:

- Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans-style trousers or jeggings (No leggings)
- Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt
- A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black '**Ellon Academy**' jumper
- Black Shoes or trainers (minimal white trim/logo is acceptable)

Optional

- A plain black or '**Ellon Academy**' fleece
- Black blazer (optional)

Ellon Academy's Comfort Cabinet can help with school dress and other school essentials.

Just get in touch by calling: 01358 720715

Clothing grants can also be accessed here: <https://www.mygov.scot/clothing-grants/>



Information for Parents/Carers

Additional Support Needs Focus Month – Autism	-	September
S1 Activities Fair (in school time)	-	Sept (date to be decided, pupil booklet to follow)
S4 Geography Field Trip	-	Mon 9 th September
S6 PSE Day	-	Tues 10 th September
Mentors in Violence Prevention Training	-	Thurs 12 th September
S2 ALEC Talks	-	Fri 13 th September
NASSA Road Relay	-	Mon 16 th September
S2 ALEC Talks	-	Mon 16 th September
Sports Colours Ceremony (Evening)	-	Wed 18 th September
S1, S3, S5 and S6 Individual Photographs	-	Mon 23 rd September
Evening of Entertainment (Evening)	-	Fri 27 th September
NASSA Hockey	-	Mon 30 th September
Maths Week Scotland	-	w/b Mon 30 th September
Careers Convention	-	Wed 2 nd October
Writefest (Advanced Higher English)	-	Wed 2 nd October
National Poetry Day	-	Thurs 3 rd October
Advanced Higher Chemistry pupils at Aberdeen Uni	-	Mon 7 th October
S1 Guidance Interviews	-	Tues 8 th October
S1 Guidance Interviews	-	Wed 9 th October
End of Term 1	-	2.50pm Thurs 10 th October
In-service Day (Staff only)	-	Fri 11 th October
Start of Term 2	-	Mon 28 th October (8.25am)

Looking forward to another successful and productive year.

Yours in partnership,

Pauline Buchan

Rector



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