

Dear Parents and Carers,

30.3.20

At this exceptional, unprecedented, fast changing and difficult time, Ellon Academy Parent Council supports and is very grateful for all the efforts of teachers and the Senior Leadership Team at Ellon Academy as they provide information, updates and resources to pupils at Ellon Academy. We continue to work in close partnership with the school to share new information when we have it.

We have known for some time that our communication systems between school and homes are not perfect and the apps and electronic systems do not work for all parents all of the time. We will do what we can to circulate any information shared by the school on this page to assist parents.

We are very mindful that this is a very difficult time for many of our school families. We are transitioning into a new way of life and learning, and it is ok to feel a bit overwhelmed. Our children are used to a very social way of learning at school, and working on their own at home is very different. The school have posted a couple of reassuring posts confirming that much of the work being uploaded does not have a fixed deadline and that the school is aware that each family situation will be unique. We are very grateful to the teachers providing feedback to our children who are submitting work, but also acknowledge that some of our children and families are not in a position to complete schoolwork yet. We must all do what is right for our own families.

Mrs Buchan (Rector) has been personally updating the school website in the Parentzone section with the key letters which have been circulated via the school email. Parent Council are also sharing these letters on this page. Please check the school website on a regular basis.

Teachers are using a variety of ways to communicate with pupils. There is information for most Year groups. There are some technology issues caused by the number of people trying to access these systems nationwide. Some of the information may take a number of minutes to fully load.

There are a number of Facebook pages being used:

Ellon Academy Community Campus

Ellon Academy Faculty of Mathematics and Numeracy

Ellon Academy Languages Faculty (including a post with email addresses for each teacher)

Parents can encourage pupils to check for work through:

Glow

Google Classroom

Microsoft Teams

Mrs Warne (Faculty Head of English) has sent a second comprehensive email confirming how English work will be set and marked.

Please remember that the current situation is a health emergency- not an education emergency. Teachers are individually doing what they can. Some of the school staff may be facing their own health, childcare, family and economic challenges at home. And we are at a very early stage in our conversion to online learning. Please be patient.

### SQA Qualifications

The SQA have now confirmed that exams will not take place this year. Pupils will still be provided with grades. We all await more guidance from a National level on how this will be completed.

The SQA provided an update on coursework for exam pupils this week. This is available on the SQA website. Again, we all await further updates to clarify what pupils and teachers may need to do next. Many of our pupils and parents will be anxious at this time but until we all receive further guidance at a National level, we will all need to be patient.

The Parent Council Facebook page will remain open at this time and can be used for parents to obtain advice from other parents, but please remember that school employees do not have access to the page unless they happen to be parents of children attending the school and therefore if you have any specific questions or comments for the school, these are best directed towards Guidance staff, contact details below:

Cheyne – [paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Forbes – [nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Keith - [kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

McDonald - [claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Sinclair - [niall.corser@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:niall.corser@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) (Monday and Tuesday) and  
[may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Regards,

Ellon Academy Parent Council