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## ELLON ACADEMY UP-DATE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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To: All Parents and Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Information Up-date  
Date: 22nd May 2020

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### Quote of the Week beginning 25.5.20:



### Message from the Rector – 22.5.20

I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well. There are fewer up-dates this week, but as well as providing on-line learning work for pupils, staff have been working extremely hard in preparing pupil award estimates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

#### SQA Estimates and Awards

We are now in the final stages of inputting our estimates data to SQA Connect, having been through rigorous quality assurance procedures in school. Finalising our new timetable has also been a significant priority this week and planning to set up new on-line virtual classrooms so we can continue to move learning forward towards change or courses/timetable on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

#### On-line Learning and Pupil Engagement:

This week's schedule was published today (Friday 22nd May) ready for the week beginning Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. This will help and support pupils and parents/carers to see the work posted for the coming week on one document. We have also been in touch with families who have required support with ICT at home and we are about to write to parents/carers once more to try to support those young people who may have found it difficult and challenging to access working from home and therefore have been unable to engage fully with on-line learning. We have a range of supports we can offer to them. **Contacting staff:** We remind our pupils that if they require to contact teaching staff, they do so via Glow or Google Classroom as far as possible.

#### Change of Timetable and Moving Learning Forward:

Our school timetable for session 20/21 is now complete and letters have been issued to parents/carers and pupils this week. These letters can also be viewed on our Ellon Academy school website in the Pupil and Parent Zones:

<http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/pupils/>

<http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

Staff continue to post work, tasks and activities related to pupils' new course choices as we move towards a virtual change of timetable on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. As is usual practice, there will be a 2-week window in August/September for pupils to change subject options in light of course award results.

### **Return and Restore**

Now that the First Minister for Scotland has set out a Road Map for relaxing restrictions as we gradually phase out of lockdown, we are now better informed regarding how to proceed in preparing for a phased return to school after the summer break. The Senior Leadership Team at Ellon Academy had already started planning and discussing what this may look like going forward, and in turn, our Principal Teachers Faculty and Guidance are reviewing the Aberdeenshire document 'Transition Post Lockdown: Next Steps Discussion Paper'. This paper and the Scottish Government's 'Re-opening Schools' document are available to view on the Ellon Academy school website, Parent Zone. See the link below.

<http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

This will be an agenda item at our next Parent Council meeting.

### **Summary**

- **Weekly Rector's Newsletter** to be issued to all parents on Fridays via Groupcall email, up-loaded on the website and signposted on Facebook, detailing up-dates and on-going information
- **Ellon Academy Weekly On-line Lockdown Learning Up-date** - The next schedule has been published on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in preparation for learning week beginning Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May. There is a printable by Faculty version on the website
- **Weekly On-line Assembly for pupils** to be published ready for week beginning Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May
- **Moving Learning Forward** – Letters issues to parents/carers and pupils this week and available to view on the school website.
- **Supporting family engagement in learning** – On-going work supporting vulnerable pupils and families to access on-line learning
- **P7 – S1 Transition** - We have now launched the Ellon Academy P7 Transition Facebook page: **Ellon Academy P7 Transition 2020**. This work has been done in collaboration with our P7 Transition Working Group comprising of staff from the Academy and our Cluster Primaries.

The Parent and Pupil Zones on our school website for information and up-dates, which are listed chronologically, newest posts first and I have included some other signposts to links you may find helpful:

- <http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>
- <https://covid19.nhsgrampian.org/pages/for-the-public/mental-health-covid-19/how-do-you-self-refer-to-the-psychological-response-hub/>
- Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Service telephone line: 01779 403721

And, of course, contact us, when you need to.

We hope that our Ellon Academy families will continue to keep safe and well and that together, we can ensure that our pupils will be able to thrive in these challenging times as we plan the safest and most considerate ways of a new model of schooling for the start of session 20/21.

Warmest wishes,

*Pauline Buchan*

Pauline Buchan  
Rector

22.5.20