



ELLON ACADEMY UP-DATE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Information Up-date
Date: 29th May 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 1.6.20:



Message from the Rector – 29.5.20

I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

On Tuesday next week, we will send out information regarding support for pupils and parents regarding loss and bereavement to help families at this difficult time.

Here are the updates for this week:

SQA Estimates and Awards

Our SQA estimates are now complete and have been through a rigorous quality assurance process involving teaching staff, Principal Teachers and Senior Leadership. We have been ably supported by school admin staff, who have continued to work from home. We would encourage all learners to register for MySQA, so that they will be able to receive their award results on-line, as well as the usual letter in the post on the 4th of August '20

Here is the link to MySQA:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41324.html>

On-line Learning and Pupil Engagement:

This week's schedule will be published today (Friday 29th May) ready for the week beginning Tuesday 2nd June because Monday 1st June is a local holiday. This will help and support pupils and parents/carers to see the work posted for the coming week on one document. We will continue with on-line learning for the rest of this term and we are also working together to plan for a return to school in August. Monday 10th August will be an In-service day for school staff and the new term will start on Tuesday 11th August.

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/>

Our virtual change of timetable starts on Tuesday 2nd of June. Pupils have been assigned new Google Classroom codes to access their new subjects. 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, Restore and Reset

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 and Faculty Principal Teachers at Ellon Academy have started planning and discussing what this may look like going forward. We have discussed a number of models and will use the first 2 weeks of June to draft our plans and discuss these with parents/carers via the Parent Council. There are many things to consider, but our priority is the wellbeing of pupils and staff in returning to school. Our janitors and support staff are involved in an exercise assessing school spaces and our capacity to reduce class sizes for social distancing purposes and safe delivery of aspects of the curriculum. This will take the form of a blended learning approach where pupils and staff will be able to access learning online. This is an agenda item at our next Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 2nd June at 6pm.

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 will be published on Friday 29th May in preparation for learning week beginning Tues 2nd June
- **Weekly On-line Assembly for pupils** to be published ready for week beginning Mon 1st June
- **Moving Learning Forward** – Letters issued 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. Ellon Academy faculties have already started preparing introductory videos for P7 pupils to view

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.

Enjoy the lovely weather this weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Pauline Buchan

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Rector

29.5.20