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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: 26th June 2020

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### Quote of the Week beginning 29.6.20:



Once again, I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. The quote of the week is rather poignant in the sense that in the space of a few minutes, everything we had planned and thought through, turned on a six-pence, but I'm sure that parents/carers will appreciate the news from the Depute First Minister this week, announcing that all being well with the continued suppression of Coronavirus, schools will return to normal after the summer in August. We also appreciate that there will be many questions and potential anxieties regarding returning to school and although we do not yet have all the answers, we will communicate those to you all as soon as we can. Schools in Aberdeenshire are still awaiting key local authority guidance regarding health and safety, public health, transport, cleaning and hygiene. We have been informed that social distancing will not be required, but as a school we feel it is imperative we do all that we can to ensure safe working practices for pupils and for staff.

Here are the updates for this week:

### On-line Learning/Google Classroom/Scholar

On-line learning will continue until the end of term which is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Our staff still want to encourage learners to engage in learning up until this point because of the time we have missed in class in the school building. As ever, any parent/carer wishing to make contact with the school should do so through the normal channels of communication by emailing [ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or by contacting your child's Guidance Teacher.

Cheyne House	-	Mrs P Waugh	<a href="mailto:paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
Keith House	-	Mr K Findlay	<a href="mailto:kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
Forbes House	-	Miss N Jeffrey	<a href="mailto:nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
McDonald House	-	Mrs C Kaczmarek	<a href="mailto:claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
Sinclair House	-	Mr Niall Corser (Mon/Tues)	<a href="mailto:niall.corser@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">niall.corser@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
	-	Miss M Watt (Wed/Thurs/Fri)	<a href="mailto:may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>

## Lockdown Learning Schedule:

This week's Lockdown Learning Schedule has been published today (Friday 26th June) ready for the last week of term, beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

## Returning to School in August

### Whole School Priorities:

- Health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff
- Learning and Teaching
- Rebuilding pupils' learning skills and resilience

### The School Day:

The school day will remain as normal:

Day	Registration 8.25am	Period 1 8.35am	Period 2 9.25am	Break 10.15am	Period 3 10.30am	Period 4 11.20am	Period 5 12.10pm	Lunch 1.00pm	Period 6 1.50pm	Period 7 2.40pm – 3.30pm
Monday										
Tuesday										
							Lunch 12.10pm	Period 5 1.10pm	Period 6 2.00pm – 2.50pm	
Wednesday										
Thursday										
Friday										

### Our Timetable:

Our original whole school timetable was completed and ready to go in April, so we are in a positive position to welcome pupils and staff back to school in August, all being well.

Individual pupil timetables will be printed over the summer break and will be distributed to all pupils on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August at an extended registration.

Pupils who have PE or Home Economics subjects on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> August are in the following classes and will need to bring PE kit:

Wednesday	1	2	3	4	5	6
M Lawson	AD Higher	AD Higher	AD Higher			
M Adam	PEF					
L Donald	Higher D2	Higher D2	Higher D2	Faculty Study		
E Campbell	3K1	3K1	N5 F1 Creative	N5 F1 Creative	S6 Core	
H Scott/ M Duff	3M1	3M1		1S2	S3 SA D1	S3 SA D1
J Faulds / D Dunton	3S1	3S1	3F1	1C2		
M Davies / D Grant			3K2	1K2	Hub Swim	Hub Swim
S Aitken	3C1	3C1	3C2	1F1	S6 Core	
J Coughlan	2.7	2.7	N5 Hosp F1	N5 Hosp F1		
S Hepburn	2.8	2.8		S3 H1		

## Our Environment, Health, Safety and Wellbeing:

- **Corridors** will still have directional signage and spaced marking in the event of further COVID disruption
- **Classrooms** will revert back from 2-meter distancing to standard layout following national decisions on 30<sup>th</sup> July
- **Cleaning** – we await more information regarding cleaning services as we return to school in August
- **Toilets** will be operational and additional handwashing will be encouraged. We will do all we can to stress personal responsibility for good hand hygiene and how that will protect others
- **Catering** - The catering services will return to normal too, with the following on offer:
  - Breakfast club between 8.00am – 8.30am
  - Break time – a range of drinks and snacks for pupils
  - Lunchtime - a range of hot and cold meals for pupils and staff
  - Gluten free and Vegetarian/Vegan options are always available
- The Catering Supervisor has requested that parents/carers ensure that pupils **National Entitlement/Young Scot cards** are topped up with funds to prevent delays in the queues.
- **Free school meals** are still available for those who are entitled to receive them.

## Learning/Teaching:

Ellon Academy focus prior to the summer:

- Teachers and school staff will now be focussing on the implementation of our original timetable
- Teachers and school staff will be making new plans for learning and teaching delivery in school
- Teachers and school staff will be planning and adjusting learning and teaching resources in light of the government's aim to move away from blended learning in August
- Janitors will move the school furniture back into place two weeks prior to the start of the new term
- Our current Risk Assessment will stand until 9<sup>th</sup> August when staff return to school
- We await guidance on a new risk assessment for August with 100% of pupils and staff in the building

Ellon Academy focus after the summer:

### RESTORE:

**Recognition** of what has happened and that our experiences during lockdown have all been different, life-changing for many and significant for us all.

**Empathy** for the mix of emotions that we have in response to events at home, in school, the community and in the wider world. We must respond to others with empathy and compassion.

**Safety** will be paramount, both emotional and physical. We must establish routine to support our pupils to learn and thrive in a safe environment.

**Trauma** is now a collective as well as an individual experience. We will endeavour to support people who have experienced very particular trauma during lockdown, and those who are facing an uncertain future.

**Opportunity** to change what needs to be changed and to recognise the vast personal learning of staff in on-line learning delivery. We also have an opportunity to reflect on the positives of lockdown and how we can learn from our experiences.

**Relationships** are key as they always have been. We need to reconnect as a school community and continue to foster inclusive and positive relationships at all levels in school.

**Engagement** and personal responsibility for our own health and well-being and with the issues that affect us; our teaching, learning and community

In summary:

- Health, safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils
- Pupil Induction and settling in
- Re-establishing routines
- Re-establishing expectations
- Allowing for pupil excitement/anxiety
- Significant re-focussing on face to face learning and using on-line and digital technologies to scaffold in-class learning

#### **Transport:**

We await information from the Aberdeenshire Transport Unit to confirm that normal school transport/taxis etc will be in place by 11.8.20. More information will be provided as we receive it.

#### **Cluster Hub Provision**

The Ellon Cluster Hub will be officially moving to Ellon Academy Community Campus as of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June and will no longer be staffed or organised by education staff. This Hub support will run throughout the summer break. I would like to thank all of our staff who volunteered to help support in the Hub over the period of time schools have been closed. It has been greatly appreciated by the academy, our cluster primaries and of course the various families who have benefitted from this support at such a challenging time.

#### **Uniform:**

With the expectation that schools will return to normal after the summer, we therefore will insist that all pupils come prepared to learn and to maintain the high standards of dress expected.

School uniform includes:

- Black trousers, skirt, jeggings or black jeans. Jogging/tracksuit bottoms and leggings are not acceptable
- White button-down shirt with collar
- Plain black jumper (school logo optional) or plain black cardigan. No branded logos please.
- Plain black shoes or trainers. Minimal white detailing acceptable but no other colours please.
- Blazers for S6 pupils will be available to order after the summer

#### **P7 Transition:**

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to this session's virtual P7 transition. A special mention to Mrs Wilson, the Principal Teachers of Guidance, Dr Richardson, Graham Wilson, Dawn Birnie and our outstanding Primary colleagues who have made the transition as smooth as possible in the most trying of circumstances. This week we have had a number of enhanced transition meetings which will enable us to ensure all supports are in place for all pupils come August. We look forward to welcoming our Primary 7 families to our Open Days during the summer holidays. Mr McLachlan will be sending the final P7 transition information letters to families at the start of this week.

**Inservice Days:**

There are 2 in-service days after the summer:

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August. On these 2 days in school, staff will be focussing on learning and teaching plans and resources in preparation for the welcome return of pupils on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Pupil Diaries/Planners:**

We will be taking orders for pupil diaries/planners on the first week back to school. Pupils can order a maroon coloured, hard back diary/planner at no cost to families. Some pupils prefer to use phones and electronic devices to take notes of homework and important dates.

**My Essential Toolkit:**

In our on-going efforts to minimise the spread of infection, we are suggesting that pupils bring their own 'Essential Toolkit' to school, so that they are using their own stationary and not sharing with others. We suggest that the 'Essential Toolkit' consists of the following suggested items:

Pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener, calculator, colour pens/pencils, glue stick, tissues and hand sanitiser

Pupils who are already entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with an Essential Toolkit from the school.

**Advice regarding Covid-19 Symptoms:**

If pupils or staff have developed symptoms (however mild) in the last 7 days, they must stay at home for 7 days from the start of emergent symptoms and arrange to be tested. Pupils and staff should remain at home until they get the result of the test, and then follow the advice given based on the result.

## Improvement Priorities:

During lockdown, the Senior Leadership Team and the Principal Teachers have been also working on our improvement planning priorities for the new session. Here is a summary of our planned work over the next 3 years:

### 1.3 Leadership of change

- School Values to drive of change
- More links between values and managing classroom behaviour
- Collective responsibility for school improvements
- Improvement plans should be linked to DYW
- Improve faculty self-evaluation/reflective practice
- More links between self-evaluation and CLPL
- Wider whole school perspective required at faculty level
- Impact Team minutes/added value to be shared more widely

### KEY:

Year 1 forward



Year 2 forward



Year 3 forward



### 2.2 Curriculum

- P7 – S1 – Increase curricular links with primary schools – more than just Literacy and Numeracy
- Review senior phase pathways for some pupils
- More vocational qualification/courses in the senior phase
- Career Education Standard – improve staff awareness for curricular delivery

### 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- Greater need for pace and challenge
- Continue to develop the use of technologies in the classroom
- More opportunities for pupils to lead learning, co-construct success criteria and to be involved in planning learning
- Improve higher order thinking skills
- Moderation to be more consistently applied across faculties

### 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality, and inclusion

- Further develop staff understanding of wellbeing indicators
- Further evaluation of pupils' wellbeing
- Greater scope to increase and emphasis diversity
- Scope to further evaluate the impact of interventions for pupils
- Better use of tracking information to inform interventions
- Greater focus on mental health and wellbeing

### 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement

- Whole School Tracking and Monitoring in BGE
- Increase attainment in numeracy to match attainment in literacy (both still above VC etc)
- Improving Level 6 attainment in senior school
- Consistency of action planning following attainment reviews
- Strategically track and monitor wider achievement
- Cohort analysis of skills and achievements

### 3.3 Improving creativity and employability

- Improve strategic approach to DYW
- Greater emphasis on skills throughout the curriculum
- Careers Education Standard embedded in the curriculum

## **School Leavers (S4/S5)**

The staff at Ellon Academy are dismayed that we can't mark the end of a school era in the usual ways, to say our fond farewells to our leavers, wishing them well as they take the next steps in their lives. So, with the help of Ms Jane Smith, one of our parents, we would like to offer our S4, S5 and S6 leavers the opportunity to purchase a Leavers Hoodie 2020. If your son/daughter has just finished S6 and didn't order a hoodie prior to lockdown, they can still do so now. If your son/daughter is in S4/S5 and is leaving school now, you can order a Leavers Hoodie for them with their nickname or an appropriate favourite slogan on the back.

### **School Leavers Hoodie:**

If you are interested in this for your 'school leaver', please contact Ms Smith at [marsmel2@gmail.com](mailto:marsmel2@gmail.com) She has kindly offered to contact the company for us to help support our amazing school leavers and mark this occasion for them in this way. We would also like to thank one of our senior pupils, Carla Clark, for organising the initial S6 Leavers Hoodies and for giving Ms Smith the information required to organise this.

S4 and S5 leavers will have 'S4 Leavers 2020/S5 Leavers 2020 under the school logo on the front of their hoodie, left hand side). Slogans/nicknames on the back will be vetted by the school for appropriateness! 2020 will also be printed on the back of the hoodies.

The company Ms Smith is dealing with will be setting up an on-line shop just for us and our specifications, so if you contact her, she will be able to provide the details for you. Opportunity to buy an Ellon Academy Leavers Hoodie

Thanks to Ms Jane Smith, who has been working with a school leavers Hoodie company, the deadline for ordering Leavers' Hoodies for S4, S5 and S6 school leavers has been extended until 11pm on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Please follow the links to the on-line shop below:

Your shop for S4 is now open here - <https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/ellon-academy-s4-2020>

Your shop for S5 is now open here - <https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/ellon-academy-s5-2020>

### **Leavers Video:**

We are also planning a 'Farewell Video' for our S6 pupils prior to the end of term too. Watch out for this next week.

### **Communication**

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

Have a restful weekend.

Warmest wishes,

*Pauline Buchan*

Pauline Buchan

Rector

26.6.20