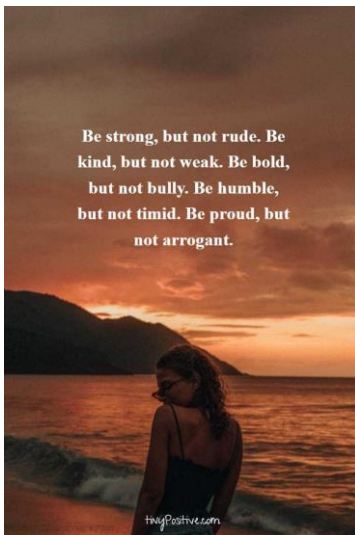


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 25th September 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 28.9.20:



Thank you once again to all parents and carers for your continued support this week. We can't quite believe there are only 2 weeks until the October holidays!

We continue to be encouraged, noting that almost every learner is supporting our risk assessments by complying with the mitigations currently in place to keep everyone safe. Learner walks continue to show excellent engagement in lessons, and we have reviewed and reiterated our risk assessment mitigations to all staff and pupils to ensure that everyone is compliant with our risk assessment. The latest version will be up-loaded to the school website early next week.

Tonight, would have been our annual 'Evening of Entertainment', a wonderful event, celebrating the talents of our former pupils and giving our current senior pupils valuable opportunities to develop skills and responsibility. This is our one major fund raiser in the school year and all funds raised have been used for the 'School Fund', which is solely for resources to support pupils in school. Without this event, we do not have as much money to spend, however, our Charities Committee have met this week and there have been some great ideas which we will share in due course.



Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

This week's Virtual Assembly will be shown on Friday 2nd October and registration will be extended for 5 minutes to ensure that there is enough time to view and for the Register Teacher to read the daily bulletin notices to all learners.

Ellon Academy Staffing Up-date:

The Scottish Government has allocated additional staffing budget to all schools and we have now decided the best way to utilise these funds for the benefit of our learners:

The posts awaiting local authority approval prior to advertising are:

- 1 FTE Principal Teacher Digital Learning (Temporary Contract for up to 23 months)
- 1 FTE General Supply Teacher (Temporary Contract for up to 12 months) for the purpose of providing time for faculties for development in light of digital/blended learning
- 2 FTE Teachers of Additional Support Needs (Additional Government funding for ASL)

Reminder - Google Meet:

There are still a number of parents/carers who have yet to grant/deny permission for their child/children to access Google Meet as part of the Google Suit. Ms Booth sent out a link prior to the summer. Google Meet facilitates video conferencing for teaching lessons. So far, over 500 parents have granted permission, so if you have yet to do so, please follow the link below. Thank you:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCw15nWANUipGkQs1n2P-2hZURTE4TzJCUVJGWEEzTjBYWDgzT1ZDSkIBMS4u

Reminder - Parentsportal

If you have not yet signed up for Parentsportal.scot, please do so as soon as you can by following the link below

<https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

You will need to have a MyAberdeenshire account to do this. If you pay for school meals online through IPayImpact, you will have this already. If you require any help with setting any of this up, please contact the school office on 01358 281150.

In previous years, we have sent you our Annual Data Check Forms in paper format. These forms ensure the school holds accurate and up to date information for children and parents/carers. This year we shall be asking for this information electronically. This is done through parentsportal, hence the reason for our request.

If you are still experiencing issues with parentsportal.scot please phone the school office.

S6 Study:

S6 pupils are currently using the Sunken Social Area for their study periods and they sign in at the reception window to ensure we can account for their attendance. Pupils have been instructed to wear their face coverings during study time and there are only 4 pupils per table permitted for now.

S6 pupils are now permitted to sign out on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon after their PSE class.

First Aid Information:

Given the circumstances we find ourselves in, please see below some ways in which you can help support our First Aid team:

- Due to the number of pupils arriving at First Aid feeling ill as a result of not eating/drinking anything, could you please reinforce to your young person the importance of a good breakfast and eating well throughout the school day.
- To help support our First Aid staff, please do not arrive at school to collect a sick child unless the call comes from the school. The First Aid team will assess the situation and call you to collect your child if they feel it is necessary. Sometimes pupils are well enough to return to class and continue with their learning.
- First Aiders are there to provide help with minor ailments only. They are not qualified nurses. On arrival at school please do not ask your child to visit First Aid for treatment for anything other than minor ailments.
- First Aid do not keep any form of medication e.g. paracetamol, to be dispensed in school, which has not been previously authorised via a form by Parent/Carer & Rector. Please discuss this with your child as many visits to First Aid are to request pain relief.

If there are any issues with these points, please contact your young person's Guidance Teacher

Strategic Planning:

This week, the Senior Leadership Team has been working on:

- Review of the current Risk Assessment
- S3 Profiling
- Faculty Attainment Reviews
- Review of the Fraserburgh Academy Covid experience following a meeting for HTs with the Rector of Fraserburgh Academy
- Working Time Agreement – this is now with Faculties for discussion. Whole staff meeting is on Wed 30.9.20 at 3pm to discuss and ratify.
- Contingency planning for local/national adjustments to lockdown – learning from the Fraserburgh experiences of positive Covid-19 cases in school.
- Curriculum structure 21/22
- Whole school calendar
- Learning Strategy for pupils not attending school

Quarantine Guidance

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office currently advises British nationals against “all but essential international travel” except for destinations which no longer pose an unacceptable risk to British Travellers (Travel Corridor). For information from the Scottish Government on countries and territories currently exempted click [here](#). This advice is being kept under constant review. Travel disruption is still possible and national control measures may be brought in with little notice.

Anyone considering travelling abroad should check the most up to date information on foreign travel through the [Scottish Government Website](#) and discuss any pre booked or intended travel arrangements with their line manager. This guidance relates specifically to people returning from countries where a 14-day quarantine period is required.

Regards
Laura Southworth
Admin Support Assistant
HR Transactional Team

October Break:

This year we end Term 2 on Friday 9th of October and Term 3 will start on Monday 26th October.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we navigate these challenging times, and I hope you all have a restful and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan
Rector
25.9.20