

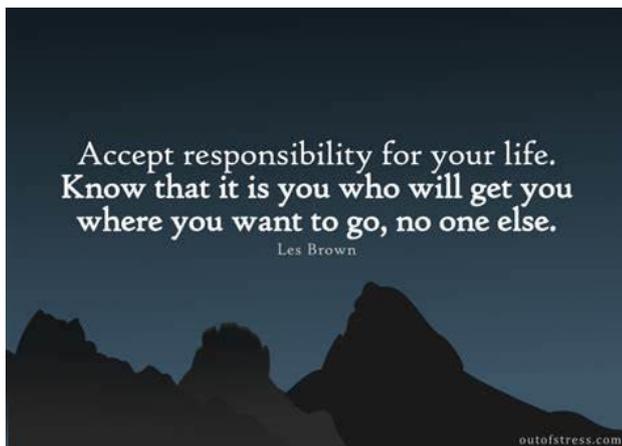


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 4th September 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 7.9.20:



Thank you once again to all parents and carers for your continued support this week. We have been overwhelmed and proud of our pupils for their willingness and understanding in complying with the governments instructions to wear face coverings in school. As with some young people, they need gentle reminders at times, but they have accepted this further mitigation and have taken it in their stride. The resilience of young people has been exceptional. Thank you to the parents who have written to explain why their child may be exempt from wearing a face covering. We appreciate this and we have informed staff so that pupils will not be challenged about this. However, there is a small minority of pupils who are telling staff that they are exempt, but no letter has been received. If you have still to submit a letter, please do so as soon as you can because we have compiled a list of exempt pupils who will receive a small credit card sized laminated card next week to prove their exemption as supported by parents and carers.

Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

To ensure that Monday Period 1 is not impacted each week due to the need to extend registration for 5 mins for the presentation of the weekly virtual assembly, we have decided that the VA will be shown on a rotation basis. Therefore, next week, the virtual assembly will be shown on Tuesday 8th September and registration will be extended by 5 mins accordingly.

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.

Google Meet:

In order for pupils to access Google Meet as part of the Google Suite, Ms Booth sent out a link prior to the summer break for parents to grant/deny permissions for their children. 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

Strategic Planning:

As you will understand, learning and teaching is our core business and never more has this been so crucial than now. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful for parents/carers to see what staff are working on behind the scenes at school:

- Risk Assessments for Covid-19 mitigations (Version 4 is now on the school website to include face covering mitigations)
- Implementing government guidelines
- S6 Study and Contracts
- Blazers for S6
- Library – Digital Bookshelves and Homework Club
- Planning for on-going formative assessment in learning for all learners
- Planning our Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting for this session bearing in mind that S1/2/3 pupils did not have a formal report during Term 4 due to the lockdown.
- Discussions about what we have learned from using Google Classroom
- Google Classroom refresher sessions for all pupils delivered by Humanities staff (S1/2/3/4) and by Senior Leaders (S5/6)
- Planning to introduce Google Guardian for parents
- Planning for Google Meet for the purpose of video conferencing lessons
- Next steps in digital learning and Bring Your Own Device
- What prelims will look like next year

I have also met with each of our Depute Head Teachers this week to forward plan for the coming session and the Faculty Attainment Reviews will take place during September with each Principal Teacher (Faculty) to review exam results and assessment planning for this year.

Pupil Conduct:

This week we held socially distanced assemblies for each S1 class to highlight the importance of pupil conduct, our expectations, and our school values. These assemblies were well received by pupils and we are pleased at how our S1 learners are settling into academy life, with some early teething problems which have settled down now. S1s have coped very well, despite having had a lesser induction experience considering Covid restrictions.

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
4.9.20