

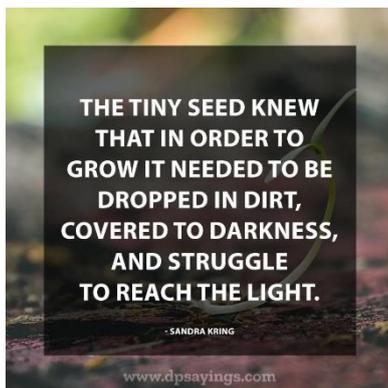


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 27th November 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 30.11.20:



I'm sure, like me, you can't believe that we've come to the end of November and it certainly has felt like winter over the past couple of days. As you approach Ellon from the North, there is often frozen mist settling on the fields, which is a beautiful sight at dawn under an orange sky and sometimes, if it's still half-light on the way home, you can see a murmuration of starlings in the dusk. Nature is very inspiring.

Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

Next week's Virtual Assembly will be shown on **Wednesday 2nd December** and will be hosted by our Exec Team. 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.

The Virtual Assembly week beginning Monday 7th December will include information for pupils regarding the Senior Phase January Assessment Block.

Next Parent Council Meeting

The last Parent Council meeting of 2020 will be held virtually via Skype for Business on Tuesday 15th December at 7pm. You will be invited to let us know if you'd like to take part via the Chair of the Parent Council, Mr Nick Topping.

Young Enterprise – Flames ‘n’ Frames

Our Young Enterprise pupils have been so busy making lovely Christmas candles, wax melts and photo frames and will be stationed in the sunken social area to display and sell their products at various break and lunchtimes in the run up to Christmas. I'll try and get some photographs for next week's newsletter.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December

All pupils and staff will be invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on Friday 11th December or just a general dress down. We are looking into the possibility of collection non-perishable items for the Ellon Food Bank instead of monetary donations for that day, so watch this space for confirmation.

Reminder of Ellon Academy Christmas Lunches

Christmas lunch will be served to different year groups on the dates below. S2 pupils had the choice of a lovely turkey dinner with all the trimmings this week:

S3	-	Wednesday 2 nd December
S4	-	Wednesday 9 th December
S5/6	-	Wednesday 16 th December

This falls in line with the year groups that get out early for lunch on specific days each week.

Christmas lunch will be an option amongst other options every Wednesday from the 18th Nov until the end of term. Other options, including gluten free and vegetarian/vegan meals will be on offer too. Each year group will have an opportunity to have a Christmas lunch and this would also be an option for the other year groups and staff too.

SLT Strategic Planning this week:

- Senior Phase January Assessment Block planning
- Skills Development Strategy
- Curriculum Plans for session 20/21
- Pupil Learning Survey – Learning in the Broad General Education (S1/2/3)
- Promoting Positive Relationships – Looking at the use of Merits
- Assessment Calendars and Moderation Cycles

Ellon Academy Senior Phase Assessment Block Calendar:

Prior to the Christmas break, all Senior Phase pupils and parents/carers will be sent the schedule for our Senior Phase Assessment block planned for 13 consecutive school days in January 2021 starting on Monday 11th January 2021. (Second week back after the Christmas/New year holidays.)

PE and PE Changing Rooms:

More information has come from the Scottish Government regarding PE and PE changing rooms so, for now, and until further notice, the status quo remains that pupils come to school in PE kit on PE days and school uniform on non PE days. Also, there are no plans for school swimming currently.

Senior Phase Reports:

Our senior pupils are due to receive their progress reports at the beginning of December. Staff are currently working on these and time for line manager/SLT quality assurance has been built into the process as usual. We have pushed our deadline forward to allow for lost time due to our most recent set of circumstances so parents/carers should expect these reports during the 2nd week of December. Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding.

YPI Grand Final

On Wednesday 2nd December, our S6 Class Finalists will take part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative Grand Final in the Theatre in the afternoon. A panel of judges will be in attendance (socially distanced of course) and we look forward to our pupils' presentations based on the charities they have chosen to support. Always a highlight in the school calendar.

Young Scot/National Entitlement Cards:

An increasing number of pupils have lost or continue to forget their Young Scot cards, which causes significant delays in the queues at lunchtimes. In an attempt to encourage pupils to find their existing card or order a new one, pupils with cards will queue from the left and pupils without cards will queue from the right at lunchtimes for one week.

Elevate Magazine:

As a result of Covid-19, it has been one whole year since the last edition of Elevate Magazine. The March 2020 edition had to be cancelled as we moved into lockdown and our priorities shifted significantly to learning from home. Work has started on a December 2020 edition and this should be ready to be sent to parents/carers before the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector
27.11.20