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## ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



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To: All parents/carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Friday 6th November 2020

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### Quote of the Week beginning 9.11.20:



As you will all appreciate, we have had a very challenging week here at Ellon Academy and I am very grateful to pupils, parents/carers and staff for their continued understanding and support as we navigate uncharted seas. Here are the updates for this week:

### Virtual Assembly:

Next week's Virtual Assembly will be shown on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November** 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:

This week we interviewed candidates for a new post for Ellon Academy. Using the government allocated funds we have appointed Mrs Lucy Moir as our new Principal Teacher of Digital Learning. Mrs Moir is very experienced and is keen to get started. This post is a strategic and welcome addition to the school.

### Children in Need – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November:

The next Dress Down Day will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November in aid of Children in Need and following the theme of improving Mental Health and Wellbeing for young people. It will be in the form of 'Come as Yourself' where pupils can show their individual sense of style, ensuring clothing is appropriate for school. Pupils are asked to bring £1 and we will have collections at the pupil and reception doors due to the success of this approach last time.

## Ellon Academy Christmas Lunches

Christmas lunch will be served to different year groups on the dates below:

S1	-	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
S2	-	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November
S3	-	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
S4	-	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
S5/6	-	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Strategic Planning:

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

- School Calendar
- Timetable 20/21
- Plans for the staff in-service day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November
- Managing the implications of 2 +ve Covid-19 cases

### New Guidance for PE Lessons – Nov 2020:

New guidance has been issued by the government to deliver Physical Education indoors from Monday 2.11.20. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November has been a transition week for all PE classes so we can ensure that during PE, pupils will be aware of the various mitigations around indoor PE and the use of PE changing rooms.

Pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** and PE kits will be in school bags as previously from that date. This date has been amended due to unforeseen circumstances.

### Here is a reminder of our School Uniform:

#### Acceptable for School:

- Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans-style trousers or jeggings
- Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt
- A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black 'Ellon Academy' jumper

#### Footwear

- Black Shoes or trainers (minimal white trim/logo is acceptable)

#### Optional

- A plain black or 'Ellon Academy' fleece
- A black blazer (optional)

#### Unacceptable for School:

- Clothes with patterns or other colours
- Leggings/joggers/tracksuit bottoms/faded black jeans
- Advertising brands/logos on jumpers/cardigans
- T-shirts or round neck tops instead of a collared shirt
- Sportswear (except for in PE classes and pupils must change back into school dress after PE)
- Wearing outdoor jackets, fleeces, hoodies or coats in class or registration

## **Positive Covid-19 Cases:**

Here is a reminder of the letter sent to all parents/carers this week:

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We have been advised by the NHS Grampian Health Protection Team (HPT) that there have been 2 detected cases of COVID-19 within the school community.*

*We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with colleagues in public health. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. The small number of children who have been in direct contact with the detected cases will be contacted by the school and Test and Protect service and they will be self-isolating for 14 days.*

*The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well and have not already been advised by Test and Protect to self-isolate.*

### **What we have done**

*Since schools returned in August, we have had good control measures in place in case something like this should happen. In line with government guidance, we have put in place enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures, ways for contact between different groups to be minimised, appropriate emergency procedures, amongst various other measures.*

*Since being notified of these cases, we have been working alongside the HPT. All those identified as close contacts will be required to self-isolate for the time indicated to them by Test and Protect. All areas where the cases spent time have been thoroughly cleaned and have undergone further additional cleaning this morning. The strength of the control measures has enabled the HPT to advise that the school remain open.*

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

*If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and further information on testing can be found on [NHS Inform](#). They should begin 10 days of self-isolation whilst waiting for test results.*

*All other household members who remain well must stay at home and begin 14 days of self-isolation. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school, public areas or use public transport. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/pages/who-needs-to-self-isolate/> Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.*

*If your child's result is negative, they can return to school when they feel well and have had no fever for 48 hours (without needing paracetamol.) The household isolation can be lifted.*

*If your child's result is positive, you will be contacted by Test and Protect and advised accordingly.*

### **Symptoms**

*The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:*

- new continuous cough and/or*
- high temperature*
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

***For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.***

*If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from [NHS Inform](#).*

***How to stop COVID-19 spreading***

*There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19*

*Do*

- *wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds*
- *use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available*
- *wash your hands as soon as you get home*
- *cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze*
- *put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards*

***Further information***

*Further information is available at:*

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

*Kind regards*

*Pauline Buchan  
Headteacher*

We will continue to up-date parents/carers if the situation changes.

Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

*P Buchan*

Pauline Buchan, Rector  
6.11.20