



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 22nd January 2021

Hopefully this newsletter finds you all well and we continue to appreciate the support of our parents/carers during these difficult times. Yesterday, I attended Day 2 of the Columba 1400 Virtual Head Teacher's Academy. It was an excellent day of professional development and a time to pause and reflect on what schools have been dealing with over the past year with other fellow head teachers from across Scotland. It's reassuring to know that they share the same worries, concerns and frustrations as we do.

We used Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's poem 'The Hill We Climb' in one of our workshops yesterday, focussing on this line in particular:



If you haven't heard her full poem, please listen by clicking on the link below:
It's inspirational, and she's only 22 years old!

[Amanda Gorman recites stunning poem at Biden inauguration - YouTube](#)

Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

My IT issues with my camera have been fixed, so normal service has been resumed! I posted the week's assembly on Wednesday afternoon and here is the link for those who do not have Facebook:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bn5A6xpwkw>

Next Parent Council Meeting

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February at 7pm.

Remote Learning from Home in January 2021 Up-date

Learning from Home:

As you will be aware, this week, the First Minister announced that the current Level 4 restrictions will remain in place until at least mid-February and therefore, most children and young people will continue to access education from home. Our staff continue to work remotely, planning, preparing and reviewing on-line remote learning for our pupils. As you will know, the Learning Schedule will be sent home to all parents/carers and pupils on Fridays, one for S1/2/3 and another for S4/5/6. We are also happy to support families with ICT to support learning from home, so please get in touch if you require a device for your child to access during lockdown.

A rota of volunteer staff continues to provide in-school provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children and if your circumstances change, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Information re Remote Learning from Education Scotland:

Please follow this link to information about what to expect from remote learning from Education Scotland:
[Ellon Academy Community Campus](#)

On-line Registration:

All pupils are now in their Registration Google Classroom and this is working well. The purpose of this is to support our tracking and monitoring of pupils' wellbeing and engagement, so we can be in daily contact with our learners. Thanks to parents/carers for supporting this.

Google Guardian:

There has been a significant response to our Google Guardian sign up and we hope the notifications and weekly summary are helpful for parents/carers.

The email for parents and pupils to contact for IT help is:

techsupportellonacademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Wellbeing Tracker:

Our House Teams (Guidance, ASL and DHT House) are reviewing pupils' wellbeing based on regular check-ins with vulnerable young people and through the Registration, Guidance/PSE Google Classrooms. Guidance staff will be in touch if there are any concerns and in turn, do not hesitate to contact your child's Principal Teacher of Guidance if you have any concerns to share.

Cheyne House -	Mrs P Waugh	<u>paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>
Forbes House -	Miss N Jeffrey	<u>nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>
Keith House -	Mr K Findlay	<u>kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>
McDonald House -	Mrs C Kaczmarek	<u>claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>
Sinclair House -	Miss M Watt	<u>may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>
	- Mrs L Donald	<u>lyndsey.donald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>

Additional Support for Pupils:

Thanks to Mrs Wilson who has sent these links for parents/carers to see.

ASL Support at Ellon Academy:

<https://padlet.com/ellonacademyasl/y0a3spl0qdpl8zb9>

Dyslexia Support:

https://sway.office.com/ToOvLNwjc5uk1IJ9?ref=Link&loc=play&fbclid=IwAR0ZF5BlbtJ93PfhIMla50M0zoJxmP_j23glyFVz7PbmQMks0p9iKw8EPxA

Subject/Course Choices:

Mr Cowie DHT has sent a video presentation for all pupils, parents/carers with details and information regarding the subject/course choice process for this year. Guidance staff are also keeping open dialogue with pupils going through their PSE/Guidance Google Classrooms.

Mr Cowie has also sent our Subject Choice Information Booklet which provides information about each subject/course and this year we are using Microsoft Forms for an electronic option form.

Here is the link to the video presentation if you haven't already seen it or wish to review it again:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwmAKdRAR8c&t=20s>

SQA:

Ms Booth DHT attended a SQA Co-ordinators meeting last Thursday and here are the up-dates so far, taken from my Virtual Assembly this week:

SQA



SQA – "Learning and Teaching is the focus for now."



Awaiting information of the new 'Alternative Certification Model'



Awaiting adjusted timeline for staff



Longer term plans – to review assessment in Scottish Education



Welcome to new staff:

This week the following new staff were 'virtually' welcomed to Ellon Academy:

- Mrs Rettie – Pupil Support Assistant
- Mrs Bain – Pupil Support Assistant
- Mr Bester – Technical Teacher
- Miss Beagan – Humanities Student Teacher
- Miss Thomson – PE Student Teacher

Website up-dates:

Please follow the link below to the latest up-dates on our Ellon Academy school website:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

Thank you once more for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector 22.1.21