



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 29th January 2021

Hopefully, this newsletter finds you all well and we continue to appreciate the support of our parents/carers during these difficult times.

Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

I've posted the week's assembly today and here is the link for those who do not have Facebook:

<https://youtu.be/RqcJCADUCiM>

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:

Our staff continue to work remotely, planning, preparing and reviewing on-line remote learning for our pupils. Next week's Learning Schedules have been sent home to all parents/carers and pupils today, 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.

The provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children continues in school and if your circumstances change, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

This is Ellon Academy's stance on remote learning, which is in line with that of Education Scotland:

*Remote learning includes a combination of 'live' interactions between teacher and learner **and** learning which takes place away from the direct presence of the teacher.*

'Live' interactions may include:

- *Scheduled dates/times when teachers will be online to respond to questions, queries, etc. posed by pupils, for example, on Google Classroom streams*
- *Scheduled Glow Meet/Teams sessions for Q&A with teachers to answer questions, consolidate learning, and the delivery of key messages on how learners can improve future learning*
- *Delivery of lessons or part lessons online in real time by class teacher/lead teacher/external teacher*

Remote learning works well when supported through pre-recorded lessons, presentations (some narrated), lesson notes, diagrams and links to useful websites for learners to revisit.

According to the Remote Learning advice prepared by Education Scotland, in partnership with the Covid-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG), remote learning activities may include – reading, doing, creating & inventing, problem-solving, observing and investigating with some of the best learning examples not requiring technology. National guidance is that learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of their school day. Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, practical opportunities, discussions and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device.

Faculties have worked collegiately to discuss, agree and develop a remote learning plan, lessons, activities, resources and assessments to allow your child(ren) to make progress in their learning away from school. Staff are continually improving practice and being supported to do so by respective line managers.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we all learn in these challenging times.

If you have any concerns regarding progress or wellbeing for your young person their Principal Teacher of Guidance remains your first point of contact.

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

Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust:

Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust's (AFCCT) weekly update to the fantastic resources in **DONline Learning**. These resources can be used at home or in school will be on their site shortly.

<https://www.afccommunitytrust.org/donline-learning-3/>

As you will see once the resources are uploaded, AFCCT have linked their activities to Childrens Mental Health Week, and they will also have various messages going out on social media through the week.

AFCCT also have a live competition called AFC Moments. It would be great to encourage our children and young people (and adults) to get involved!

<https://www.afccommunitytrust.org/donline-learning-3/afc-moments-challenge/>

AFCCT thank you for your support!

Wellbeing Tracker: Universal Support Wellbeing Tracker:

Our House Teams (Guidance, ASL and DHT House) are reviewing all pupils' wellbeing, in partnership with registration teachers, based on a weekly check in through the Registration Google Classrooms. This will begin today (Friday 29th January) and will continue each Friday thereafter. 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	paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Forbes House -	Miss N Jeffrey	nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Keith House -	Mr K Findlay	kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
McDonald House -	Mrs C Kaczmarek	claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sinclair House -	Miss M Watt	may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
-	Mrs L Donald	lyndsey.donald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Subject/Course Choices:

Mr Cowie DHT has sent a video presentation for all pupils, parents/carers with details and information regarding the subject choice process for this year. Guidance staff are also keeping 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>

Also, the link below will take you to a video presentation about the S3-S4 option form information:

<https://youtu.be/CdOfUX7NYTs>

Welcome to new staff:

- I am pleased to let you know that our new school counsellor Nicola Smart will take up her post from Monday 8th February, 3 days school based and 2 days university based
- Also our new Pupil Support Worker, Steph Smith, will start her post on Monday 1st March

Aspirational achievement for Amber!

Last year, Amber (currently in S6) sat a Young Enterprise exam for the University of Strathclyde's School of Business, for which she achieved a pass with distinction (only 0.04 % of pupils who sat the exam across the whole of Scotland went on to achieve this grade). Her exam paper was judged to be the third best entry across the whole of Scotland. This is a brilliant achievement, and very well-deserved after all the effort she and her team put into Young Enterprise last year. Very well done, Amber!

Doddie Aid:

Last week S2 pupils in PE were engaged in the [#Doddieaid](#) challenge to cover as much distance as possible in their separate classes and to highlight the charity work going on for MND research with the My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation. We are delighted to say that the winning register class was 2M2, who covered 211.5 miles. Furthermore, as a year group, S2 totalled 1048 miles last week. A great achievement!

Anyone wishing to get involved in this charity event which runs until the 6th of February, can find out more information at the following link, Doddie AID - Doddie's Active Inter-District Challenge.

Be sure to sign up for [#Teamnorthandmids](#)

Thank you, Mr Lawson, PT Health and Wellbeing.

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 29.1.21