



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 30th April 2021



Monday 3.5.21 is the May Day holiday and school will resume as normal on Tuesday 4.5.21.

Quote of the Week beginning Tuesday 4.5.21:



Here are the updates for this week:

Next Parent Council Meeting:

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 9th June at 7pm via Zoom.

Please contact them via this email address: ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Launch Tuesday 4th May



Over 75% of pupils have now signed the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) agreement for introducing BYOD at Ellon Academy. This means we can now enable the policy and personally owned devices can be used in school to support learning.

From Tuesday 4th May, pupils who **have** signed the AUP may use personally owned devices (including laptops, tablets, smartphones, media devices, and mobile phones) to support their learning as directed by a member of staff.

For any pupil that **has not** signed the AUP, they may still use school owned devices as normal.

What happens next?

Once a personally owned device is in school, open the network settings and connect to the 'education-BYOD' network. After reading the Aberdeenshire Council Acceptable Use Policy, you will be asked to click 'Accept' and then you will be directed to the Glow login page.

Any pupil that has not signed the Ellon Academy AUP but would like to use their device in school can go to the Ellon Academy website [here](#) where they will find the link to the AUP form.

We are strongly recommending that laptops and tablets are the most appropriate types of devices for supporting learning in class due to larger screen sizes and keyboards.

Personal devices should be charged before being brought to school as there may be limited opportunities to charge devices during the school day.

Key reminders of the BYOD Acceptable Use Policy

- Personal devices can only be used in class if permission from the teacher is given.
- If used, the main purpose of a personal device in school is to support learning. The way devices are used should not interfere with teaching or create a disturbance that stops others from learning.
- Aberdeenshire Council and Ellon Academy are not liable for any damage or loss of personally owned devices.
- Devices must be kept on silent mode during class time.
- Taking or sharing of photographs or sound/video recordings on a personal (or school) device can only take place if formal consent is given as part of an approved lesson.

For any additional information on the Ellon Academy BYOD policy documents, please see the school website: <https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/bring-your-own-device-byod/>

Senior Phase Assessment Block Up-date:

So far the Assessment Block has been running smoothly, so thanks to parents and carers for supporting their children as they take these assessments. Just a reminder that Ms Booth's Infographic was also sent home via Groupcall email last week. Please follow the link to view:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1441716030253563907>

The Assessment Block Letter for parents/carers and the Assessment Block Calendar was issued on Friday 26th March and the 'How to Study Guide' for all senior phase pupils was issued on Monday 29th March. On Tuesday 30th March, we also issued a powerpoint presentation to parents/carers re Supporting Study 2021. Please click on the link below to view:

Supporting Study 2021: A Guide for Parents

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

Also, the SQA have produced a booklet for senior pupils which can be accessed by following the link below:

[What you need to know for 2021 - National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher - SQA](#)



Covid -19 Up-date – *Every Mitigation Matters!*

Although Secondary schools are back full time, with no social distancing, we remain in Level 4 nationally and we continue to do all we can to minimise the spread of infection to keep our school open, so here are our continued mitigations:

S1/2/3 pupils to enter and leave the school via the Pupil Doors:

S4/5/6 and G7 Hub/ASL Transport pupils to enter and leave the school via the Foyer/Reception Doors

- All pupils and staff are expected to wear face coverings at all times (not when eating/drinking) unless they are medically exempt
- **Senior Pupils (S4/5/6) - Type IIR Face Masks:**

Following recommendations made by our NHS partners at a meeting for Head Teachers last week, the Head of Service for Education and Children's Services has advised that all Secondary Schools should give all Senior Pupils 2 Type IIR Fluid Resistant Masks at the start of each school day, so that pupils can change their mask during the day, so that they are better protected from the spread of infection during the all-important Assessment Blocks. Also, we have been advised that we need to be sure we are doing all we can to keep pupils from being absent due to Covid, or being close contacts of potential positive cases, which will help to keep our senior pupils in school and our schools open during the Assessment Blocks across all Aberdeenshire secondary schools.

Therefore, from Wednesday 28.4.21 all Senior Pupils were asked to take 2 blue Type IIR face masks from boxes, which will be provided to register teachers as the janitors do their daily PPR restock rounds after school.

Senior pupils who arrive late, should continue to sign in at reception, and will be given their 2 face masks when they arrive.
- Our one-way system is still in operation.
- All pupils and staff to hand sanitise on arrival.
- Pupils can gather in their designated year group zones prior to registration. See below:

- S1 – Canteen
 - S2/3 – Sunken Social Area and Street
 - S4 – Canteen
 - S5 – S5 Social Area on the First Floor
 - S6 – S6 Social Area on the Second Floor
- Pupils will be asked to hand sanitise on arrival at lessons and will participate in the faculty cleaning of tables/chairs and equipment as previously.
 - All PE classes have been outdoors since Mon 19.4.21 and pupils can come to school with suitable clothing for outdoor PE. Currently, we are not yet permitted to use indoor changing rooms. However, from Monday 26.4.21, indoor PE will be permitted (but not contact sports), but pupils will still not be able to use changing room facilities until further guidance is received.
 - Break and lunchtime food/drinks/snacks will be available as usual, but pupils will be asked to go outside when they have picked up their snack/lunch.
 - Senior pupils will be permitted to attend lunchtime study/drop-in sessions organised by faculty staff.
 - There is no requirement for pupils to wear school uniform until after summer.
- Break time will last for 20 mins.
 - Lunchtimes will be 45/50 mins each day and on Wed/Thurs/Fri, the school day ends at 2.40pm
 - Lateral Flow Test Kits – Pupils are able to collect, at lunchtime, 2 test kits from the office each time they need new ones. Also, NHS have asked schools to remind parents/carers that LF testing is for asymptomatic people only
- Outdoor breaks and lunchtimes:
NHS Grampian have also told schools than any mitigations we can put in place to stop the spread of Coronavirus is really helpful in keeping cases down and schools open. Therefore, this rationale has been applied to outside breaks and lunchtimes, where pupils are safest in an outdoor environment and can take off their masks too. Needless to say, if the weather is inclement, pupils will be permitted to remain indoors in their designated gathering areas. See above.
- Visitors to school will remain by appointment only
 - Risk Assessment:
The latest version of our Covid Risk Assessment is now available on the school website by following this link:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>
- Using the funds raised through our Terracycle programs, we have purchased a recycling box for PPE which includes the disposable face masks, gloves and aprons.
 - For those interested this is the company we are using <https://www.reworked.com/product/ppe-recycling-box-face-mask-covid-waste/>
 - We continue to also collect plastic packaging for crisps, nuts, popcorn, pretzels, biscuits, cakes, crackers, chocolate and sweets as well as pens, pencils and Tippex rollers.

Staffing Up-date:

- Mr G Lawrie has been appointed to our Biology post.
- Mrs C Kenny PSW/PSA has been successful in securing a permanent position as a Senior Primary Care Link Practitioner with SAMH, Aberdeen City.
- Mr C Bain (English) leaves us today to take up his new post as Principal Teacher of English at Northfield Academy next week.

Congratulations and best wishes to them all.

S6 Leavers:

Yearbook – The S6 Yearbooks have been published and have arrived in school. More details re purchase and distribution to follow.

Hoodies – Pupils are in the process of ordering their Leavers Hoodies.

Celebration Event – An S6 Leavers event is planned for the first week in June.

Senior Pupils Leaving date:

Our senior pupils (S4/5/6) can leave school from 31.5.21, but because of the cancellation of the SQA exam diet, there may be work/assessments to complete in June, so if seniors have officially left school, we will be in touch with them if they need to return to complete any work etc.

Fusion App:

The Fusion App used for pre-ordering school lunches is currently out of operation as a result of technical glitches in the system regarding the new menus which have come online. This is expected to be resolved by the Aberdeenshire Catering Service in approximately one week's time.

Ellon Academy Sports Pitches Up-date:

After 5-6 long years of trying to get our pitches to be playable, after the final stages of remedial work, they will be ready for use after the summer break!

Heating and Ventilation Up-date:

Also, after years of extremes of temperatures in the school, there will be 2 engineers in school for the next few weeks checking every manifold re heating and ventilation in order to compile a report for the Local Authority. There will be no disruption to learning and teaching during this time.

New School Foods Regulations - Secondary Schools

New Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 was introduced by the Scottish Government starting in April 2021. The changes to the regulations are based on current scientific evidence to support the health and well-being of young people in the school setting.

The food and drink provided across the school day is intended to support progress towards achieving Scottish Dietary goals. Resulting changes will help to ensure that young people have access to nutritionally balanced school lunches. To comply with the guidance, we have made significant changes to :-

- increase access to fruit and vegetables,
- reduce the sugar content in the menu and
- reduce the amount of red and processed red meats.

To improve provision of fruits and vegetables both will feature more prominently in a range of options and included in a number of our in-house recipes. Based on new requirements there has been a change to the types of soft drinks on offer. To reduce sugar content Smoothies and fruit juices have been removed and a selection of drinks that conform to regulations are now available.

The provision of red and red processed meat options has been reduced to conform with the recommended allowance of 230 grams over a week.

We would hope to continue work with our recipes and suppliers to expand on the alternatives that could be offered in the future. We all have a part to play in shaping the choices of children and young people, but Government and schools cannot do it alone, we need the support of parents, industry, community and producers. Our hope is that by everyone working together, we can ensure our children and young people develop the skills, knowledge and experience they need to make positive dietary choices and lead long, healthy lives.

Liz Powell / Ian Paterson
Catering Services Managers

Dates for your diary:

- S4/5/6 (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher) Assessment Block starts on Mon 26.4.21 and runs for 5 weeks until Fri 28.5.21.
- May Day: Schools will be on holiday on Monday 3rd May.
- Monday 31st May – official leaving date for Senior Pupils.
- **Please note there is no Monday holiday on 7th June for the Ellon Cluster Schools**
- Additional Inservice days: The Scottish Government have agreed 2 additional in-service days to support school in meeting the SQA requirements for school staff to work on pupil's assessment evidence, draft predicted grades and the quality assurance processes necessary to meet SQA deadlines. It has been agreed that these 2 additional in-service days will be on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th June.
- Change of Timetable – A final decision regarding a date will be made at our Principal Teachers' Leadership Meeting on Wednesday 5.5.21.

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.
Have a lovely long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector 30.4.21