

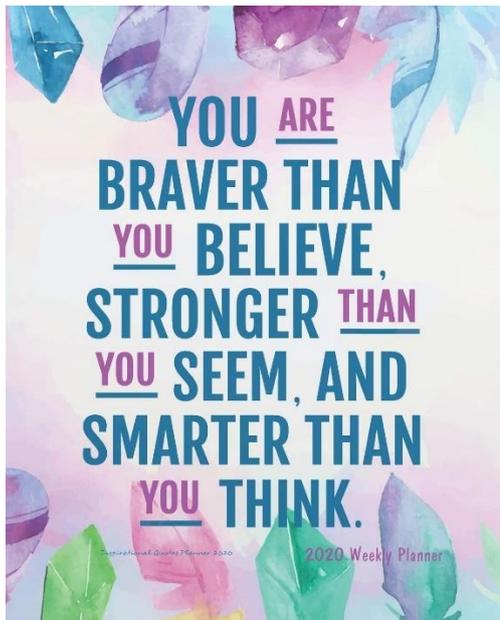


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 14th May 2021

We have now completed week 3 of our 5-week Assessment Block and staff are exceptionally busy with marking, feedback, and moderation. We hope to hear from the Director of Education soon regarding how and when schools should present provisional grades to our young people in S4/5/6 who are working towards qualifications in National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. We will forward that information to staff, pupils, and parents as soon as it becomes available.

Quote of the Week beginning Monday 17.5.21



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

Senior Phase Assessment Block Up-date:

The Assessment Block continues to run smoothly, so thanks again to parents and carers for supporting their children as they take these assessments. Learners who have missed assessments due to absence/self-isolation will be supported by Principal Teachers Guidance and Faculty. We still await guidance from Aberdeenshire Council regarding a co-ordinated approach to releasing provisional grades for senior pupils.

Change of Timetable:

Our new timetable for session 21/22 will start on Monday 7th June.

Senior pupils who are 16 prior to the 30th of September 2021 are able to leave school from Monday 31st May when all coursework and deadlines will be completed.

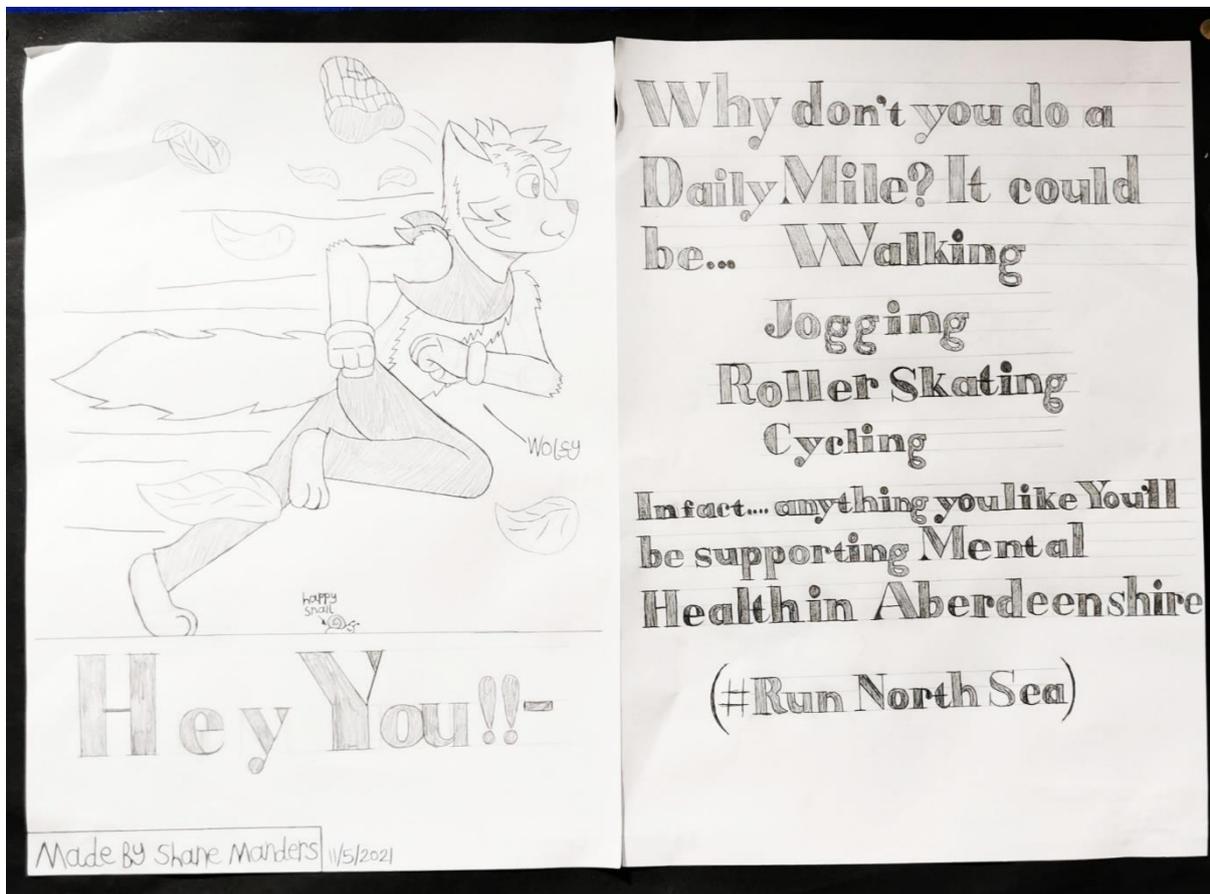
Staffing Up-date:

- Congratulations to Mr F McLachlan DHT who has passed his 'Into Headship' course with flying colours.
- Congratulations to Mrs D Birnie as she starts her new post as Administrator at Foveran School.

Mental Health Matters:

We all know that that exercise, physical activity, and movement all have a positive impact on people's health (both mentally and physically). We have always tried to encourage our pupils to engage in some form of physical activity and since the 19th of April, Ellon Academy ASL Faculty is part of #runnorthsea, an initiative launched by Louise Johnstone. The idea is simple: Louise is going to run/cycle the length of the North Sea Coast raising awareness of mental health issues and funds for SAMH; participating schools are encouraged to do a Daily Mile challenge. In our case we are being flexible: some days we do more, some days none! We are very much fair-weather walkers, but our moods always seem a bit lighter after a walk and a blether! To find out more and support Louise check out <https://louisejohnstone.co.uk/#joinin> #runnorthsea

Well done to Shane Manders for his poster.



National Entitlement/Young Scot Cards:

Just a reminder for parents/carers to check if sons/daughters all have a National Entitlement/Young Scot card.

Pupils accessing the canteen without a card can cause significant delays on the queues whilst they need to ask the servers to search the system for their name prior to paying for food and drinks. Also, when topping up pupils' cards with money, please be aware that it can take up to 24 hours for that top up to be credited, resulting in arrears which are automatically deducted when money is added.

Improvement Planning Themes for Session 21/22

- Skills Development
- Digital Learning and Literacy
- Making Thinking Visible
- Promoting Positive Relationships – Whole School Strategy

Introducing your SDS adviser



- **Susan Ritchie | Career Adviser | Ellon Academy**
- Supporting Ellon Academy pupils & young people who have left school in the area with career advice, guidance, coaching and employability skills.
- Appointments available Monday -Thursday
- Email or call to arrange an appointment



susan.ritchie@sds.co.uk



01779 595023

Hopefully see you soon,
Susan Ritchie
Careers Adviser



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Younge Enterprise Scotland

Well done to our Young Enterprise learners who are preparing for the Scottish Finals under the direction of Mr Abberley-Nicol.

Their 'Flames and Frames' business is very impressive, and the girls have been a credit to themselves, their families and their school. Very well done to Aya, Isla, Caitlin, Katie S, Katie H and Kim!



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.
- 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 – Monday 7.6.21.
- S6 Leavers Event – date to be decided in June
- Occasional days for session 21/22
 - Wed 5.1.22 – occasional day added on the end of the Christmas break
 - Thurs 10.2.22, Friday 11.2.22 (Mon 14.2.22 is already a holiday and Tues 15.2.21/Wed 16.2.21 are in-service days)
 - It has been mooted that May Day and Jubilee Day are combined – National decision, so more info as it is received

Website up-dates:

Please follow the link below to the latest updates on our Ellon Academy school website:

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

Thank you once more for your continued support.
Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector 14.5.21