



---

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

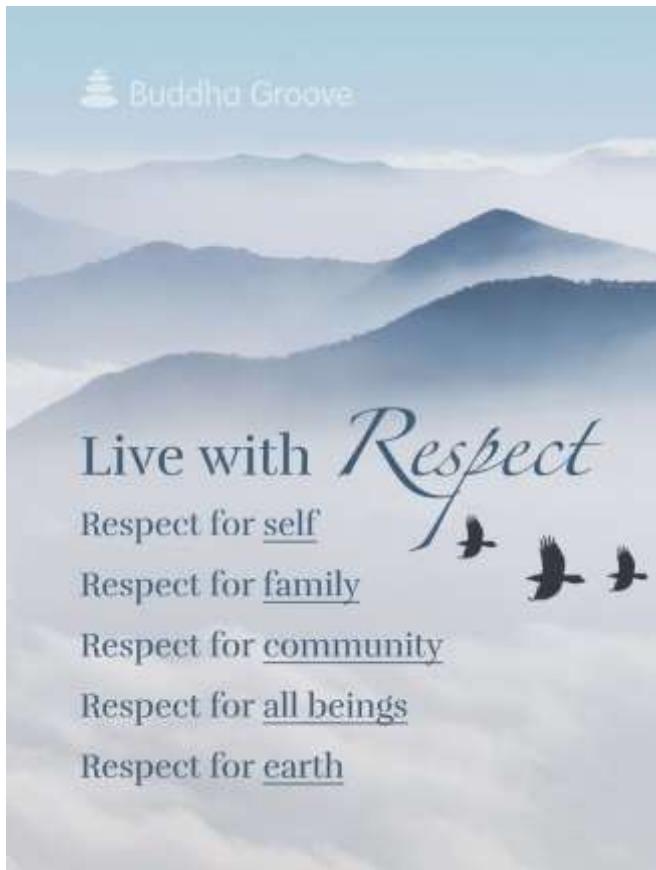
---

To: All Parents/Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

---

The start of May has not been the best in terms of the weather, but it's exceptionally busy here at Ellon Academy. Our staff are working hard to prepare, mark and moderate our senior learners' assessments in preparation for the selection of the best evidence of their work over this past school year. It is a hugely challenging time for staff and for senior pupils, but as ever, the staff at Ellon Academy always do their very best for our young people.

**Quote of the Week beginning Monday 10.5.21**



**Here are the updates for this week:**

**Next Parent Council Meeting:**

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

Please contact them via this email address: [ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com)

### **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. 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 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Standards of School Dress:**

Staff have expressed concerns regarding the slippage in dress standards of some learners. As you will be aware, there is no requirement for school uniform until after the summer, however, some girls are coming to school with clothing which is inappropriate. For example:

- Some girls wearing transparent/see through tops
- Low neck tops/tee-shirts
- Crop tops displaying midriffs/Boob tubes
- Clothing/jewellery which could be a health and safety concern, e.g. studded gloves, dog collar style neck chokers, jeans with chains etc.

We ask that parents/carers ensure that pupils come to school dressed in an appropriate way for a place of work.

### **Outdoor Breaks and Lunchtimes:**

SLT have had representation from a group of senior pupils who make a good argument regarding outdoor breaks and lunchtimes. Therefore, we have decided that to support our senior pupils during the assessment block, we are going to allow them the option of going outside or staying inside at break and lunch from Monday 10.5.21.

The rationale for this is to support those who wish to use their time wisely to study/prepare for assessments, particularly at lunchtime, and to ensure that they are not too cold after break and lunch when heading into assessments. S1/2/3 will be outside as a default, unless otherwise informed when the weather is poor.

### **Staffing Up-date:**

- Mr S Murdoch has been appointed to our 0.4 FTE PT Guidance post, covering for Mrs Donald's maternity leave.
- Mr M McColm retires from Ellon Academy this month and we thank him for his many years of hard work and service to Ellon Academy. He will be missed by so many pupils and staff, and we wish him every health and happiness for the next chapter in his life.
- PSAs Rachel McDonald and Liz McGraw join us on Monday 10.5.21. Welcome to them both.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our staff mentioned above.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- Change of Timetable – Monday 7.6.21.

**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 7.5.21