ellon academy weekly information for parents and carers  

To: All Parents/Carers

From: Pauline Buchan, Rector

Subject: Weekly Information Up-date

Date: Friday 11th June 2021

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**Quote of the Week beginning Monday 14.6.21:**

Thinking about our staff and pupils as we head towards the end of an exceptionally intensive, challenging, and busy term. Keep going!



**Next Parent Council Meeting:**

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 8th September at 7pm via Zoom.

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

**Here are the up-dates for this week:**

**S6 Leavers Video 2021:**

Holly Alan S6 pupil who has just left school put together a great video, celebrating our Class of 2021. To view, follow the link below:

 <https://www.facebook.com/1783266508573537/videos/532037937807034>

**Change of Timetable:**

The change of timetable has gone well and pupils who have had subject changes have been seen this week by Principal Teachers of Guidance and Mr Cowie, DHT. Thanks to them and to Principal Teachers and staff for accommodating these changes at short notice.

**SQA Up-date: 2021 Appeals Service**:

So far, there is no new information regarding Appeals in terms of actions for schools.

This is the information published on the SQA website:

2021 Appeals Service

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) announced a free appeals service this week, available directly to learners, covering this year’s National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher qualifications.

Key features of the Appeals Service

All learners will have the right to appeal directly to SQA for free. Learners will be able to register that they want to appeal their provisional result directly to SQA from Friday 25 June.

Appeals will be processed with the support of schools after learners have received their result certificates on Tuesday 10 August. An overview of the service is available [here](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html?mkt_tok=NTA1LVlCSC0zMDAAAAF9bEO5UJkKN0Cd33Hu0oana6b7_knNBY5xq5XOVWzW1eKAETLj2FRn2OZz1gu4qJf_5RV3294NxjgnI7uMKNqSjw8SDipxyc20rbx_0Q). Information is being sent directly to learners in the form of a booklet. An electronic copy can be found [here](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Appeals-2021-what-you-need-to-know.pdf).

As in any other year, priority appeals will be available to learners who have offers to study at college, or university, or have an employment or training position dependent on a grade. All other appeals will be progressed thereafter.

There are three types of appeal:

• an appeal against the academic judgement made

• an appeal against an unresolved administrative error

• an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:

(i) there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010 (which must have been either acknowledged by your school, college or training provider established by a court or the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), or

(ii) your school, college or training provider failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

A key principle of the awarding of qualifications in any year is that a learner’s grade is based on the evidence of their demonstrated attainment of the skills and knowledge of a course, and this is a central feature of this year’s alternative certification model. Given this, an appeal of a result must also be based on the evidence of the learner’s demonstrated attainment against the national standard. Therefore, the outcomes of an evidence-based appeal could be that a learner’s grade could go up, go down, or stay the same.

In considering whether to appeal a result, learners should be reminded of the robust quality assurance processes Aberdeenshire schools have followed this session. These have included Internal Verification procedures, moderation within and across schools as well as external scrutiny by the SQA in terms of ACM21 National Quality Assurance.

Learners will be supported by schools with the information they need to make decisions that are in their best interests. However, centres cannot stop an appeal request.

Guidance on the appeals service for schools is due to be published by Friday 11 June and further updates will be provided thereafter.

**SQA Course Provisional Results Verification**

Now that our faculty staff have completed the marking and moderation process, Ms Booth DHT and I have met with all Principal Teachers this week to discuss provisional results and to verify the faculty procedures for marking and moderation. Next week, Ms Booth and I will meet with Aberdeenshire Council Education Officers to finalise the Quality Assurance processes before we enter pupils’ results to SQA connect. Pupils will receive their Provisional Results via posted letter on Wednesday 23rd June.

**Staffing Up-date:**

* After summer we welcome Mr F Massey, Biology Teacher, to the Science Faculty
* It has been confirmed that we will have 3 Probationer Teachers allocated to Ellon Academy
	+ Chemistry
	+ Home Economics
	+ Maths

**Remote Learning Survey**

The results of this survey have been sent to parents/carers this week. The data gathered from our survey will help to inform a new and up-dated Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy for Ellon Academy, considering advances made in Digital Learning and Bring Your Own Device. It will also help decision making, support and improvements for future lockdowns and when pupils are absent from school.

**Virtual Assemblies:**

The ‘Resetting Expectations’ theme for Virtual Assemblies has continued this week:

* Corridor Conduct and Expectations
* Classroom Conduct and Expectations



* Social Time/Area Conduct and Expectations
* Community Conduct and Expectations
* School Uniform session 21/22 Expectations
* School Values

**Good News!**

After months of reparation work, our school sports pitches will be handed back to the school and will be ready and operational by July and ready for use in August as we return to school after the summer. Finally!

**Dates for your diary:**

* Exec Team Interviews – Mon 14.6.21
* SLT Strategy Day – Thurs 17.6.21 (Ethos, Culture and Conduct)
* Whole Staff Meeting – Wed 23.6.21 – 3-4pm
* Last day of Term 4 – Friday 25.6.21
* First day of Term 1 – Tuesday 17th August 2021
* 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

**School Calendar 21/22:**

Our new school calendar for session 21/22 will be ready before the end of term and will be sent to parents/carers.

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

Pauline Buchan

Rector

11.6.21