ellon academy weekly information for PARENTS/CARERS  

To: All parents and carers

From: Pauline Buchan, Rector

Subject: Weekly Information Up-date

Date: Friday 4th June 2021

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**Quote of the Week beginning Monday 7.6.21**



As we prepare for the change of timetable on Monday 7th June, we reflect on the challenges of session 20/21 and how resilient our pupils have been in returning to school post lockdown.

We gave our S6 pupils a wonderful send off this week and we say au revoir to them as they leave school and take the next steps in their lives.

Monday 7th June is an opportunity to make a new start as learners return to the next stage in their secondary education. We should stress to our new S2 and S3 pupils that 2nd and 3rd year is very important in developing the skills required to build the skills and foundation for courses in senior school and it starts now. Our new S4/S5 and S6 pupils will begin new courses next week and making a positive start is essential to future success.

**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

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

**Change of Timetable:**

Our new timetable for session 21/22 will start on Monday 7th June. Here are the arrangements for the day:

* Pupil timetables will be in register teacher pigeonholes ready for Monday morning
* All pupils will receive their new timetables in registration which will be extended until 9.00am on Monday 7th June
* There will be a Virtual Assembly for all pupils
* New S2 and S3 to follow new timetables
* New S4 pupils can see Principal Teachers of Guidance in PSE on Monday if there are issues to discuss, so there’s no need to go and see PTsG during registration
* S5/6 pupils – any blanks on timetables will be Wider Achievement times and further details will come when these are available. Please could all S5/6 pupils with those ‘blanks’ register with SLT in the Sunken Social Area.

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

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.

**Staffing Up-date:**

* Congratulation to Miss Judge who has secured an English Teacher post in Fife. Wishing Miss Judge all the very best for the future.
* Miss Rankine has been appointed to our English Teaching vacancy and will join us in August.
* We also welcome Sam Foley, our Developing the Young Workforce Worker to Ellon Academy and she is already making an impact in working the faculties and linking with local businesses
* We are also pleased to report that Miss Hastings, Mr Lawrie, and Mr Price have successfully completed their Probationer year at Ellon Academy and Mr Lawrie (Biology) and Mr Price (Drama) will continue at Ellon Academy next session on a permanent basis. Miss Hastings is moving to pastures new and we wish her every success in her career.

**Virtual Assemblies:**

The theme of Virtual Assemblies this week and last week has been ‘Resetting Expectation’ as we moved towards change of timetable on Monday.

These are the themes we are covering:

* 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



**S6 Leavers Event 2021:**

On Wednesday 2nd June, our S6 Leavers celebrated in style with Mr Copic’s mocktails and a day of events including the Crystal Maze Challenge, Ellon Academy Quiz, a BBQ lunch provided by Aberdeenshire Larder and the Academy Catering Service. We were delighted with the day and the effort our young people went to in coming along, dressed for the occasion, and taking part with enthusiasm. Sincere thanks go to Miss Tomlinson, Mrs Campbell and Mr Corser for planning and organising the event and thanks to the many other members of staff behind the scenes who helped make it all happen. Good luck to the amazing Class of 2021!

  

**Dates for your diary:**

* Please note there is no Monday holiday on 7th June for the Ellon Cluster Schools
* Change of Timetable – Monday 7.6.21
* 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

Thank you once more for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector 4.6.21