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**ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

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To: All Parents/Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and have been able to get out and about to enjoy the lovely weather we've had.

We very much look forward to welcoming back all our learners and staff and we extend a special welcome to our new first year pupils. We start this new session with great anticipation of great things to come for our school and community.

This newsletter contains some important information regarding the return to school on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the school day starting at 8.25am as usual.

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**Covid-19:**

I am sure that we all welcome the move to Tier 0 of Covid-19 mitigations. However, we still have to be mindful that the virus is still around us and we cannot afford to drop our guard. The latest Scottish Government guidance for schools stipulates that face coverings must be worn by everyone in school, unless you are exempt, and that sanitising hands and workstations and one metre distancing between pupils and staff must continue for at least the next 6 weeks.

At Ellon Academy we plan to continue with our one-way system, but from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, all pupils should enter the school via the pupil doors.

This session Senior Leaders will be running a 'Late Gate' at reception for all pupils who arrive after 8.25am and you will be contacted if your child/children are persistently late for school.

Our pupils will also be required to stick to their designated gathering areas prior to registration, at break and at lunchtime times as follows:

- S1 - Canteen
- S2/3 - Sunken Social Area
- S4 - Street and Canteen
- S5/6 - Respective Social Areas

You will have also received a letter from Susan Webb, Director of Public Health NHS Grampian last week, in which she gives advice about Covid-19 and encourages all young people to take a twice weekly lateral flow test on our return to school. Test kits have already been offered to

Pupils/Parents/Carers and continue to be available via the school office with collection being during lunchtime by pupils.

### School Pitches:

I am delighted to let you know that the reparation work for our school pitches has been completed and we will be able to use them properly for the first time since the school opened 6 years ago. We are grateful to Aberdeenshire Council for their support in getting this vital work done.

### Staffing Up-date:

This week we welcome:

Mr E Armstrong	PT Digital Learning
Ms G Taylor	Admin Assistant
Ms H Simpson	Admin Assistant
Ms K Cranwell	Receptionist
Ms M Coates	Drama Teacher
Ms G Mari	English Teacher
Ms M Mitchell	English Teacher
Ms M Duff	PE Teacher
Mr S Watson	Pupil Support Worker
Mr F Massey	Biology/Science Teacher
Ms C Goode	Chemistry/Science Probationer Teacher

### School Uniform Reminder for Parents/Carers. Expectations for August 2021:

As stated prior to the summer, we expect our learners to come to school in school uniform which gives a sense of pride in the school, helps to identify intruders in the campus and supports all learners to feel equal in what they are wearing. We will be in touch if these standards begin to slip. Also, we can now use PE changing rooms, so pupils are asked to bring their PE kits on PE days to change into for their gym classes.

**Ellon Academy SCHOOL UNIFORM (up-dated May 2021)**

It is important that pupils identify with their school and wearing school uniform instils a sense of pride in being part of the school. This ensures that pupils can come to school in their 'work' clothes and can be easily identified as Ellon Academy learners.

**ACCEPTABLE...**

- Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans style trousers, black leggings or jeggings
- Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt
- A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black 'Ellon Academy' jumper

**Footwear**

- Black Shoes or trainers (black trainers with colour accents are acceptable)

**Optional**

- A plain black or 'Ellon Academy' fleece/jumper
- A black blazer (optional)

**UNACCEPTABLE... X**

- Clothes with patterns or other colours
- Joggers/tracksuit bottoms/faded black jeans
- Advertising brands/logos on jumpers/cardigans
- T-shirts or round neck tops instead of a collared shirt
- Sportswear (except for in PE classes and pupils must change back into school dress after PE)
- Wearing outdoor jackets, fleeces, hoodies or coats in class or registration
- Hats off and hoods down in school

A change of clothing and footwear for PE is essential.  
We would recommend that you wear outer jackets in school dress code colours, black, blue or burgundy.  
Ellon Academy's Comfort Cabinet can help with school dress and other school essentials.  
Just get in touch by calling: 01358 281150  
Clothing grants can also be accessed here: <https://www.mypgov.scot/clothing-grants/>

**SQA Results:**

All senior phase learners will have received their results on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August. I congratulate them on their successes in such a difficult year and I commend them on their resilience, hard work and perseverance. I also wish to thank all school staff for their hard work in preparing learners and carrying out our rigorous assessment and quality assurance procedures to ensure all learners received the grades they deserved.

**PE This Session:**

Our school changing rooms will be operational again after the summer and therefore pupils do NOT need to come to school dressed in PE kit for the day. School uniform applies to all pupils and they will be able to change into and out of their PE kit in the changing rooms once again on PE days.

**Our school priorities for session 21/22:**

## Promoting Positive Relationships

- ✓ Building on the previous work of this Impact Team and sub-groups
- ✓ Focus on the work of Paul Dix '*When Adults Change, Everything Changes*'.
- ✓ Positive Praise and Merits

## Learning and Teaching/Making Thinking Visible

- ✓ How better learning makes better behaviour
- ✓ Learning routines via Making Thinking Visible Pedagogy and Practice

## Skills Development/Developing the Young Workforce

- ✓ Focus on the new draft Skills Framework and how this is embedded in Learning and Teaching
- ✓ Focus on the Skills/Careers Education Standard

**Next Parent Council Meeting:**

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

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

## Reminder of school timings:

	Reg	1	2	Break	3	4	5	Lunch	6	7	Close
<b>Mon</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40	3.30
<b>Tues</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40	3.30
<b>Wed</b>	Reg	1	2	Break	3	4	Lunch	5	6	Close	
<b>Thurs</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.00	1.50	2.40	
<b>Fri</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.00	1.50	2.40	

### **Dates For Your Diary:**

- First day of Term 1 – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15.2.22/Wed 16.2.22 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

### **Ellon Academy School Calendar 21/22:**

Our new school calendar for session 21/22 is now ready and has been sent to Parents/Carers and can be viewed on our website.

[Ellon Academy Calendar 2021.22 Final.xlsx](#)

Thank you once more for your continued support.

*Pauline Buchan*

Rector  
16.8.21