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ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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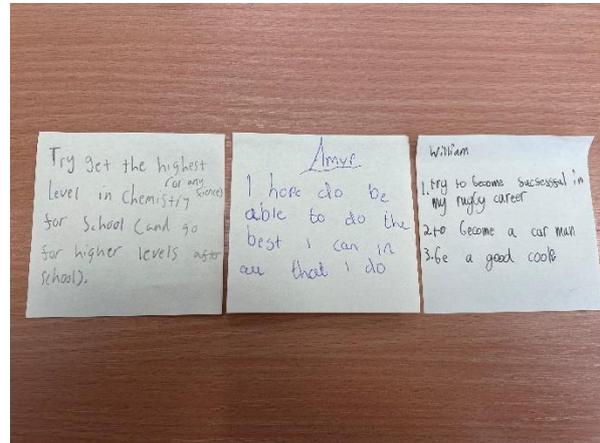
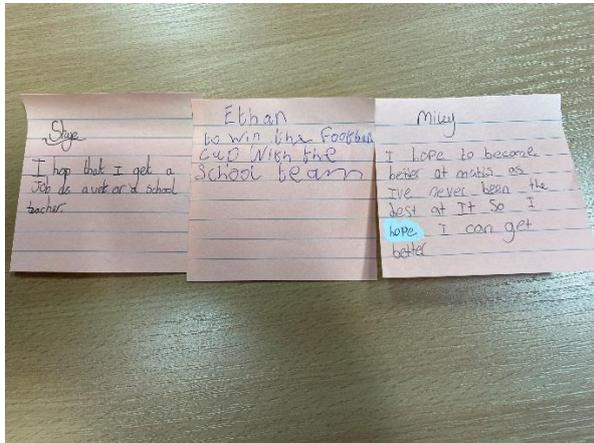
To: All Parents and Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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Dear parents and carers,

We've had another busy week here at Ellon Academy. Pupils who had parental/carer consent flu vaccinations were all given their doses this week. We are also currently recruiting for more S5/6 pupils to take up the opportunity to be prefects for this school session and a free lunch for duty days is included in the deal!

I've had the pleasure of visiting 3 more PSE classes this week, getting to know our new S1s and asking them to reflect on their hopes and dreams, projecting their thoughts to what they want to have achieved by the time they leave Ellon Academy. Some high aspirations indeed! Let's hope their dreams come true.



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Here are the up-dates for this week:

The Quote of the Week for next week will be decided by the Exec Team:



## **Covid-19:**

Firstly, as ever, we are thinking about the Ellon community and the families who are currently affected by Covid-19, sending our best wishes for speedy recoveries.

This week, the guidelines have changed again and below is the master copy of the new 'Warn and Inform' letter which schools will have to use from now on. I have highlighted the changes in red type:

### **Sample Covid Warn and Inform Letter:**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*This letter is to advise that we have been made aware of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within your child's school.*

*I appreciate that this news may be unsettling for you. I want to reassure parents and carers that the school has good control measures in place to limit the onward transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting. Case numbers of COVID-19 are rising across Scotland in all age groups.*

*National policy has changed, and close contacts are now being identified in accordance with the revised guidance. All close contacts identified will be contacted by Test and Protect and will be provided with advice on testing and self-isolation. This contact will in most cases likely to be electronic and not an in-person call.*

*If you have been advised by Test and Protect that your child has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please follow the guidance they have provided.*

*If you have not been contacted, there is no requirement for your child to self-isolate and they can continue attending school. The school remains open in line with Scottish Government guidelines.*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*The following is general information for all people who have not been identified as a close contact.*

#### **Testing**

##### **No symptoms of COVID-19**

*Keep testing regularly with LFD kits, as this can help keep you and your school community safe by early identification of infection. Everyone in Scotland is encouraged to test twice weekly, and to record all positive, negative or void results on the online reporting portal at [www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19-report-your-test-result](http://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19-report-your-test-result) Reporting results helps public health experts understand what is happening with COVID-19 in your area, so they can take early action to address any problems.*

*Staff members and pupils in secondary school can access free LFD tests from the school. Please contact the school directly if you are having problems accessing tests.*

##### **Symptoms of COVID-19**

*Please be particularly vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19 in the coming weeks. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS Inform. *If anyone in your household develops any symptoms of COVID-19 your child **must not** come to school. The whole household should stay at home, self-isolate, and get a PCR test for COVID-19 (LFD tests are **not** appropriate for symptomatic testing).* Information can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19) or [Translations \(nhsinform.scot\)](http://www.nhsinform.scot/translations) for accessible, easy read formats or other languages.*

*The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:*

- a new continuous cough and/or*
- a high temperature and/or*
- a loss of, or change in, taste or smell (anosmia).*

Due to increasing number of cases currently Grampian the health protection team are also asking people who live or work in these areas, with extended symptoms to immediately book a PCR test.

**Extended symptoms include:**

*General weakness, sore throat, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, headache, chills, muscle pain, runny nose, dry or productive cough. While the individual experiencing any of these extended symptoms should self-isolate until the test result is returned there is no need for the rest of the individual's household to self-isolate.*

*In the event of a positive result, Test and Protect will contact you to provide advice on what to do.*

**Booking a test**

*To get a test if you develop symptoms, you can:*

- *Book a test at NHS Inform for your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at [Gov.Scot](https://www.gov.scot).*
- *When booking a test due to extended symptoms online, individuals should select the "My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test" option. While the individual experiencing any of these extended symptoms should self-isolate until the test result is returned there is no need for the rest of the individual's household to self-isolate.*
- *Order a home PCR test kit [online](#), or by calling 119. A test will then be delivered to your home. To return you can either drop the test at your nearest priority post box, or if you are unable to go out, you can also call 119 to book a courier collection from your home.*

**It is important** that anyone with one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms gets tested, so that anyone who tests positive knows to continue to stay at home and self-isolate. This will help stop the spread of coronavirus. If you struggle to book a test you can call the testing helpline on 01224 558494.

**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

*There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.*

***Please do:***

- *Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found on NHS inform.*
- *Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds*
- *Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available*
- *Wash your hands as soon as you get home*
- *Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze*
- *Put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.*
- *Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home.*
- *Be vigilant for COVID symptoms*
- *Self-isolate when you have COVID symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.*

**Further information**

- <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coronavirus-faq?age=0>
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>
- <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-testing/general-public-including-children/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The Council also has a range of further information and resources online to assist at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

**School Uniform:**

Once again, thanks to parents/carers for their support with school uniform. Those learners who have struggled to fully comply are in discussions with their House Teams and parents/carers.

**S1 Induction:**

Next week all S1 pupils will be involved in outdoor activities on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September, which will be delivered by the Royal Navy.

Each S1 class will be given 1 period of team working and problem-solving activities to enhance their skills in these areas.

**Celebrating Success**

Please could you let us know if your child/children have had any external to school successes and achievements. We have seen quite a few out with school achievements since our return from the holidays and we are delighted to celebrate these achievements via our Facebook page and in school.

**Pupil Achievements:**

If you were tuning into the STV news last night (Thurs 9.9.21) you would have seen Rebecca in 6F1 talking about the return of NYCOS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) rehearsals in Aberdeen. You may have also spotted Mr Armstrong, our Principal Teacher Digital Learning ably accompanying the young singers on piano. Well done Rebecca and we know you're glad to be back singing again.

Matthew in 2C2 is sitting in 4th place in a mountain biking series (despite a puncture in one of the races!), with one race left to go! Good luck Matthew!

**Random Acts of Kindness:**

Matthew in 2C2 and a group of friends helped an elderly lady down in Ellon last Friday evening. They had spotted her stumbling and disorientated, and she said she had fallen. They took her home to the sheltered housing complex beside the police station, phoned an ambulance and were staying with her until the ambulance arrived. Fortunately, there were other adults there at the accommodation, one of whom cancelled the ambulance as she said it wasn't required. We are very proud of these S2 boys acting in such a kind, caring and responsible way, demonstrating their values in action best of our pupils at Ellon Academy and

Incidentally he's also sitting in 4th place in a mountain biking series (despite a puncture in one of the races!), with one race left to go!

**Respect in the Community:**

It is important for pupils to know that their conduct in the community can reflect positively or negatively on their parents/carers and school. It is so good to hear good news stories about our young people and we aim to celebrate these by letting you all know. However, from time to time, the actions and conduct of a small number of young people can cause concern for members of the public and sometimes they contact the school about incidents in the evenings and weekends. We encourage communication about these matters with the school, but if there is any hint of criminality, we also encourage parents/carers and members of the community to contact the Police too.

**Parent Council:**

The Parent Council met via Zoom on Wednesday 8th September at 7pm and minutes of this meeting will be issued to parents in due course.

Here are one of too reminders for parents/carers as a result of discussions that the meeting:

- The speed limit in the campus is 10 miles per hour
- Vehicles should not drop pupils off in the disabled spaces unless the school has given specific permission or drivers/passengers have a blue badge. Also, there is no pavement in this part of the campus, resulting in no demarcation between pedestrians and road users

If you wish to contact the Parent Council, please use this email address:

[ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com)

**Dates For Your Diary:**

- 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
  
  - Week beginning 4.10.21 S4/5/6 Tracking Reports will be issued to pupils/parents/carers
  - End of Term 1 – Friday 15.10.21
  
  - Start of Term 2 – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November
  - Term 2 Inservice Days – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>/Fri 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

Our new school calendar for session 21/22 can be viewed on our website.

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

Ellon Academy School Improvement Plan 21/22

The school Improvement Plan for session 21/22 is now available to view on the school website.

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/improvement-plan/>

Thank you once more for your continued support.

*Pauline Buchan*

Rector  
10.9.21