



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 17th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Here are the up-dates for this week:

The Quote of the Week:



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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities:

We are pleased to let you know that we are now able to resume many of our extra-curricular activities and clubs so pupils will hear more about what will be on offer via the daily bulletin, which is read to pupils each morning, posted on our Facebook page, and displayed on our plasma screens in school. Unfortunately, until restrictions relax, Music and Drama activities will not resume just yet.



Help for Parents / Carers of S1 Pupils

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) are offering an online session to help parents and carers of S1 pupils find out more about SDS and the support they offer.

Scotland's career service has organised a virtual session on **Wednesday 29th September** when SDS Careers Advisers Lesley MacKay and Gordon Armstrong will be providing expert advice. There will be opportunities during the session for parents and carers to ask questions.

Gordon Armstrong said: "Starting secondary school can be a big step for many young people and we want to let parents and carers know that we offer help and support throughout young people's time at school.

"Our online session will give parents and carers information about the support we offer and the help that is available on SDS's online home for career information and advice [My World of Work](#), which has a dedicated area for parents and carers."

Parents and carers can join the session, which starts at 6.30 pm by [registering online](#).



National eLearning Offer (NeLO)

In the last two weeks there has been an up-take in some areas of Scotland in the use of these resources for young people that have been required to self-isolate or who have been unable to attend school due to close. DYW Live and the **#CountdowntoCOP** resources are also generating a lot of interest early in the year. Please also remember there is the offer of the **Evening Study Support** for

young people working towards level 4 – 7 qualifications. The most up to date information on this provision is on [Glow](#).

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.

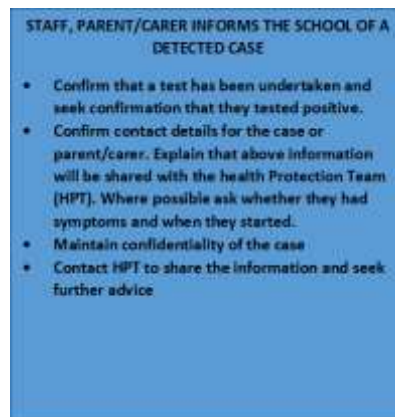
The Covid-19 guidance for schools has changed, and it is important that parents and carers know what the new procedures are. NHS have now provided schools with a new version of the 'Warn and Inform' letter which must be sent to all staff and parents/carers of identified positive cases.

This week we have seen one new positive case amongst pupils, and the advice from NHS is to send the Warn and Inform letter at our discretion, so we will up-date parents and carers via this newsletter on a Friday and any new cases will be communicated by one Warn and Inform letter per week.

The procedures regarding the identification of close contacts has also changed in that we are informed of those individuals directly by Test and Protect and schools do not have to submit classroom seating plans as we did before.

The general guidance is that if pupils are unwell, they stay at home and if they have covid symptoms, a PCR test should be organised and pupils should self-isolate, awaiting the result. If the result is negative, the pupil can return to school. However, if the test is positive, please follow NHS advice and stay at home to self-isolate. It is advised that other members of your household, including siblings self-isolate until such time as their results from a PCR test are known.

These are the procedures we must follow if a parent/carers informs us of a positive test within their family:



If the Health Protection Team inform the school of a positive case, they will discuss any potential close contacts with senior school staff.

We would like to reassure parents/carers that our Covid-19 Risk Assessment Version 11 is still live, and we continue to take every precaution and follow our mitigations to ensure that our environment is as safe as it can be. The Risk Assessment can be accessed via the link below:

[Ellon Academy Community Campus](#)

Face Coverings:

As you will be aware, face coverings are still expected to be worn in schools by pupils and staff, apart from those who are exempt. We ask that pupils bring their own face coverings to school, because we are currently issuing hundreds of masks to pupils as they arrive each morning and financially, we will struggle to sustain this. Thank you for your support.

S1 Navy Team Building Day

Our S1 pupils had a great outdoor session with member of the Royal Navy this week, engaging in a range of team building activities and challenges. We hope to have some photos to share soon.



Respect in the Community:

As per my email earlier this week, we have been asked by Formartine Community Police Team to issue this message to all parents/carers of young people who attend Ellon Academy. This message refers to a very small number of young people, but it is important that we all see this from our local Police Team. We have said to the Police that we are proud the significant majority of our 1150 pupils, who behave impeccably in the local community and sadly, it seems to be a very small minority of young people who chose to engage in disruption, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour in the evenings and at weekends in our locality.

Here is the message:

"Officers from the local Formartine Community Policing Team have recently been made aware of several vandalisms across Ellon, which include graffiti, minor damage to walls and property and some minor fire-raising. Some Ellon Academy pupils are suspected of being responsible. These kinds of mindless acts show a complete lack of respect for other people and their property and is not in keeping with the core values of Ellon Academy and the wider Ellon community. Something that might seem like a little bit of fun for you and your friends, can have a serious impact of other people's lives and wellbeing. These kinds of acts are criminal offences and local officers will deal with the offenders robustly.

The Formartine Community Policing team would like to encourage you to be more respectful and responsible for the community in which you live and remember that your actions can have further reaching consequences than you may first realise. Please remember and think about your personal safety when you're out exploring the local area, especially regarding fire, as well as high and unstable walls."

Thank you,
Formartine Community Police Team

Random Act of Kindness:

Casper in 3M1 was walking along Barratt Drive after school this week and he noticed a bush fire and a member of the public let us know that he was extremely helpful by finding a hose and spraying down the fire, then he waited until the fire brigade arrived. We are proud of you Casper, well done!

Pupil Achievements:

Sam H 5M2 competed in the UK National Windsurf Championships down at Grafham Water last weekend. He managed a very respectable 22nd in the largest sail category (7.8m) and now has his sights on the World Championships to be held in Lake Garda later this year. Link to a clip of the event here:

<https://fb.watch/82GXOmtD48/>

If this inspires any other pupils, here's a link to the local Windsurf & SUP Club at Newburgh where Sam learned to windsurf and is now one of the coaching team.

<https://www.windsurfsup.club/>

Wow! Well done, Sam!



Pupil Achievements:

Lucas Smith in S6, made the first team squad for Montrose FC's first team today and we are extremely proud of him.

Also, Lucas' sister Millie Smith in S4, will be representing Scotland in the World Dance Championships next year in Florida. This is the second national squad she has been selected for, having been in the team for the 2020 event, cancelled due to the pandemic. We're proud of you too Millie!

Parent Council:

Next Parent Council Meeting: The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 24th November at 7pm via Zoom. Please contact them via this email address: 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 1st November
 - Term 2 Inservice Days – Thurs 18th/Fri 19th 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](#)

Thank you once more for your continued support.

Pauline Buchan

Rector
17.9.21