



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 24th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It's hard to believe that already 6 weeks of Term 1 have passed, and we are back into our learning routines and working hard to continue to establish our expectations of all our learners. This week we re-introduced Canteen Fast Passes for those pupils who have had the most Merits for good work, behaviour, and attitude and this has been well received by pupils. The whole school numbers of Merits for next week has increased that this is a very positive sign.

Our staff Impact Teams are now up and running and each has a focus on specific aspects of our school improvement plan 2021/2022. Please follow the link to view:

[Ellon Academy Community Campus](#)

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, this newsletter and in school.

Covid-19 Up-date

As you will be aware, we have had another positive Covid case this week and our thoughts are with the family affected.

As per NHS Guidelines, all pupils received the new NHS 'Low Risk' letter on Tuesday 21st September because of the new positive covid case identified in our S1 year group.

However, please read the letter carefully, and note that you only need to act if the 'Test and Protect' contact you directly to tell you that your child/children has/have been identified as a close contact.

The new definition of Close Contacts for under 18s includes those pupils who have had a recent sleep over, have recently stayed in the same household or have had recent intimate contact with a person who has tested positive.

The wording of this letter appears more alarming than it is, and to clarify, the risk has not changed, but the name of the letter has from 'Warn and Inform' to 'Low Risk' as per NHS guidelines to schools.

Thank you for your patience as we deal with the ever-changing situation and protocols that schools must follow.

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. From Monday 27th September, we will issue one mask per day for senior pupils, rather than 2, for those who don't have their own. Thank you for your support.

New Late Coming Procedures:

As part of our improving ethos, culture, and conduct, we have been giving focus on late coming to school to ensure that young people develop good habits for the future in life and work.

This week we are launching new procedures to address those learners for whom late coming is persistent and habitual.

However, many learners face different challenges and have valid and appropriate reasons to come in later. Please be assured that we are aware of who these learners are, and they will not be subject to these procedures. We are tackling a minority group who are on campus in time but choose to come in late and those learners who have regressed into bad habits in their routines.

- All pupils who arrive late will enter through reception
- Pupils who are late will be sent straight to the class that they are currently timetabled for
- If this is during registration, pupil will be marked as '0-5 minutes' late on SEEMIS, our attendance monitoring system
- Every term, pupil lates will be monitored at various check points – 5 lates, 10 lates, 15 lates etc and this will generate letters to parents/carers to make you aware
- Pupils who are frequently late for no additional support or other reason will be involved in restorative conversations at break or lunchtime with a member of staff

We hope that our pupils can develop good habits to support them in the future in jobs, apprenticeships, college, and university.

Random Act of Kindness:

Ms Pat Booth, one of our Office Staff, heard of a colleague who was struggling with a family issue this week, and she very kindly brought in some cakes for that member of staff, much to their surprise. What a lovely thing to do!

Pupil Achievements:

Recognition and respect goes out to all pupils who constantly strive to do the right thing and who do their very best in what have been and continue to be the most challenging of times. There is still uncertainty for our Senior Phase learners regarding the future of exams and we cannot underestimate the stress this creates. You are unique in your generation have had to cope with all challenges of the pandemic on top of everything else that young people have had to contend with. Hold your heads up and be proud that you have done your Personal Best.

**Pupil Achievement:**

Millie in S5 was successful in being selected for Scotland Women's Under 17's Football squad. The 20 strong squad are due to head to Holland next Tuesday 28th Sept for 10 days, where they will compete in the Euro qualifiers against Holland, Slovenia and Czech Republic. This is a fantastic achievement, Millie! Well done and good luck next week!

Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Kitty B who took part and represented Ellon and Scotland in the British School Games Final at the weekend. She came in a respectable 20th in mixed relays and 25th in the individual event. Seven consecutive days of training and competing was a remarkable achievement. Good to see Kitty wear her Ellon Academy Sports Association top in the pics shown here. Well done, Kitty.



Pupil Achievements:

Last weekend at the Firth Triathlon Club Gordonstoun Triathlon Festival for Ella C, Mali C and Harris C. In the Sprint Distance Triathlon, 775m swim, 125km bike and a challenging cross country 5k course. Ella C finished 1st Female overall in her first sprint distance race in 1hr 25min. In the Super sprint race, which was a 275m swim, 6k off road mountain bike and 2.4K cross country run. Harris C finished 3rd male overall in a time of 34:25. Mali C finished 2nd female overall and 1st in her age group to finish in a time of 39:15. Well done everyone!



Pupil Achievement:

Alyssa G has qualified for the British Schools Modern Biathlon Finals at GB Pentathlon Headquarters at Bath University in October. Alyssa qualified 11th in her age group and was the top Scottish qualifier overall. A remarkable achievement indeed! She will be competing on the 16th of October in the finals in Bath representing Ellon Academy. Well done, Alyssa!



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

Recognising Mental Health and Wellbeing - 'Hello yellow!'

Prior Notice of Dress Down Day – Friday 15th October 2021

Our first dress down day of the year will be on the last day of term 1 (Fri 15.10.21).

To mark World Mental Health Day, this year we are supporting the children and young people's mental health and wellbeing charity 'Young Minds' and the theme is 'Hello Yellow'.

We are asking that pupils come to school dressed down but wearing something yellow to support this worthy charity.

Donations (£1 is suggested) will be collected at the Pupil Doors prior to registration on Friday 15.9.21.



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

Term 1/Term 2:

- 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 – Dress Down Day – **'Wear something yellow for 'Young Minds' and bring £1 donation (suggestion)**
- Start of Term 2 – Monday 1st November
- Term 2 Inservice Days – Thurs 18th/Fri 19th November 2021

Ellon Academy School Calendar 21/22:

Our 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
24.9.21