

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We've had another busy week here at Ellon Academy.

Dr Bike is coming to school today and we hope that the sessions and support with bike maintenance will be helpful to pupils.

We also had our first S6 PSE morning yesterday, and our learners were able to discuss the Senior School Contract and negotiate their responsibilities. As a thank you to our on-duty prefects, they will be able to have a free lunch on their duty days.

Here are the up-dates for this week:

Quote of the Week:



Covid-19:

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

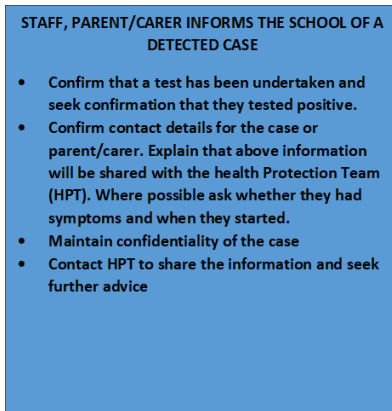
The Covid-19 guidance for schools has changed, and it is important that parents and carers know what the new procedures are. NHS have now provided schools with a 'Warn and Inform' letter which must be sent to all staff and parents/carers of identified positive cases.

This week has seen a small number of new positive cases 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](#)

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.

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.

Improvement Planning 21/22

The Whole School Improvement Plan has now been sent to all staff and a Faculty Improvement Plan template has been sent to all Principal Teachers for completion by the end of this term. The Improvement Plan will be shared with our Parent Council too.

Here are the 4 key themes which will align with the 4 Staff Impact Teams:

- Ethos and Culture – led by Mr G Cowie DHT
 - Re-establish rules, values routines, and expectations
 - Whole School DLPL – ‘What Adults Change’ by Paul Dix
 - Review of Merits and Demerits
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – led by Ms T Booth DHT
 - Digital Literacy
 - Making Thinking Visible
 - Assessment, Moderation and Policy Review
- Developing the Young Workforce – led by Mr N Corser DHT
 - Skills Development Framework
 - Embedding the Careers Education Standard across the Curriculum
 - Co-ordination of events and work-related input for learners

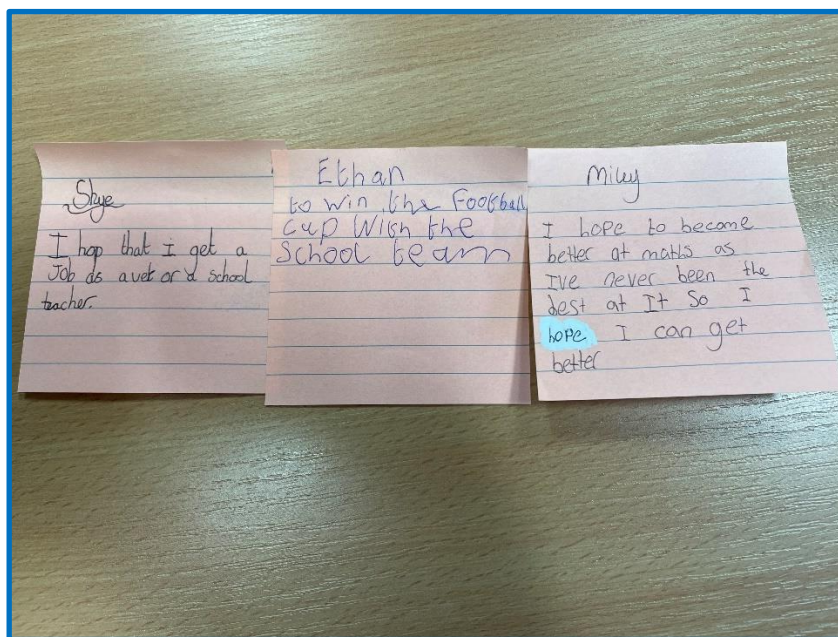
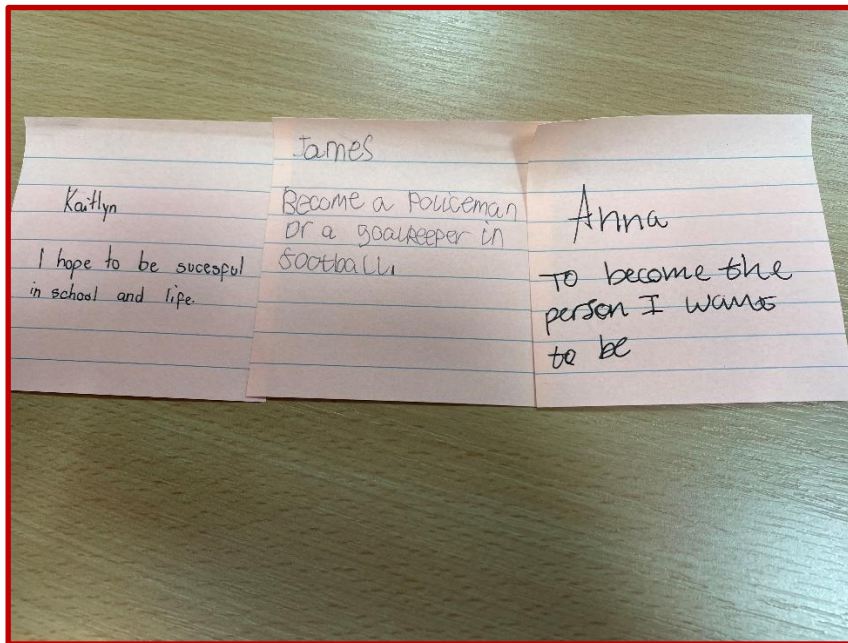
- Curriculum and Timetable – led by Mr G Cowie DHT
 - Building the Senior Phase
 - BGE Tracking – led by Mr F McLachlan DHT
 - Building the Timetable

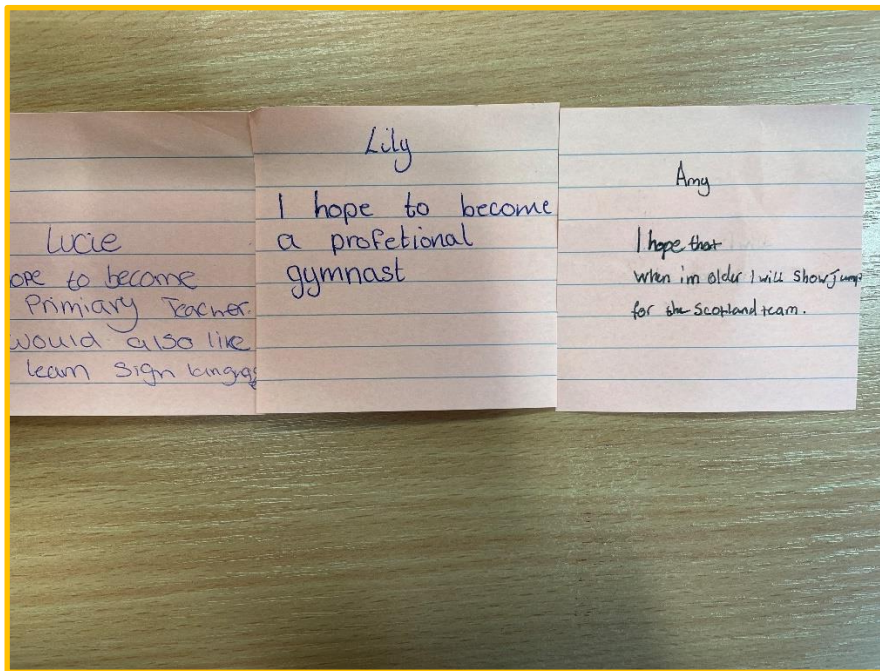
Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities:

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.

Rector’s Visits to S1 PSE classes:

We are still unable to have pupil assemblies due to Covid restrictions, so this term I am visiting all S1 PSE classes to speak with our new learners. We are speaking about S1 pupils hopes and dreams for their future careers at Ellon Academy. Here are some examples of what they have said:





Cashless Catering:

Our Canteen Supervisor has informed me that the Reval unit beside the school canteen, used for topping up cards is now up and running. Also, she is keen to encourage pupils to bring their cards to pay for their food etc. Please ensure your son/daughter has a card and this can be organised via the Aberdeenshire website or parentsportal.

School Car and Bus Parks. This message has been sent to all parents/carers:

Parents and Carers are asked to remind their children that they should not be in or around any car parks or the bus park on the school campus. This is for their own safety.

Also, S6 pupils who have their own cars are asked to park in the staff car park beside the Technical Faculty and enter the school via the pupil doors.

Ellon Academy Community Campus Car Park Pupil Drop Off and Pick Up:

One of our parents, Mrs Helen Wilson does a sterling job of monitoring the school pick up and drop off zones and general vehicle use of the campus and key times in the day. We thank her for all her commitment to making driving in and around the campus as safe as it can be and here is a reminder of our codes of conduct for driving in the campus:

Drop Off:

Parent/Carers are asked to drop pupils off and pick them up in the designated drop off lane/zone and not to enter any of the assigned car parking spaces.

On leaving the drop off zone, Parents/Carers are asked to stick to the one-way system by following the road down to the turning circle to the west of the Campus, thus ensuring that the traffic flow is all one way. Navigate the turning circle one car at a time and give it a wide berth as it has a tight radius.

Pick Up:

Parents/Carers should forward park in the angled parking bays (the angled design does not allow for reverse parking) then reverse out and continue to follow the road down to the turning circle to the west of the Campus, thus ensuring the traffic flow is all one way.

Park and Stride:

Parents/Carers can also use the Meadows car parking facilities for pupil drop off/pick up. This will help alleviate traffic pressure on campus.

Community Use:

For access to Swimming, Leisure and Community Resources during the school week and out with the drop off times for pupils please park in the public spaces beyond the drop off and disabled zones.

Cycling:

It is advisable that all pupils who cycle to school are aware of wet and icy conditions, road safety, cycling in the dark and have working lights, visible clothing, and cycle helmets. Cyclists should stick to cycle paths and ideally have passed their cycling proficiency test. Cycle stands available on campus.

Disabled:

These spaces are reserved for blue badge holders and emergency vehicles only. They should not be used for dropping off/picking up. The Ellon Academy Community Campus Management Team and Parent Council consider the safety and wellbeing of all campus users to be of paramount importance.

Questions or comments can be emailed to: ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Telephone: 01358 281150

Parent Council:

Next Parent Council Meeting: The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 8 th September 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

 - 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
3.9.21