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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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

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Dear parents and carers,

It's hard to believe that there are only 2 more weeks of this term and we have been working to plan for what is to come in Terms 2 and 3 as part of our Senior Leadership Team meetings. This week we have been discussing the potential models for our Senior Phase Assessment block in January, trying to prepare for every eventuality. We have also had early feedback from the Impact Teams who have begun to work on the key points on our school improvement plan for this session 21/22.

We are also working hard on a system which will support virtual parents' evenings and we hope to trial this with the S1 Pastoral Parents Evening on 11<sup>th</sup> November '21 and seek feedback regarding effectiveness from parents/carers and staff. More information will follow.

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**Here are the up-dates for this week:**

**The Quote of the Week:**



**Celebrating Success:**

We have been delighted that some parents/carers have been in touch to let us know of their child or children's recent successes and achievements out with the school. Young people can be quite shy about their success, but if they are will for us to celebrate these, 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.

**S4/5/6 Interim Reports:**

After discussion with the Parent Council, we will be emailing our S4/5/6 Interim Reports home to parents/carers by the end of next week. As an Eco-School, we feel that sending paper copies home is too wasteful, so we hope that parents/carers understand this change to our procedures and the reasons for the change.

**SQA 2022 Exam Timetable Update:**

The **SQA** have now published the 2022 National Qualifications exam timetable.

The full timetable is also now available on the main website at [www.sqa.org.uk/timetable](http://www.sqa.org.uk/timetable).

**Canteen Concerns:**

As you can imagine, our canteen has been much busier this week after a spell of wet weather. Therefore, we stress how important it is for all pupils to have their National Entitlement Cards with them. The queues are very busy, and they are further held up when a significant number of pupils don't have their card. This results in the member of canteen staff having to search the pupil's name on the system, causing further delay. Some pupils have no money on their cards, so then staff must take paper notes regarding what they have chosen to eat and drink with the costs added. This results in further work for the staff who then must check each individual pupils' account to see if it has been topped up and then they deduct what the child has chosen. If a pupil has no money on their account, they will only be offered a meal (no crisps, juice, biscuits, puddings etc.)

If you are having difficulty ordering a new card or topping up your child's card on-line, please call the Academy office on 01358 281150 to ask for advice and support.

The queues would be so efficient if everyone had their card and/or PIN.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

**Pupil Achievements:**

Huge congratulations to Stephanie B in S3, who recently sat her Grade 5 Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Piano exam and achieved a Distinction. Very well done to Stephanie!



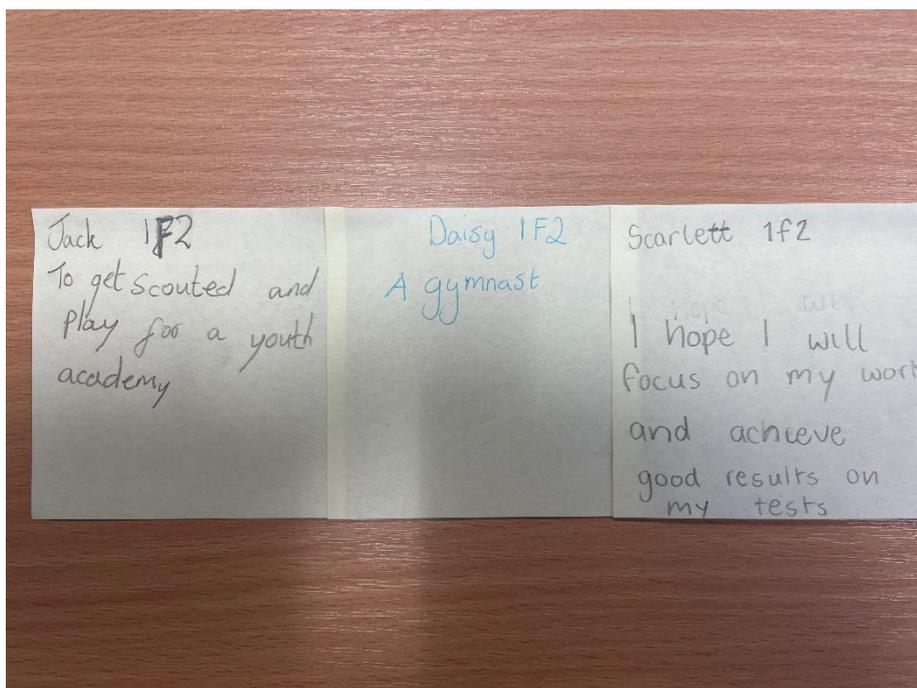
**Pupil Achievement:**

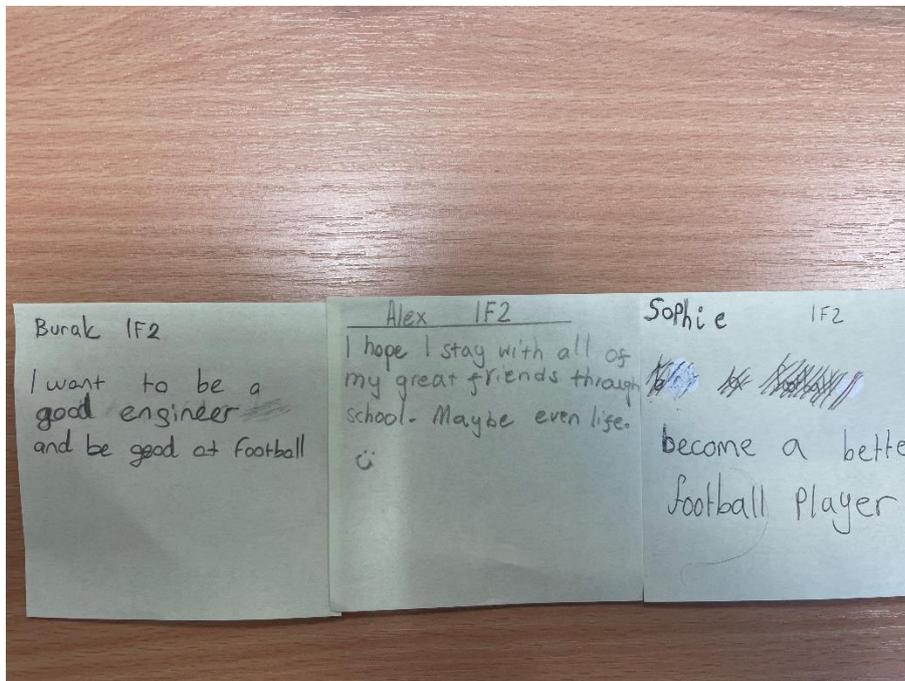
Alistair in 5S2 won the Junior European Open Qualifying at Newburgh Golf Club on Sunday 26th September and qualifies for the finals week in Spain 2022! Well done Alistair!



**S1 PSE Visit – 1F2**

This week I visited 1F2 in their PSE class and we spoke about their hopes and aspirations for their time at Ellon Academy. Here are some of their thoughts:





### School Sports Pitches Up-date:

As you will be aware, our school pitches have finally been fixed and are now playable. The lining has been completed for football and rugby and will be re-done during the October break.

### Remembrance 2021 at Ellon Academy:

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poppy Scotland and to commemorate this milestone, we are planning a cascading display of hand made poppies in our sunken social area. Pupils will be set a challenge to make their own poppy over the October break to be added to the display. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could have one poppy per pupil! That would be 1150 poppies!

Instructions will follow on how to make knitted, crocheted or felt poppies and staff will be running help sessions in school.

We would like to ask parents/carers/families for donations of red and black wool to help us with our Remembrance Project. Also, if anyone has any spare crochet hooks, or if you'd like to donate any knitted or crocheted poppies, we would be so grateful.



## Parent Council:

Next Parent Council Meeting: The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm via Zoom. Please contact them via this email address: [ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com)

## Recognising Mental Health and Wellbeing - 'Hello yellow!'

### Prior Notice of Dress Down Day – Last day of Term 1 - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15.10.21.



### 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 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 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  
1.10.21