

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 8th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Where has this term gone! We've only one week to go and I hope that your family is not affected by Aberdeen City schools having different holidays to Aberdeenshire this year.

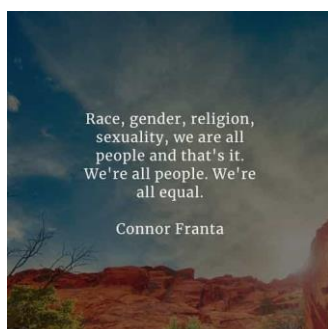
We have begun to plan ahead for the November In-service days on Thurs 18th/Fri 19th November and as a whole staff, we will be looking at Paul Dix's work on 'When Adults Change, Everything Changes' as part of our Improving Ethos, Culture and Expectations plan. More information will follow in due course.

Don't forget that the last day of term will be a Dress Down Day organised by our Exec Team, who are raising money for 'Young Minds' by having a 'Hello Yellow' day, asking all pupils and staff to wear something yellow and to bring £1 (suggestion) for this great charity which supports mental health and wellbeing for young people.



Here are the updates for this week:

The Quote of the Week beginning 11.10.21:



Covid-19 Up-date from NHS Grampian:

This letter was sent to all parents/carers on Thurs 7.10.21:

Dear Parent or Guardian

*We are no longer asking everyone with “wider symptoms” to take a PCR test for COVID-19. Instead, we are asking people to **follow the standard advice from NHS Inform**. I am writing to explain this change. We were previously asking everyone with “wider symptoms” such as sore throat, diarrhoea, headache, chills, or muscle pains to take a PCR test. We knew this was not standard across the country, but we wanted to identify everyone who had COVID-19. But as we move into the season of common colds and other ‘bugs’ we know that these are often the cause of wider symptoms.*

*So, we have decided that, on balance, we should now return to asking everyone to follow the standard advice from NHS Inform: **anyone with a new continuous cough, fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater) and/or loss of/change in taste or smell should self-isolate and take a PCR test**. Their household should also isolate and seek testing. Detailed advice is available at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>.*

***Anyone who is unwell with other symptoms should stay home until they are better**. Information on where to obtain healthcare advice is available at <https://www.know-who-to-turn-to.com>.*

We do continue to otherwise recommend everyone take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test twice a week. Thank you for your continued efforts to minimise the spread of infection this year.

*Yours sincerely
Chris Littlejohn*

Chris Littlejohn, Consultant in Public Health

Senior Phase Reports:

Unfortunately, our S4/5/6 reports have been delayed because of ICT issues. We are trialling Parents Portal to send them to you, but some anomalies were detected today. All parents will receive an email about this today and if you have not signed up for Parents Portal, please do so by following the link you will be sent. Thank you.

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.

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.

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.

Pupil Achievement:

Well done to Amy P, who did very well at the Loch Ness 5 km run last weekend. Well done, Amy!



Pupil Achievement:

This past weekend, S5 pupil Alistair H, played at Deeside Golf Club in the delayed 2020 Spencer’s Trophy finals. Alistair came a respectable 3rd place. Well done, Alistair!



Pupil Achievement:

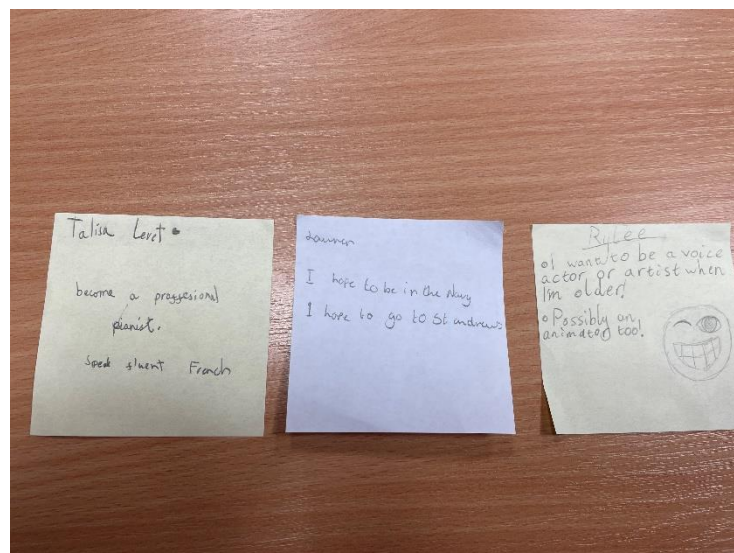
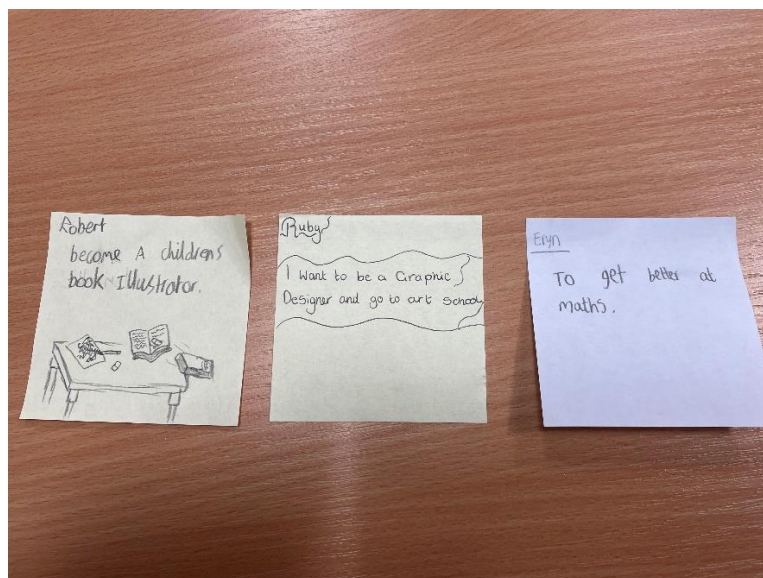
S1 pupil Sophie S participated in the Norma Buist Swimming Gala today and received a gold medal for 25m Front Crawl and came 2nd for the 25m Back Crawl!

Well done, Sophie, fantastic achievement!



S1 PSE Visit – 1S2

This week I visited 1S2 in their PSE class and we spoke about their hopes and aspirations for their time at Ellon Academy. Here are some of their thoughts:



Remembrance 2021 at Ellon Academy:

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Poppy Scotland and to commemorate this milestone, we are planning a cascading display of handmade 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 (purple and white would be good too!) 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.



School Photographer Visits next week:

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH STAFF CENTRE

Monday 11th October 2021			Tuesday 12th October 2021	
8:40am	4C1		8:40am	2C1
8:55am	4C2		8:55am	2C2
9:10am	4F1		9:10am	2F1
9:30am	4K1		9:30am	2K1
9:45am	4K2		9:45am	2K2
10:00am	4M1		10:00am	2M1

Break 10:15 – 10:35

10:40am	5C1		10:40am	3C1
10:55am	5F1		10:55am	3F1
11:05am	5F2		11:05am	3F2
11:15am	5K1		11:15am	3K1
11:30am	5M1		11:30am	3M1
11:40am	5M2		11:40am	3M2
11:50am	5S1		11:50am	3S1
12:00noon	5S2		12:00noon	3S2
12:10pm	6C		12:10pm	2S1
12:20pm	6F		12:20pm	2S2
12:30pm	6K		12:30pm	1C1
12:40pm	6M		12:40pm	1F1

Lunch 1:05 – 1:50

1:55pm	6S		1:55pm	1F2
2:05pm	4S1		2:05pm	1K1
			2:15pm	1M1
			2:30pm	1M2
			2:45pm	1S1
			3:00pm	1S2

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

Term 1/Term 2:

- Week beginning 11.10.21 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
8.10.21