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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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, there have been several Ellon Academy families affected by Covid-19 this week and we send our best wishes to them all for speedy recoveries.

**Here are the updates for this week:**

**The Quote of the Week beginning 22.11.21:**



**A reminder of canteen concerns:**

In our Virtual Assembly this week, we reminded pupils of the importance of having their Young Scot Card ready to significantly help the speed of the canteen queues.

An email to all parents/carers was sent during the last week of term 1, asking for support in ensuring all our pupils have a National Entitlement Card/Young Scot Card to pay for their school meals. In the email we have provided information regarding how to register for Free School Meals, how to order a new or replacement NE card and how to top the card up with credit/money. We have also included a school canteen price list in the email so parents/carers can see what our food and drink products cost.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### School Uniform:

It has been really encouraging to see our pupils back in school uniform since we returned to school in August. However, of late, some pupils are not fully complying with our school dress expectations: Here is a reminder of what we expect:

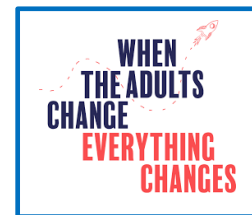
- All pupils must arrive at school in uniform, regardless if they have PE first thing
- All pupils must change back into their school uniform after PE classes
- White shirt and school tie
- Plain black jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt
- Black trousers, jeans, leggings or skirts (no jogging bottoms)
- Black shoes/trainers (white trainers are not part of the school dress code)
- School bag and warm outer clothing for adverse weather

We appreciate the support of parents and carers on ensuring our learners are compliant with our school uniform and appropriately dressed for school/bad weather.

### In-service Days Nov '21:

School staff will be working on the following activities during the 2 inservice days:

- Reviewing Ethos, Expectations and Culture using 'When Adults Change, Everything Changes' by Paul Dix. Meeting virtually via Teams and using Jamboard to share thoughts and ideas for consistency and improvement
- Refresh on Attendance and Registration Procedures
- Professional Support Group Activities (PSGs) – subject specific meetings with representatives from other secondary schools
- Assessment and Moderation of courses
- Tracking and monitoring pupil progress
- Reviewing progress of Faculty Improvement Plans
- Professional reading
- Impact Team related work



### Christmas 2021 Activities at Ellon Academy:

Christmas Lunches 2021 (Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free options will be available):

- Wednesday 24.11.21 – S1 out early for lunch at 12.05pm
- Wednesday 1.12.21 – S2 out early for lunch at 12.05pm
- Wednesday 8.12.21 – S3/4 out early for lunch at 12.05pm
- Wednesday 15.12.21 – S5/6 out early for lunch at 12.05pm
- Christmas Jumpers as part of usual school uniform for S6 only from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December until the holidays
- Food Bank Charity Donations – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Pupils/Staff are asked to bring donations of non-perishable items on Wed 1.12.21 for local food bank charities
- Christmas Jumper Day Dress Down Day (all pupils/staff) – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please bring a donation for 'Save the Children'.
- Christmas Dress Up Day for all pupils and S5/6 Parade – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – All pupils can come to school in fancy dress on Friday 17.12.21



More info to follow.

**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 Achievements:**

Well done and thank you to Rob C in S3 who designed this year’s Ellon Scarecrow Festival trophies! These look amazing!



### Pupil Achievements:

Well done to our new S1 Digital Champions!

You've been working hard with Mr Armstrong; our PT Digital Learning and we know you'll do a great job in your new roles. Here they are with Mr Armstrong after having been presented with their Digital Champion badges on Monday afternoon.



### Pupil Achievements:

Congratulations to Lucas, Aiden, Jack, Ross and Calum who have been deemed some of the best footballers Aberdeenshire has to offer at their age range and have been invited to play for Aberdeenshire against Forth Valley. Good Luck!

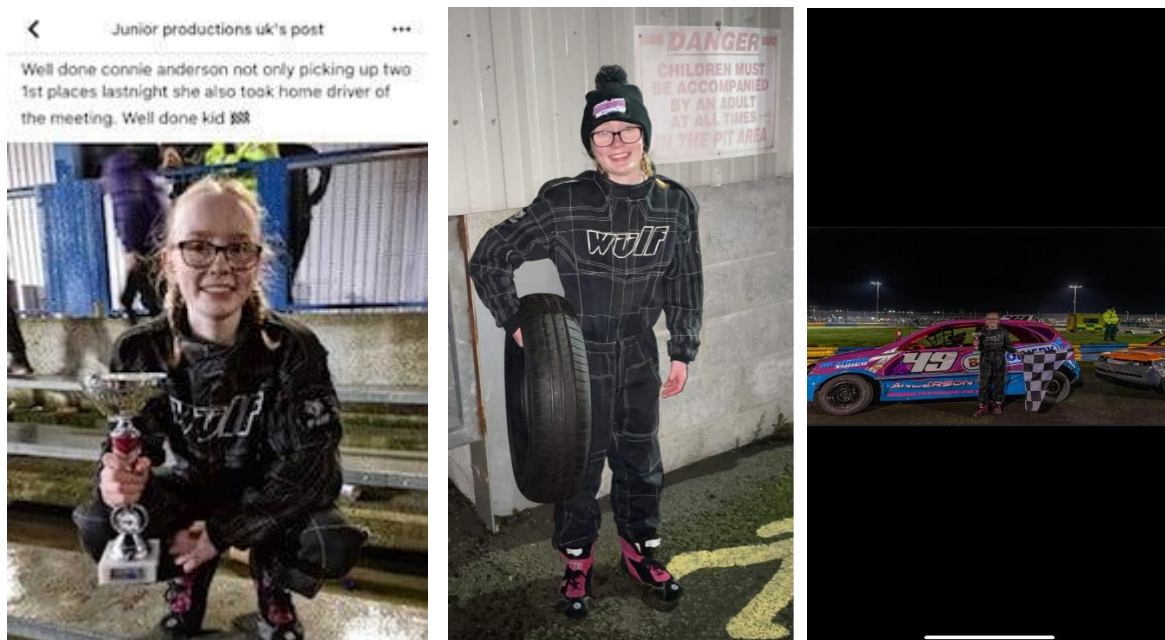
### Pupil Achievement:

Our very own Jenna M in 6M got a nice surprise when she opened the match day programme on Saturday at the Scotland v South Africa rugby match. The action picture is of her in action for the Dundee team. Well done Jenna!



**Pupil Achievement:**

Connie A in S1 has won two races this weekend in a field of 18 cars and also won a tyre for the driver of the meeting. Well done Connie!



**Unexpected Act of Kindness:**

Here's another Act of Kindness at Ellon Academy. This time a thank you for our First Aider, Diane Mulgrew from Tansy in S2! Lovely to know that she is appreciated.



**Unexpected Act of Kindness:**

Random act of kindness by some teenagers last weekend who took this lost dog back to her owner. Well done!



**Staff Information:**

Our warmest congratulations go to Miss Moore (Drama Teacher) who had a healthy baby girl this week!

**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)

**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:**

- S1/2/3 Tracking Reports have been issued via Parents Portal this week
- Christmas lunches every Wednesday from 24.11.21 – 15.12.21
- Food Bank Donations Day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December (Non-perishable items)
- S6 Christmas Jumpers as part of usual uniform from Wed 1.12.21 until the end of term
- S4/5/6 Full Reports to be issued week beginning 6.12.21
- Whole School Christmas Jumper Dress Down Day – Fri 10.12.21
- Whole School Dress Up Day and S5/6 Parade – Fri 17.12.21
- End of Term 2 – Tuesday 21.12.21 (Last day of Term)
- Start of Term 3 – Thursday 6.1.22

**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  
19.11.21