



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe in the aftermath of Storm Arwen. Many Ellon Academy families have been affected by the storm and still are without power, water etc. As we have said previously, we are more than happy to help any families in need, so please get in touch.

Here are the updates for this week:

The Quote of the Week beginning 3.12.21:



School Uniform:

School uniform will resume on Monday 6th December as follows:

- 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.

Ministerial Visit today at Ellon Academy:

A last-minute change of venue today because of Aberdeenshire power outages, meant that Ellon Academy had to host a Ministerial Visit at very short notice. The Rt Hon Greg Hands, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy attended, along with Aberdeenshire Chief Executive, Jim Savage, other elected members, and representatives from the Armed Forces, to discuss the Aberdeenshire response to the aftermath of Storm Arwen.

Christmas 2021 Activities at Ellon Academy:

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

- 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 1st December until the holidays
- Food Bank Charity Donations – Fri 3rd December
A huge thank you to all families who donated non-perishable food items. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of Ellon Academy families and staff



- Christmas Jumper Day Dress Down Day (all pupils/staff) – Friday 10th December. Please bring a donation for 'Save the Children'.
- Christmas Dress Up Day for all pupils and S5/6 Parade – Friday 17th December – All pupils can come to school in fancy dress on Friday 17.12.21
- Sports Colours Awards – Tuesday 21.12.21
- End of Term – 3.30pm Tuesday 21.12.21

World Children's Day 2021:

To recognise and celebrate World Children's Day 2021, several events are planned, including a Virtual Assembly delivered by Finn Dixon in S5:

We are also hosting a Pupil Senate Summit meeting on Thursday 9th December.

This will involve:

- The Exec Team, House Captains, Sports Captains and Class Reps
- Pupils to work in House groups looking at World Children's Day resources and identify potential input for our new Rights Respecting School Charter

Plan for the morning of Thurs 9th December:

1. Period 1 – The Importance of Children’s Rights
2. Period 2 – Collating Resources
3. Period 3 – COP26 and Environmental Input from pupil committee supported by The Exec Team and staff
4. Period 4 – Creating charter for Ellon Academy and pupil and staff pledges

Limitless Learning and Responsible Citizens:

This week and over the next 2 week in Humanities, our S2 pupils will be working on The Refugee Resettlement Programme and will be writing Christmas cards with welcome notes to the new refugee families at a national ‘Welcome Lunch’ in December for those who have arrived from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. Thanks to Miss Willins and Mrs Leslie for organising.



Christmas Cards!

The **Refugee Resettlement Programme** are hosting a ‘**Welcome Lunch**’ in December for the Afghan, Syrian and Iraqi families who arrived during lockdown.

You are going write a Christmas card with a welcome note inside.

These will be passed onto the families at the event.

The coordinator has said she will take pictures of them with your cards for you to see! 😊

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:

We continue to give those pupils with the most merits a Fast Pass to skip the canteen queue every week. This is proving to be very popular with pupils as you can imagine!



Pupil Achievements:

Well done to Aiden M and Jack B in S6, who both trialled for the Scottish Schools under 18's Squad at Toryglen. We are sure you represented yourselves and the school well! ⚽



Pupil Achievements:

Congratulations to our senior pupils Lucas, Aiden, Jack, Ross, and Callum who have been asked to represent Aberdeenshire in their next match.



Pupil Achievements:

Congratulations to Ben, Finlay, Aidan, and Aaron in S3 who have been called up to represent Aberdeenshire in their next match.



Columba 1400

Over the next couple of weeks, our S2 pupils will be engaging in a Virtual Columba 1400 Introductory Session during their PSE classes.

I have had a 17-year long association with Columba 1400, which is a Leadership Academy for pupils and school staff based on the Isle of Skye. S2 pupils at Ellon Academy are in the fortunate position of getting an opportunity to find out what this experience would be like, and what it would mean for them.

I have taken 3 previous groups of pupils to this experience in my previous school, and it has been an immensely impactful and positive opportunity for those involved in the past.

During the October break, I attended the Head Teachers' Leadership Academy on Skye for a week, alongside 12 other Head Teachers from all over Scotland. It was an exceptional experience, and we are excited for some of our pupils to benefit from this too.

In May 2022, (Covid restrictions allowing) we plan to take 13 S2 pupils and 2/3 staff to the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy on Skye for a week-long leadership training experience, using the amazing outdoor Environment on Skye and indoors at the Columba 1400 Centre in Staffin, Skye.

On Friday 10th December, we have spaces for 60 interested S2 pupils to attend the Columba 1400 Leadership Values day here in school and after that, we will ask pupils who are interested in the residential part of the course on Skye, to put their names forward. If there are more than 13 young people interested, then Mr Corser and I will interview the pupils to choose our final 13.

This experience is all expenses paid for pupils and staff, thanks to Columba 1400 and this includes travel, accommodation, all meals, snacks, drinks etc and the environment at the Centre is very comfortable and homely.

More information will be sent to parents prior to the Leadership Values Day on Friday 10th December.



The Columba 1400 Leadership Centre on the Isle of Skye



Sir Norman Drummond, Founder of Columba 1400

January Senior Phase Assessment Block:

Next week, we will be able to send all pupils, parents, and staff information about our planned assessments in January 2022 and will provide a timetable of assessments for pupils and a summary of all supports and help clubs available. Currently our Principal Teachers Faculty are finalising the assessment timetable and feeding that information back to Ms Booth, our DHT who co-ordinates and plans Learning, Teaching and Assessment at Ellon Academy.

Parent Council:

Next Parent Council Meeting: The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 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/Local Authority decision, so more info as it is received

Term 2:

- School uniform resumes on Monday 6th December '21
- Christmas lunches every Wednesday from 24.11.21 – 15.12.21
 - This Wednesday (8th Dec) S3/4 will be release 10 mins early for lunch
- 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
3.12.21