

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

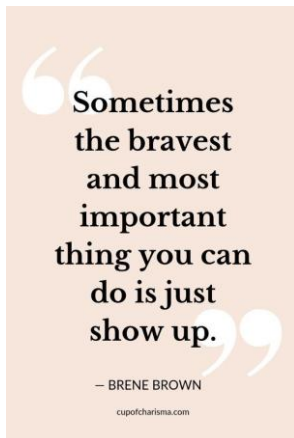
To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 21st January 2022

Dear parents/carers.

Once again, there have been more Covid-19 cases amongst our pupils this week. Our thoughts are with the families affected and we look forward to seeing those who are self-isolating very soon.

Here are the updates for this week:

The Quote of the Week beginning 24.1.22:



School Uniform:

Thank you for your continued support of our school uniform. This week we have been sending out text messages asking for parents' support when register teachers and class teachers are picking up on those who are not fully complying with our expectations. There have been some noted improvements. As ever, the vast majority wear school dress code. This promotes school identity, safety on campus and a sense of pride in the school. Unfortunately, too many are forgetting ties, returning to white trainers, and remaining in PE kits. S5 and S6 learners have chosen to return for extra schooling and dress code is non-negotiable.

Registration Teachers will:

- Continue to encourage and support their class and the school with dress code
- Continue to appreciate those learners supporting dress code
- Challenge those who need to take more responsibility
- Record a demerit for those not in dress code

Class Teachers will:

- Continue to encourage and support their classes and the school with dress code.
- Record a demerit for those not in dress code during Period 3 (after interval) and Period 5/6 (after lunch)

Partnership with Parents/Carers information to be aware of:

- We are aware that some pupils leave the house in dress code, but standards slip before arrival and sometimes throughout the day
- Dress Code Demerits will be analysed every week, and if a pupil is flagged on two or more days, a text message will be sent home

This is a reminder of our expectations:



ACCEPTABLE...

"Dress Your Personal Best"

UNACCEPTABLE... X

- Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans-style trousers, black leggings or jeggings
- Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt
- A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black 'Ellon Academy' jumper

Footwear

- Black Shoes or trainers (black trainers with colour accents are acceptable)

Optional

- A plain black or 'Ellon Academy' fleece/jumper
- A black blazer (optional)

- Clothes with patterns or other colours
- Joggers/tracksuit bottoms/faded black jeans
- Advertising brands/logos on jumpers/cardigans
- T-shirts or round neck tops instead of a collared shirt
- Sportswear (except for in PE classes and pupils must change back into school dress after PE)
- Wearing outdoor jackets, fleeces, hoodies or coats in class or registration
- Hats off and hoods down in school



January Senior Phase Assessment Block:

Our Assessment Block is coming to an end next week and these assessments will support us in ascertaining learners' progress so far in their chosen courses. After next week, staff will continue with marking and moderation within faculties in preparation to give marks/grades and feedback to pupils which will inform next steps in learning.

The SQA are still planning for a full exam diet and as in any 'normal' year, they ask schools to submit estimate grades in February, and the assessment block will support this process too.

Staff will be preparing for S4/5/6 Tracking Reports in February in due course.

Assessment Block Covid Contingency:

We are aware that some pupils may still be self-isolating or might be unwell during the assessment block so here is our contingency plan for any missed assessments:

- Plan A - Teachers will arrange for the assessment to be taken after the learner returns to school following their period of self-isolation
- Plan B – We can use specific times in the week e.g., Wednesday afternoons to 'mop up' larger numbers of learners who may have missed assessments due to absence/illness/self-isolation
- Plan C – We do not anticipate that this will be required, but if so, we can use the best pieces of learners' work for evidence to ascertain at predicted grade

A PDF file of all Supported Study sessions/classes that are being offered to senior phase pupils (S4-S6) at Ellon Academy can now be viewed on the school website (in both Parent and Pupil Zones – see links below).

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/pupils/>

Pupil Achievement:

Here is Iona's (3C1) recreation of Paul Cezanne's 'Apples and Oranges' 1899. It took her 13hrs! Stunning! Well done, Iona!



Pupil Achievement:

Hannah T (S5) was selected to run for the East district of Scotland at the Inter district XC in Irvine on Saturday 15th January. This was a huge achievement for her to get the opportunity to run against some of the best in Scotland. She finished the race in 9th place and was 4th place for the district helping towards their overall silver medal. Well done, Hannah!



The Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme:

Information about this scheme has been uploaded to the school website and has been sent home via email. To view, please click on the link below:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/pupils/>

Dates For Your Diary – Important Up-date below:

- Occasional days for session 21/22:
 - Term 3 starts Thurs 6.1.22 – 8.25am
 - 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)
 - Aberdeenshire Council sent information to schools in the previous term regarding the May Day holiday and the additional day to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
 - The May Day holiday on 2nd May will now be removed and moved to Thurs 2nd June 2022
 - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday will be on Friday 3rd June 2022
- This change will affect our planned timetable change, the S6 Leavers Event and our Senior Induction, so we will communicate those changes in due course.

Term 3: (Change of date in red type below)

- S1 Tracking Report (No.2) issued week beginning 17.1.22
- S2 Full Report issued week beginning 17.1.22
- S2 Course Choice Virtual Presentation to be published week beginning Mon 17.1.22
- S2 Course Choice Guidance Interviews week beginning Mon 24.1.22
- S2 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 26.1.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- S3 Full Reports issued week beginning 7.2.22
- S3 Guidance Course Choice Interviews – 8.2.22/9.2.22
- S3 Virtual Parents Evening was planned for Wed 9th Feb, but this is the night before the February long weekend, so it is now scheduled for Thursday 17th February (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- Occasional Day 2/Long Weekend Holiday – Thursday 10.2.22
- Occasional Day 3/Holiday – Fri 11.2.22
- Holiday – Mon 14.2.22
- Inservice (1) – Tues 15.2.22
- Inservice (2) – Wed 16.2.22
- Fri 18.2.22 – S2 Course Choice Option Form deadline
- S4 Guidance Course Choice Interviews – week beginning 21.2.22
- S5 Guidance Course Choice Interviews – week beginning 28.2.22
- S4 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 2.3.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- S5/6 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 9.3.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- Last day of Term 3 – Friday 1st April

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Pauline Buchan

Rector
21.1.22