



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 25th February 2022

Dear parents/carers.

I hope this newsletter finds you well despite the storms and adverse weather.
Lots of information to share with you this week.

The Quote of the Week beginning 28.2.22:



Covid Up-dates:

Following the FM's announcement on Tuesday 22 February, the following changes are now in place for secondary schools effective Monday 28 February. The Ellon Academy Covid-19 Risk Assessment will be updated and posted on our school website in due course.

Here are the changes:

Face Coverings:

- Pupils and staff in secondary schools are no longer required to wear face coverings in classrooms.
- Adults, however, should continue to wear them if they cannot keep physical distance with other adults/pupils.
- Any young person or staff member who wishes to still wear a face covering in the classroom should be fully supported in doing so.
- Face coverings should continue to be worn by secondary school pupils and all adults in indoor communal areas.

Assemblies:

- The remaining restrictions on assemblies are now removed.
- Schools should continue to employ the relevant mitigations e.g. physical distancing, ventilation, and the use of face coverings where appropriate i.e. when less than 1m apart

P7 Transitions:

- Transition visits can now resume if appropriately risk assessed.

Distancing:

- Staff/visitors should still maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre from others.
- As schools should already have 2m physical distancing arrangements that work well and do not limit capacity, we will retain these 2m distancing arrangements

More information will follow regarding group work in classes and pupils have had a virtual assembly at registration to explain the changes today. To view the assembly, please click on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/LeEPOfrivGE>

SQA Up-date:

As per Scottish Government plans, the SQA exam diet will go ahead this year for our Senior Phase learners taking N5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams.

Ms Booth is already planning to deliver in-person assemblies for S4/5/6 learners to ensure they are fully aware of the range of SQA expectations and regulations involved in taking part in an official exam diet.

We are awaiting information from the SQA due on Monday 7th March which will provide details of the revision our learners will be directed to, and our staff welcome this to ensure targeted support in class in the run up to the exams.

Study Leave will also go ahead and will start on Monday 25th April for all S4/5/6 learners and will run until the last exam on Wednesday 1st June. We expect our timetable to change after the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend on Monday 6th June.

S4 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 2.3.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)

Based on the experience of the S1 Virtual Pastoral Parents' Evening in December and the S2 and S3 Virtual Parents Evening on 26.1.22 and 17.2.22, we are again offering virtual appointments to S4 parents to attend the first parents' evening in quite some time for our current S4 cohort of learners.

Due to the digital nature of the Parents Evening Booking system (PEBs) staff have the option of conducting the parents evening in school or from home, depending on their personal circumstances. Also, there can be no additional appointments added prior to or after the designated time slot of 4.00pm – 6.30pm. Secondary teachers have a minimum of 5 parents' evenings across any given school year, excluding P7 Parents Evening and other Family Learning events. Also, based on national and local guidelines set by the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and teaching unions, teaching staff must work within their set *Working Time Agreement* (WTA). The WTA agreement is set in May of each calendar year and locally agreed in schools with staff and professional union representatives and then ratified by the local authority. Over and above the teaching day, the WTA takes into account additional teacher time for marking, preparation, reporting, parents' evenings, staff meetings and professional learning, so no additional appointments can be made available.

Also, unfortunately, it is not possible for teachers to give individual feedback to parents/carers who have been unable to secure an appointment with their child's teacher(s) for the S4 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 2 March. This would lead to an unacceptable workload for teachers and would be out with the agreed annual allocation of time for reporting within the Working Time Agreement.

Full reports were issued in December detailing your child's strengths, areas for development and next steps to reach their February Target Grade. In class, teachers will have given detailed feedback on prelim performance and offered suggestions on how further progress can be made post-prelim going forward. Many pupils will have had one-to-one feedback during learner conversations with teachers, jointly agreeing targets and next steps.

S4 tracking reports are due to be issued the week beginning 7 March. This report will indicate your child's current Working Grade along with ratings for Behaviour, Effort and Homework. Their February Target

Grade and their Next Target Grade will also be included. This will give parents/carers the most up-to-date information on their current performance.

As usual, Principal Teachers of Guidance should be your first point of contact if you have any concerns regarding your child.

Feedback from the Parent Council regarding the virtual on-line appointments was extremely positive at our meeting on Wed 23.2.22.

S3/4/5 Course Choice Information:

Previously, we sent a letter to parents of S3/4/5 pupils regarding course choices for next session when the pupils are in S4/5 and S6.

The letter includes a link to a presentation from Mr Cowie DHT, explaining the process. Please click on the link below to view. Thank you.

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

Staff up-dates:

Since the Christmas break, the following staff have been appointed:

- Mrs D Astley – ASL Teacher – started 7.1.22
- Miss K Gouck – English Teacher – started 28.1.22
- Mr C McCall – PE Teacher – started 22.2.22
- Mr B Higgins – Chemistry Teacher – starting 25.3.22
- Miss M Noufal – Biology Teacher – starting Aug 2022
- Mr M Lawson – PT Health and Wellbeing – started/continues in this now permanent post
- Miss J Coughlan HEC will be leaving us taking up her new post on Monday 7.3.22 and we wish her well for the future. This post has now been advertised.
- We have 2 vacancies in the Maths Faculty and will be interviewing candidates on Friday 25.2.22 and Monday 28.2.22.
- We have a 0.6 FTE vacancy in English and will be interviewing on Monday 28.2.22.

And finally, congratulation to Mr McLachlan DHT and his fiancée who are now the proud parents of a healthy baby boy!

S1 Family Learning Evening – Thurs 3.3.22:

We hope to run a S1 Family Learning event for parents/carers of S1 pupils with:-

- Support re Google Classroom and Google Guardian
- Lead by Mr E Armstrong, PT Digital Learning, and volunteers from our S1 Digital Champions Group

More information and final confirmation of this date will follow.

Ellon Academy Performance Review – Tuesday 15th March '22:

Later next month our Head of Service Vincent Docherty and other officers of Aberdeenshire Council will meet with the Senior Leadership Team to review our performance over the past year. Here are the themes we will present on and we will ensure that parents see our presentation after the review meeting has taken place on 15.3.22

- Attainment review for 2021
- Attainment projections for 2022
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Leadership at all levels
- Curriculum
- Equity, Wellbeing, and Inclusion

Ellon Academy Home Page:

- Developed by our PT Digital Learning, Mr E Armstrong, the Ellon Academy Home page will be a one-stop-shop for Ellon Academy pupils and staff with links to key webpages and resources
 - For pupils, these links will include:
 - Daily bulletin
 - Young Scot
 - SQA website
 - Glow
 - Scholar/Bitesize/E sgoil/Bedrock
 - Other suggested sites and resources that Faculties are currently identifying

We will ensure that parents/carers are aware when this page is live.

Ethos, Culture and Expectations – ‘The Ellon Way’:

As you will be aware, from August 2021, we have been focussing on Ethos, Culture and Expectations and thanks to parents/carers for supporting our revised late coming and uniform procedures. Below is a summary of what staff have been working on during our collegiate meetings and during in-service days:

- Most Merits – Weekly recognition for pupils and issue of fast passes for the canteen
- Uniform – Text alerts to parents and school staff encouragement
- Paul Dix – When Adults Change – Resource we are using to focus on building positive relationships in school:
 - Working on this over the course of this academic year
 - 5 pillars consultation and discussion in faculties and in mixed teacher groups at in-service days
 - Whole staff meeting on 23.3.22 to further share practice and discuss
 - Final pulling together by Principal Teachers and Senior Leaders
 - Communication to parents and parents/carers
 - Implementation – change of timetable
 - The Ellon Way embedded in school practice session 22/23

Virtual Assemblies:

In February, I started my ‘Shout Out About...’ series of assemblies, discussing key themes that learners tell me they are interested in. On the first week the theme was ‘Shout Out About Sexism’. Next, we’ve had ‘Shout Out About Neurodiversity’ and last week we had ‘Shout Out About Racism’.

Our LGBTQ+ group are currently working on a virtual assembly regarding gender and sexual orientation which should be ready to show next week.



Shout Out About Sexism:

<https://youtu.be/Lj29Qfk2UX0>

Shout Out About Neurodiversity:

<https://youtu.be/wOkNle9QjiU>

Shout Out About Racism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-ZtaCLr2SY&t=180s>

Purple Friday:

Also, next Friday 4.3.22, to support our LGBTQ+ group, we will be taking part in Purple Friday in aid of LGBTQ+ Youth Scotland.

We ask pupils to come dressed down and wear something purple. Pupils can also bring a small donation to support this charity and our LGBTQ+ pupils' group in school.

**S2 Columba 1400 Leadership Academy on the Isle of Skye – 9th – 13th May 2022:**

Following a Values Day delivered by Columba 1400 for interested S2 pupils in December 2021, S2 pupils were invited to send a video presentation explaining why they should be selected to attend the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy on the Isle of Skye in May this year

Mr Corser DHT and I reviewed the presentations during the in-service days, and we had a very difficult task to select who would be going to Skye, especially when there are only 13 available places on this course. Those selected are the pupils who, through their presentations, we felt best matched the criteria set out by the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy, and who we feel will gain the most from the experience. We are delighted to let you know that the following pupils have been successful and are going to Skye in May!

Ashley R - 2C2
Chester M - 2S1
Devan T - 2K2
Emilie P - 2K1
Kiera F - 2C1
Kyle Ma - 2K2
Lucy M - 2S1
Martha C - 2S1
Megan C - 2C1
Zoe S - 2C2
Scarlett G - 2K2
Patrick G - 2C2
Jason L - 2K1



The Columba 1400 Centre in Staffin, Isle of Skye

It goes without saying that, if we could, we would like to take all the pupils because of the high standard of presentations and the potential that they all have shown.

We have spoken to all the pupils individually to let them know if they are to be part of the group to go to Skye, but for those who are not, we urge them not to be disheartened.

Columba 1400 have committed to work with Ellon Academy and this commitment goes beyond the residential in Skye. We would hope that all pupils who submitted a presentation will be part of a wider Columba 1400 Home Team within Ellon Academy to take forward the leadership ideas and support the work of the school.

P7 Transition:

We are looking forward to meeting all our P7 pupils this year, in person for the first time in 2 years.

Here is the timeline leading up to a full 3-day Induction programme in June '22.

- Learning visits already started every Tuesday afternoon for pupils with additional support needs
- Values Day planned for all P7 pupils in May '22
- 3-day Induction on campus 21-23 June '22
- Library and CLD collaborative input

S6 PUPILS – LEAVERS' HOODIES:

Please follow the link below (it has also been shared on the S6 PSE Google Classroom) to choose a nickname and order your leavers hoodie. Remember, your nickname must be school appropriate – you will be asked to change it if it isn't. Hoodies cost £18.50 and payments must be made no later than 12:00 on Wednesday 16th March so that your order is guaranteed to arrive before you leave school. Orders received after this deadline are unlikely to be accepted because it will mean that the rest of the order will be delayed. Please see Mrs Duffus in S42 if there are any issues.

<https://moxieleavers.co.uk/.../dc69a5f80c53b2050f0fc3d7>

Mrs Duffus

Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Ellon Academy Junior Girls Football Team, who played against Turriff Academy on Wed 23.2.22 and won the Spar Future Stars 7 a side competition.

8 teams took part and Ellon won all 7 games they played, scoring 26 goals, and conceding 0.

The girls played some excellent, exciting football and did themselves proud. The final match was against Turriff and both teams at that point were undefeated. Our girls stood up to the strong, physical challenge of Turriff and won the game 4-0 to finish overall winners of the day.

Both Ellon and Turriff go through to the next stage, which is to be played at Elgin on March 7th.

The coaches were extremely proud of our girls' abilities, performance, and attitude today, both on and off the park. Goal scorers today were Alisha M 13, Millie B 7, Natalie G 4, Erin M 1 and Grace S 1.

Well done girls!





Pupil Achievement:

As part of Fair-Trade fortnight, Ellon Academy Fair Trade Committee were selling fairly traded ice cream and banana splits. Thanks to the local Co-op for the donation of bananas and ice cream for the banana splits. Small tubs of Fair-Trade ice cream were supplied by Rizza's of Huntly.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Millie U who played twice for the Scotland U17s women's team against Wales last week. Millie played most of the first game, where they won 4-1 and the entire second game, where Scotland narrowly lost 1-2. Well done Millie, an unforgettable experience and one you can be extremely proud of.



WALES v SCOTLAND WOMEN'S UNDER-17s INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY FRIDAY, 11 FEBRUARY - 12PM COLLIER PARK WREXHAM			12. ANNALISA MCCANN (GK) 7. TIRÉE BURCHILL 4. MILLIE URQUHART 8. OLIVIA POTTER 3. NIAMH NOBLE 6. KIRSTY MACLEAN 10. EMMA WATSON (C) 20. REBECCA TAYLOR 23. MIA MCAULEY 19. KIERA CHUTER 9. JODI MCLEARY	SUBSTITUTES 1. LISA MAHER-ROGERS (GK) 2. LEIGHA DOBBINS 5. LILY GRAHAM 11. MYA BATES 13. EILIDH AUSTIN 14. MADILYN WILSON 15. ELISE MACARA 16. BRODIE GREENWOOD 17. GEORGIA GRAY 18. KAYLA JARDINE 22. ROSIE LIVINGSTONE
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Pupil Achievement:

Build Your Future Schools Construction Challenge

Both S2 teams did very well indeed in this challenge this week.

First Place for Team 1 and Second place for Team 2 the teams won £300 and £200 respectively for the school. Well done to them all!

Team 1

Lucy 2F1

Claudia 2F1

Ava 2S2

Zoe 2C2

Dylan 2C2

Emma 2K2

Duncan 2F1

Shona 2S2

Thomas 2C2

Darcey 2C2

Ewan 2K2

Team 2

Keira 2C1,

Rebekah 2C1

Hannah 2K1

Noah 2M1

Jessica 2M1

Sandra 2S1

James 2C1

Zak 2K1

Jason 2K1

Neil M1

Grace 2S1

NESCOL Higher Support Preparation for Exams:

Message sent on behalf of Dr Douglas Fraser Curriculum Manager of Science, NESCOL

Dear all,

We are pleased to make you aware of short courses which are on offer at NESCOL to assist you in preparing for end of year exams in Higher Sciences and Maths. We would be grateful if you are able to pass this information onto your learners.

Over seven evening sessions in the weeks leading up to the final exam, learners will work in small groups with other candidates to practice exam-style questions.

Coaching during the class will help them improve the way they approach a range of questions. We will also cover aspects of the curriculum that have been identified as poorly answered in previous exams.

Further details of all courses may be found on the links below.

Preparation for Higher Biology – commencing 14th March

[Biology - North East Scotland College \(necol.ac.uk\)](https://necol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 3rd March

[Chemistry - North East Scotland College \(necol.ac.uk\)](https://necol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 9th March

[Maths - North East Scotland College \(necol.ac.uk\)](https://necol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 15th March

[Physics - North East Scotland College \(necol.ac.uk\)](https://necol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Computing Science – commencing 30th March

[Computing Science - North East Scotland College \(necol.ac.uk\)](https://necol.ac.uk)

For further information on Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology please contact Douglas Fraser

douglas.fraser@necol.ac.uk or for Computing Science please contact Ben Thorn b.thorn@necol.ac.uk

Dr Douglas Fraser
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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:

- 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:

- Fairtrade Fortnight – from Monday 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)
- World Book Day – Thurs 3.3.22
- Purple Friday – 4.3.22 Dress down and wear purple for LGBTQ+ Youth Scotland
- S5/6 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 9.3.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- Last day of Term 3 – Friday 1st April
- Start of Term 4 – Monday 18.4.22
- Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts Monday 25.4.22
- Change of timetable – Monday 6.6.22

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Pauline Buchan

Rector
25.2.22