



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 11th March 2022

Dear parents/carers

As you will be aware, Covid-19 cases have increased with 24 cases reported across years 1 – 6 this week. Our thoughts are with the families affected.

Sadly, more than ever, our staff have been affected too, and some have been quite unwell with this virus. The self-isolation periods for pupils and staff is affecting us significantly in terms of pupil and staff absence and we are working with pupils affected to catch them up on their return to school.

Staff absences have also increased during the past 3 weeks and no sooner have some staff recovered when new cases arise. We want to assure you that sending any year group home for a day is an absolute last resort when we have exhausted all available staff cover internally and externally via supply. We have also collapsed and doubled up classes where we can, to avoid closing the school completely and currently, with this level of staff absence, our only remaining option is to ask year groups to stay at home for a day as an alternative to closing the whole school.

We wish to thank you for your continued support and forbearance in this matter.

The Quote of the Week beginning 14.3.22:



Staff Absence Up-date - Remote Learning for S2 – Monday 14.3.22 and S1 – Tuesday 15.3.22

Regretfully, due to additional, continued, and significant staff absence this week, we have no choice but to ask S2 to work from home on Monday 14th March and S1 to work from home on Tuesday 15th March because we do not have the staff capacity in school to fulfil our entire timetable.

We have had to prioritise our Senior Phase (S4/5/6) learners, who are preparing for SQA assignments and exams in April/May this year.

Therefore, to clarify:

- S2 pupils will be remote learning at home on Monday 14th March returning on Tues 15th March
- S1 pupils will be in school on Monday 14th March, but will be remote learning at home on Tuesday 15th March returning on Wed 16th March

Unfortunately, there will be no capacity for teachers to feedback or mark work done at home this week because they will be covering classes for absent colleagues.

We will continue to monitor the staffing situation and we will communicate any changes as soon as we possibly can. Thank you for your patience and understanding in such challenging times.

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 also working on an 'exam' experience for our N5 and Higher pupils. More information to follow.

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.

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 course choice deadline for S4/5 pupils is on Monday 14th March.

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:

- Vacancies currently advertised:
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Technical Education
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Home Economics
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Art
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Computing Science
 - 0.4 FTE Acting Principal Teacher Creative Arts

S1 Family Learning Evening:

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.

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. Miss Duffus.

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

Pupil Achievement:

S1/S2 Girls football

Today, at the Regional Finals in Elgin, the Ellon girls competed with 7 other teams who had qualified for this stage in the competition. Our Ellon girls came an impressive 3rd out of 8, which means they qualify for the National Finals in a few weeks’ time. The girls played against the top two teams each from Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, Moray, and the Inverness area.

The girls played some very good football once again and lost only 1 game out of 7, drew 2 games and won 4. In summary, over the 2 qualifying tournaments, Ellon girls have won 11, drawn 2 and had just one defeat!

Once again, the girls did their talking on the park, which is a great testament to their skill and character.

Goal scorers today were, Emily S 5, Millie B 5, Alisha M 3, Natalie G 1, Scarlet M 1, Erin M 1.

Players of the tournament today were Emily S and Millie B, who covered every blade of grass, played skilfully and additionally, scored 5 goals each.

Well done girls, once again a credit to yourselves and the school.





Pupil Achievement:

Scotland National Women's Under 17 Team

Our very own Millie Urquhart is part of the Scottish Women's Under 17 Squad and we're rooting for her in the matches this week and the ones to come next week!

Well done, Millie!

#SCOW17s | Your Scotland Women's Under-17s squad for our UEFA #WU17EURO Round Two matches, taking place in Albania.



➔ Read more: <http://scotfa.co/wu17r222>

- VS** Scotland v North Macedonia
- Tuesday, 8 March – 11am
- Rogozhine Stadium
- VS** Scotland v Albania
- Friday, 11 March – 1.30pm
- Elbasan Arena
- VS** Azerbaijan v Scotland
- Monday, 14 March – 1.30pm
- Rogozhine Stadium

E-Sgoil Easter Study School:

Registrations for Easter Study School are coming in thick and fast! 171 schools so far - from Shetland in the north all the way to the Borders in the south. Remember, March is the month to get your registrations in for Easter Study Support webinars.

<https://e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/#nelo>



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 \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 3rd March

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

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 9th March

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

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 15th March

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

Preparation for Higher Computing Science – commencing 30th March

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

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

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

Dr Douglas Fraser, Curriculum Manager, North East Scotland College - 01224 612190

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:

- S4/5 deadline for subject choices – Mon 14.3.22
- 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
11.3.22