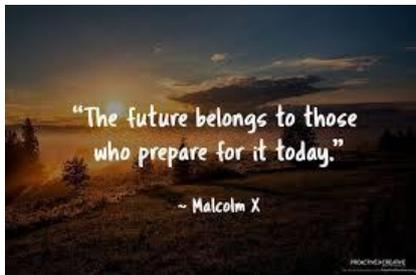


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 1st April 2022

Dear parents/carers.

The Quote of the Week beginning 18.4.22:



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 delivered in-person assemblies for S4/5/6 learners on Monday 28th March to ensure they are fully aware of the range of SQA expectations and regulations involved in taking part in an official exam diet.

Here is the link to her presentation:

<https://youtu.be/1s4gMvW3Nys>

For parents/carers and pupil information - MySQA

Sign up to MySQA and get your exam results delivered by email or text on Tuesday 9th August 2022. No need to wait for the post! Click on the link below to register:

https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp

We are also working on an 'exam hall' experience for our N5 and Higher pupils after the Easter break on Wed 20th and Thurs 21st April. 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. This year, the official school leaving date is Tuesday 31st May 2022.

Here is the link to the 'Your Exams' SQA publication for all young people. Paper copies will be issued after the Easter break.

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Your_Exams2022.pdf

Covid Up-Date for schools from Scottish Government (29.3.22):

Children, young people, and staff must stay at home and self-isolate if they:

- have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not
- have tested positive, even if asymptomatic
- are required to self-isolate for any other reason in line with the requirements set out on NHS Inform
- are identified as a close contact and are over 18 years and 4 months and not fully vaccinated

Public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be followed as per the relevant Scottish Government guidance and Test and Protect | NHS inform. From 18th April 2022, there is no longer a requirement for schools to issue individual information (“warn and inform”) letters to low-risk contacts when positive cases are identified, or for them to test prior to returning to the school environment provided they remain without symptoms.

Communication with parents, care givers, staff and children remains important. Although letters do not need to be sent following every case given the transition away from universal asymptomatic testing, it remains good practice to keep people updated where it is expected that concerns may arise.

Washing hands thoroughly, at the right time, using appropriate facilities and products helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Schools should continue to support staff and children and young people to follow advice on good hand hygiene, and to ensure regular surface cleaning in schools and on school transport. Effective respiratory and cough hygiene also helps to minimise the risk of the transmission of COVID-19.

There should be an ongoing focus on ventilation, and previous guidance continues to apply. As set out previously, to support healthy learning environments, local authorities should continue to ensure that all local authority schools and ELC settings have access to CO2 monitoring, whether via mobile or fixed devices. This is to support the goal of all school buildings, including all learning and teaching spaces, being assessed regularly for ventilation issues with a view to remedial action being taken where required.

The general guidance for safety in the workplace should be adhered to. This includes consideration of both: i) physical distancing and ii) the use of face coverings by all staff and young people in secondary schools, and by all staff in primary schools, in indoor communal areas and when moving around the school building. As previously, careful attention should be given to the requirements of individuals with additional support needs when implementing this measure.

Children and young people with additional support needs

Every child and young person will have different levels of required support. Risk assessments play a key part in considering the individual needs of a child or young person. Risk assessments, which may be integrated into a Child’s Plan, should already exist for children and young people with complex additional support needs. These risk assessments should be reviewed and updated as appropriate, reflecting current circumstances. Where they are not in place, or they have not been updated they must be undertaken or reviewed swiftly. Where there is a need to work in close proximity with adults and children and young people the safety measures to protect adults and children and young people alike should be followed. Staff should wear a face covering or PPE where a risk assessment has deemed it appropriate (e.g., when carrying out Aerosol Generating Procedures), and regularly wash their hands before and after contact.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) includes single-use disposable gloves, disposable plastic aprons and face masks. PPE should be readily available, and staff should be trained on its use. The use of PPE by staff should continue to be based on a clear assessment of risk and need for an individual child or young person, such as personal care where staff come into contact with blood and body fluids. No additional PPE measures are required for general use.

It remains important for those providing and arranging dedicated school transport services to follow general guidance in relation to the use of face coverings, cleaning, hygiene and ventilation. Further information is available from Transport Scotland guidance for public transport. In general, the previous school transport mitigations no longer apply (except the wearing of face coverings while that remains a legal requirement on public transport) though it remains important that the needs of passengers who are at a higher risk, for example children with additional support needs, are factored into any risk assessment of school transport needs.

In line with the Testing Transition Plan, the advice for school staff and secondary pupils in mainstream and special schools to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic LFD testing will no longer apply from 18 April 2022. The schools asymptomatic testing programme will therefore end at the end of this term (the Spring term). Schools and ELC settings should distribute their remaining stock by 17 April.

From 18 April 2022, local health protection teams will still be able to deploy testing as one of a suite of measures for outbreak management purposes if it is necessary in their expert judgement. Schools are considered to be low risk settings for outbreak management due to the relatively lower vulnerability of children to harm arising from COVID infection, and the high vaccination coverage of the working age adult population. NHS Public Health / Health Protection Teams may make the decision to engage with schools in the handling of individual cases, clusters, or outbreaks but it is expected that the majority of cases and clusters will be managed by individuals and schools themselves through usual sickness and absence processes for staff and children. Decisions on prioritisation will be taken at a local level by Health Protection Teams.

In moving to routine protective measures, schools should plan on the basis that:

- While face coverings will not be required in classrooms, including for learners in the senior phase sitting exams, learners and staff should continue to be supported to wear them if they choose to do so.
- Physical distancing, children, young people and staff should follow the wider societal guidance on physical distancing in schools or on dedicated school transport. As in wider society it will remain important to be cautious and exercise personal responsibility, recognising that, where possible, it is safer to keep a distance from other people.
- There are no restrictions on indoor and outdoor drama activity, music, PE or dance. Routine measures should continue to apply in relevant settings where these activities are taking place (e.g. good ventilation).
- School day visits and residential stays are permitted in keeping with guidance on school visits and trips: Coronavirus (COVID-19): school visits and trips - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
- There are no restrictions on assemblies, although routine measures will continue to apply (e.g. good ventilation, regular cleaning, etc).
- Contact groups are not required,
- One-way systems are not required.
- Staggered lunch and break times are not required.
- Staggered pick-up and drop-off times are not required.
- There are no restrictions on supply staff, other professionals or visitors in general entering schools. All visitors will, however, be expected to comply with the school's routine measures and arrangements for managing and minimising risk.
- There are no restrictions on parents, carers or wider family members entering school buildings, although they will be expected to comply with the school's routine measures. similar events or meetings.
Parents, carers, and family members are able to attend indoor and outdoor sporting and cultural events.

Ellon Academy will take a staged approach to reducing mitigates in school and parents/carers, staff and pupils will be informed in due course.

Staff up-dates:

- Vacancies currently advertised:
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Technical Education – Interviews after the Easter break
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Home Economics – Readvertised.
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Art – interviews this week. Preferred candidate has accepted the post.
 - 1 FTE Teacher of Computing Science
 - 0.4 FTE Acting Principal Teacher Creative Arts – interviews after the Easter break

We have also requested Probationer Teachers for session 22/23 in the following subjects:

- Art, English, Home Economics and Technical

Fond Farewell to Mrs Patty Willox

Today, we said fond farewells to Mrs Patty Willox, our Cleaning Supervisor.

Patty has been with Ellon Academy for 43 years, since the days of the old, old Academy and has been such a significant part of the Ellon Academy family.

We wish her all the very best for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.



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:

A huge thank you to those of you who donated to the 3B1 Fundraising for the International Disaster Appeal. They have reached £300 due to their efforts. Some sold home bakes, some did extra chores at home and a particular star was Ava Binnie who picked up litter in the canteen!

Well done 3B1. Great effort!



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulation to Neve S in 3F2 who received her certificate from Aberdeen University this week for winning first place in the Young Adult category in their recent Flash Fiction writing competition. A great achievement for Neve! Very well done!



Pupil Achievement

Well done to Mr Murdoch and 2K1 earning a free lunch today, in recognition of consistently supporting School Uniform at Ellon Academy. A 'thank you' text has also been sent home to all pupils in 5F2, 3K1, 1S2, 3F1 and 2K1 who have also been school uniform stars. Thanks to parents/carers for your support.



Pupil Achievement:

After 2 years of no gymnastics competitions Rebecca M (3S1) headed to Musselburgh for the Saltire Mega Event last weekend. Great result for Rebecca as she got Gold on Floor and Bronze overall. Well done, Rebecca!



Pupil Achievement:

Ellon Academy pupils bloom in pocket garden challenge!

Budding garden designers from six schools in Aberdeenshire are included in a final showcase of this year's Pocket Garden Design Competition.

Pupils from Anna Ritchie School of Special Education, Fordyce Primary School, Inch Primary School, Macduff Primary School, Banchory Academy and Ellon Academy have shown their budding design skills by creating winning entries to the showcase of the seventh annual Pocket Garden Design Competition, run by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Following the huge success of the online showcase in 2021, when 38 design winners were displayed to allow a public vote, this year 340 entries were received from across Scotland. Of these 45 have won a place in a digital showcase.

Schools developed environmentally friendly designs for a tiny garden telling a story, reflecting the themes of the 2022 Year of Stories, One Planet Picnic and Wildlife Gardening.

Stories are a vital part of culture and community, from well-loved tales of family and friends to famous fictional characters: they all give a sense of place, history and belonging.

There are fables, legends, folklore, news stories, novels, fairy stories, investigative journalism, and myths to draw inspiration from and the young people celebrated that through their imaginative competition entries.

Children, from as young as three, were challenged to design a colourful and sustainable garden.

Finished gardens will be available to view in an online showcase, where the nation will also be able to vote for their favourite Pocket Garden. Nicola Davidson, Education and Learning Officer for Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "This year's competition has encouraged children to tell their own stories, a wonderful part of our culture, through their garden designs. The winning Pocket Gardens will be available to view in the digital showcase from Wednesday, June 8 at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/pocketgarden.

Voting for the nation's favourite Pocket Garden will be open from June 8 – 20.

Good luck Ellon gardeners and staff! Please vote for us!



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>



Dates For Your Diary

Term 3:

- Last day of Term 3 – Friday 1st April

Term 4:

- Start of Term 4 – Monday 18.4.22
- S4/5/6 Exam Experience – Wed 20th/Thurs 21st April
- S4/5/6 Leavers Assemblies – Fri 22nd April
- S2 Columba 1400 Training Session 2 – Wednesday 20.4.22
- Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts Monday 25.4.22
- S2 Columba 1400 Training Session 3 – Tuesday 26.4.22
- S2 Columba 1400 Residential Leadership Training on Skye – Mon 9th May – Fri 13th May
- S1 Parents Evening – Wednesday 18.5.22 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- Public Holidays – Thurs 2nd and Fri 3rd June
- Change of timetable – Monday 6.6.22
- Prizegiving – Mid June (to be decided)
- P7 Transition Days – Tues 21.6.22 – Thurs 23.6.22 (inclusive)
- Last day of Term 4 – Friday 1.7.22

Thank you for your continued support of our school.
Have a lovely spring break.

Pauline Buchan

Rector
1.3.22

