

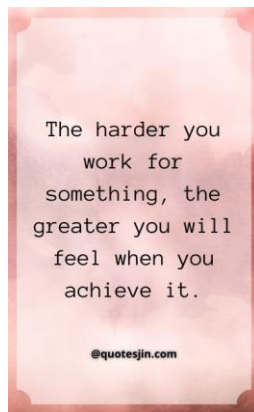


ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear parents/carers

The Quote of the Week beginning 25.4.22:



SQA Up-date:

As you are aware, the SQA exam diet will go ahead this year for our Senior Phase learners taking N5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams. The first exams for Ellon Academy are on Wed 27.4.22 and study leave starts on Monday 25.4.22 for all S4/5 and S6 learners. 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>

SQA Exam Estimates 2022:

The official and non-negotiable SQA deadline for submitting estimates is today, Friday 22nd April.

The priority for every school in Scotland is to get accurate estimates to the SQA via SQA Connect by the end of play today.

Our estimates will be sent home by Wednesday 27th April.

However, some pupils' estimates will be incomplete – Hospitality for example, had practical exams this week so there is no time for us to inform pupils by the 27th because final checks and marking will not be complete.

In normal times, estimates are not shared with parents/pupils at this stage, but the SQA made a late decision for this to be done this year, which has been challenging in terms of timescale.

At Ellon, you are aware that we had an assessment block in January, but naturally, as exams approach, pupils can make considerable gains in progress from their January results. Therefore, our estimates were based on January data as a baseline with added value in terms of evidence of further in class formative and summative

assessments which have been on-going in faculties, assignments, folios, homework, and classwork so that our pupils are not disadvantaged.

Exam Stress:

Please find below a link to some resources which have been collated around study support and coping with exam stress.

[Exam stress and study support | \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://glowscotland.org.uk)

Exam Induction:

Also, on Thursday of this week, all S4/5/6 learners who will be taking exams were given an Exam Induction by our Chief Invigilator in the games hall. Pupils were able to sit in the exam seats scenario and were made aware of the protocols which are specified by the SQA.

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! Link on the link below to register:

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

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.

School Leaving Date:

This year, the official school leaving date is Tuesday 31st May 2022. Leavers can collect their Leaver's forms the week prior to Tuesday 31st May.

Leavers assemblies were held today for all S4, S5 and S6 pupils who are moving on to next steps and our S6 pupils had some fun with their balloon drop and a BBQ provided for them by the school.

We wish all our leavers every success for the future and to all pupils taking exams for the first time, we are confident that they will rise to the occasion and do well.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to our S4 pupils Joseph Z, Ben M, Ricky M, Jamie H, Joseph M and Ryan S, whose club team Peterhead have just become the U16s Aberdeen & District JFA B League champions! Well Done!!!



Pupil Achievement:

CHAMPIONS 🏆

Congratulations to Westdyke Community Club U13s, Aberdeen & District JFA A League champions 2021/22!



Pupil Achievement:

Swimming Success!

During the Easter break, 9 Ellon Academy pupils travelled to Tollcross International Pool in Glasgow as part of a squad of twelve from Ythan ASC, to participate in five days of competition at the Scottish National Age Groups (SNAGS).

This is the top national competition for swimmers aged 18 and under, and to gain qualification for this meet is a terrific achievement, with only a very small percentage of swimmers across Scotland reaching this level.

The swimmers' achievements are even more commendable with the Ellon pool being closed, which has limited training opportunities for two months, and meant travelling all round Aberdeenshire to keep their training schedules on course.

Congratulations to Alyssa G, Eilidh G, Ella C, Erin C, Finlay L, Jack L, Jack R, Leah P and Mya L for making the grade, and putting in fantastic performances on the national stage. Up against the very best in the country, Alyssa made five finals, Ella three, Jack L three, and Erin one, with the Eilidh joining the girls to finish 9th overall in the 4 x 200m Free relay. Well done to them all!

**Pupil Achievement:**

Our Junior Hub pupils have been busy testing out and making Squeezy Stress Balls which are now on sale for staff at Ellon Academy.

These sensory tools have been designed, tested, and produced by pupils in the Junior Hub as part of their learning about the processes involved in emotional self-regulation.

Proceeds are to go to The New Arc animal charity based near Ellon.

Well done everyone!





Dates For Your Diary

Term 4:

- S4/5/6 Leavers Assemblies – Friday 22.4.22
- 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 Virtual 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
- Senior School Induction – Tuesday 7.6.22
- School Sports Day – Wednesday 8.6.22
- Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 8.6.22 (7pm)
- P7 Transition Days – Tues 14.6.22 – Thurs 16.6.22 (inclusive)
- Prizegiving – Thursday 16th June
- Last day of Term 4 – Friday 1.7.22

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Pauline Buchan

Rector
22.4.22