

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 2nd September 2022

Quote of the week beginning 5.9.22:



Dear parents and carers,

Industrial Action – School Support Staff:

As I type this newsletter, Ellon Academy is in the position that we will be able to **remain open** on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th September.

However, staff who may be planning to strike do not require to let school senior leaders know in advance, so if we discover that some of our school support services are affected, we will communicate this to parents/carers as soon as we can.

Assemblies

Week beginning Mon 5.9.22:

S1	-	Mon	5 th September	Theatre	8.25 – 8.35am
S2	-	Tues	6 th September	Theatre	8.25 - 8.35am
S3	-	Wed	7 th September	Theatre	8.25 – 8.35am
S4	-	Thurs	8 th September	Theatre	8.25 – 8.35am
S5/6	-	Fri	9 th September	Theatre	8.25 – 8.35am

Next week, the Assemblies theme will be to introduce the pupil Exec Team to all year groups and to speak about extra-curricular and leadership opportunities.

Uniform:

We have been really pleased to see how smart our learners are looking as they have returned to school following the summer break. Thank you so much for supporting our school uniform and codes of dress and we hope that this level of commitment will continue. It has been lovely to see more learners wearing blazers too.

New S1:

Our staff continue to be encouraged by the positive attitudes of our new S1 pupils and we thank you for your support of them as they make the transition. This week we agreed to release our S1 learners 10 mins early at lunchtimes so that they can get to the queues before their older peers. This has been working well and will continue until the October holidays.

Evenings and weekends:

As you will be aware, most young people see their mobile devices as social lifelines, and it can be the end of the world as they know it, if they break or lose their phones! For staff in school, Monday mornings can often be a 'flash point' when there may have been difficulties between young people via social media chats and posts over the weekend. They come face to face with each other in the school and the grounds and difficulties can emerge. As I mentioned in my letter last week, there had been on-going difficulties of this nature between young people on-line over the summer, and this came to a head when eventually, after 7 weeks of being physically apart, they came face to face with each other here in school. Often, schools can be a microcosm of what is going on beyond their walls and the melting pot for pent up frustrations which have originated on social media.

Therefore, I ask that if you as parents/carers are aware of persistent difficulties of this nature, if you could contact your child's Guidance Teacher to let us know and we can try to intervene with preventative measure to stop situations escalating in school. We would also encourage parents/carers to check your child's activity to ensure responsible and safe social media/internet usage. Pupils will learn about internet safety in school too, and by working in partnership, we can aim to prevent difficulties before they arise.

A New Ethos at Ellon Academy – 'Excellence at Ellon'



In the school context, here is what these mean in reality:

Ready:

- To come to school prepared with everything you need for the day
- To come to school ready to learn and able to be your best self in all lessons
- To be ready to focus on your own progress and try to always give of your personal best

Respectful:

- To be respectful of yourself by taking responsibility for your belongings and your learning
- To be respectful in your conduct, language and how you treat others in and out of school
- To be respectful of your school and your community by clearing away your own litter and looking after your school and your local environment

Safe:

- To act in a safe way when travelling to and from school
- To act in a safe way in classes as recommended by your teachers
- To tell a member of staff if you are at risk of harm from others
- To be safe online and to report any concerns
- To stick to the safety-first school rules of:
 - To walk and keep left in the corridors and on stairs
 - To refrain from leaning over the bannisters on upper floors
 - To avoid walking through car parks on the school campus and stick to the paths

'Excellence at Ellon' also includes our existing school values, but we have added how we recognise learner achievement and effort in class, our routines in school, the consistent phases we will use with learners, our responses to concerns and how we will resolve these:

Our Recognition

Weekly Over and Above:

At Ellon Academy we strive for Excellence. Further to celebrating those learners being awarded multiple merits in one week, we highlight those learners who really go 'Over and Above' in demonstrating our core values.

We send texts to parents to alert them that their child has been recognised for going Over and Above in at least one Faculty.

I am delighted to let you know that 620 learners have received a Merit or multiple Merits and every Monday I meet with those who have accumulated the most merits in the previous week, and they are given a Fast Pass to give them access to the canteen without queuing! This is very popular with our learners!

The following pupils will receive Fast Passes on Monday to recognise that they have achieved the most merits week beginning 29/8/22:

Vanessa M	1M2
Enzo T	2F2
AbduRehman B	1S1
Ellis F	1C1
Logan W	2F2
Andrew W	3S1
Charlotte W	1F1
Scott M	1F1
Clark W	1F1
Milo B	2M1
Ruaridh G	2M2

Well done everyone!

Pupil Achievement:

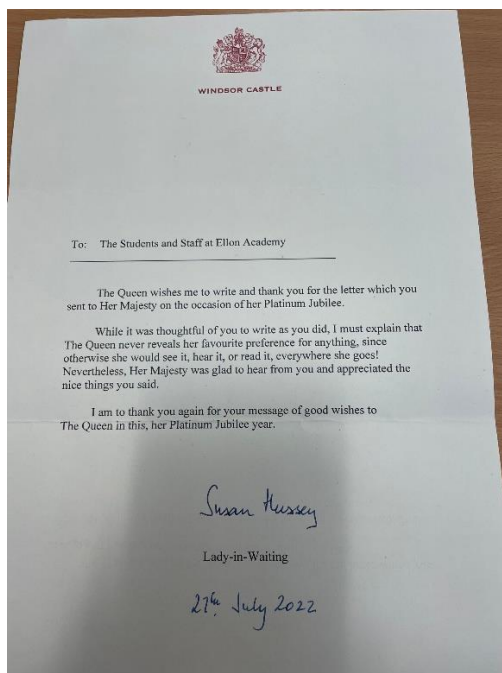
Congratulations to Grace S (S3), who was awarded Player of the Week at the Aberdeen F.C. Community Trust Week 4 training in the summer holidays, and Millie B (S2), who was awarded Merit of the Week. Excellent achievement girls. Well done!



Pupil Achievement:

A letter from HRH The Queen:

S2 learner Lauren M wrote to the Queen earlier this year to congratulate her on her Platinum Jubilee on behalf of Ellon Academy, and we have received this letter by reply from Susan Hussey, Lady in Waiting. Well done, Lauren and thank you. 🇬🇧🇬🇧



Pupil Achievement:

Associated Board (ABRSM) and Trinity Music Exam Success

Sebastian O - Grade 3 Drumkit - MERIT
Brodie D - Grade 2 Percussion - MERIT
Robert C - Grade 3 Percussion - MERIT
Stephen C - Grade 3 Percussion - DISTINCTION
Luka D - Grade 4 Percussion - DISTINCTION
Annalie E - Grade 1 Percussion - DISTINCTION
Shane K - Grade 2 percussion - DISTINCTION

Well done everyone!

For your information:

- The one-way system at Ellon Academy has now been removed, but pupils have been asked to stay left whilst using the stairs

Dates For Your Diary

Term 1:

- Week beginning 29.8.22 – S4/5/6 Learner Conversations re Aspirational Grades
- School Photographer for Individual Photos (S1/3/5/6) Monday 19th September

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Pauline Buchan

Rector
2.9.22