

Dear parents and carers,

Monday 23.3.20

### **Keyworkers Up-date from Laurence Findlay, Director of Education and Children's Services – 23.3.20**

The 17 hubs set up this week across Aberdeenshire this week will continue to provide for the children of Category 1 keyworkers **only** at this stage, bearing in mind that young people over the age of 12 can be legally left at home. Young people entitled to free school meals will also be able to collect these from each of the 17 academies in Aberdeenshire. The Council will plan throughout the week for how provision could potentially be expanded over the weeks ahead to support other groups and will also consider how best to support free school meal provision. This may vary from area to area, given the size and scale of Aberdeenshire and will also be dependent on demand and staff resource.

Laurence Findlay, Director

### **Up-date from Pauline Buchan Rector – 23.3.20**

In these difficult times, we continue to encourage young people and their families to follow government advice in keeping safe and preventing the spread of infection. For clarification, Ellon Academy is closed for the wellbeing of all pupils and staff, in a national effort to stop the spread of coronavirus and as a result, we are all working from home. However, I hope the information below provides more clarity going forward, because as you are aware, things can change in a matter of hours.

### **Keyworkers**

Ellon Academy is a hub for childcare for **Ellon Academy pupils only** whose parent or parents are **Category 1 Keyworkers**. This childcare (no educational) provision will be available between 9.00am and 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday this week, if designated supervising staff are fit, well and able to attend. Parents are asked to bring their child/children on the first day this provision is accessed and will be given an Aberdeenshire Data log sheet to complete. Proof of the nature of employment is also required. Lunch will be available. I will communicate any changes to these arrangements when required.

### **Free School Meals**

Free School Meals (packed lunches) are available for pick-up between 12pm – 1pm from our reception area for those pupils entitled to FSMs in primary and secondary school in the Ellon Cluster. We have a list of those secondary pupils who are eligible for this service. I am aware that the local Resilience Team are looking into ways to get these packed lunches delivered to families who may have difficulty with transport at this time. I will up-date parents when I know more.

### **Pupils working at home**

Junior pupils in S1/2/3 are asked to continue to access schoolwork remotely via the Ellon Academy Glow page, Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams. There has been a good up-take of this today. Teachers are working remotely from home preparing lessons and resources for pupils to access and this will be added to and up-dated weekly.

Senior pupils (S4/5/6) are asked, wherever possible and/or appropriate, to complete any outstanding SQA coursework, projects or assignments electronically/remotely and send these to your teachers by communicating using email, Glow, Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom.

This is a unique year and the usual revision for exams is not necessary as a result of the SQA exams having been cancelled. So with senior pupils having no revision to do, pupils who are 'finished' and have no SQA

deadlines which can be completed electronically/remotely, can look ahead to their subject choices for next session via BBC Bitesize Scotland and get a head start. Pupils who are 'finished' and are planning to leave school, we advise there is very little they can do which would be meaningful in terms of school work, but whatever their chosen career pathway, they could research and find out more about their chosen professions/courses on line and hopefully may decide to do some volunteering or work experience when public health restrictions are lifted.

I will continue to up-date parents and please keep checking the school website Parent Zone for up-dates too. [ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/](http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/)  
Take care.

Yours sincerely,

*Pauline Buchan*

Pauline Buchan, Rector