



ELLON ACADEMY UP-DATE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Information Up-date
Date: 3rd July 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 3.7.20:



Hoping this newsletter finds you all safe and well. This is my last newsletter of session 19/20 and what a session it has been! HMIe Inspection in October, losing my mum to cancer in February, Coronavirus and lockdown since March and tragically losing one of our own pupils this term too. This has been the most challenging year of my career and I am so grateful to my staff for all their commitment and support and to you, our parents and carers, for your patience and forbearance in these testing times.

There are still many unanswered questions going forward, but we as a school, we have prepared for the return of pupils and staff as best we can, based on the guidance and advice we have had so far. There are 3 further meetings for Head Teachers over the summer for the purpose up-dating schools re local and national guidance.

Here are the updates for this week:

SQA Results Day – 4 August 2020:

On Results Day and in the days following, Ellon Academy will be operating a call back service where your child has one or more of the following queries:

- I didn't get my certificate or MySQA text/email and need to know my results
- I think something is wrong or missing from my certificate
- One or more of my results looks wrong
- I may need to change one or more of my subjects

The link below is to an electronic form to manage queries. For your convenience, the link will be sent by Groupcall email on 3 August to your inbox. The link will also be posted on the Ellon Academy school website.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCw15nWANUIpGkQs1n2P-2hZUM1JSRDYwM0E4OEU4TVA0T0dFQTA4Wk1NMI4u

The information will be passed to the most appropriate person who will call you back to discuss your query. We will aim to call you back within 48 hours. However, we would be grateful for your patience in the event of heavy demand for the call back service.

There will also be a remote telephone service on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 August using the school number - 01358 281150 – please only use this service should you encounter any difficulties with the electronic form or not have access to technology.

Due to the current national health rules and Lockdown restrictions, there will be no face-to-face meetings or staff in school on Results Day. Therefore, to avoid disappointment, please do not attend school hoping to see or speak to someone about your child’s results.

Principal Teachers of Guidance are offering appointments to begin the process of changes to subjects on the afternoon of Monday 10 August. Please fill in the electronic call back form to arrange an appointment.

On-line Learning/Google Classroom:

On-line learning stops today, Friday 3rd July and no further schoolwork will be posted online. Pupils who are worried about their own personal non-engagement with school work over the past 2 months, are encouraged to access their google classrooms to catch-up, but staff will not be marking or feedback back to pupils regarding this work over the summer. Staff will be exceptionally busy in the new term, assessing pupils’ progress since lockdown, so will endeavor to feedback to ‘summer holiday’ schoolwork as part of in-school lessons in the first term.

Returning to School in August

Whole School Priorities:

- Health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff
- Learning and Teaching
- Rebuilding pupils’ learning skills and resilience

The School Day:

The school day will remain as normal:

Day	Registration 8.25am	Period 1 8.35am	Period 2 9.25am	Break 10.15am	Period 3 10.30am	Period 4 11.20am	Period 5 12.10pm	Lunch 1.00pm	Period 6 1.50pm	Period 7 2.40pm – 3.30pm
Monday										
Tuesday										
							Lunch 12.10pm	Period 5 1.10pm	Period 6 2.00pm – 2.50pm	
Wednesday										
Thursday										
Friday										

Our Timetable:

Our original whole school timetable was completed and ready to go in April, so we are in a positive position to welcome pupils and staff back to school in August, all being well.

Individual pupil timetables will be printed over the summer break and will be distributed to all pupils on Wednesday 12th August at an extended registration.

Pupils who have PE or Home Economics subjects on Wed 12th August are in the following classes and will need to bring PE kit:

Wednesday	1	2	3	4	5	6
M Lawson	AD Higher	AD Higher	AD Higher			
M Adam	PEF					
L Donald	Higher D2	Higher D2	Higher D2	Faculty Study		
E Campbell	3K1	3K1	N5 F1 Creative	N5 F1 Creative	S6 Core	
H Scott/ M Duff	3M1	3M1		1S2	S3 SA D1	S3 SA D1
J Faulds / D Dunton	3S1	3S1	3F1	1C2		
M Davies / D Grant			3K2	1K2	Hub Swim	Hub Swim
S Aitken	3C1	3C1	3C2	1F1	S6 Core	
J Coughlan	2.7	2.7	N5 Hosp F1	N5 Hosp F1		
S Hepburn	2.8	2.8		S3 H1		

Learning/Teaching:

Ellon Academy focus prior to the summer:

- Teachers and school staff will now be focussing on the implementation of our original timetable
- Teachers and school staff will be making new plans for learning and teaching delivery in school
- Teachers and school staff will be planning and adjusting learning and teaching resources in light of the government's aim to move away from blended learning in August
- Janitors will move the school furniture back into place two weeks prior to the start of the new term
- Our current Risk Assessment will stand until 9th /10th August when staff return to school
- We await guidance on a new risk assessment for August with 100% of pupils and staff in the building

Cluster Hub Provision:

The Ellon Cluster Hub has officially moved to Ellon Academy Community Campus as of Monday 29th June and will no longer be staffed or organised by education staff. This Hub support will run throughout the summer break

Inservice Days:

There are 2 in-service days after the summer:

Monday 10th August and Tuesday 11th August. On these 2 days in school, staff will be focussing on learning and teaching plans and resources in preparation for the welcome return of pupils on Wednesday 12th August.

Pupil Diaries/Planners:

We will be taking orders for pupil diaries/planners on the first week back to school. Pupils can order a maroon coloured, hard back diary/planner at no cost to families. Some pupils prefer to use phones and electronic devices to take notes of homework and important dates.

School Uniform:

With the expectation that schools will return to normal after the summer, we therefore will insist that all pupils come prepared to learn and to maintain the high standards of dress expected.

School uniform includes:

- Black trousers, skirt, jeggings or black jeans. Jogging/tracksuit bottoms and leggings are not acceptable
- White button-down shirt with collar
- Plain black jumper (school logo optional) or plain black cardigan. No branded logos please.
- Plain black shoes or trainers. Minimal white detailing acceptable but no other colours please.
- Blazers for S6 pupils will be available to order after the summer

My Essential Toolkit:

In our on-going efforts to minimise the spread of infection, we are suggesting that pupils bring their own 'Essential Toolkit' to school, so that they are using their own stationery and not sharing with others. We suggest that the 'Essential Toolkit' consists of the following suggested items:

Pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener, calculator, colour pens/pencils, glue stick, tissues and hand sanitiser

Pupils who are already entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with an Essential Toolkit from the school.

School Leavers Hoodies:

If you are interested in this for your 'school leaver', please contact Ms Smith at marshmel2@gmail.com She has kindly offered to contact the company for us to help support our amazing school leavers and mark this occasion for them in this way. We would also like to thank one of our senior pupils, Carla Clark, for organising the initial S6 Leavers Hoodies and for giving Ms Smith the information required to organise this.

S4 and S5 leavers will have 'S4 Leavers 2020/S5 Leavers 2020 under the school logo on the front of their hoodie, left hand side). Slogans/nicknames on the back will be vetted by the school for appropriateness! 2020 will also be printed on the back of the hoodies.

The company Ms Smith is dealing with will be setting up an on-line shop just for us and our specifications, so if you contact her, she will be able to provide the details for you. Opportunity to buy an Ellon Academy Leavers Hoodie

Thanks to Ms Jane Smith, who has been working with a school leavers Hoodie company, the deadline for ordering Leavers' Hoodies for S4, S5 and S6 school leavers has been extended until 11pm on 7th July.

Please follow the links to the on-line shop below:

Your shop for S4 is now open here - <https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/ellon-academy-s4-2020>

Your shop for S5 is now open here - <https://www.leavershoodies.com/shop/ellon-academy-s5-2020>

School Leavers Class 2020:

We hope you enjoyed our Class of 2020 School Leavers' video posted online today. Thank you to all the staff and parents/carers who contributed.

We wish our school leavers all the very best of luck for their futures and we know that they will go on from school days to follow their chosen pathways with our best wishes for health, happiness and success.

Contingency Blended Learning Plan

On 30th July, the Scottish Government will make a final decision regarding returning to school in August for staff and pupils. As we have said, it is anticipated that we will be open to all pupils and staff.

Our contingency plan in the event of significant changes regarding Covid-19 has been posted on the school website:

<http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

We thank you for your continued support over these past three months and we sincerely hope that we will be back to as near normal as possible after the summer.

Please take care of yourselves, and sending you my warmest wishes,

Pauline Buchan

Pauline Buchan
Rector

3.7.20