

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: 28th August 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 31.8.20:

“It’s ok to be afraid and brave at the same time”. Brene Brown



Thank you once again to all parents and carers for your continued support this week. We continue to be pleased with the positive response of staff and pupils to the new ways of working here at Ellon Academy and how apparent it is to see that the vast majority of pupils are glad to be back in a formal learning setting.

Here are the updates for this week:

Ellon Academy Exec Team 20/21

Our new Exec Team are already making a significant impact in their deployment of prefect rotas and showing great leadership in making positive suggestions for our school. Here they are:



Left to Right:

Depute Head Girl – Abbey Harris
Depute Head Girl – Manar Alsabih
Head Girl – Isla Burns
Head Boy - Connor Grugeon
Depute Head Boy – Donald Pirie
Depute Head Boy – Roo Glen
Depute Head Girl – Emily Stewart

Bike Safety:

Unfortunately, we have had 2 further reported concerns from members of the public regarding a small minority of pupils who continue to cycle dangerously in the community. When identified, we contact parents/carers to ask for their support. However, we do see more pupils wearing helmets so thank you for your support with this.

COVID-19 Update. Face Coverings:

Scottish secondary schools have been instructed by the Scottish Government to implement the wearing of face coverings for pupils in corridors, communal areas and school buses from Monday 31st August.

Access to Face Coverings:

Aberdeenshire Council's advice for schools is that individual pupils and staff are expected to provide their own face coverings, but at Ellon Academy, we will keep a stock of reusable ones for those who forget/lose etc. These will be issued for pupils who have lost or forgotten theirs at the sanitising stations at the pupil entry points first thing in the morning. Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with face coverings.

When should face covering be worn?

- On all school and public transport
- As pupils arrive and leave the building
- In corridors
- In between classes
- At all social times but can be removed for eating and drinking

Exemption from wearing a face covering:

If any pupil has a genuine health and wellbeing reason for not wearing a face covering, please bring a letter from parents/carers to confirm this.

Guidelines for the use of face coverings:

- Cloth, reusable face coverings are preferred to minimise litter and to be environmentally friendly
- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Make sure the face covering is the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically.
- Pupils should remember to:
Wear over mouth and nose
Only touch the straps/loops that goes over ears of face coverings
- Try not to pull it up or down or rest it on another part of your head
Take it off from behind by the loops and store it away and then wash/sanitise your hands

Pupils who do not comply with this new measure will have a discussion with a key member of staff, and we will be in touch with parents/carers to find out if there are other reasons that we need to take into account.

We are aware, that for some pupils, these further mitigations may be stressful, and we plan to be mindful and sensitive of this in our dealings with all young people. However, for many pupils and staff, this will be a welcome mitigation to further ensure the safety of all.

Pupils were appraised of this at registration today and we will further explain to pupils at an extended registration on Monday 31st August as part of the virtual assembly for all classes. A video which has been sent to schools regarding safe practice in using and wearing face coverings, will be shown.

For more information regarding face coverings, please click on the link to the Scottish Government website below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-2/>.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

School Blazers for S6 pupils

Prior to lockdown, we had been in consultation with uniform suppliers with the view to providing school blazers for any pupil who wanted one from S1 – S6. However, as you would expect, that process came to a halt and as a result, we were not ready for this to be implemented for an August start.

However, Mr Cowie has been working with our Exec Team to agree on the style of blazer they would like for this year, so more information in due course.

Ellon Academy Community Memorial Garden

Ellon Garden vegetables on sale for school staff and all proceeds to go back into the garden funds. Staff can buy a box selection including squash, potatoes, cucumber, onion, garlic and broccoli etc. Well done Ellon Academy gardeners!



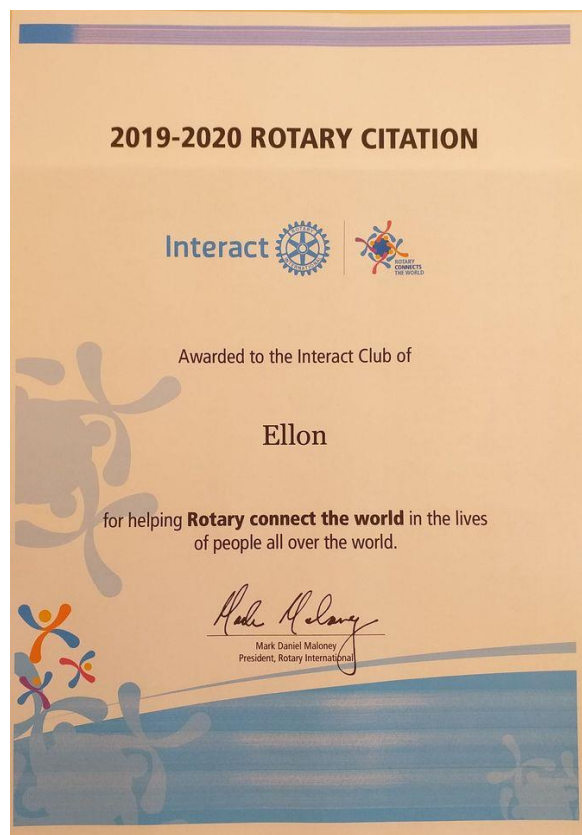
Learning at Ellon Academy

Learning walks are a feature at Ellon Academy, and I am always impressed by the calm and focused learning environment I see as I do my rounds. Here are some photos of learners this week:



Ellon Academy Interact Club

Congratulations to Ellon Academy Interact Club for gaining a Rotary Presidential Citation. Many thanks to the Ythan Valley Rotary Club for all their help and support. Well done all.



Thank you once again for your continued support as we navigate these challenging times, and I hope you all have a restful and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan
Rector
28.8.20