



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: 14th August 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 17.8.20:



Thank you to all parents and carers for your support and patience this week. It has been so good to see our pupils arriving back to school and beginning to get used to our new routines and protocols. After two full days with pupils back, we have reflected on some of our arrangements and we are extremely grateful to the staff for their commitment to ensuring the safety of all here at Ellon Academy. We also appreciate that there will still be many questions and potential anxieties regarding returning to school and although we do not yet have all the answers, we will communicate those to you all as soon as we can.

Here are the updates for this week:

Start of the school day for pupils:

S1/2/3 pupils will continue to use the pupil doors and S4/5/6 will continue to use the community reception door. From Monday, doors will be open at 8am and hand sanitiser stations will still be in operation for pupil arrival. The first bell will sound at 8.20am for junior pupils to make their way to register classes and the second bell will sound at 8.25am for senior pupils to make their way to register classes.

We would also appreciate that where possible, pupils arriving by car, could be dropped off and picked up at the Meadows to minimise car park congestion at the beginning and end of the school day.

Movement around the school:

From Monday, we plan to move to a 'one-way system for all movement around the school and on stairways.

Pupil Resources:

To minimise the sharing of pupil resources, Ms Booth is planning how we can use items in our Teacher Toolkits which can be distributed via registration to all pupils. Show-me boards, pens and wipes for example, so that pupils can have their own and not be sharing, thus reducing the need to clean them after each class.

Break times:

The proposal below has been made to all staff. After consultation, we will feedback the outcome to parents/carers:

All pupils should stay in their Year Group Gathering Areas at break. No year groups will be out early for break, but the breaktime will be lengthened for 5 mins to allow more time for toilet stops.

Mon – Fri 10.15am – 10.35am

Lunchtimes:

Lunchtimes will be 5 mins shorter to balance the longer breaktime:

Mon - 1.05pm – 1.50pm
Tues - 1.05pm – 1.50pm
Wed/Thurs/Fri - 12.15pm – 1.10pm

	Reg	1	2	Break	3	4	5	Lunch	6	7
Mon	8.25	8.35	8.35	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40
Tues	8.25	8.35	8.35	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40
	Reg	1	2	Break	3	4	Lunch	5	6	
Wed	8.25	8.35	8.35	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.10	2.00	2.50
Thurs	8.25	8.35	8.35	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.10	2.00	2.50
Fri	8.25	8.35	8.35	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.1-	2.00	2.50

To reiterate, here are the pick-up points for lunches for the junior school, and these match with our Year Group Gathering Areas:

Pre-ordered lunch pick-up points:

S1 - Canteen
S2/3 - Sunken Social Area
S4/5/6 - The Street and Foyer/Reception

Year Group Gathering Areas – prior to registration, at breaks and lunchtimes:

S1	-	Canteen
S2/3	-	Sunken Social Area
S4	-	The Street and Foyer/Reception
S5	-	S5 Social Area and Maths Open Learning Area
S6	-	S6 Social Area and Humanities Open Learning Area

Week beginning 17/8/20, S1 pupils only will be permitted to leave class for lunch 10 mins prior to the rest of the school.

'Lapping' around the school is not permitted. Pupils must stay in their designated areas if they choose to stay inside.

Pupils who leave school and go to Tesco are reminded that they must wear a face covering to enter the shop.

Homework:

We feel a whole school approach to homework should be adopted, so we have agreed to use Google Classroom to issue and review homework tasks to cut down on the transference jotters and paper resources and to also build on the good practice and staff development in using an on-line learning platform.

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.

Toolkits should not include scissors.

SQA:

All pupils who will have their results up-graded as a result of the Depute First Minister's announcement last Wednesday have been seen by Ms Booth, DHT this week. All pupils who have now left school will be informed by letter home.

Our Return, Restore and Reset plans are constantly under review so thank you to all staff who have contributed to discussions to refine our arrangements.

Have a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Pauline Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector

14.8.20