



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 13th November 2020

Quote of the Week beginning 16.11.20:



As you will all be aware, we have had a very challenging 2 weeks here at Ellon Academy and I am grateful to pupils, parents/carers and staff for their continued understanding and support as we react and respond to every changing circumstance. We are specifically thinking of those few who have tested positive for Covid-19 and we wish them a speedy recovery to full health.

I am glad to report that most of the staff who have been self-isolating are back to work on Monday 16.11.20 which will allow us to resume a full timetable in school for all learners.

As a result of an incident in another Scottish school, we have also been made aware this week that the Covid-Guard spray used to clean tables, chairs and general surfaces and equipment can be harmful as it finds its way to the face and eyes. Therefore, we will make our staff and pupils aware of this and will ensure that this information is included in the next up-date of the Ellon Academy Covid-19 Risk Assessment which you can find on the school website. <http://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

We would also like to thank parents/carers regarding compliance with the safety measures in our school car park and drop off/pick up zones. Driver behaviour is much improved when all follow the forward parking and one-way system. However, we have been informed that some drivers exceed the speed limit so we would encourage all to adhere to this for the safety and wellbeing of all.

Here are the updates for this week:

Virtual Assembly:

Next week's Virtual Assembly will be shown on **Monday 16th November** and registration will be extended for 5 minutes to ensure that there is enough time to view and for the Register Teacher to read the daily bulletin notices to all learners.

Ellon Academy Staffing Up-date:

As I have already mentioned, we will be almost at full staffing capacity at the beginning of next week and all going well, we will be back to full compliment by the end of next week. We are exceptionally grateful to the staff in school (and at home) who have been working so hard to keep things going and cover for absent colleagues.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November:

We have had Dress Down Day today for Children in Need and the total raised will be shared at the beginning of next week. Well done to all who supported and thanks to all who contributed.

Christmas Jumper Day 2020

The next Dress Down Day will be on Friday 11th December to support Save the Children. Watch this space for more information.

Reminder of Ellon Academy Christmas Lunches

Christmas lunch will be served to different year groups on the dates below:

| | | |
|------|---|-------------------------------------|
| S1 | - | Wednesday 18 th November |
| S2 | - | Wednesday 25 th November |
| S3 | - | Wednesday 2 nd December |
| S4 | - | Wednesday 9 th December |
| S5/6 | - | Wednesday 16 th December |

This falls in line with the year groups that get out early for lunch on specific days each week. Christmas lunch will be an option amongst other options every Wednesday from the 18th until the end of term. Other options, including gluten free and vegetarian/vegan meals will be on offer too. Each year group will have an opportunity to have a Christmas lunch and this would also be an option for the other year groups and staff too.

Strategic Planning:

This week, the Senior Leadership Team has been working in partnership with the local authority, the Parent Council and the Health Protection Team regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the school. Therefore no specific strategic work has been able to progress. However, the school calendar is now finalised and will be posted on the school website and we will pick up our strategic priorities when our staffing is more stable next week, focussing on:

- Plans for the staff in-service day on Friday 20th November
- Timetable 20/21
- Senior Phase Assessment Block – Jan 2021

PE and PE Changing Rooms:

More information will follow, after further discussions with the Health and Wellbeing Faculty are held next week. For now, and until further notice, the status quo remains that pupils come to school in PE kit on PE days and school uniform on non-PE days.

November In-service day 2020:

Our next staff in-service day is on Friday 20th November when staff will be working on key strategic plans for the coming term and next session. All Aberdeenshire school pupils will be at home that day.

Ellon Academy School Calendar 20/21:

All parents/carers will be sent a copy of our up dated and provisional school calendar today and it will also be posted on our school website for your reference.

Ellon Academy Senior Phase Assessment Block Calendar:

Prior to the Christmas break, all Senior Phase pupils and parents/carers will be sent the schedule for our Senior Phase Assessment block planned for 13 consecutive school days in January 2021 starting on Monday 11th January 2021. (Second week back after the Christmas/New year holidays.)

Senior Phase Reports:

Our senior pupils are due to receive their progress reports at the beginning of December. Staff are currently working on these and time for line manager/SLT quality assurance has been built into the process as usual.

Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector

13.11.20