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## ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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To: All Parents/Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Friday 26th February 2021

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It has been so good to see some of our senior learners back in school for practical subjects this week and we have been delighted with their work so far and their compliance with our 2-meter distancing and wearing face coverings. We hope that our S1/2/3 learners are well and that they and our seniors at home are keeping busy and enjoying a slight improvement in the weather. Here are the updates for this week.

### **Next Parent Council Meeting:**

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm.

Please contact them via this email address: [ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ellonacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com)

Here is the agenda for this meeting:

- Welcome and apologies
- Minutes of last meeting
- Treasurer Update
- Remote Learning
- SQA Assessments
- Partial return review
- Subject Choices
- Transition (supporting our 2021 leavers)
- BGE provision
- ASN Support
- Mental Health/ Wellbeing
- Rector Update including COVID update
- AOCB

### **Practical Subjects timetable Week 2 (1.3.21 – 5.3.21)**

I'm pleased to report that feedback from pupils and staff regards the phased return of some practical subjects has been very positive and productive. We are making plans to extend this week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We remind pupils to check Google Classroom for any updates. Technical/Drama continue to offer full day teaching and Admin/Hospitality have half-day sessions, with supervision and remote learning available in their bubble in the afternoon. Parents collecting pupils after a half-day session should confirm with the office. Thank you.

Monday 1.3.21	–	S4 Woodwork; S4 Nat 5 Drama; Nat 3/4 Admin; Nat 5 Admin
Tuesday 2.3.21	–	Higher Drama; Higher Admin
Wednesday 3.3.21	–	S4 Metalwork; S5/6 Woodwork; S4 (Col F) Hospitality (Miss Coughlan and Miss Hepburn's class (double period on a Wed)
Thursday 4.3.21	–	S4 (Col E) Hospitality (Miss Hepburn's class, double period on a Fri)

Break and Lunch Bubbles:

Woodwork/Metalwork Pupils	-	Canteen
Drama/Hospitality Pupils	-	Sunken Social Area
Admin Pupils	-	S5 Social Area
ASL Hub Pupils	-	G7 ASL Hub
Keyworker/Vulnerable Pupils	-	Games Hall

Entry/Exit Arrangements for Senior Pupils accessing Practical Subjects:

- Woodwork and Metalwork Pupils – use the main pupil doors
- Admin Pupils – use the main reception doors
- Drama and Hospitality Pupils – use the main reception doors

Catering

- The usual catering facilities will be available for pupils in school:
  - Breakfast club, break and lunch

Pupils will be directed to a social zone at break and lunchtimes and must stay within this zone. We strongly encourage pupils to stay on campus at lunchtimes, but pupils who choose to go off-site for lunch will be expected to follow the rules in place for wider society.

**Keyworker/Vulnerable Children Provision**

Keyworker/Vulnerable children will continue to access school to access remote learning and will be supervised by a rota of subject faculty teaching staff. I will ensure that we will continue to up-date Parents/Carers regarding the future phasing back of pupils and we hope that this will be as soon as possible.

Please contact your child’s Principal Teacher of Guidance if you have any queries.

Issue	Support/Contact Details
Lack of devices	Email: <a href="mailto:techsupportellonacademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">techsupportellonacademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> or contact your child’s Guidance Teacher
Connectivity issues	Email: <a href="mailto:techsupportellonacademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">techsupportellonacademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> or contact your child’s Guidance Teacher
Technical Difficulties	Email: <a href="mailto:techsupportellonAcademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">techsupportellonAcademy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>
Unsure of task	Message Class Teacher through Google Classroom
Need help with task	Message Class Teacher through Google Classroom
Any other issue	Contact your child’s Guidance Teacher Cheyne: <a href="mailto:Paula.Waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">Paula.Waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Forbes – <a href="mailto:Nicole.Jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">Nicole.Jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Keith – <a href="mailto:Kris.Findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">Kris.Findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Macdonald – <a href="mailto:Claire.Kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">Claire.Kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Sinclair – <a href="mailto:Lyndsey.Donald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">Lyndsey.Donald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> (Mon/Tue), <a href="mailto:May.Watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">May.Watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> (Wed – Fri)

## Return to education: the details

Pre-school children, pupils in primaries 1, 2 and 3, and a limited number of senior phase students who need access to school for essential practical work will return from **Monday, February 22**.

A limited increase in provision for children with the most significant additional support needs will also be permitted where schools believe this is essential.

In terms of safety in schools, senior secondary pupils will be required to observe two-metre physical distancing while in school and on school transport.

Home-testing kits will be also be made available to senior phase pupils and all school staff, including those in early learning settings. (Ellon Academy parents/carers and pupils will receive a communication about what this involves imminently)

Updated school safety guidance is due to be published, and work is also being undertaken with YoungScot to provide online information and support for senior phase pupils who want to take part in the testing programme.

Details of the second phase of school re-opening is expected to be set out in a fortnight, although it is unlikely any more pupils will return to school before **Monday, March 15**.

The First Minister also announced that local authorities and schools are to be provided with an additional £40million, as part of a wider £100million package to accelerate school recovery.

She added that the National Qualifications 2021 Group will soon publish further details on how qualifications will be awarded this year.

Full details of the arrangements for returning to education has been published on the [Scottish Government website](#).

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### School Catering Questionnaire:

School Catering are currently conducting a review of the Catering Service to ensure it meets the needs of pupils and the nutritional guidelines. A key part of the review is to seek the views of those using the service. To facilitate this, the Catering Service has prepared a questionnaire for pupils along with the letter below:

*Dear Pupil,*

*We would appreciate if you could fill in the online questionnaire to help us review the school catering service.*

*This will take no longer than 5 minutes and is completely anonymous.*

*Here's the link to the form "The Catering Service - Secondary School Pupil Questionnaire":*

[Secondary Questionnaire](#)

*Your feedback will assist us in planning for the future and your participation in sharing this questionnaire with your son/daughter would be greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you, Ian Paterson, Catering Service Manager*

**Co-op support for our Ellon Academy Community Memorial Garden:**

Please follow the link below to see how you can help along with a link to our EAGer Bunch blog spot:

Here's how it works:

You can get a co-op card (or replace a lost one) [here](#)

Select us as the cause to support by going to our [project profile page here.](#)

Once you have chosen to support us, every time you use your card in the Co-op, funds will be added to our cause. Some "small print" below explains more detail about how.

Encourage friends and family to choose us too. **The good news is they can support us by using any coop anywhere in the UK** so long as they select us from our [profile page here.](#) Our project reference number is 46461.

This is a difficult time to get funding so, to every person who chooses to support us wherever they are, we say a huge "Thank You!"

[Co-op](#)

[EAGer Bunch and Memorial Garden News](#)

**Website up-dates:**

Please follow the link below to the latest up-dates on our Ellon Academy school website:

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

Thank you once more for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*P Buchan*

Pauline Buchan, Rector 26.2.21