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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: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

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As the nights get lighter and the weather improves, we have hope that this signifies the new beginnings that come with the season of spring and in turn, we have hope and optimism for the future as we emerge once more from lockdown. The implications of Covid-19 for schools and for young people is far reaching and that we have yet to face an unprecedented set of circumstances facing our Senior Phase Learners in Term 4, but Ellon Academy are more than ready for this challenge and will always do what is best for all our learners.

**The Return to Full Time School:**

We eagerly await the return to full time school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. However, John Swinney, Depute First Minister is due to make an announcement in Parliament on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, to confirm if this is the case. If so, we will be able to welcome all our pupils back on a full-time basis, but we will await advice regarding any mitigations which may apply dependant on which Level we are in.

I have 2 parental letters ready for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. One to confirm our full time return and an alternative letter to be finalised if we are not to return full time. A member of the Admin Team will be ready to send out which ever letter is relevant on the day.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, there will be live assemblies for S1/2/3 pupils to welcome them back and to establish our expectations for learning in school.

Here is a link to a Tree of Knowledge video for Senior Phase pupils to support motivation in getting back to school

Getting Unstuck – Upper Secondary

Video: <https://vimeo.com/512007850>

Password: zoo-mushroom-cube

**Quote of the Week beginning Monday 19.4.21:**



**Here are the updates for this week:**

**Next Parent Council Meeting:**

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm.

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

**Broad General S1/2/3 Up-date:**

It was so good to see our S3 pupils on Tuesday this week. The school has been so quiet, and it was lovely to hear excited voices and lots of laughter. We were delighted in how they responded to the 'boost' sessions and they seemed genuinely pleased to be back at school. This has given them a mini induction back into the school environment and routines, so it will be wonderful to have them back full time after Easter. We are looking forward to seeing:

#wentyoubackforgood



**Senior Phase Up-date:**

Again, it has been so good to see our S4/5/6 learners back in school for the all-important live delivery of essential work, in preparation for assessments after the Easter break. S4/5/6 learners have had so much to contend with over the past year, and we are committed to giving them the best in-school experience to enhance their remote learning at home to prepare them for assessments next term.

Please click on the link below to find all the information about Senior Phase assessments and study support:

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

**SQA Up-date:**

The Assessment Block Letter for parents/carers and the Assessment Block Calendar was issued on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March and the 'How to Study Guide' for all senior phase pupils was issued on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March. On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, we also issued a powerpoint presentation to parents/carers re Supporting Study 2021. Please click on the link below to view:

Supporting Study 2021: A Guide for Parents

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

Also, the SQA have produced a booklet for senior pupils which can be accessed by following the link below:

[What you need to know for 2021 - National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher - SQA](#)

Copies of this booklet should arrive in your letter boxes prior to the Easter break.

It looks like this:



**Ellon Academy Needs YOU!**

**Bring Your Own Device - BYOD Up-date:**



**We need 60% of our parents/carers/pupils to sign up to BYOD to get the Wi-Fi switched on!**

We are planning to implement a "Bring Your Own Device" policy at Ellon Academy. This will allow pupils to use their own devices in school to support their learning.

For this to be enabled we need pupils and parents/carers to complete the updated acceptable use agreement. You can find the link to this Google Form here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckITUTyDWmLU20i4kkHvNHjc6kvTQVydoOWd-fsmesl-Et5A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckITUTyDWmLU20i4kkHvNHjc6kvTQVydoOWd-fsmesl-Et5A/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Sections 1-3 are for pupils to read through, and sections 4 & 5 are for parents/carers. For more information, please see the letter sent home last week.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed this form.

**Skills Development Scotland Up-date:**

The logo for Skills Development Scotland, featuring the text 'Skills Development Scotland' in white on a teal background.

**School leavers -  
Help for parents and  
carers**

Online information session for  
parents and carers of S4-S6 pupils

Thursday 22 April, 6.30 - 7:15pm

### School leavers – help for parents and carers

Following a very successful recent webinar, SDS is hosting another webinar for parents of pupils in S4-S6 who are planning to leave school this year. It is running on Thursday 22 April, 6:30-7:15pm and will cover the SDS support available to these young people and how to help them make decisions.

[Find out more and sign up](#)

## Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service Virtual Spring Concerts

Aberdeenshire instrumental Music Service Virtual Spring Concerts were live streamed to parents on **Wednesday 17 March 2021 and Saturday 20 March**.

You can watch both performances on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIIMX8cDm1KY5WyX5UypLJA>

- Then choose the videos to see all Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service Music Centre Virtual Concerts.

A full article is available on [Glow](#) including our contribution to the commemoration of the one year anniversary of lockdown when South Central Music Centre Youth Orchestra (SCAMC) presented a performance of [Song for Health](#)

### Dates for your diary:

- **Easter Break:** This year the Easter break will be from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April inclusive, with the start of term 4 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.
- **May Day:** Schools will be on holiday on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- **Please note there is no Monday holiday on 7th June for the Ellon Cluster Schools**
- **Additional Inservice days:** The Scottish Government have agreed 2 additional in-service days to support school in meeting the SQA requirements for school staff to work on pupil's assessment evidence, draft predicted grades and the quality assurance processes necessary to meet SQA deadlines. It has been agreed that these 2 additional in-service days will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### 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.  
Have a lovely spring break.

Yours sincerely,

*P Buchan*

Pauline Buchan, Rector 1.4.21