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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 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to let you know that we have had a very positive first week back at Ellon Academy. Our learners have managed the transition back to school routines very well, and we are delighted with the support parents/carers have given with school uniform. Most of our pupils are looking very smart, and it feels that we have regained some semblance of normality once again. Our S4 pupils received their senior school blue ties on Tuesday morning and our S6 pupils picked up their pre-ordered blazers as well. There are still a few pupils wearing jogging trousers and shoes/trainers that are not black, so we would appreciate your support with that. Also, a few young people are also coming to school with their PE kits on if they have PE first thing, so we'd like them to arrive in uniform now that our changing rooms are open again.




Here is a reminder of our uniform expectations and thank you all so much for your support.

**Ellon Academy SCHOOL UNIFORM (up-dated May 2021)**

It is important that pupils identify with their school and wearing school uniform instills a sense of pride in being part of the school. This ensures that pupils can come to school in their 'work' clothes and can be easily identified as Ellon Academy learners.

**"Dress Your Personal Best"**

<p>✓ <b>ACCEPTABLE...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans-style trousers, black leggings or jeggings</li><li>• Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt</li><li>• A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black 'Ellon Academy' jumper</li></ul> <p><b>Footwear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black Shoes or trainers (black trainers with colour accents are acceptable)</li></ul> <p><b>Optional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A plain black or 'Ellon Academy' fleece/jumper</li><li>• A black blazer (optional)</li></ul>	<p><b>UNACCEPTABLE... X</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clothes with patterns or other colours</li><li>• Joggers/tracksuit bottoms/faded black jeans</li><li>• Advertising brands/logos on jumpers/cardigans</li><li>• T-shirts or round neck tops instead of a collared shirt</li><li>• Sportswear (except for in PE classes and pupils must change back into school dress after PE)</li><li>• Wearing outdoor jackets, fleeces, hoodies or coats in class or registration</li><li>• Hats off and hoods down in school</li></ul> 
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**A change of clothing and footwear for PE is essential.**  
*We would recommend that you wear outer jackets in school dress code colours, black, blue or burgundy.*  
Ellon Academy's Comfort Cabinet can help with school dress and other school essentials.  
Just get in touch by calling: 01358 281150  
Clothing grants can also be accessed here: <https://www.mygov.scot/clothing-grants/>

Here are the up-dates for this week:

Quote of the Week:



### Covid-19:

I am sure that we all welcome the move to Tier 0 of Covid-19 mitigations. However, we still must be mindful that the virus is still around us and we cannot afford to drop our guard. The latest Scottish Government guidance for schools stipulates that face coverings must be worn by everyone in school, unless you are exempt, and that sanitising hands and workstations and one metre distancing between pupils and staff must continue for at least the next 6 weeks.

At Ellon Academy we plan to continue with our one-way system, but from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, all pupils should enter the school via the pupil doors.

**Late Gate:**

Senior staff presence and janitor support has helped decrease the numbers of late comers in the morning. Learners receive a late slip and are then interviewed by a member of Senior Leadership at the main reception, and this is already having a positive impact. We will continue to support young people with attendance issues and increase communication with home during this focus period on improving attendance and punctuality.

**Timetable:**

There were some glitches with our Managing Information System (Seemis) which rolls over new timetable/pupil data in July during the holidays. There were some technical issues with this process which were out with our control, and this resulted in some S1 timetables being affected. However, we have been working hard to rectify this for all pupils affected.

**SQA Results:**

All senior phase learners will have received their results on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August. I congratulate them on their successes in such a difficult year and I commend them on their resilience, hard work and perseverance.

After initial analysis of the results, I am delighted to say that 39 learners have achieved straight A grade passes and have been invited for a photo on Monday morning (23.8.21) to recognise their achievements. Very well done to them all.

**Our school priorities for session 21/22:**

This week our staff are signing up for Ellon Academy Impact Teams to further progress the improvement priorities below. These teams and subgroups will be meeting at lunchtimes and after school to take our plans forwards.

## Promoting Positive Relationships

- ✓ Building on the previous work of this Impact Team and sub-groups
- ✓ Focus on the work of Paul Dix '*When Adults Change, Everything Changes*'.
- ✓ Positive Praise and Merits

## Learning and Teaching/Making Thinking Visible

- ✓ How better learning makes better behaviour
- ✓ Learning routines via Making Thinking Visible Pedagogy and Practice
- ✓ Revising school policy considering advances in Digital Learning

## Skills Development/Developing the Young Workforce

- ✓ Focus on the new draft Skills Framework and how this is embedded in Learning and Teaching
- ✓ Focus on the Skills/Careers Education Standard

## Curriculum

- ✓ BGE/Senior Phase
- ✓ Subject Choice/Timetable 22/23
- ✓ Wider Achievement

**Free School Meals:**

All parents/carers whose child/children are entitled to free school meals are asked to ensure that you have re-registered/re-applied on the Aberdeenshire Council website.

## Celebrating Success

If your child/children have had any achievements and successes via clubs and activities that are external to Ellon Academy, we'd love to hear about these, so that we can recognise and celebrate them with in our school community. Please contact the school if this is the case for your son(s)/daughter(s).

### Putting People First:

Our pupils did a wonderful job last year with our Shoe Box Appeal 2020 and the certificate of thanks arrived over the summer.

Also, winning team of last years' Youth Philanthropy Initiative have been recognised with this certificate arriving in school too.

Well done to all involved.



### Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities:

We are pleased to let you know that we are now able to resume our extra-curricular activities and clubs so pupils will hear more about what will be on offer via the daily bulletin, which is read to pupils each morning, posted on our Facebook page and displayed on our plasma screens in school.

### Next Parent Council Meeting:

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm via Zoom.

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

### Ellon Academy Parent Council Facebook Page:

Parents and Carers are encouraged to join the Ellon Academy Parent Council Facebook page. Please note that there are 2 questions to need to answer so that Admins can add you.

**School Car and Bus Parks:**

Parents and Carers are asked to remind their children that they should not be in or around any car parks or the bus park on the school campus. This is for their own safety.

Also, S6 pupils who have their own cars are asked to park in the staff car park beside the Technical Faculty and enter the school via the pupil doors.

**Reminder of school timings:**

	Reg	1	2	Break	3	4	5	Lunch	6	7	Close
<b>Mon</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40	3.30
<b>Tues</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.05	1.50	2.40	3.30
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Reg</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Close</b>	
<b>Thurs</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.00	1.50	2.40	
<b>Fri</b>	8.25	8.35	9.25	10.15	10.35	11.25	12.15	1.00	1.50	2.40	

**Dates For Your Diary:**

- Occasional days for session 21/22
  - Wed 5.1.22 – occasional day added on the end of the Christmas break
  - Thurs 10.2.22, Friday 11.2.22 (Mon 14.2.22 is already a holiday and Tues 15.2.22/Wed 16.2.22 are in-service days)
  - It has been mooted that May Day and Jubilee Day are combined – National decision, so more info as it is received
  - End of Term 1 – Friday 15.10.21
  - Term 2 Inservice Days – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>/Fri 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Ellon Academy School Calendar 21/22:**

Our new school calendar for session 21/22 can be viewed on our website.

[Ellon Academy Calendar 2021.22 Final.xlsx](#)

Thank you once more for your continued support.

*Pauline Buchan*

Rector  
23.8.21