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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 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had another positive week this week, with our new S1s settling in well to classes and good reports and feedback coming from their teachers regarding their enthusiasm for learning and their conduct in school. We have processed all SQA appeal requests by the deadline and we await decisions in due course. We continue to be very pleased with how learners have embraced the school uniform and we will be meeting with those who are not quite there yet in the next week or so and asking for your support to get them fully suited and booted.

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**Here are the up-dates for this week:**

**Quote of the Week:**



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**Covid-19:**

Firstly, we are thinking about the Ellon community and the families who are currently affected by Covid-19, sending our best wishes for speedy recoveries.

The Covid-19 guidance for schools has changed, and it is important for parents and carers to know what the new procedures are. NHS have now provided schools with a 'Warn and Inform' letter which must be sent to all parents/carers of identified positive case year group and you will have been aware of these such letters arriving in your in boxes this week. The procedures regarding the identification of close contacts have also changed in that we are informed of those individuals directly by Test and Protect and schools do not have to submit classroom seating plans as we did before.

These are the procedures we must follow if a parent/carer informs us of a positive test within their family:

**STAFF, PARENT/CARER INFORMS THE SCHOOL OF A DETECTED CASE**

- Confirm that a test has been undertaken and seek confirmation that they tested positive.
- Confirm contact details for the case or parent/carer. Explain that above information will be shared with the health Protection Team (HPT). Where possible ask whether they had symptoms and when they started.
- Maintain confidentiality of the case
- Contact HPT to share the information and seek further advice

If the Health Protection Team inform the school of a positive case, they will discuss any potential close contacts with school staff.

We continue to implement our Covid-19 school risk assessment to keep everyone as safe as we can in the meantime.

This can be accessed via the link below:

[Ellon Academy Community Campus](#)

**Late Gate:**

We have continued with the Late Gate this week, identifying a small number of learners who are regularly late for school. This initiative has been positive in the recognition that most learners arrive on time for school every day and this must be commended. We thank all parents and carers for their support in getting young people up and out in the mornings, which can be a challenge for some! We will continue to support young people with attendance issues and increase communication with home during this focus period on improving attendance and punctuality.

**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).

**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.

### Dr Bike at Ellon Academy:

As part of the **I Bike** project at **Ellon Academy**, a project which aims to empower children, parents and teachers to travel actively, safely and confidently to school, we will be having a **Dr Bike** event on the **3rd of September**.



**Free Bike Checks**  
**Ellon Academy**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021

Limited spaces available for free bike checks and maintenance by your local I Bike Officer.

Please contact [lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk) to book your space or for more information.

*Bikes should be dropped to the mechanics at the bike stand by the front gate in the morning and will be ready to collect at the end of the school day.*

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create a liveable neighbourhood, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute. Join us on our journey.

www.sustrans.org | @sustrans  
Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland).  
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**I Bike**  
**sustrans**  
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

**Dr Bike** is an event where people can get their bicycle checked for mechanical faults, free of charge. Simple problems can be fixed, and adjustments made there and then, whilst bigger problems will need referring on to local bike servicing workshops. Any minor repairs made are at the discretion of Dr. Bike.

Pupils should bring their bike into school at the beginning of the school day and drop it to the “Dr” at the bike stand by the front gate. The “Dr” will then safety check the bikes throughout the duration of the school day whilst the pupils are in class. Pupils can then take their bike home when school day has finished.

We have limited spaces available. To book, please email [lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk) with your child’s name and registration class.

If you **do not** want your child’s bicycle to be checked for mechanical faults but they would still like to bring their bicycle to school that day, please make this known to the mechanics or attach a note with this information to the bicycle.

Pupils are reminded that they should wear a **helmet** if they ride to school, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Yours sincerely,

**Lucy Burnside**

**I Bike Officer- Aberdeenshire**

Email: [lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:lucy.burnside@sustrans.org.uk)

**Cashless Catering:**

Our Canteen Supervisor has informed us that the Reval unit beside the school canteen, used for topping up Young Scot cards is now up and running.

**Random Act of Kindness:**

This week, on her way home from school, Keeley McIntosh 5M1 spotted a dog running around unattended near a busy road. She managed to get the dog to come to her, then knocked on all the doors nearby until she found its owner. Well done to you Keeley. We are so proud of your random act of kindness. I'm sure the owner was relieved to be reunited with their dog.

**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.

**Ellon Academy Community Campus Car Park Pupil Drop Off and Pick Up:**

One of our parents, Mrs Helen Wilson does a sterling job of monitoring the school pick up and drop off zones and general vehicle use of the campus and key times in the day. We thank her for all her commitment to making driving in and around the campus as safe as it can be and here is a reminder of our codes of conduct for driving in the campus:

**Drop Off:**

Parent/Carers are asked to drop pupils off and pick them up in the designated drop off lane/zone and not to enter any of the assigned car parking spaces.

On leaving the drop off zone, Parents/Carers are asked to stick to the one-way system by following the road down to the turning circle to the west of the Campus, thus ensuring that the traffic flow is all one way. Navigate the turning circle one car at a time and give it a wide berth as it has a tight radius.

**Pick Up:**

Parents/Carers should forward park in the angled parking bays (the angled design does not allow for reverse parking) then reverse out and continue to follow the road down to the turning circle to the west of the Campus, thus ensuring the traffic flow is all one way. Alternatively, park in the Community car park behind the swimming pool.

**Park and Stride:**

Parents/Carers can also use the Meadows car parking facilities for pupil drop off/pick up. This will help alleviate traffic pressure on campus.

**Community Use:**

For access to Swimming, Leisure and Community Resources during the school week and out with the drop off times for pupils please park in the public spaces beyond the drop off and disabled zones.

**CYCLING** It is advisable that all pupils who cycle to school are aware of wet and icy conditions, road safety, cycling in the dark and have working lights, visible clothing, and cycle helmets. Cyclists should stick to cycle paths and ideally have passed their cycling proficiency test. Cycle stands are available on campus. **DISABLED** These spaces are reserved for blue badge holders and emergency vehicles

only. They should not be used for dropping off/picking up. The Ellon Academy Community Campus Management Team and Parent Council consider the safety and wellbeing of all campus users to be of paramount importance.

Questions or comments can be emailed to: [ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 01358 281150

#### **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  
27.8.21