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**ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS**

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To: All Parents/Carers  
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector  
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date  
Date: Friday 18th March 2022

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Dear parents/carers.

As you will be aware, in line with local and national trends, the number of Covid-19 cases amongst our pupils increased across years 1 – 6 last week but has significantly decreased this week. Our thoughts are with the families affected.

However, most staff have now returned to work after self-isolation which is good news for all and if things remain as they are, we do not anticipate any return to asking specific year groups to stay at home.

We wish to thank you for your continued support during these times.

**The Quote of the Week beginning 21.3.22:**



**SQA Up-date:**

As per Scottish Government plans, the SQA exam diet will go ahead this year for our Senior Phase learners taking N5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams. Ms Booth is already planning to deliver in-person assemblies for S4/5/6 learners to ensure they are fully aware of the range of SQA expectations and regulations involved in taking part in an official exam diet.

We are also working on an 'exam hall' experience for our N5 and Higher pupils. More information to follow.

Study Leave will also go ahead and will start on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April for all S4/5/6 learners and will run until the last exam on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June. We expect our timetable to change after the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Some parents of S4/5/6 will be aware of letters this week regarding change of Levels. Some learners have been advised to move down from National 4 to National 5, for example and other pupils have had advice to say that a move up is appropriate as they have demonstrated excellent progress. Ms Booth, DHT has been responding to individual queries.

### Staff up-dates:

- Vacancies currently advertised:
  - 1 FTE Teacher of Technical Education
  - 1 FTE Teacher of Home Economics
  - 1 FTE Teacher of Art
  - 1 FTE Teacher of Computing Science
  - 0.4 FTE Acting Principal Teacher Creative Arts

We have also requested Probationer Teachers for session 22/23 in the following subjects:

- Art, English, Home Economics and Technical

### Ellon Academy Performance Review – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March '22:

On Tuesday this week, a virtual Performance Review was held for Ellon Academy, chaired by Vincent Docherty, Head of Service with 3 Quality Improvement Officers and an Education Officer in attendance.

We presented on the following

- Attainment review for 2021
- Attainment projections for 2022
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Leadership at all levels
- Curriculum
- Equity, Wellbeing, and Inclusion

Head of Service and Officers were pleased with the progress of our school, and I am trying to share our presentation with you all, but it's currently too large for the website, so I'll find a way!



### S6 PUPILS – LEAVERS' HOODIES:

Please follow the link below (it has also been shared on the S6 PSE Google Classroom) to choose a nickname and order your leavers hoodie. Remember, your nickname must be school appropriate – you will be asked to change it if it isn't. Hoodies cost £18.50 and payments must be made no later than 12:00 on Wednesday 16th March so that your order is guaranteed to arrive before you leave school. Orders received after this deadline are unlikely to be accepted because it will mean that the rest of the order will be delayed. Please see Mrs Duffus in S42 if there are any issues. Miss Duffus.

<https://moxieleavers.co.uk/.../dc69a5f80c53b2050f0fc3d7>

### Pupil Achievement:

Findlay Bain in 3F2 received a 'Rector's Service to the School' award this week, presented to him for his help in encouraging other to put their litter in the bins at break and lunchtimes. Findlay is too shy to have a photo taken, but it's important to share this because he is an excellent example to others.



### Pupil Achievement:

Ellon Girls Seniors football (despite only having 4 seniors playing) league result: Turriff 6-3 Ellon. The girls put in a battling performance against a good, powerful Turriff side. They battled to the end and gave a good account of themselves. Despite being 5-1 down at half time, the girls kept going and pulled it back to 6-3. Players of match were Kayleigh R, who on numerous occasions very bravely dived at the feet of the Turriff attack and her handling of the ball was very good. Millie B also shared player of match for Ellon, and despite only being in S1, she put in an excellent shift, covering every blade of grass against a strong and older Turriff side.

Goal scorers; Lucy D, Emily S, OG 1 (assist by Emily G)

A good experience for the many juniors who gave their all against basically a senior side. Well done!



### Pupil Achievement:

Ellon Academy returned with a number of individual medals 🏆 and team shields 🏆 from the highly successful RGC/Albyn X-Country invitational at Balgowrie playing fields today. 🏃🏃

All of the pupils were outstanding and a credit to themselves and the school in the cold 🥶 and blustery 🌪️ conditions but special mentions go to:

Ella C 1st Senior Girl 🏆

Alyssa G 3rd Senior girl 🏆

Harris C 2nd S2 Boy 🏆

Also in the Team events:

The Senior girls team won the 🏆 Incredibly they placed 1st, 3rd, 5th and 8th!!! 🤯👏👏👏

S1 boys Team who took the Team 🏆

S2 boys Team who came 3rd in the Team event!









Well done to all of you! 🍌

#### **E-Sgoil Easter Study School:**

Registrations for Easter Study School are coming in thick and fast! 171 schools so far - from Shetland in the north all the way to the Borders in the south. Remember, March is the month to get your registrations in for Easter Study Support webinars.

<https://e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/#nelo>

**Easter Study Support**  
7th - 14th April 2022

Live webinars covering  
66 courses  
across N4, N5, Higher & Advanced  
Higher,  
delivering three sessions per  
course.

[www.e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/](http://www.e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/)

#### **Fundraising and Support for Ukraine:**

Mrs Warne's English Class 3B1 and our Exec Team are keen for the school to take part in raising awareness of the plight of the Ukrainian nation and its people, so we will be holding a Dress Down Day for Ukraine on either Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March or Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April (date to be decided).

We ask that pupils and staff come to school with blue/yellow clothing to support the colours of the Ukrainian flag and to bring a donation.

3B1 have also pledged to do some challenged to support the fundraising and they are planning a virtual assembly to raise awareness too.

Some ideas that 3B1 want to try are:

- Cooking the tea at home for the family
- Asking some Staff to do a 'TikTok' to raise money
- Walking their dog for a week
- Etc, etc!

More information will be passed on as soon as plans are firmed up.



Also, the Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Team has pulled together resources to support parents, carers, teachers and school staff to have discussions with children and young people about events in Ukraine: <https://bit.ly/TalkUkraine>

### **NESMS - Northeast of Scotland Music School**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

NESMS would like to invite all students who are, or will be, in full time education from September 2022— June 2023 to apply for our scholarship auditions.

Successful scholarship recipients will have several lessons over the academic year paid for by our generous supporters.

A fund solely for students in Local Authority schools in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire is available. There is also specific funding in place to benefit the increasingly more “uncommon” instruments, viola, oboe, horn etc.

Auditions are open to students on any instrument that NESMS currently offers.

LIVE in-person auditions will be held at 21 Huntly Street in the last week of May\* but online submissions will be accepted for geographical or self-isolating reasons.

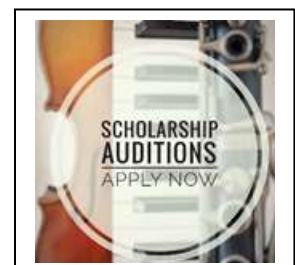
Auditions, both live or by online submission should consist of two contrasting pieces.

Application deadline: Monday 25th April 2022

\*exact audition dates to be confirmed after application deadline.

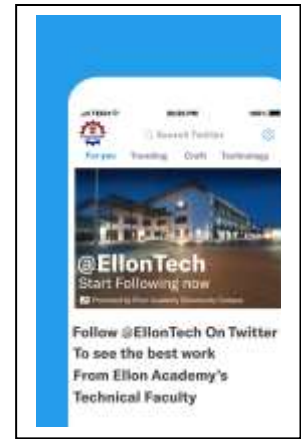
Apply online following the link below or download an application form along with further information about any video submissions from our website.

<https://forms.gle/aAsy1sUZVNEJJQiy8>



To help celebrate the high-quality learning and teaching that happens within the Technical Faculty, a twitter page has been set up to share pictures of pupils work and to celebrate their achievements. Please feel free to follow the page as see for yourself what happens within Engineering Science, Graphic Communication, Woodwork and Metalwork.

[twitter.com/EllonTech](https://twitter.com/EllonTech)



### Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme:

Information about this scheme has been uploaded to the school website and has been sent home via email. To view, please click on the link below:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/pupils/>



### Dates For Your Diary – Important Up-date below:

- Aberdeenshire Council sent information to schools in the previous term regarding the May Day holiday and the additional day to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
  - The May Day holiday on 2<sup>nd</sup> May will now be removed and moved to Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022
  - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022
- This change will affect our planned timetable change, the S6 Leavers Event, and our Senior Induction, so we will communicate those changes in due course.

### Term 3:

- Dress Down Day for Ukraine – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March or Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April
  - Come wearing blue and yellow and bring a donation please!
- Last day of Term 3 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Start of Term 4 – Monday 18.4.22
- Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts Monday 25.4.22
- Change of timetable – Monday 6.6.22

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

*Pauline Buchan*

Rector  
18.3.22