

Ellon Academy Community Campus



'Personal Best'



Elevate Magazine

Edition 3 - December 2018



A Word in Season from the Rector



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we come to the end of an extremely busy term, I am delighted to publish our December edition of Elevate magazine to inform you of some of our many and varied pupil successes and school news. There are so many things to celebrate and our pupils and staff continue to be exceptional ambassadors and role models for Ellon Academy and our local community.

We have set out the magazine using our Aims and Values as our headings for each article and this edition certainly demonstrates that 'Personal Best' is front and centre at Ellon Academy.

Senior pupils have been busy thinking and planning ahead for next steps, whether it be staying on at school or applying to colleges and universities. They are also preparing for Prelim Exams in January (See Dates for your Diary on page 48) which will help pupils and staff to ascertain personal learning targets to ensure success in the SQA exams in May 2019.

Our S1 pupils have settled well to secondary school life, and our S2 and S3 pupils continue to progress through the Broad General Education, gathering many experiences and opportunities for success in wider achievement too.

I am also delighted in the strength of partnerships with parents, which is developing through your Parent Council representatives, our Parents Impact Team and also in your support and engagement in attending and supporting school events.

I'm sure like me, you will enjoy reading about all the amazing things going on at Ellon Academy and I wish you all joy and peace for the festive season.



Yours in partnership,

Pauline Buchan

Rector

Parents as Partners



S1/S2 Family Learning 'Back to School' Night

Wed 21st November 2018

On Wednesday 21st November over 100 parents of S1 and S2 pupils attended our Family Learning 'Back to School' night. S1/S2 pupils Riley, Kirstin and Finlay the evening and our senior pupils attended as guides for parents/carers to ensure they got to their workshops.

Parents participated in the following 4 workshops:

- Health and Wellbeing across the curriculum
- Literacy across the curriculum
- Numeracy across the curriculum
- Supporting Growth Mindset in school



The feedback from parents/carers was extremely positive and we hope to plan more Family Learning events in the future to involve parents/carers more in the learner journey in school.



Limitless Learning



Stars in our School



So many of our pupils excel themselves every day in their work ethic and their conduct. Here are some of the pupils who have gained the most merits for effort and behaviour enjoying 'Hot Chocolate Tuesday'.



Limitless Learning in the Hub

Our hub pupils have been really busy working on clay and art projects this term.

We are so impressed with the professional standard of their work!



Lifted Leadership – Bethany Wilson S6

For the past 3 years I have been involved with 5Rights, which is UK wide project with the aim of highlighting the importance of young people's rights online. This has involved many hours working in groups around Scotland to brainstorm ideas and create and implement recommendations for the Scottish Government. Last year, I was appointed a leader of a team of young people within the 5Rights Leadership Group, who are working alongside a company to create a new platform for young people, to help them understand and control their digital footprint. Recently I travelled to London with a select few from the 5Rights group where we met with the Founder and CEO of Snapchat, Evan Spiegel. This was an incredible experience and opportunity as we were able to share our ideas and ask questions openly and the company appeared very willing to listen. I have been working closely with Mrs Hall in helping with the school's second Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award and with the Guidance teachers to produce a workshop aimed at second year pupils to help them to understand more about their rights and responsibilities online. The last three years have been a journey of discovery for me as I have become more aware of how young people can influence and contribute to real change in the UK. By Bethany Wilson



Bethany is pictured above 5th from the left (front, middle!)



Ellon Academy Community Memorial Garden



“And the winner is...ELLON ACADEMY MEMORIAL GARDEN PROJECT!”

In November with a very short deadline ahead, S4 pupils worked on a video to apply for £1000 towards our Memorial Garden space. They were excited to be accepted onto the competition for “doing something kind” and voting went public on Monday 19th November.

Thank you to everyone who voted and spread the word. We know that votes came in from around the UK and the world! China, Canada, Norway, France to name a few countries! Every vote helped us to stay ahead and when voting closed on Thursday 29th November we knew we had won! The funding comes from the Corra Foundation charity (see www.corra.scot for more) and will help us to get started with building our memorial garden.

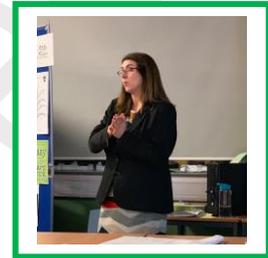


Transformational Teaching

As you may already be aware, at Ellon Academy we are working on developing Growth Mindset as a whole school approach to enabling our learners to believe in their own talents and abilities. We are encouraging them to be resilient in the face of setbacks and failure and we encourage a positive attitude where we can all learn from mistakes, knowing that we can all improve and that learning is a marathon, not a sprint – we just may not be there 'yet'.

The staff 'Growth Mindset Impact Team' have developed and are delivering a new course in S1 called 'SEEDS'. The course is bespoke to Ellon Academy and this, coupled with our whole school plans have been recognised nationally. Ms Tracy Booth, one of our Depute Head Teachers was invited to Glasgow in September to present the Ellon Academy strategy to the National Conference of Educational Psychologists as sector leading work.

Well done Ms Booth and the Growth Mindset Impact Team!



If you want to find out more, please look at these links and suggested readings:

<https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/default>

<http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk/Mind-your-language-Growth-Mindset-advice-for-Parents-1?returnUrl=/CCCS-learning-blog>

General Mindset theory:

<https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/>

<https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/how-to-develop-a-growth-mindset/>



Video:

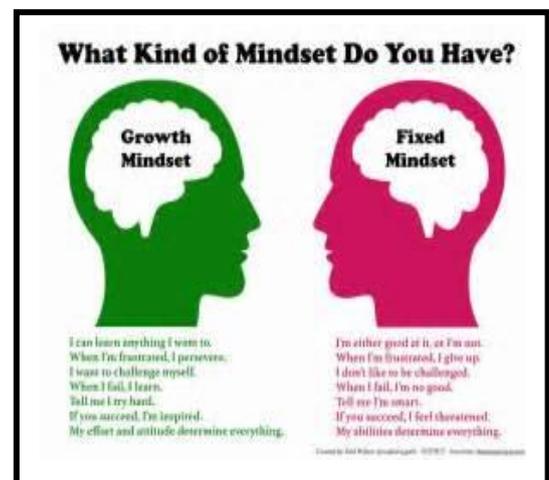
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=growth+mindset&qpv=growth+mindset&view=detail&mid=0DB8542E849CFDBA73880DB8542E849CFDBA7388&&FORM=VRD GAR>

Books:

'Mindset: The New Psychology of Success', Carol Dweck

'Mindset: How You Can Fulfil Your Potential', Carol Dweck

'Growth Mindset Pocketbook', B. Hymer & M. Gershon



Transformational Teaching

S1 SEEDS Growth Mindset Course



Here are some of our S1 pupils in their SEEDS class studying the brain and finding out how intelligence is not fixed – it can grow and improve!



Transformational Teaching

S1 Drama Technical Club

Pupils in S1 have been learning how to use the theatre lighting in some small projects led by S6 students. They are excited to be creating lighting designs for an upcoming performance of a well-known children's tale...

by Miss Kinnaird



Watch this space...

Limitless Learning

Creative Arts Prosthetics Trip

An exciting adventure took place during the November weekend with pupils from Ellon Academy travelling to Birmingham for The Prosthetics Event. The pupils not only got to experience an intensive conference led by international professionals, they watched technical demonstrations and listened to talks on aspects such as Body Art. Some of the industry professionals included those who had worked on and created some of the most iconic characters in film...from Marvel and DC to horror and sci-fi. Shows they had worked on included 'Doctor Who', 'Walking Dead', 'Kill bill', 'Call the Midwife' and the newest 'Star Trek' films. The trip started with a Street Art Tour around the Irish Quarter in which pupils gained knowledge of a range of street artists and their work. The first day finished with a performance of the hit musical Rock of Ages at The Alexandra Theatre. All pupils enjoyed the opportunity thoroughly and some were able to meet tutors from various universities who gave the pupils information on further education courses in Prosthetics and the Theatre Arts. Written by the Creative Arts Team.



Promoting Partnerships

“Evening of Entertainment 2018”

Ellon Academy’s annual school fundraiser “The Evening of Entertainment” took place on Friday 28th September. Our 8th event, was another hugely successful evening enjoyed by all our guests. Entertainment included the Ellon Academy Jazz Band and Ceilidh band. Accordion player Gregor Allan (from Tarves) was welcomed back for his 2nd year. Current pupil Georgia Badland-Shaw and former pupils Iona Black, Amy Lawrence and Niamh Martin, danced and sang for our guests. The photo booth continues to be an extremely popular addition. Photos of the event were posted on our school Facebook page throughout the evening.

Ellon Academy current pupils are a huge part of the evening and we couldn't do it without them. We are usually inundated with volunteers who enjoy their roles on the night and do a brilliant job looking after our guests. S4 wash the dishes, S5 meet and greet on the red carpet, serve canapés and the meal, while S6 wait on tables and serve drinks. We have a regular number of guests who attend year on year and bring new friends along who then (often) come back. Our biggest strength is that former pupils, current pupils, staff (teaching and non-teaching) and parents, are all amongst the organising and running of the evening.

All proceeds from the “Evening of Entertainment” go to support pupils across the school from S1 - S6 in a number of different ways. It truly is a collaboration of people coming together to raise funds for the school.

In order to put on the high standard that our guests have come to expect and that we like to achieve, we need sponsorship. In the current economic climate, this is proving to be a challenge. However, we are extremely grateful to Michael Gall Transport (based in Dyce) for sponsoring our reception that ensured all guests received a complimentary glass of sparkling wine and canapés upon arrival.

We are delighted to announce that our total raised was just over £7,000.

For anyone interested in attending our “Evening of Entertainment” next year (Friday 27th September 2019) or are in a position to offer support in any way, please contact the school. Information about our next event will be posted on our school Facebook page and in the local community Facebook pages after Easter 2019.



Evening of Entertainment 2018



Aspirational Achievement

Confucius Hub at Ellon Academy

Scotty Sutherland 6S has been awarded a Chinese Language Scholarship by Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools. Scottie will attend Tianchin University for 2019 – 2020 academic session. Scottie is the first Ellon Academy pupil to be selected for this award since we received our Confucius status.



Tianchin University



Scottie is pictured above with Wei our Confucius Classroom Teacher.

Aspirational Achievement

Jessica Massie has been successful in a challenging selection process to represent Gordon District at the World Scout Jamboree in America July 2019. For this she needs to fundraise £4000.

Oor Wullie is the Scottish Mascot and Jess has the opportunity to sell Oor Wullie neck/head buffs.

Well done Jess, you'll be a wonderful ambassador at the Jamboree next year!



Aspirational Achievement

Scottish Cyclocross Championships

It was the Scottish Cyclocross Championship last Sunday and

Cameron Brown in 4S1 had a great race, he was 7th overall. A fantastic result, well done!



Aspirational Achievement

Future Chef

Sophie W was the winner of our Future Chef Cook Off on Thursday 6th December. She now goes into the next round to represent Ellon Academy where she will work with a professional chef.

Well done to Sophie and all of the other fantastic cooks!



Aspirational Achievement

Digital Schools Update

Our Digital Leaders are doing a great job helping out with all things digital across the school. This includes running Coding Club, learning how to use the theatre lighting equipment and helping out in the Library. We are always looking for more Digital Leaders so please see Mrs Moir (Technical) if you are interested. Every hour logged volunteering as a digital leader counts towards achieving a Saltire Award as well as progressing to Bronze, Silver and Gold Digital Leader status!



Our first two Bronze level Digital Leaders were handed their certificates last month for clocking up over 5 hours volunteering.



Ellon Academy Coding Club is crowd funding!

We are raising money for @SpheroEdu Robots on @RocketFundUK to help transform Coding Club and make it come to life. Can you help?

<https://rocket.fund/p/ellonacademycodingclub/>

Aspirational Achievement

Scotland Call Up

Congratulations to Rhys Clark who has been invited to trial for the Scotland National School Football Team. Although the team got defeated, Rhys hugely impressed against the North of Scotland and caught the national scout's eye by being a rock in the heart of the defence, making it extremely difficult for any attack that the North attempted.

Although Rhys can no longer attend due to injury, being called up is a very impressive feat and something to be proud of, especially as this is an under 18 team and he is only in S4!



Well done!

Aspirational Achievement

Cup Final win for Lyall

Congratulations to Lyall Booth who not only got the honour of leading out his team to a cup final, but he scored the winning goal to defeat Hearts 1-0.

Winning this game was no easy feat, with Hearts getting to the final undefeated and comfortably winning many of their games. During the game, Hearts were a hard hitting and aggressive side, but Aberdeen were more than a match, particularly in the first half where Aberdeen dominated. After 31 minutes the breakthrough was made by Aberdeen, with the eventual winning goal. A cross came in from wide right, which Lyall found his way to, who showed great desire to get the ball before any of the Hearts defenders, and hit the back of the net from 6 yards out.

Well done to Lyall who helped Aberdeen win the very first Club Academy Scotland U16 Final.



Well done!

Aspirational Achievement

Aberdeenshire Football Select Success

Congratulations to Aidan MacRae, Connor Napier and Mark Thompson who are all part of the Aberdeenshire U15 football team who have progressed to the quarter final of the Scottish Schools National Competition. The team have done extremely well to progress from a difficult group that contained both Aberdeen City and the North of Scotland.

Against Aberdeen City, the team were dominant and showed some excellent team work to win the game 5-3, with one of the goals being a world class strike from Connor, in which no goalkeeper in the world would have been able to stop.

The team now face a difficult away quarter final against Forth Valley, in which the team will travel down to in January to play.



Well done!

Aspirational Achievement

Good luck to our ex-senior goalkeeper Ross Smith who has got a job coaching football
in the USA next summer!



Aspirational Achievement

S1 Football #boysinmaroon

The S1 boys ground out a good win after 70 challenging minutes of play against a tough Mearns Academy side securing a space in the semifinals of the Aberdeenshire cup. Goals from Joseph M, Ricky M, Aaron B, and two penalties from Aidan B brought the score line to 6-4!

A very exciting match which included everyone. A real team effort, and a fantastic team victory!
We're proud of you all!



Aspirational Achievement

Pictures from tonight's S2 netball competition in Aberdeen where Ellon Academy came runners up in a competition of 10 teams.



Aspirational Achievement

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mrs Seifert and Mrs Jackson are delighted to report that the numbers of pupils undertaking Bronze and Silver D of E awards this year has increased. Miss Seifert has volunteered for numerous weekends leading pupils through the expedition aspects of the awards. More staff are being recruited to support the growing numbers. We are very grateful for their time and commitment to support our youngsters through D of E awards.



Aspirational Achievement

Ellon Academy Junior Netball girls have won the S3 tournament, winning every game in the process. They played brilliantly well throughout and showed their determination and grit to win the final 8-7 after extra time. They played to the end and went ahead with only 12 seconds remaining.

The girls were an absolute credit to their coaches and the school. Well done!



Aspirational Achievement

Congratulations to Ellon Academy who retained the shield and won a host of individual and relay events at Peterhead Pool in the NASSA swimming tournament this month. Well done!



S1 Footballers

Ellon Academy is very proud to announce the continued support of our Sponsor, Burns Coaches of Tarves. The local coach hire firm that has been in operation for 50 years this year have agreed to replace our S1 Boys football Kit, and they provided us with new strips for the Senior Team this season. Thank you!



School Values – Respect – Lest We Forget

“Lest we forget”

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them”*

To commemorate the Armistice ending WW1, pupils, School Chaplains and staff at Ellon Academy delivered Remembrance Assemblies to all year groups on the 9th of November 2018.

Pupils from each year group read the poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ and our Drama pupils gave an exceptional performance of the last scene ‘Goodbye’ from Blackadder Goes Forth.

Our senior pupils sold poppies for Poppy Scotland and Head Boy Calum and Head Girl Libby accompanied our Rector Mrs Buchan to a Commemoration Service at

St Machar Cathedral in Aberdeen.



Transformational Teaching in S3 Business Management

What fun we are having in Business Management just now! Our class has started a business and, with the help of Mrs Ewen and Mrs Morrison, we have launched “Sweets and Treats”.

The first thing we did was decide what to sell. This is easier said than done though! Eventually, we decided on sweetie cones, hot chocolate reindeers, candles and reindeer dust.



Stock had to be purchased and then production could begin. We provided Mrs Ewen with a huge shopping list! Pupils were divided into working groups, with allocated jobs to do. Everyone was involved in the making of the products, from wrapping candles to adding the perfect amount of sparkle to the reindeer dust.

Our first sale was the S1 Pastoral Evening. Feedback from parents was extremely positive. We now are selling in the Staff Centre each Monday break and in the Sunken Social Area each Thursday lunchtime. We also have a couple of other parents' evenings in December and a message on Facebook promoting to “Ellon Mums”. Even the Reception staff are helping us out by trying to sell to visitors!

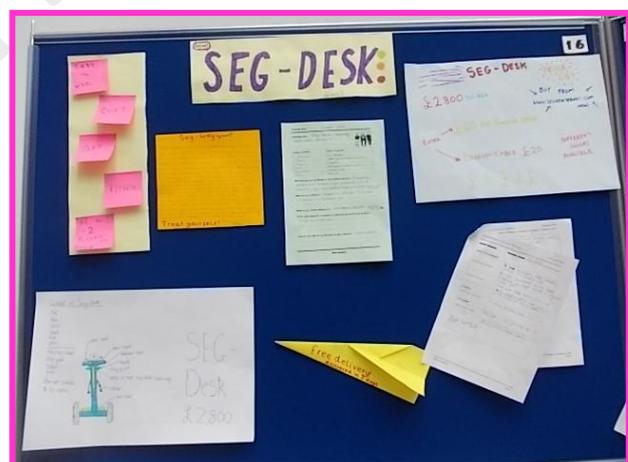
The whole experience of running a business has been amazing! Yes, it is hard work and you need to be really organised but it just shows that hard work pays off.

Please continue to buy our goodies – on sale until the Christmas holidays!

Written by Calum Souter, 3C2

Enterprising Students - S3 Entrepreneurship Day

Ellon Academy's S3 Entrepreneurship Day is part of a wider school response to the 'Developing the Young Workforce' agenda. The whole of our third year participate and, working in small groups, are given the task to create a business idea and come up with a creative and innovative product which could be used either in school, the local community, nationally or internationally. The pupils must decide on their product, company name, logo, marketing ideas, costings and market research (within the school). Pupils had to create a pitch board to display information about their business and idea. Members of staff judged the boards by register class to determine who created the most innovative product, who had the most creative marketing strategy, who had fulfilled the design brief in the fullest and who had the most (and reasonable) costings. To support pupils with the concept of Enterprise, a number of local business people were also involved in the event. Many of these business people are former pupils of Ellon Academy, who recognise the benefit in passing on their experience and advice to our pupils. The day started with a series of presentations from our guest speakers, detailing what their business is, how it started and where it is now. More importantly, they also shared their own story of how they got to where they are now and provided an insight as to their path into employment. Often, these stories do not follow a traditional path and highlighted changes in careers. Pupils were inspired by the stories they heard and were intrigued by the motivation of running a business. Several speakers spoke of their experiences of school, exam results and, often, what they would do differently if they were to go back in time. Once the presentations were over it was great to have many of our guests stay to advise and support our pupils in terms of creating a business, targeting appropriate markets, finance, marketing and design. A great morning was had by





Elevating Ethos/School Values – Respect

During Anti-bullying week in November this year, we planned and prepared a whole school focus week on Respecting Others and Rights Respecting School. At our House Assemblies, Principal Teachers of Guidance, Depute Head Teachers (Heads of House) and our House Captains delivered excellent assemblies to each House group on the theme of Respect for Others linked to Ellon Academy as a Rights Respecting School. Our school values were also promoted and in particular our value of 'Respect' which is at the heart of all we do at Ellon Academy.

Our School Values

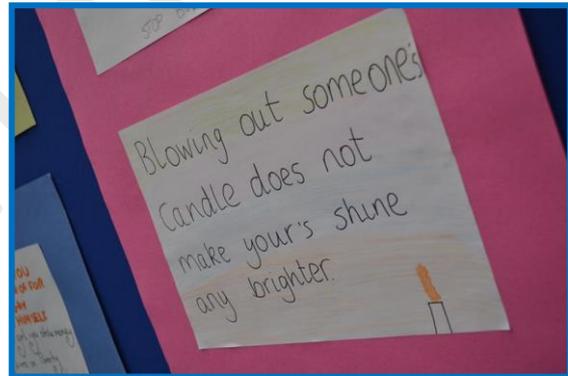


At lunchtime on Friday 16th November, pupils and staff were shown an extremely poignant and thought provoking video which had been devised and filmed by our very own pupils, Graham Wilson, Pupil Support Worker and Brenda Thorley and Julie Emslie our Community Learning and Development partners. Well done to all involved. #lovemylife #respect #personalbest



School Values – Respect

More pictures from our Anti-bullying and Respect Focus Week:





School Values – Respect

Continuing on the theme of respect, during the first week of December, Mrs Buchan delivered assemblies on 'We are all Different, but the Same Inside'.

We are all the same on the inside.



“Mrs Buchan used 2 apples to demonstrate how our words can help or harm others. She spoke kindly to one apple and nastily to another apple and when she cut them open, the apple which had been verbally abused was all bruised inside. This demonstrated how our sometimes words can affect and hurt others.

She also had a competition between 2 pupils to see who could squeeze the most toothpaste a tube in record time and then she asked the pupils if they could put the toothpaste back in the tubes, but as we all know, that’s impossible!. This also demonstrated that when our words are out there, they’re out there to stay and it helped us think about what we say to each other in person and on line.

“We are all different, but the same inside.” Written by a S1 pupil.



Aspirational Achievement Ellon Academy News Group

Here are some articles written by our Ellon Academy News Group:

[Anti-bullying at Ellon Academy](#)

Anti-bullying week is an annual event hosted by schools around Scotland. It is designed to raise awareness on how bullying affects people and their mental health. It was held on the 12th-16th of November 2018. Our schools anti-bullying week finished with a moving video from pupils and teachers.

A very inspirational short film, made by Graham, Brenda, Julie and Ellon Academy pupils, was shown to the school and is now on YouTube. The video showed pupils and teachers standing together to tackle the issues of bullying. They held up signs with messages such as "I've been bullied" and "No one deserves to be bullied". The video was made in support of anyone who has been bullied and was to inform people that there are people to help and you are not alone. The video told us just a few of many types and ways bullying can happen. They said "bullying is threats, teasing, mean words, standing by and watching, rumors and gossip and using homophobic language." They also told us that words hurt, this video is trying to get more people to stand up to bullying. It was presented at the end of anti-bullying week, where the video was projected onto the back wall of the sunken social area where lots of pupils and teachers of all ages were standing watching the video and listening to Graham speak. An Art display of posters was put up to help explain bullying and its effects on others.

In an interview with Brenda Thorley we got her view on anti-bullying week. We asked her "Why did you choose to make a video to show anti-bullying awareness?" her response was "I and the other community workers had a meeting and made the collective decision to make a video after Graham Wilson suggested it, we then got a group of children together to help us show our message. Also, videos have a big impact on getting points across." Next, we asked, "What are your thoughts on anti-bullying and bullying?" she responded with "I think that people should be more focused on being kind to themselves and others and not focus on being horrible" and finally we asked, "Why did you want to get involved with anti-bullying week?" "as a supporter of anti-bullying each year I try to do what I can to stop bullying especially seen as I have witnessed the effects bullying can have on a young person."

The 2018 Anti-bullying week has been a huge success spreading awareness of bullying and who to go if you feel you are being bullied. The creators of the video (Graham, Brenda and Julie) are also community support workers and are available for any support issues you may have.

By Ashleigh, Julie and Emily (S3)



Aspirational Achievement Ellon Academy News Group

Here are some articles written by our Ellon Academy News Group:

Remembering those who died to let us live

By Ericka and Kirsty (S4)



When we think back to the harrowing times of the war, poignant images come to mind. Obviously, it would have been devastating, damaging and dehumanising for the masses of men drafted, enrolled and lead to their inevitable deaths, that lurked in the hands of the monstrous war machines that were never seen or used before during warfare- but do we ever think how we, as a new generation, could cope in the shoes of the brave heroes who sacrificed their lives to save our future? Do we ever truly think of how hard life would have been for a young man having to leave his village, his home, his friends and family and potentially lose it all? Of course, we sympathise for those lost and for those who suffered from losses but do we truly empathise with them?

To pay tribute to the fallen soldiers Mrs. Anderson's senior Drama Club acted out a small section from the finale of the television show "Blackadder" called "Goodbye" the scene takes place in the front-line trenches where Blackadder himself tries to escape the war by acting mad, but ultimately his plans don't work, and he is forced to go over the top, and he unfortunately dies. The scene ties together comedy and tragedy and leaves you shocked at the after effects of the war on the battalion you follow. After the performance a Reverend came in to aid the pupils to comprehend the mass amount of losses that took place during World War One, he came in to present a speech to us all during our assembly. In this speech he stated: "Look to your right. The person sitting there is dead, but you have survived". This really is an eye opener to number of lives that had been stolen in the time of the war and the everlasting effects on those lucky or unlucky enough to be left alive.

Aspirational Achievement Ellon Academy News Group

Here are some articles written by our Ellon Academy News Group:

YPI Finals

On Tuesday the 20th of November, the YPI finals for our s6 pupils took place. There were participants from secondary schools around Scotland. It is YPI's 10th anniversary. The winners of the finals were Cali Stephen and Calum Meikle. They gave the opening presentation for this year's event in Perth Concert Hall. They said that "We were pushed way beyond our comfort zones and because of the amazing opportunity that YPI gave us, we're able to stand here and speak to you all." YPI has made an impact on many charities and pupils. YPI consists of working in groups to give a persuasive speech and try to win money for their chosen charity. By Sophie (S1)



Safe Drive Stay Alive

Safe Drive Stay Alive is an educational event which S5 pupils in the regions of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire experienced on the 20th November at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen. The event happens because the North East has the worst driving behaviour in Scotland. From Safe Drive Stay Alive, pupils gain knowledge and understanding of the dangers. During the event, they hear from a paramedic, a firefighter, a police officer and a doctor from A&E. They also hear from a young man from a terrific road traffic accident and his experiences and a mum whose son was killed in a road traffic accident. Safe Drive Stay Alive has been running for at least 10 years and has made a big impact on all the S5 pupils and have had a positive experience. One young person was inspired by the campaign so much that she joined the police to help combat the issue. It is a great experience for S5 pupils, and it shows them a lot about what happens for one little mistake.

By Calum & Ryan S3



Aspirational Achievement Ellon Academy News Group

Here are some articles written by our Ellon Academy News Group:

S3 Entrepreneurship Day

S3 Entrepreneurship Day is where S3 pupils spend a day making their own businesses and are inspired by entrepreneurs. In the first quarter of the day, you are informed about the day and get a talk from 1-2 entrepreneurs which explain their business and answer any questions you may have. After that, you work with a group and decide a business and work out all the stuff to make it work. The idea can be anything from a stationary vending machine to a beauty salon. You design a poster to stick in the sunken social area displaying your business idea, what it includes and prices. My group also had to present our idea to our registration class.

It is a really fun day and I enjoyed it a lot. I learnt a lot more about the difficulty of preparing a business and the entrepreneurs were young, showing that starting a business isn't an old man's job.

By Calum (S3)



School Values – Responsibility

Learning for Sustainability – Fairtrade Fortnight



Ellon Academy's Fairtrade Committee have been working so hard promoting Fairtrade products in school and set up their own 'pop-up shop' selling some lovely products for Christmas gift ideas.

Well done everyone!



School Values – Responsibility
Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Pictured below are the winning YPI Team this year representing Friends of Anchor.

Our winning team Mhairi, etc, etc, etc, etc received £3000 from the Wood Foundation to donate to their chosen charity, Friends of Anchor.

Well done girls.



All of our finalists did an exceptional job in delivering heart felt presentations representing Charlie House, Friends of the Neo-natal Unit, North-East Scotland's Disable Veterans Association, North-East Eating Disorders Support and Rainbow Rogues.



Well done to you all.

Learning for Sustainability CAD/CAM Club

Very proud of our CAD/CAM Club members who have been making and selling

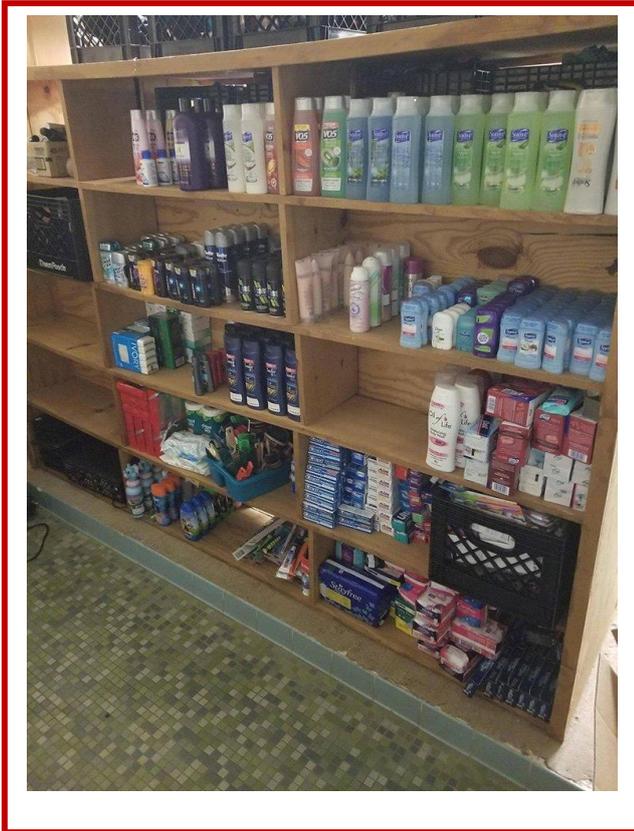
lovely Christmas decorations.



SPOOKY GOINGS ON IN OCTOBER!



Excellence and Equity



At Ellon Academy we are fully committed to removing any barriers which can get in the way of health and wellbeing and learning for all of our pupils. One of our Pupil Support Assistants

Mrs Lori Jaffrey came up with a fantastic idea to set up a 'Comfort Closet' here at the school where pupils can access the daily essentials they may need.

We have been overwhelmed with donations from parents, staff and the community and so many of our pupils have benefited from this.

We welcome donations to help support our pupils including:

Stationery, clothing, recycled school uniforms, and toiletries.

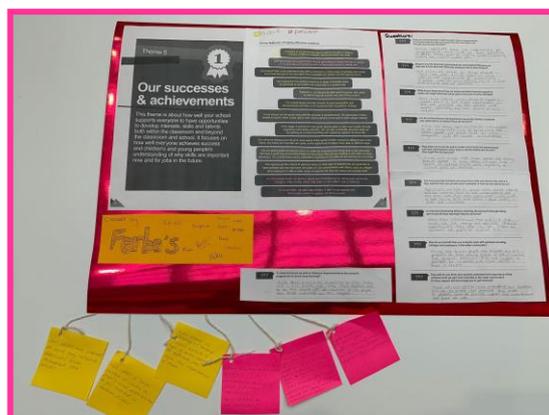
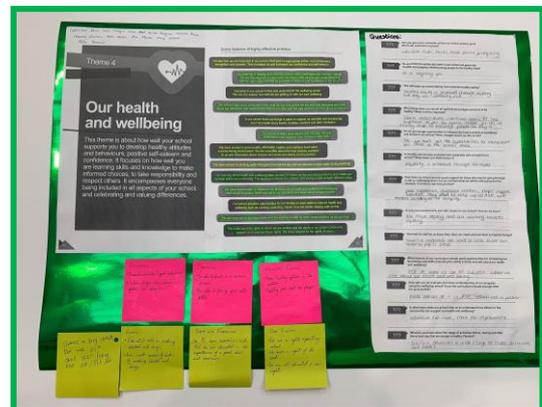
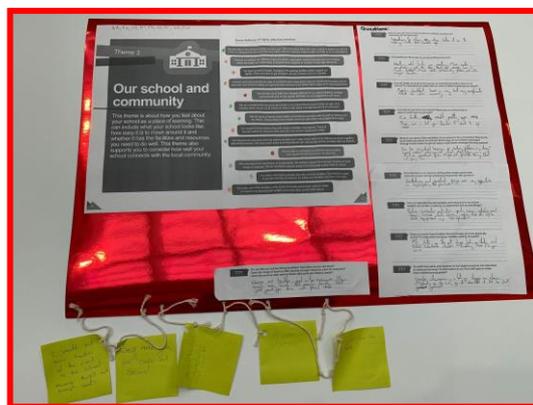
We are very grateful for everything which has been so kindly donated.



Pupil Voice and Participation

Pupil Conference

On Wednesday 26th September, we held our *Pupil Conference* with all pupil leaders present to represent the *Pupil Forum* which is all Ellon Academy pupils. In the morning we covered the “Ellon Academy Draft Pupil Leadership Development Framework” and their ideas, suggestions etc on other items. The “*Ellon Academy Draft Pupil Leadership Development Framework*” was approved except currently we do not offer peer support to S4. In the afternoon, pupils worked in mix agree groups to answer the questions set on each of the 5 themes of “*How Good is Our School*” . See photos for the feedback. Pupils flagged up the need for a guide to all the various pupil roles and remits so Mrs Hall is working with Pupil leaders to create an e information booklet summarising all the different leadership opportunities for each level. SLT have been responding to all of the points raised at this meeting. Minutes and information from this and other pupil leadership meetings are copied on to the “Pupil Voice” tile on GLOW so all pupils in the school can access them.



Developing the Young Workforce

Careers Convention 2018

On Wednesday 3rd October, we held our annual careers convention. This was open to all our pupils and adults in the local community as well as other local secondary schools. It was a fantastic event with employers, universities, colleges, third sector organisations and services all hosting information stands to bring our pupils the most up to date information on careers and education pathways. Brewdog and NESCOL offered workshops and our prefects did an amazing job supporting everyone on the night!



S4 Mock Interviews

On Monday 5th November we held our annual Mock Interviews for S4. This year pupils involved had to apply for specific jobs and prepare a CV and covering letter to match that. A wide range of local employers and Rotarians conducted the interviews as per a real job interview. They gave very helpful feedback to pupils and all said they were very impressed with the pupils they interviewed. Well done S4!



School Values – Excellence

Lifted Leadership – Pupil Leadership in Action

The run up to Christmas is an extremely busy time for our pupil leaders with so many events and things to do. As a reward for all their hard work, S6 are permitted to wear Christmas jumpers from the beginning of December and all pupils can wear their Christmas jumpers (if they wish to) on Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14th December. S6 pupils have been so busy visiting our local care homes spreading Christmas cheer to the residents and providing a donation to them from Ellon Academy. They have been busily preparing and co-ordinating our Christmas shoebox appeal also decorating our House Christmas trees and it has proved nigh on impossible to source orange tinsel for Forbes House?



Responsible Citizens

Environment Impact Team update

We have been trying hard to teach young people about the importance of respecting our environment by putting all their litter in a bin. The Eco Warriors work at lunch times in our social areas to teach youngsters to put litter in a bin. However, we need help from our parents, carers and community organisations to reinforce this message so our young people do not forget.



The Ellon Academy Memorial Community Garden (TEAM CG) has been gaining a lot of local and national recognition and funding for its outstanding work. The TEAM CG learn and grow area is up and running and we are now working on a new community sensory and reflection garden that will support our young people or anyone in the community who needs a quiet space when they are bereaved or anxious or needing time to think. Local companies and services have been supporting this work and we are hoping to have this opened in summer 2019 or thereabouts depending on the weather!



The 2 other key areas of work we are focusing on are 1. Reducing energy waste and 2. Increasing pupils' health and well - being. We would encourage parents, carers and community organisations to support our work by talking to young people about the importance of saving energy and living healthy lives.

On Friday 28th September, the Executive Team and Finn D in S2 gave a presentation on our Environment work as part of our Green Schools pilot work at the Council chamber in Aberdeen.

They won £500 for the school's environment team! Well done!

Learning for Sustainability

Rights Respecting School

Preparation for the Renewal of Our Gold Rights Respecting School Award

As a Gold level Rights Respecting School, we have continued to teach pupils about the *UN Convention on the rights of the Child* through subjects, whole year group activity days and assemblies. We are delighted to have pupils involved in a wide range of community and school projects that promote rights. Bethany Wilson in S6 has been working on the national group as an iRights ambassador which has involved her team creating the Scottish Government's "5Rights" policy for internet use.



We hope that parents, carers and local community groups working with young people will support the work we do on rights by reminding all young people that: rights are about NEEDS not WANTS; that you are born with rights and nobody can take any part or all of them away and that the rights are for every child or young person up to the age of 18 and, post 18, all adults are covered by the same rights, except the right to play, through the UN Human Rights Convention. The core value to the rights matches the school's core value as it is about RESPECT for everyone and the environment.

We have done house assemblies on this and all pupils have signed a pledge to be respectful of others, the rights and take an anti-bullying stance. Please reinforce these messages at home and in the local community as young people will mirror what they see and hear



Promoting Partnerships

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch



On Wednesday 5th December we welcomed over 50 Ellon and District Senior Citizens to school for a lovely Christmas lunch prepared by our very own Mr Graeme Bagshaw and his catering staff.

The group were served by our senior pupils, who also decorated the Theatre and washed the dishes!

Our friends in the group had a lovely lunch and were entertained by S5 pupil Mhairi McKeown on the piano.

Thanks to Miss Tomlinson for co-ordinating, to Mr McLean for the fab photos and everyone who make the event very special.



Aspirational Achievement

Congratulations to Kayleigh Mankin 3K1

Kayleigh M was recently taking part in a Taekwondo competition In Limerick, Ireland and performed exceptionally well. She won a gold for sparring, gold for patterns and a bronze for jumping kick.
Very well done Kayleigh.



Excellence in Health and Wellbeing

Sports Colours Awards 2018

Congratulations to all our pupils who have achieved Sports Half and Full Colour Awards this year.

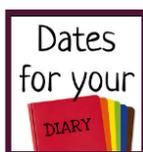
Very well done to you all.

Thanks to our Health and Wellbeing Faculty for organising the event and for inviting our very special guests Alex Duncan and Hannah Miley!



Special thanks also to our Dance pupils who entertained us and to our Hospitality pupils who provided lovely refreshments on the night.

Information and important dates for Parents/Carers to print off and stick on your fridge!



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	-	All pupils/staff – Fri 14 th Dec (Optional)
Music for Christmas Concerts	-	Wed 19 th and Thurs 20 th December
Dress as You Please Day	-	Thurs 20 th December
Fancy Dress Parade	-	Period 1 Thurs 20 th December
S6 Best Dressed	-	Period 2 Thurs 20 th December
Charity Cheerleading	-	Periods 3/4 Thurs 20 th December
S5/6 Charity Ceilidh	-	Periods 5/6 Thurs 20 th December
Christmas Services	-	Fri 21 st December
End of Term	-	Fri 21 st December – 2.50pm
Start of Term 3	-	Mon 7 th January – 8.25am
S4/5/6 Prelims begin	-	Mon 14 th January
S3 Subject Choices Evening	-	Mon 14 th January
S2 Subject Choices Evening	-	Mon 21 st January
S3 Parents' Evening (Curricular)	-	Tues 22 nd January
S4/5/6 Prelims end	-	Fri 25 th January
Burns Lunch and S1/2/3 Ceilidh	-	Fri 25 th January
S2 Parents' Evening (Curricular)	-	Wed 30 th January
Parent Council Meeting	-	Thurs 31 st January (7 – 8.30pm)
S4/5 Subject Choices Evening	-	Mon 4 th February
S3/4 UK Maths Challenge	-	Thurs 7 th February
Friday Holiday (February Long Weekend)	-	Fri 8 th February
Monday Holiday (February Long Weekend)	-	Mon 11 th February
S6 Prom – Meldrum House Hotel	-	Mon 11 th February
In-Service (February Long Weekend)	-	Tues 12 th February
In-Service (February Long Weekend)	-	Wed 13 th February
S4 Parents Evening (Pastoral)	-	Tues 26 th February
World Book Day	-	Thurs 7 th March
S1 Parents' Evening (Curricular)	-	Wed 13 th March
S1 and S6 Year Group Photographs	-	Fri 15 th March
Music for Spring Concert	-	Wed 27 th March
Dress Down Day	-	Thurs 28 th March
Easter Services	-	Fri 29 th March

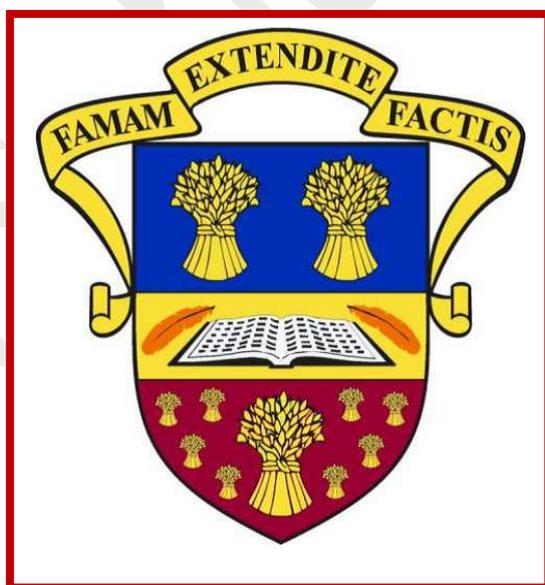
Communication:

If parents and carers are having difficulty using the Xpressions App for communications, please email the following address for support direct from the company. parentsupport@groupcall.com

Here's a recent quote from a satisfied parent who contacted them for support:

"I just wanted to let you know that I've been having a really good experience with the Xpressions support team. I've been having a nice conversation via email with a man who tells me I've managed to find a bug in the system and they are pushing out an emergency update to fix it. He has been really helpful."

Thank you to all the pupils and staff who have written articles and contributed to our
December 2018 edition of Elevate Magazine



Personal Best