

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents and Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 26th August 2022

Quote of the week beginning 29.8.22:



Dear parents/carers

We have been so pleased to welcome our learners back to school for session 22/23. Our new S1 pupils are adapting well to their new surroundings and getting used to new routines as part of secondary school life. We are supporting those who have found the change more challenging.

Personal Best in SQA Exam Results 2022

We would like to congratulate our learners on achieving excellent exams results this year. We are acutely aware of the challenges that our young people have had to endure over the past 2 years and the impact that this has had on learning and wellbeing.

This generation of young people have had to be so resilient in the face of many changes, challenges, and restrictions in their lives, and we are so proud of our learners in their individual achievements.

Mrs Buchan said:

"Remember, your Personal Best is just that, it is about you and your future, no-one else's, and every success must be recognised and acknowledged. Each step is a step towards a new future. Good luck to all those moving on from school and for those of you returning for more, let's get stuck in!

We are so proud of each and every one of you". [#personalbest](#) [#nowrongpath](#) [#youmadeit](#) 🎉🎉🎉

SQA Appeals:

Many of our staff have been in school or working from home over the summer, particularly in terms of ensuring that we have robust evidence to back up any SQA results appeals that learners have requested.

Teachers are not paid over the summer, so I really appreciate their willingness to give up their time during the holidays to support this process.

Assemblies:

This week at the S5/6 assembly, we congratulated our senior learners on their exam successes.

Well done to all our seniors who have never sat exams before. I reminded them that if they can say that they tried their very best, they should be proud of the awards they have received.

Those who may have been disappointed know that we as a school will continue to support them and to ensure that they are aware that working towards exams for this session starts now. It's a marathon, not a sprint!

Also, over the summer there would appear to have been some difficulties involving social media usage, particularly amongst a small number of our new S2 cohort. We have addressed this with our learners via assemblies this week and previously and in PSE in the past. We would ask that if parents/carers are aware of any concerns regarding social media that they let us know so we can support pupils in school, and to ensure that you keep yourselves aware of what your child/children might be posting on-line. However, I am pleased to say that most learners are responsible and respectful in and out of school and on-line.

Here is the news for this week:

Staff up-date:

- Technical – readvertised (No Technical Probationer teachers allocated to Aberdeenshire)
- Computing – readvertised
- Music – Miss Copeland is moving on at the end of September so her post will be advertised in due course. We wish her our best wishes for the future.
- Here are the new staff who have joined us this term:

✓ Miss N Cozens	Drama
✓ Mr M Meechan	PE
✓ Miss K Daniel	PE
✓ Mr M Caskie	PE
✓ Mrs G Perk	PT Additional Support for Learning (starts in September)
✓ Mr A Pennycook	PT Pupil Development
✓ Mrs C Godsman	HEc
✓ Miss L Vyse	English
✓ Mrs D Jones	English
✓ Miss M Neufal	Biology/Science
✓ Miss R Milton	Art
✓ Mrs S Quinn	Art
✓ Mr B Higgins	Chemistry/Science
✓ Miss D Smith	Piano Instructor

Also, congratulations to Mr C Price (Drama) and his wife on the birth of their first baby over the summer.

New S1 Pupils:

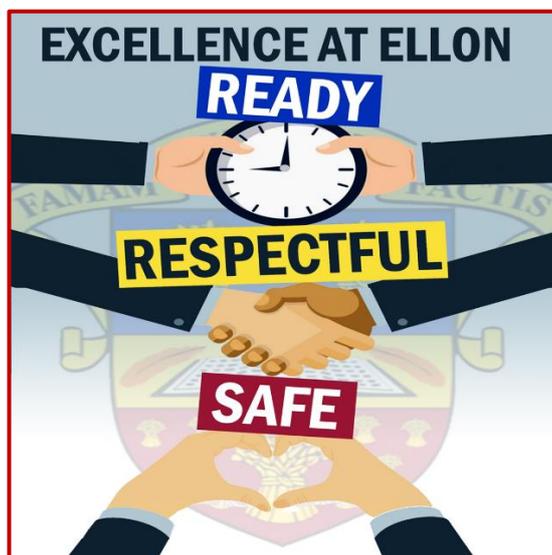
So far, our new S1 pupils have been settling in well to life at Ellon Academy and staff have reported that they have been attentive and enthusiastic in classes.



A New Ethos at Ellon Academy – ‘Excellence at Ellon’

Last session, 21/22, Ellon Academy’s Whole School Improvement Plan detailed our intentions to focus on Ethos, Expectations and Culture, having returned to school in August 2021 following 2 years of disruption due to Covid-19. Back then, it was the right time to consider our ethos and expectations and to re-set these as pupils adapted to life back in school.

All our staff development and training during last school session centred around the work of Paul Dix, ‘When the Adults Change, Everything Changes’, and there were numerous staff meetings and discussions regarding how we implement this in the context of Ellon Academy. We decided to call this initiative ‘Excellence at Ellon’ and we have adopted three very simple and straightforward codes for us all to adhere too in school:



In the school context, here is what these mean in reality:

Ready:

- To come to school prepared with everything you need for the day
- To come to school ready to learn and able to be your best self in all lessons
- To be ready to focus on your own progress and try to always give of your personal best

Respectful:

- To be respectful of yourself by taking responsibility for your belongings and your learning
- To be respectful in your conduct, language and how you treat others in and out of school
- To be respectful of your school and your community by clearing away your own litter and looking after your school and your local environment

Safe:

- To act in a safe way when travelling to and from school
- To act in a safe way in classes as recommended by your teachers
- To tell a member of staff if you are at risk of harm from others
- To be safe online and to report any concerns
- To stick to the safety-first school rules of:
 - To walk and keep left in the corridors and on stairs
 - To refrain from leaning over the bannisters on upper floors
 - To avoid walking through car parks on the school campus and stick to the paths

‘Excellence at Ellon’ also includes our existing school values, but we have added how we recognise learner achievement and effort in class, our routines in school, the consistent phases we will use with learners, our responses to concerns and how we will resolve these:



Our Values, Our Recognition, Our Routines, Our Phrases, Our Responses and Our Repair



Excellence at Ellon – Learner Mark

The Ellon Academy Learner Mark has been implemented since the start of 2017, however, part of our work this year has been to review and revise this to dovetail with our 'Excellence at Ellon' ethos of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe.

SLT and Principal Teachers will be conducting 'Learner Walks' and we will award classes 3/3 if they are all 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' in their lessons.

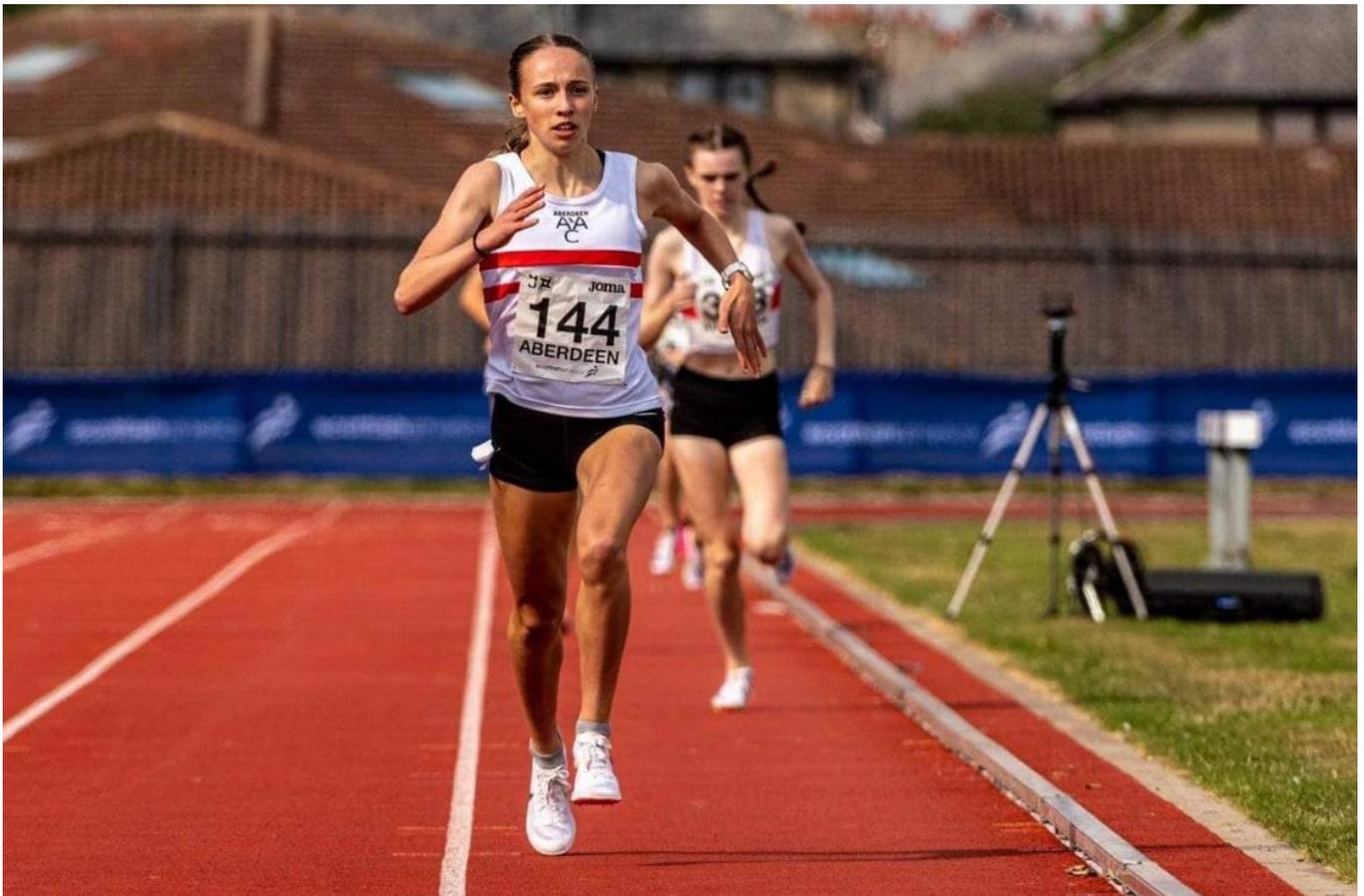


New staff lanyards too!



Pupil Achievement:

Last weekend, at Aberdeen Sports Village, Hannah T in S6, became the U17 Outdoor Scottish Champion for 800m. This is an outstanding achievement! Very well done, Hannah, we are so proud of you!



Pupil Achievement:

This weekend the AFC U14 squad will travel to the Netherlands, supported generously by Zenith Energy, to participate in the highly regarded BOAL tournament.

👉 Thank you to Zenith Energy for supporting the AFC Youth Academy!

Great to see Archie C in S2 away to the Netherlands with Aberdeen FC. Well done, Archie!



Our Archie is front row, 3rd from the right!

Pupil Achievement:

Amazing to see our Millie U in S6, who has been called up to the Scotland Women's Under-19s football team. Well done, Millie, so proud of you!

[#SCOW19s](#) | Pauline Hamill has named her Scotland Women's Under-19s squad for their upcoming friendlies against Hungary and Slovakia 🇪🇺

👉 Read more: <https://scotfa.co/scow19ssqu>

SCOTLAND WOMEN'S UNDER-19s SQUAD		
EILIDH ADAMS HIBERNIAN	LISA MAHER-RODGERS HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	MILLIE URQUHART ABERDEEN
AIMEE ANDERSON HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	KIRSTY MACLEAN RANGERS	MEGAN WEARING IPSWICH TOWN
MYA BATES SPARTANS	ANNA LISA MCCANN ABERDEEN	KENZIE WEIR EVERTON
JESSICA BROADRICK ABERDEEN	NIAMH NOBLE GLASGOW CITY	<small>ON LOAN FROM CELTIC</small>
MYA CHRISTIE ABERDEEN	LONDON POLLARD MOTHERWELL	
ADDIE HANDLEY HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	OLIVIA POTTER HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	
JEMMA HUGHES MOTHERWELL	HANNAH ROBINSON SPARTANS	
KAYLA JARDINE RANGERS	EVA THOMSON ABERDEEN	
HANNAH JORDAN SPARTANS		

Lead partners of the Scotland National Teams

Pupil Achievement:

Coached by teachers Miss Campbell, Miss Bowie, and Mrs Donald, the 90 strong Cheer Team has in recent years won various cheerleading trophies at a junior and senior level, and regularly competes locally and nationally.



Bancon Homes joins up with Ellon Academy Cheer Team

As part of its continued commitment to the local community Bancon Homes' Aden Meadows development in Mintlaw has become the official kit sponsor for the Ellon Academy Cheer Team.

Cheer Captain, Chloe Anderson said: "Cheer is way more than just a sport.

(Source – The Ellon Times)

Pupil Achievement:

Associated Board (ABRSM) and Trinity Music Exam Success

Aeryn B: ABRSM Grade 2 Violin – Merit

Murray L: Trinity College London Grade 6 Scottish Traditional Fiddle - Pass

Esme M: Trinity College London Grade 3 Scottish Traditional Fiddle – Distinction

Stephanie B ABRSM Grade 3 Violin – Merit

Hayley D: ABRSM Grade 3 Violin – Merit

Abigail H: ABRSM Grade 3 Violin – Merit

Molly E: ABRSM Grade 4 Trumpet – Distinction

Duncan M: ABRSM Grade 3 Trumpet – Distinction

Advika A: ABRSM Grade 2 French Horn – Distinction

Keira F: Trinity College London Grade 2 Alto Saxophone – Distinction

Piper B: Trinity College London Grade 2 Alto Saxophone - Distinction

Former pupils' success too!

Angelina B: Trinity College London Grade 7 Violin – pass (Spring 2022)

Isla M: Trinity College London Grade 7 Viola – pass (Spring 2022)

Well done everyone!



Parents/Carers and Staff Parents' Evenings Survey Results:

With the results of the staff and parents/carers Parents' Evenings survey last term, here are the results:

- Teacher feedback (54 responses – 68% of staff)
 - 61% online for all parents' evenings to be virtual
 - 59% of staff said it was a very positive experience
 - 2% had technical difficulties

- Parents feedback (161 responses – 14% of parents/carers)
 - Blended (mix of virtual and in person)
 - Preferred option of parents - 49.1%
 - All Virtual – 23.6%
 - In person – 19.3%

Therefore, due to the limited response from parents, SLT have decided on the following:

- S1 Curricular Parents Evening (Wed 30.5.23) In-person
- S1 Pastoral and all other parents' evening S2/S3/S4.5.6 - Virtual

For your Information:

Message for pupils and parents from Ellon Academy Catering Staff:

The Fusion App is now up and running to allow pupils to pre-order their lunches. Using the App has a big impact on our lunch queues, so we are encouraging our learners to try this out!



For attention of S1 and S2 pupils:

Over the next few weeks within Technical we will be learning CAD. This will be following some videos and need headphones to do so. Although we will provide these for you to use, if you prefer to use your own you are more than welcome to bring in your own. These need to be wired though, as we have no Bluetooth connectivity on our computers to use the air pod style ones.

See you then! The Technical Faculty



For your information:

GIRLS NEWCASTLE UTD FOOTBALL TRIP, February 2023

We are planning a footballing weekend trip for girls of all ages to Newcastle Utd next Feb17th-20th.

The price of trip is £499.00. The trip will include training sessions, a behind the scenes stadium tour, a match against local opposition and tickets to watch Newcastle Utd play Liverpool.

The trip is for girls in school who play football, but they do not have to play for the school teams to be eligible to go. If you have not heard of this trip and your daughter's name is not already down, please could you please let Mr McLean in S25, know, as the closing date for names is September 6th. A decision will be made by the 9th of September 9th as to who has secured a place on the trip. If we are oversubscribed, a selection process will take place and those successful and unsuccessful will be notified. The first payment will be expected at end of September. Any questions regarding this, please contact Mr C McLean.



School Girls Football group trip to Newcastle Utd Feb 17th-20th 2023.

We hoped for a good fixture...
We've chosen one of the best of the season

NEWCASTLE V LIVERPOOL

- 4 day trip includes;
- 3 High quality training sessions
- Behind the scenes stadium tour
- Match against local opposition
- Tickets to watch Newcastle Utd FC v Liverpool
- Hotel with pool.

School information:

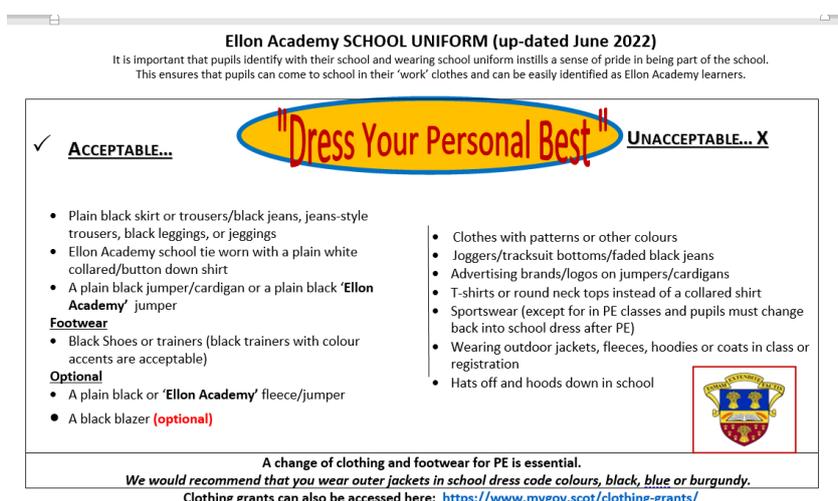
- The one-way system at Ellon Academy has now been removed, but pupils have been asked to stay left whilst using the stairs
- Our school day timings have reverted to pre-covid times from August 2022:
 - Break – 10.15 – 10.30am (back to 15 mins, not 20 mins)
 - Mon/Tues Lunch – 1.00pm – 1.50am (same) End of the school day – 3.30pm (same)
 - Wed/Thurs/Fri Lunch – 12.10am – 1.10pm (changed back) End of school day – 2.50pm

School Uniform:

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting our school uniform.

Please follow the link below for information on our school uniform. No changes from last session.

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/School-Uniform-Up-dated-May-22.pdf>



Ellon Academy SCHOOL UNIFORM (up-dated June 2022)

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.

✓ **ACCEPTABLE...** **"Dress Your Personal Best"** **UNACCEPTABLE... X**

- Plain black skirt or trousers/black jeans, jeans-style trousers, black leggings, or jeggings
- Ellon Academy school tie worn with a plain white collared/button down shirt
- A plain black jumper/cardigan or a plain black 'Ellon Academy' jumper
- Footwear**
- Black Shoes or trainers (black trainers with colour accents are acceptable)
- Optional**
- A plain black or 'Ellon Academy' fleece/jumper
- A black blazer (optional)

- Clothes with patterns or other colours
- Joggers/tracksuit bottoms/faded black jeans
- Advertising brands/logos on jumpers/cardigans
- T-shirts or round neck tops instead of a collared shirt
- Sportswear (except for in PE classes and pupils must change back into school dress after PE)
- Wearing outdoor jackets, fleeces, hoodies or coats in class or registration
- Hats off and hoods down in school

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.
Clothing grants can also be accessed here: <https://www.mygov.scot/clothing-grants/>

Dates For Your Diary

The new Ellon Academy School Calendar has been uploaded to our website.
To view, please click on the link below:

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

Term 1

- Week beginning 29.8.22 – S4/5/6 Learner Conversations re Aspirational Grades
- School Photographer for Individual Photos (S1/3/5/6) Monday 19th September

2023 SQA Exam Dates:

For those potentially planning summer holidays next year (2023), the National Qualification exam diet will start on Monday 24 April 2023 and finish on Wednesday 31 May 2023.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in partnership,

Pauline Buchan

Rector
26.8.22