



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 17th March 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Thankfully, we've had a full week without weather disruption and hopefully we've seen the last of the snow for this school year. Just as a reminder, here is the link to the Aberdeenshire Council Adverse Weather page which provides information regarding schools opening status:

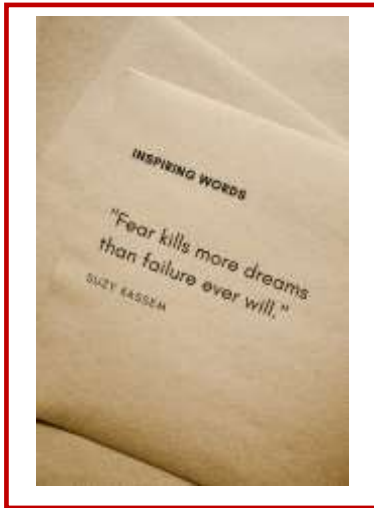
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/school-transport/adverse-weather/>

Also, MyAberdeenshire and the App are very helpful too:

[Sign in with myAberdeenshire](#) to register for email alerts or [download the myAberdeenshire app](#) to get notifications when your school(s) updates their closure status.

We will continue to do our very best for our learners with safety at the heart of all decisions for them and for the school staff.

Quote of the Week beginning 20.3.23:



Clark	W	1F1	10
Cameron	T	1K2	9
Alyssa	E	1M2	7
Sophie	M	1M2	7
Vanessa	M	1M2	7
Hannah	W	1F1	7
Milo	B	2M1	6
James	W	2M1	6
Adam	B	3M1	5
Bobby	B	3F1	5
Rian	G	3F1	5
Emma	H	3K2	5
Freya	K	3S2	5
Calum	P	3F1	5

Ashley	R	3C2	5
Skye	T	3C1	5
Chloe	W	3K2	5
Rachael	C	4K1	3
Jacob	D	4K1	3
Findlay	G	4F1	3
Blair	W	4F2	3
Isla	M	5C1	6
Erin	C	5K1	4
Caitlin	W	5K1	4
Alistair	H	6S	5
Xander	H	6M	4



Most Merits/Over and Above:

Well done to the learners below for getting the most merits over the past week. They will receive their canteen Fast Passes after registration in the Sunken Social area on Mon 20.3.23.

Assemblies:

Please note that due to industrial action and up and coming SQA Drama exams in the Theatre, assemblies will be affected:

Week beginning 20.3.23:

- No assemblies due to SQA Drama exams in the Theatre

Week beginning Mon 27.3.23:

- No S1/2/3 Assemblies due to 'Music for Spring' Concert and rehearsals in the Theatre
- S4 SQA Exams Assembly – Thurs 30.3.23 during Registration
- S5/6 SQA Exams Assembly – Fri 31.3.23 during Registration

Week beginning Mon 17.4.23 during Registration:

- Mon 17.3.23 - S1 Theatre
- Tues 18.3.23 - S2 Theatre
- Wed 19.3.23 - S3 Theatre
- Thurs 20.3.23 - S4 Theatre
- Fri 21.3.23 - S5/6 Theatre

Senior Exam Support:

Study Skills Sessions:

Mrs K Leslie, PT Humanities is an expert on Study Skills, and she has offered to deliver sessions to all S4 classes during their Core RME time prior to the Easter break. Thank you, Mrs Leslie!

Mentoring

Several learners have been identified for 1-1 Mentoring Support from volunteer staff between now and the SQA exams. They will be supported with organisation and study.

Lunchtime and after school help clubs:

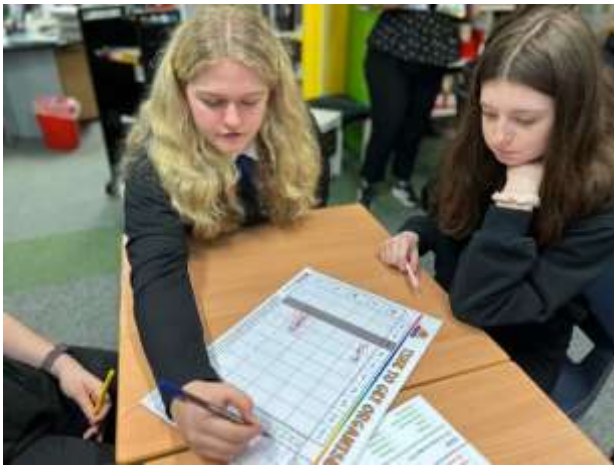
Faculties continue to offer support via help clubs for all senior phase learners.

Study Café

Mr Meechan continues to offer a safe, warm, and inviting study space in the library every week with free refreshments and snacks for senior phase learners.

Live n Learn – Monday 13.3.23





S3 Work Experience/Activities Week 2023:

What's happening with S3 Work Experience this year?

This is a complicated issue and what has given us the most concern is that the Aberdeenshire Work Experience Unit is now no longer able to support secondary schools in organising work placements for whole year groups. They have limited funding and now they have been told to prioritise work placements for the ever-increasing number of senior pupils who are studying Foundation Apprenticeships and therefore they do not have the capacity to support schools in whole year groups going out for a week of work experience.

This affects Ellon Academy because our S3 learners would usually be out on a week-long placement every May, so this won't be happening again. This leaves us with a significant problem in that Activities Week is usually for S1/2 learners and we can only do this and have the staff capacity to do this when all of S3 are out on work experience. In the past this has freed up staff to take S1/2 pupils out of school or to provide in-house experiences for 450 learners. With S3s not going out on Work Experience, this year we will have over 600 learners in school, and we do not have the staff capacity to provide trips/activities for that number of pupils.

As an alternative, this year we are planning Interdisciplinary activities/projects for S1/2 learners during class time (This has no cost implication to families – a consideration within the current cost of living crisis) and a bespoke programme called 'Build Your Future' for S3 learners, which will involve a day out of school.

Plans so far for S3 Build Your Future are:

- Day 1 - S3 Entrepreneurship Day
- Day 2 – S3 Visit to Robert Gordon University
- Day 3 – S3 Work Related Activities Day

More information will be communicated to parents in due course when we know for sure what we can deliver.

S1 ENTERPRISE – FUTURE MARATHON

As part of our S1 Enterprise course, all pupils who are able will take part in a marathon to raise funds for our chosen charity, Charlie House. The last time we were able to do this was just before COVID hit so we are keen to build our links with external parties again. Back in 2020, our pupils ran a total of 18 marathons and raised just over £977. Over the next few weeks, pupils will be working on social enterprises and charities when in class. It is also hoped that a representative from Charlie House visits to tell pupils first-hand about the important work that they do. Sponsor forms have been issued to all pupils this week. Pupils have been tasked with asking family members and close friends for sponsorship. Safety is important and pupils have been reminded not to knock on the doors of strangers! Whilst accepting that we are amid a cost-of-living crisis at this time, some families may not be able to contribute. It is hoped that, as a school, we can all pull together and manage to raise as much money as possible. 1p, 20p or £10 – whatever you can afford will all help to support this worthy cause.

Pupils will be running their marathons during normal PE time later this term.

Dates will be confirmed in class and via Google Classroom.

Big thanks to Mr Lawson and the Health & Wellbeing faculty for helping in this venture.

Keep an eye on social media and weekly news for further updates.

Mrs Ewen, PT Business Education



Life is precious

S1 pupils have had a visit by Charlie House reps during their Enterprise period this week and heard all about the amazing work they do. Pupils took part in a range of different activities to better understand some of the challenges facing young people and their families. Lots of excitement and photos! Marathons will take place during their normal PE lesson this week. Sponsor forms & money should be returned to their Enterprise teacher asap.



Following on from visit by Charlie House staff pupils in 1C2, 1K2, 1M2 and 1S1 ran their marathon this week, in a joint inter-disciplinary learning project with the Health and Wellbeing Faculty. Well done all!



S4 – S5 and S5 – S6 Course Choices

It was good to see so many S4 parents/carers on-line on Wednesday at our Parents/Carers Evening and on Tuesday 14.3.23, we suspended the timetable Period 5 today to allow S4/5 learners to speak with Faculty Principal Teachers about their course choices for next year. It was a very busy and productive exercise with lots of robust conversations. Even in some sensitive situations, when a learners' level goes against the recommendation for a faculty, then it's best to know now what will be expected, and this can be further discussed at the pending parents' evenings.

There was a real buzz about the school on Tuesday Period, and I again draw your attention to my Curriculum presentation, and more information from Faculty Heads in advance of the Option Form return deadline of 23rd March.

Mr G Cowie, DHT

Mr Cowie's presentation

<https://youtu.be/H0Ddi3QdK2U>

Faculty Heads presentations - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Vxs3PBrBmPQXPUgngtgTL-5QXtyDCE?usp=share_link

If you have any queries, please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Guidance in the first instance:

Ellon Academy - 01358 281150

Principal Teachers of Guidance email addresses for your information:

Cheyne House	-	Mrs P Waugh	paula.waugh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Forbes House	-	Miss N Jeffrey	nicole.jeffrey@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Keith House	-	Mr K Findlay	kris.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
McDonald House		Mrs C Kaczmarek	claire.kaczmarek@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sinclair House	-	Mrs L Donald	lyndsey.donald@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sinclair House	-	Miss M Watt (Wed/Thurs/Fri)	may.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

S4 – S5 and S5 to S6 Course Choice Key Dates:

- 21.3.23 - S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- 23.3.23 - S4/5 Course Choice form submission deadline

Developing the Young Workforce Up-date from Mr Abberley-Nicoll, PT DYW:

S4-S6 – Job Vacancies and Apprenticeship Opportunities

The following job vacancies and apprenticeship opportunities are currently accepting applications - from across the North-East (*via* the DYW Northeast Jobs Portal <https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal>).

- Various Apprenticeships (Logistics/Business, Engineering Design, Mechanical Fitter) – Baker Hughes (c/d 30/03/23)
- Apprentice Workshop Technician – Airpac Rentals (c/d 31/03/23)
- Graduate Apprenticeship: Civil Engineer – Balfour Beatty (c/d 31/05/23)
- Apprentice Draughtspersons – TechnipFMC (c/d 07/07/23).

To find out more and to apply for these exciting opportunities, visit the DYW North East Jobs Portal at <https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal>.

The following vacancies are also available outside of the DYW North East Jobs Portal:

- Land-based Pre-apprenticeship – Ringlink Scotland (c/d 31/03/23).
www.ringlinkscotland.co.uk/pre-apprenticeship
Application by email to gail@ringlinkscotland.co.uk
- Trainee Technician – Reservoir Group (c/d ASAP).
Application by email to maureen.smith@reservoirgroup.com

NEWCASTLE 2024 BOYS FOOTBALL TRIP 2024

On the back of a very popular and successful girls football trip to Newcastle FC last month, we are planning on returning in 2024, this time with a boy's group. The trip will take place in February or March, depending on the fixture list, this will be confirmed in June when the fixtures are announced. It will be from a Friday to the Monday. The trip will include a match against local opposition, 3 training sessions, a tour of St James' Park and tickets to see Newcastle Utd play in a Premiership fixture.

We are looking to take 40 pupils on the trip and more information, via a letter, will be sent out to parents next week regarding this. The closing date for those who would like the opportunity to go on this trip is March 22nd. If demand for this trip is more than we can accommodate, a selection process will be in place, with senior pupils being the main priority.

If anyone has any questions, please get in touch with Mr McLean in S25.



Boys Football trip to Newcastle Utd, Feb or March 2024. (Dependent on fixtures, which come out in June.)

- 4-day trip (Friday to Monday) includes;
- 3 High quality training sessions
- Behind the scenes stadium tour
- Match against local opposition
- Tickets to watch Newcastle Utd FC

More info to come out next week. For those interested, contact Mr McLean.

Artist Visits Ellon Academy

Tom, a celebrated artist visited Ellon Academy last week to work with pupils on illustrations.

He said: *'I have had a great morning at Ellon Academy. I am blown away by the talent of your learners. It is always a great pleasure to come to Ellon Academy'*.



Pupil Achievement Junior and Senior Netball:

A huge well done to both our junior and senior netball teams who played their final game of the season tonight.

The seniors narrowly missed out on a win, losing 23-26 to Lathallan. ⭐

Our juniors had a great win, beating Lathallan 24-2. 🥳🍷

A massive well done to all of the girls involved in this year's netball and we will wait to find out the final results of the league. 🍷



Pupil Achievement:

Sea Cadets: Natasha M (3C2) is Junior Rate of the Year at her local Sea Cadets. This is a fantastic achievement and well-done Natasha!



Pupil Achievement:

Niamh L 3C1 applied for the Young People's Board for Change and got through to the interview stage. Short listed from 498 to interview. Unfortunately, she didn't make it on the Board, but they did say they were very impressed with her communication, resilience, commitment, and determination and invited her to join the Participation Network.

To be short listed was an excellent achievement. Well done, Niamh!



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Megan M and Gregor W in S4 who has been given an interview for the Arkwright Scholarship! This is a prestigious award aimed at identifying, inspiring and nurturing future leaders in Engineering, Computing and Technology in the UK. There were over a thousand applicants this year, and after scoring very highly in their application and aptitude exam, they have both been shortlisted for the award and invited for an interview next month. Well done, and good luck!



Pupil achievement:

Congratulations to Ava B in S3, who has been selected to attend trials for the U15 Scotland Netball Squad in Glasgow on Saturday 25th March. Ava also currently plays netball for both Ellon and Aberdeen District Teams, so her selection for the national squad is recognition of her hard work and undoubted talent. Well done Ava.



Pupil Achievement:

Girls Junior Football Aberdeenshire Cup Semi Final result: Ellon 9-1 Meldrum.

Huge congratulations this week, to the Ellon girls who went through to the Aberdeenshire Cup final after a convincing 9-1 win against Meldrum. The girls played some good football and were up to the challenge from the start. Both teams contributed to a good game, with both teams playing the ball on the deck as often as they could. Ellon's midfield central duo of Millie B and Natalie G kept a good Meldrum midfield quiet and imposed themselves on the game, creating many chances for our girls. Two well taken goals in the first 15 mins by Emily S, settled the girls early on, and their hunger and technical ability was on display for all to see thereafter. Players of match once again were Millie B and Nicole I. This match's shared players of the match were Natalie C and Emily S. Goal scorers were: Emily S 3, Myah R 1, Erin M 1, Ava R 1, Grace S 1, Millie B 1, Natalie G 1. Assists Millie B 2, Myah R 2, Natalie G 1, Grace S 1.



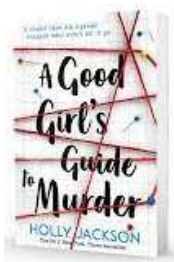
Huge thank you to all pupils, staff and parents who have supported us raise funds for Comic Relief 2023.
Also, many thanks to the S6 Exec Team for organising the collection.

Total will be published next week!



Ellon Academy Reading School - Reading for Pleasure/Recommended Reading for parents, pupils, and staff:

'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson



Pippa investigates a murder that took place in her town 5 years previously. She doesn't think the police got the right person...

'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicol



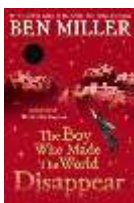
Addie is intrigued by her class topic when they are learning about the victims of witch hunts in her local area. She is bullied due to challenges she faces at school. She spots the similarities between how people treated those accused of witchcraft and how she is treated.

'I Know You Did It' by Sue Wallman



When Ruby was four, she accidentally killed a girl. Now, as a teenager, she is being framed for murders at school...

'The Boy Who Made the World Disappear' by Ben Miller



Harrison has a terrible temper. An unusual entertainer gives him his very own black hole. He starts to put things which annoy him in it – he soon regrets some of his decisions though!



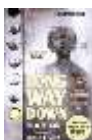
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as they grow up. A great one for dipping in and out of for those who can find reading tricky and/or time-consuming!

'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas



Starr is a passenger when her friend, a black teenager, is shot by a policeman for no reason. She needs to decide if she is brave enough to testify in the face of protests & pressure from the police. Unfortunately, a very relevant book. There are violent themes

'Long Way Down' by Jason Reynolds.



Will's brother has been shot. He needs to decide if he is going to get involved in gang warfare. This book is written as a narrative poem and is easy to read. Another one for those who perhaps struggle to find the time to read.

Pupil Notices:

ALL PUPILS – BASKETBALL

Starting next week, Basketball club will change from a Thursday lunchtime to a Tuesday lunchtime due to the Inter House Cheerleading rehearsals.

Miss Daniel

ALL PUPILS – INTER HOUSE CHEERLEADING

The annual Inter House Cheerleading event will take place on Thursday 30th March. Boys and girls from each year group are invited to take part – regardless of previous experience!

All Pupils

'Digital Drop-In' sessions will take place in the EOLA space (English Open Learning Area) from 12:30-13:00 every Thursday lunchtime for any pupil who is having a school-related digital problem (either with a device or online). Pupils must ensure that their problem is school-related or for school use.

Mr Armstrong

ALL PUPILS – DRAMA CLUB

We have resumed after school from Thursday 23rd February.

Mr Price, Miss Moore & Mrs Cozens

ALL GIRLS – FOOTBALL

We have resumed after school from Thursday 23rd February.

Mr McLean

ALL GIRLS – NETBALL

We have resumed after school from Thursday 23rd February.

Miss Daniel

ALL PUPILS – YOUNG SCOT CARDS

Pupils should ensure that there is sufficient money on their Young Scot cards before buying any items from the Canteen. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of pupils trying to purchase food/drink when their accounts are empty. If parents/carers are having problems when trying to top-up online, pupils can use cash at the Revalve machines (at any time) or at the Canteen (outwith breaktime and lunchtime).

Miss Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor

S1 PUPILS – FOOTBALL

S1 football training after school on Wednesdays.

Mr Caskie

ALL PUPILS – BADMINTON

Badminton is now back to normal and open to all pupils after school on Mondays. Please see Mr S Murdoch (Humanities) if there are any questions/issues.

ALL PUPILS – DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Dungeons & Dragons club has resumed in F12 at lunchtime on a Wednesday. Pupils can bring their lunch with them. New members are always welcome! If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Goan.

All Pupils - Library Homework Club:

Times this term will be:

Mondays and Tuesdays 1.20pm to 1.50pm

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 12.30pm to 1.00pm

All Pupils - Teen Yoga:

Teen yoga is held in Gym A from 12:20-13:00 every Wednesday. Pupils should wear leggings or sportswear that can be easily changed into, and all years are welcome. Please see Mrs Winterbottom if there are any questions.

See you there!

Mrs Winterbottom

All Pupils - Ellon Academy News Group:

Where? S8

When? Wednesday 12:20-13:00

If you have a keen interest in all forms of journalism and would like to be involved in reporting about what is happening in our community, then the Ellon Academy News Group would love for you to join the team!

Pupils are allowed to bring their lunch along to the session.

Mrs Cawthorne

S1-3 PUPILS – JUNIOR BOOK CLUB:

Where? S8

When? Friday 12:20-13:00

Join us for a range of activities – the links to reading will be varied!

Pupils are allowed to bring their lunch along to the session!

Mrs Cawthorne

S2 PUPILS – MANDARIN

Unfortunately, there will be no Mandarin class for a few weeks. It will resume on Thursday 9th March.

Mrs Duffus

Skills Development Scotland Support at Ellon Academy:

Introducing your SDS advisers

- **Career Advice | Employability**
- We offer support with career guidance, employability to help pupils and leavers plan their next steps. This could be speaking about different options, support with college applications, CV support, etc.
- If you are a parent or carer and would like to speak with an adviser or to arrange an appointment, please get in touch using the contacts below:

Ellon Academy
Susan Ritchie & Kirsty Hannon
susan.ritchie@sds.co.uk
kirsty.hannon@sds.co.uk

My World of Work

Ellon Post School
Amy Healy
amy.healy@sds.co.uk

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is also delivering a national webinar '**How to have meaningful career conversations**' on **Thursday 23 March** at 6.30pm.

Parents and carers can join the webinar to hear about the value and benefits of having career conversations and get some practical hints and tips on how to approach these.

<https://Meaningfulcareerconversationswithyoungpeople.eventbrite.co.uk>

Register here:

<https://Meaningfulcareerconversationswithyoungpeople.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dates For Your Diary

Here is a link to our school calendar on our Ellon Academy website:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

- SQA Higher Drama Performance Exam – Mon 20.3.23
- SQA Music Practical Exams – Tues 21.3.23 and Wed 22.3.23
- National 5 Drama Prelim – either Wed 22.3.23 or Thurs 23.3.23 (to be confirmed)
- SQA National 5 Drama Performance Exams – Mon 27.3.23 (postponed due to adverse weather)
- Music for Spring Concert – Wed 29.3.23 (7.30pm)
- End of Term 3 – Friday 31.3.23
- Start of Term 4 – Mon 17.4.23
- SQA Exam Diet/Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts – Mon 24.4.23
- May Day Holiday – Mon 1.5.23
- King's Coronation Holiday – Mon 8.1.23
- S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks (from Coastguard and Fire Brigade) w/b Mon 15.5.23
- P7 Values Day – Tues 16.5.23
- Occasional Day Holiday – Mon 5.6.23
- Provisional Sports Day – Wed 7.6.23
- P7 Induction Days – Tues 27th, Wed 28th and Thurs 29th June
- S1 Dalguise Trip leaves – Sun 2.7.23
- End of Term 4 – Fri 7.7.23

Parents Evenings Term 3:

- S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening - Tues 21.3.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)

Parents Evenings Term 4

- S1 Parents' Evening (In person) – Tues 30.5.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)

S4 – S5 and S5 – S6 Course Choices Key Dates:

- 21.3.23 - S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- 23.3.23 - S4/5 Course Choice form submission deadline

Thank you all for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Pauline Buchan

Rector 17.3.23