



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 24th March 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of an extremely busy term, our minds are fixed on our senior phase learners as they prepare for the SQA exams starting from Monday 24.4.23.

This last week of term and the first week back is a crucial time for learners to maximise their precious time in school with their teachers, the experts in their subjects, so I'm sure like me and my staff, you will encourage them to make the most of this all-important preparation and revision time. My staff will still be in school during study leave and are always willing to give last minute help and support.

Quote of the Week beginning 27.3.23:



Jessica	G	1C2	8
Evie	S	1S1	8
Ross	T	1S1	8
Enzo	T	2F2	9
Skye	T	3C1	6
Bobby	B	3F1	6
Demi	M	3F1	6
Ewan	S	3K2	6
Grace	B	4K1	4
Xander	H	6M	5
Alistair	H	6S	6



Most Merits/Over and Above:

Well done to the learners above 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 27.3.23.

Assemblies:

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:

Here is a link to Mrs Leslie's Study Skills presentation and the Ellon Academy Study Guide:

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

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.

S4 – S5 and S5 – S6 Course Choices

It was good to have so many S5/6 parents/carers on-line on at our Parents/Carers Evening and on Tuesday 21.3.23. The deadline for the return of the Google Option Forms is now past but 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

SQA Learner Hub and Exams Guide

The SQA have launched the SQA learner hub to help learners Get Exam Ready.

 Past papers

 Exam timetables

 Study resources

...and much more. Check it out now  <https://bit.ly/SQA-learnerhub>

SQA - Your Exams guide 2023

The latest SQA resource covers what you need to know about National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams so you can do your very best.

It also contains rules which are there to make sure that exams are fair for everyone. Learn more:

https://bit.ly/SQA_YourExams

NESCoL Aberdeen Campus - National 5 and Higher Exam Preparation Courses

SENT ON BEHALF OF LAUREN MACASKILL – SCHOOLS-COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

We wanted to get in touch to let you know about exam National 5 and Higher Exam preparation courses that are taking place at Nescol's Aberdeen City Campus.

There are still FREE places available on our Preparation for National 5 or Higher English programmes. These run on Thursday evenings, 6PM-9PM starting on 30 March, and can be booked on our website here:

<https://www.nescol.ac.uk/.../preparation-for-english.../>

There are also places available on our Preparation for Higher Computing Science programme. This costs £60 and will run on a Wednesday evening, 6PM-9PM. Places can also be booked on our website:

<https://www.nescol.ac.uk/.../preparation-for-computing.../>.

Live Life Aberdeenshire Study Break Support

We at Live Life Aberdeenshire are aware of the strains that studying for examinations can cause. As a result, we want you to know that we are willing to assist.

Ok, so we can't give you the answers, but we can advise you to stay physically active in April and May to keep your mind sharp.

For as little as £12 per 30 days, we are allowing anyone on a "Study Break" throughout Easter and May to join the Live Life Aberdeenshire members list! You are welcome to attend any suitable session on our schedule, or we offer specific sessions just for you.

You can purchase a "Study Break Pass" from any Live Life Aberdeenshire Sport & Physical Activity location for £12! Or online via the link below!

<https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport.../study-break/>



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

Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)

Is your child moving on to Higher Education?

Read more below about the upcoming online application workshops SAAS will be offering from the 4 April 2023 up until the 30 June 2023.

These sessions can be attended by students and the parents/legal guardian of a student who is considering starting higher education in the 2023-2024 academic year.

During the online application workshops, we will explain the funding available from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) for those planning to undertake higher education courses (HNC/HND/Degree courses). In addition to this, we will provide advice on how to register and create a SAAS online account, and how to submit a funding application. We can provide bespoke advice to attendees should they have any questions about completing their SAAS application.

These sessions can be booked here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/568210211037>



NEWCASTLE 2024 BOYS FOOTBALL TRIP 2024

This trip is now fully subscribed, and 41 lads are signed up. Parents will receive a letter to let them know if their son has gained a place!

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

An advertisement for a boys' football trip to Newcastle United. The left side features a white text box with a list of inclusions and contact information. The right side shows two images: the top one is a locker room with players and a 'UNITED' banner, and the bottom one is a football stadium filled with fans during a match.

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.

Primary 7 Parents Information Evening:

Support for Learners.

Last night, (23.3.23) Ellon Academy hosted an information evening for P7 parents and carers and the following members of staff gave short presentations on what the school offers our learners:

- Mrs C Kaczmarek, Principal Teacher of Guidance (Pupil support with day-to-day concerns, attendance, progress, subject preferences, course choices, pathway planning and pastoral issues.)
- Mr Pennycook Principal Teacher Pupil Development (Pupil support with personal regulation, resilience, anger management and anxiety)
- Ms G Perk Principal Teacher Additional Support for Learners (Universal and targeted support, Community Resource Hub, and Enhanced Provision)
- Mrs S Warne, Principal Teacher English (English and Literacy, Reading, Writing, Talk and Listening, S1 class information and support, and links with the school library)
- Mr R Gatehouse, Principal Teacher Mathematics (Maths and Numeracy, S1 class information, help and support clubs, and advice for parents/carers. Social Media page to be refreshed)
- Mrs J Murdoch, Librarian (Supporting learners with a range of library-based clubs, safe space, library helpers, curricular support for faculties, sourcing resources, hosting and planning school events, Author in Residence, author talks and visits, supporting whole school with Literacy development etc.)
- Mrs S Ritchie, Skills Development Scotland (Supporting learner with access to MyWoW (My World of Work Website) and future career planning.
- Ms R Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor (Supporting learners to be fed! Ms Jarvis provided information on Young Scot Cards, Menus, the ordering App and allergens and allergies.
- Ms L Simpson, Community Learning and Development (Supporting learners in primary/secondary with engagement and activities and Adult Learning too)
- Mrs D Mulgrew – First Aider (Supporting learners who feel unwell during the school day and keeping and administering medication in school)
- Mr E Armstrong, Principal Teacher Digital Learning (Supporting learners to enhance digital skills to enhance the curriculum, Google Classroom and Google Guardian Summaries, S1 and S2 Digital Champions, Click View etc)



Thanks to all the staff who contributed and those behind the scenes too!

Music for Spring 2023 Concert 2023 – Wed 29.3.23 at 7.30pm in Ellon Academy Theatre

Tickets are on sale at Reception – priced £6.00 (Adults) and £4.00 (Concession).
Please come along and support our young musicians and singers!



Pupil Achievement:

Boyd C 4M1 has got into the Glasgow Warriors U16 rugby training squad! What a great achievement and well done to you Boyd!



Pupil Achievement:

Jack W 5C1 has achieved Sea Cadet advancement to Leading Cadet and Jack spent last weekend under assessment at MOD Caledonia and passed! Only 6 passed out of the 12. This has been 6 months of study (zoom sessions weekly), Peer Educator lesson planning, leadership skills, drill practice, spotless uniform, and interviews. Very well-done Jack!



Pupil Achievement:

Junior Girls Netball Team 🏆 A HUGE well done to our junior netball team who came 2nd in the ASSNA Cup 🏆
They have all played so well throughout the whole season, only losing one game in the league 🥳
We are excited for what's to come as they move up to the senior team next year 🍷



Pupil Achievement:

Albyn & RGC XCountry : Friday 17th March

A big well done to all pupils who braved a tough and very muddy cross-country course at Balgowrie playing fields last Friday. All pupils ran and represented Ellon Academy brilliantly on the day 😊

Special mention to the four podium places:

- 1st Place for Hannah T in the Senior Girls event 🏆
- 1st Place for Harris C in the S3 Boys event 🏆
- 2nd Place for Burak E in the S2 Boys event 🥈
- 3rd Place for Sarah T in the Senior Girls Event 🥉
- Overall 2nd place winners for both Senior Girls and S3 Boys 🏆

Well done everyone!



Pupil Achievement:

Massive well done to our swimmers this week, taking home the overall NASSA SWIMMING SHIELD! 🏆🏊‍♀️🏊‍♂️🏊‍♀️🏊‍♂️

A fine ⭐ performance from all our pupils and your effort, attitude and behaviour was exemplary!

Individual medals 🏅 will be handed out next week in a special presentation, keep an eye on the bulletin 👁️

Well done all again! 🙌🙌🏅🏅🏊‍♀️🏊‍♂️



Thank you 😊

Thanks again to [SYMPOSIUM coffee house](#), for their sponsor of additional football tops for the Ellon Academy girls football team. Their sponsoring of the girl's team, over many years has been greatly appreciated.



Pupil Achievement: Junior Girls Football:

Last night Ellon girls played against a very young Fraserburgh side and came away with a victory. Credit to Fraserburgh who never gave up against a very skilful Ellon side and battled right till the end.

There were some excellent performances tonight from our girls.

So many girls deserved player of the match! Ava R was excellent throughout. Molly P is acknowledged for her strength, 3 goals and assists, and Amber S for keeping a clean sheet in goals in first half, and then in second half scoring 4 times and creating another 2.

Goal scorers: Amber S 4, Molly P 3, Katie G 2, Emily E 2, Chloe W 2, Ava R 2, Sophie Ma, 2.

Assists: Molly P 3, Sophie M 3, Myah R 2, Amber S 2, Chloe W 1, Eryn A 1, Ava R 1



Pupil Achievement. Ellon Academy Senior Boys Football:

Another cup final!

A fantastic battling performance this week from a much-changed Ellon senior team away to Cults Academy leading to 1-0 victory! In a very close fought match, Ellon found a way to win despite the absence due to illness and injury of several squad members.

A goal 10 mins from time by Aidan M, after the Cults goalkeeper parried Callum K's shot, saw Ellon close out the game!

A huge final 3 games for the boys with the league decider vs Mearns Academy and 2 cup finals! Well done again boys!



Free School Meals Payments - Easter holidays 2023

This week, a letter been sent to parents/carers of those learners entitled to Free School Meals regarding payments over the Easter break.

Eligible families already in receipt of statutory free school meals, do not have to apply for this payment. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account by 31 March 2023.

The letter has been translated into Arabic, English, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Ukrainian and the appropriate version will be sent to those families concerned.

Please click on the link below to view the letter on our website:

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

Easter Opportunities from Live Life Aberdeenshire:

LLA are offering FREE to targeted groups and individuals passes to the value of £12 for activities during the Easter holidays. Details below:

Junior Pass allowing 8–13-year-olds access to a range of activities over the Easter Holidays.

Study Break Pass 14-18-year-olds access to Live Life Aberdeenshire classes and sessions throughout April and May to help relieve the pressures of upcoming exams!

In order to access these the young person (or a parent/guardian) simply has to fill in the form found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BGCf2MBcz8>

Their LLA/Gladstone account will be credited with £12 each. This would apply to all children/siblings if they register and allow them to access any session during the holidays. So, no stigma they simply use their card to access and nobody knows it's a free session!

Madelene MacSween

Team Leader Youth and Communities, Aberdeenshire Council

Live Life Aberdeenshire

We have something for everyone!

As part of Spring into Easter, we have a great selection of free ASN activities to help make the most of the two-week break! For those who'd like to try something new, we have bouldering and pétanque, or get outdoors with a tubing session or para-Nordic SKI Camp.

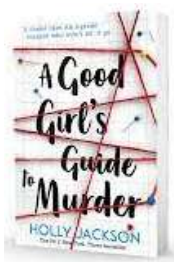
Make a splash this Easter with our instructor-led, shallow water swimming course. Designed for children aged between 5 and 16 years who have additional support needs, this five-day introductory course aims to develop water confidence and swimming skills. An adult aged over 18 must be in the water with the child on a one-to-one basis. Please link here for more information.

<https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/easter-programme/>



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



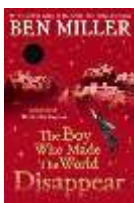
Addie is intrigued by her class topic when they are learning about the victims of witch hunts in her local area. She is bullied due to challenges she faces at school. She spots the similarities between how people treated those accused of witchcraft and how she is treated.

'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!



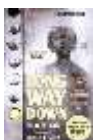
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as 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 National 5 Drama Performance Exams – Mon 27.3.23 (postponed due to adverse weather)
- Music for Spring Concert – Wed 29.3.23 (7.30pm)
- Dress Down Day and collection for ARCHIE – Friday 31.3.23.
- Staff Karaoke – Friday 31.3.23 (Lunchtime)
- 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
- S1 Full Reports to be issued w/b 22.5.23.
- Junior Prizegiving 1.15pm Tues 23.5.23.
- S6 School Prom – Wed 24.5.23
- S1 Parents Evening (In person) Tues 30.5.23 (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- Senior Prizegiving 2pm – Wed 31.5.23
- 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 4

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

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

Pauline Buchan

Rector 24.3.23