



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 21st April 2023

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that our Ellon Academy families had a lovely spring break, and we are pleased to welcome our learners and staff back for Term 4. At assemblies this week, we have been reminding our learners that S4/5/6 will be on study leave from Monday 24th April and will return on Tuesday 6th June for the change of timetable.

We have asked our S1/2/3 learners to be respectful of their senior peers during study leave by following the signs around the school to direct them away from exam halls and rooms so that our seniors have be undisturbed during their exams.

Our S6 leavers had some fun with their balloon drop at break, their leavers assembly, an Ellon Academy quiz organised by Mr Corser and Miss Tomlinson, a BBQ provided for them by the school at lunchtime and their ceilidh organised by the PE staff in the afternoon.

We wish all our S4, S5 and S6 leavers every success for the future and to all pupils taking exams for the first time, we are confident that they will rise to the occasion and do well.



Safety messages at assemblies:

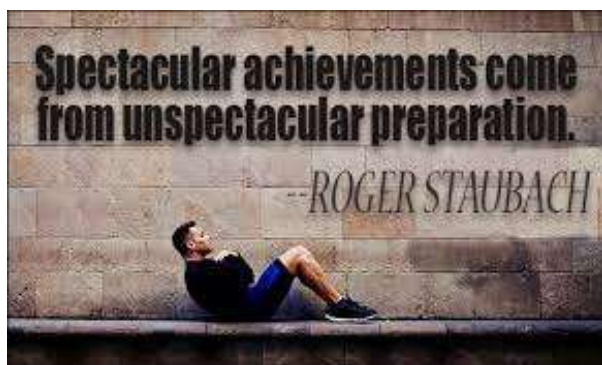
We have also informed our learners this week of our 'stay left' rule on the ground floor and in stairs for everyone's safety.

Additionally, at assemblies we have informed our pupils of our plans for creating more seating on the ground floor which helps during busy break and lunchtimes.

- Phase 1 (Completed) We replaced all soft seating in the sunken social area in 2020 with foldable tables and fixed seats to give more capacity for more learners to have a table to lean on and more space to eat their snacks and lunch during social times.
- Phase 2 (Completed) We replaced the free-standing round tables and chairs in the Street with foldable tables with attached benches to give more seating and flexibility for this space.
- Phase 3 (Partially completed) We have removed a partition wall in the canteen area to give a panoramic overview of the whole canteen and will be replacing the free-standing tables and chairs with foldable tables with fixed seating. These changes will increase the seating capacity by over 60 learners in our canteen which is extremely busy, particularly in the autumn and winter months and during spells of inclement weather.

These changes are also significantly helpful to our canteen, cleaning and janitorial staff who tidy and clean these areas for learners' comfort and convenience.

Quote of the Week beginning 24.4.23:



Charlotte	W	1F1	8
Ross	T	1S1	8
Ainoras	P	2S2	6
Skye	T	3C1	6
Cameron	B	3F1	5
Demi	M	3F1	5
Sophie	K	4C1	5
Millie	M	4M2	4



Most Merits/Over and Above:

Well done to the learners to the right 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 24.4.23.

Assemblies during study leave:

Week beginning Mon 24.4.23 during Registration:

- Mon 24.4.23 - S1 Theatre
- Tues 25.4.23 - S2 Theatre
- Wed 26.4.23 - S3 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/>

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

SQA MyExams App:

Create your own personalised exam schedule with our MyExams app.  14

👁️ Easily view your exam dates, add notes, and connect the app with your other calendars. 🗂️

Get Exam Ready with the SQA learner hub: bit.ly/SQA-learnerhub | [#SQAexams](https://twitter.com/SQAexams)

Here is a link to Ms Booth's SQA Exam presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_s3HskMd4RQWFr8mawOliOC8mVpNyiM8/view



Also, 'Your Exams' covers what you need to know about National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams so you can do your very best. 📖

📄 Download our resource now: bit.ly/SQA-learnerhub | [#SQAexams](https://twitter.com/SQAexams)

This is also a link to all our study and exam information on our website:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_JBWifz79nhtbc_jQgKmJTLFjWCznYeP/view?usp=share_link

Exam Mindset Guide:

e-Sgoil has partnered with the experts at Headstrong to produce a video series that will help learners with their mental health during the exam process, from studying right through to success in the final exams.

Learners - The videos have been created to be user friendly so learners can access them on their own and are grouped under the following Headings: Understanding Your Mind, Understanding Your Stress and Understanding your Study.

Parents/Carers - Parental engagement with the attainment of our learners is vital for their ongoing success. It can be particularly challenging mentally and emotionally for both parents/carers and learners during exams. This can put a strain on relationships, so these videos are designed to equip them with the right strategies and ways of successfully working with their young people. This can help by reducing stress and giving the learners the best possible chance of attaining well and in a healthy way.

Click the link below which will take you to take you directly to the resources:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1704817362747785829>

They can also be found on the e-Sgoil website here: <https://e-sgoil.com/s4-6/#ExamMindsetGuide>



Ellon Academy's Mental Health Assistance Guide:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Mental-Health-Assistance-YP-Dec-22.pdf>



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>



Job Vacancies and Apprenticeship Opportunities

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

- Graduate Apprenticeship: Civil Engineer – Balfour Beatty (c/d 31/05/23)
- Apprentice Draughtspersons – TechnipFMC (c/d 07/07/23)
- Audit Apprenticeships – KPMG (c/d 11/08/23).

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>.



Modern Apprenticeships in Care Open Day – Friday 28th April

Bon Accord Care are looking to recruit a number of full and part time Modern Apprentices and would love to meet you. They are hosting an open day on Friday 28th April at their learning hub. This informative day will let you find out first-hand what is involved in an Apprenticeship in Care, hear from their current and former young apprentices about their experiences and take part in exciting and fully interactive workshops that will include Emergency First Aid, Moving and Handling and Dementia. You will also find out how to apply for an SVQ Level 2 in Social Services and Healthcare. To sign up, fill in the form at [this link](#).



**Bon
Accord
Care**

RGU Discovery Day – Saturday 13th May

The next RGU Discovery Day will take place on Saturday 13th May from 10 am – 2 pm.

The day's schedule is filled with informative presentations, interactive sessions and workshops, campus tours and the opportunity to speak to our dedicated staff to learn more about what university life is like in and outside of class.

To register for this event, sign up at [this link](#).



DYW Live – Are you Career Ready?

DYW Live is a virtual offering that runs annually throughout April and May. Last year's sessions have now been recorded and made available online at <https://e-sgoil.com/dyw-open-access>.

Here, you will find a range of videos to help you to become career ready, including "The Skills You Need", "Let's Get Work Ready" and "Skills Aware".



all

Up-Grade of Ellon Academy Community Campus Fitness Suite

As part of our financial planning in year 22/23 Ellon Academy Senior Leadership Team agreed to review and update the equipment in our Fitness Suite. We consulted with specialists from Live Life Aberdeenshire to get the best value for money in placing our existing kit, and we are delighted that the newly equipped Fitness Suite will be ready for use soon! What this space!

Therapets Visit to Ellon Academy

For the last Team PSE of the year, we treated our S6 learners to a session with 5 different Therapets prior to their exams starting from Monday 24.4.23.

Quote – “Best PSE ever”!





Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Kiera H 4M1 passed her Grade 4 piano with Distinction. Very well done!



Pupil Achievement:

Very well done to Millie U, who scored her first goals for Aberdeen FC Ladies on Wednesday night, helping them claim a vital 3 points.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Boyd C in S4 representing [Glasgow Warriors](#) rugby this week starting as hooker and being part of the victorious 1872 cup team! Superb Boyd well done! 🍷🍷🍷



Pupil Achievement:

CUP FINAL WINNERS 🏆🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉

Ellon Academy boys were today victorious in the [Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools Football Association Senior Cup](#). Ellon ran out 6-2 winners after a close first half, which ended 3-2 with Ellon battling against the wind.

The boys were worthy of the win with a superb second half performance, which they controlled from the outset.

Goals scorers: Aidan M 🏆, Callum K 🏆, Aedan G 🏆, Aidan B 🏆, Harry C 🏆, Finlay M 🏆

Congratulations to you all! 🍷🍷





Pupil Achievement:

Junior Girls Football League Result: Ellon Acad 8-0 Banff Acad.

An excellent performance on Wednesday night by the Ellon girls as they beat Banff 8-0 in the sunshine.

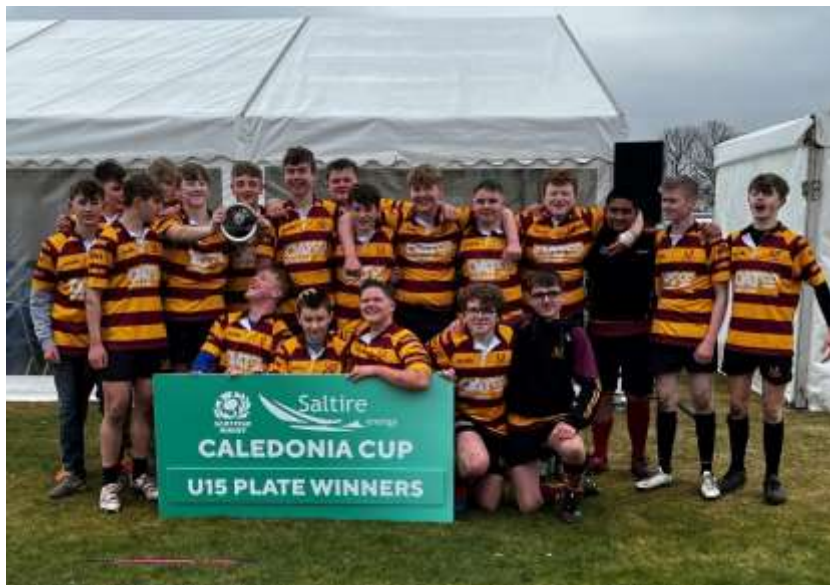
Early goals from Emily S and Grace S allowed the girls to enjoy their crisp, passing game, and once again they had the hunger and desire to chase every ball. A very strong performance by Emily S, both in an attacking role in first half and defensive role in second half. Ava R also had an excellent performance too.

Goal scorers- Emily S (3), Grace S (2), Ava R (2) and Natalie G (1).



Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to the Ellon Rugby U15s who played Howe of Fife on Sunday 2nd April in the SRU Caledonia Cup Plate Final, winning decisively 5-36. The Ellon U15 team includes the following S3 Ellon Academy pupils: Brodie M, Charlie B, Chester M, Davinder C, Findlay C, Fraser L, Gregor L, Harry B, Harry N, Lewis L, Murray D, Patrick G, Shaun S, Taylor S. Well done to you all



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!



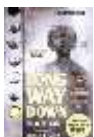
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as 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 – GROUND FLOOR CORRIDOR CHANGE

Our super-efficient Janitorial Team have been busy over the holidays and, as requested, have put down black/yellow tape in the middle of each corridor on the ground floor. We are now asking everyone to 'keep left' at all times (breaktime and lunchtime included) on the ground floor to ensure more efficient and safer travel in the corridors.

Senior Leadership Team

S4 PUPILS:

Any S4 pupil who would like to apply to be a prefect in S5 should join Google Classroom 2j33jar then complete the Google Form application. The deadline for applications is the 31st May.

If you have any questions, please see Miss Tomlinson in S19.

If in doubt, apply!

S5 PUPILS:

Any S5pupil interested in becoming part of the Exec Team 2023/24 should join Google Classroom **5u6rnkn** and complete the nomination form. If you have any questions, please see Miss Tomlinson in S19.

ALL PUPILS – CROCHET WORKSHOPS

If you would be interested in learning how to crochet, or you can already crochet, we are planning to hold some crochet workshops in the Library later this term. Please come to the Library during any lunchtime this week to find out more from Mrs Quantrill.

Mrs Murdoch & Mrs Quantrill, School Librarians

SENIOR PUPILS – GOOD LUCK

Message from Cllr Gillian Owen:

As Chair of Education & Children's Services and on behalf of the Education and Children's Services Committee, I wanted to wish all the very best to all pupils who are undertaking SQA exams this term.

LEAVERS – MEDICATION

Can all leavers who have medication stored in First Aid please collect it on the day of their last exam/last day of school. Any medication that is not collected by the beginning of June will be disposed of responsibly.

Mrs Mulgrew & Ms Legarda, First Aid Team

ALL PUPILS – BASKETBALL

Basketball club is now on a Tuesday lunchtime due to the Inter House Cheerleading rehearsals.

Miss Daniel

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 on Thursdays.

Mr Price, Miss Moore & Mrs Cozens

ALL GIRLS – FOOTBALL

We have resumed after school on Thursdays.

Mr McLean

ALL GIRLS – NETBALL

We have resumed after school on Thursdays. 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

Unfortunately, badminton will NOT resume during the first week back after the Easter holidays and will also NOT resume for the duration of the SQA exam diet. A further notice will be posted in due course to let pupils know when badminton will resume. Please see Mr Murdoch (Humanities) if there are any questions/issues.

Mr Murdoch

ALL PUPILS – DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Dungeons & Dragons club is 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

Mandarin club has resumed on Thursdays.

Mrs Duffus

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



Ellon Post School
Amy Healy

 amy.healy@sds.co.uk

Missed Immunisations

This information was sent to parents/carers concerned earlier this week:

Dear Pupils, Staff, Parents, Guardians,

For any pupils who were absent or unwell on the day of their scheduled 11+ immunisations this year and still wish to take up their vaccine, we are offering appointments at Garioch Vaccination Centre for the following schools Ellon, Meldrum, Kemnay and Inverurie.

Date: 12 - 16th June and 19 - 23rd June

- Time: Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri 09:00-16:00 and Thurs 13:00-19:00
- Where: Garioch Vaccination Centre, Burghmuir Place, Inverurie AB51 4FW
- Who can attend: Eligible pupils and home-schooled young people who missed their 11+ vaccinations this year.
- How do I book: Call the Aberdeenshire Contact Centre 0330 1289919 to book an appointment. (Contact centre staff are not clinical staff and cannot answer questions about vaccinations).

Should any pupils, carers, guardians, or parents have any queries or specific information they require pertaining to medical information for our nursing staff please could they in the first instant email:

gram.centralschoolimms@nhs.scot

For more information on the vaccines for young people please visit www.grampianvax.com and click on the tab at the top 'Young People'.

Many thanks, Katie Robertson Immunisations Team Leader Central Aberdeenshire

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 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
- Junior Prizegiving 1.15pm Tues 23.5.23.
- S6 School Prom – Tues 23.5.23
- 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
- S4/5 Learners return to school following study leave/Provisional Change of Timetable – Tues 6.6.23.
- 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 for your continued support.

P Buchan

Rector 21.4.23