



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 12th May 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you once again for supporting our school uniform. However, we have noticed a slip in standards more recently with many pupils not wearing shirt and tie and opting for t-shirts and sports tops. There is no expectation for anyone to be buying new school uniform at this stage in the school year, but we hope we can rely on your support to get our learners back on track with uniform, taking a pride in their school and the standards of dress we expect. Since this message last week, we have noticed some more learners looking smarter.

I hope you continue to enjoy reading about our numerous pupil achievements in this newsletter once again.

Quote of the Week beginning 15.5.23:



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 15.5.23.



Jack	E	1F1	12
Cameron	T	1K2	13
Ross	T	1S1	12
Seren	M	2C1	7
Cyprian	K	2F2	6
Enzo	T	2F2	6
Aaron	M	2S1	6
Skye	T	3C1	7
Jack	C	3F1	8
Bobby	B	3F1	7
Emma	H	3K2	7

Assemblies during study leave:

There will be no assemblies week beginning Mon 15.5.23 due to the S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks in the 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_s3HskMd4RQWFr8mawOli0C8mVpNyiM8/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>

<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>



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

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>).

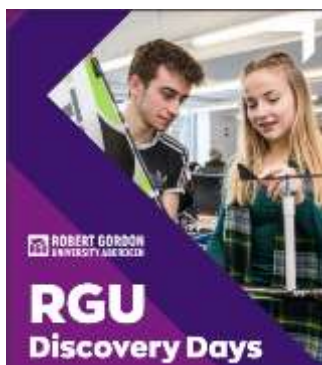
- Engineering Assistant – Summer Placement – Sparrows Group (closing date: asap)
- Modern Apprentice (Customer Services) – Aberdeenshire Council (c/d 14/05/23)
- Trainee Site Operative – KR Group (c/d 18/05/23)
- Reception Administrator – TMM Recruitment (c/d 18/05/23)
- Office Assistant Modern Apprenticeship – Microcom Training (c/d 19/05/23)
- Modern Apprentice Early Years Learning – Aberdeenshire Council (c/d 21/05/23)
- Apprentice HGV Mechanic – Leiths (Scotland) Ltd (c/d 26/05/23)
- Apprenticeship Position – Electrical Engineering Design – Worley (c/d 26/05/23)
- Apprenticeship Position – Civil & Structural Engineering Design – Worley (c/d 26/05/23)
- Apprenticeship Position – Piping Engineering Design – Worley (c/d 26/05/23)
- Youth Music Trainee – Shmu Radio (c/d 28/05/23)
- Modern Apprenticeship – Trainee Customer Service Advisor – Langstane Housing Association (c/d 30/05/23)
- Graduate Apprenticeship: Civil Engineer – Balfour Beatty (c/d 31/05/23)
- Assurance Apprenticeship Programme – EY (c/d 31/05/23)

- Construction Graduate Apprenticeship – Cala Homes (c/d 31/05/23)
- Audit Assistant Graduate Apprentice (CA) – RSM (c/d 31/05/23)
- VAT Assistant Graduate Apprentice – RSM (c/d 31/05/23)
- Trainee Concrete Operatives – Activus Recruitment (c/d 31/05/23)
- Apprentice Calibration Technicians – Scotia Instrumentation (c/d 31/05/23)
- Hospitality Apprenticeship North-East Programme – Various hotels (c/d 31/05/23)
- Law Scholarships – CMS (c/d 30/06/23)
- 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>.



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](#).

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The Ellon Rotary Club would like to sponsor two candidates to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, which includes a weeklong residential trip for 16- or 17-year-olds in July 2023.

RYLA is a leadership development course. It is a weeklong, full time residential course. Activities for all participants include hill walking, rock climbing, abseiling, mountain biking, kayaking (river), raft building, swimming, gorge walking, mental and physical team challenges. All as part of a team where you must work together to achieve a goal. Good communication and teamwork are key, and you will be mentored on these aspects, including daily talks from speakers with experience of various team challenges. This is a rare opportunity to experience and learn things about yourself, about working in a team but more importantly about leading and supervising other people. These are the skills employers look for in the workplace.

The girls camp runs from 8th – 15th July, and boys camp runs from 15th – 22nd July and both will take place at the Abernethy Centre in Nethybridge. Applicants must be 16 or 17 at the time of the camp and must be available for the whole week. For more information and to apply to take part, visit <https://ryla1010.com/>.



Calling all parents/carers – Review of our Promoting Positive Relationships Policy

Would you like to be part of a group of parents/carers who will participate in reviewing our Promoting Positive Relationships Policy?

If so, we need 2 parents/carers representing each Year Group – S1, S2, S3, S4 & S5 and the first two parents/carers with children in these Year Groups to email the school email address by Monday 15th May (will be based on a first come, first served basis) providing your Name, Child's Class/Year, and your contact details.

You will be invited to come to school on Wednesday 17th May at 1.30pm for a tour of the school in situ, coffee, and a meeting with Mr Graeme Cowie, DHT to discuss and review our policy.



S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks:

Water Safety Talks will be delivered week beginning 15th May by professional representatives of the Coastguard and Fire Service local crews.

These talks for secondary school learners have been devised considering a significant rise in water safety issues involving young people as the trend for water sports rises due to the uptake in sports like wake boarding etc.

I have met with the officers in person, and they want to get into schools prior to the summer to warn of the dangers and support young people to be safe on and near water. Their presentation will make mention of local bodies of water including the Ythan Estuary, the river Ythan and Newburgh and Balmedie beaches etc.

Mon - 15.5.23	S1 Period 1	S1 Period 2
	Technical - 1.1, 1.2, 1.3	Science - 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12
	Music - 1.4, 1.6	
	Art - 1.5	
	BREAK 10.15am - 10.35am	
	S2 Period 3	S2 Period 4
	Maths	Science, Music, Art, Drama
	2K1, 2M1, 2S1, 2F1	2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12
Wed - 17.5.23	S3 Period 1	S3 Period 2
	Tutor - 3K1, 3C1 PE - 3F1, 3S2	Tutor - 3C2, 3K2, PE - 3M1, 3S1

Water Safety Code



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!

Internet Safety:

Internet safety is a concern amongst parents/carers and teachers, so here is a reminder that the following website has great content for children and young people, parents, carers, and teachers.

[CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

Within our CYP team we currently have two members of staff who are employed as Early Intervention Officers. Please find the information below about the role.

“Our Early Intervention team engage with children and young people in the Northeast who are either coming to the attention of the Police for antisocial behaviour or are committing low level offending, as well as working closely with partners to provide support for young people and creating opportunities for diversionary activities across the Northeast.

The aim of the role is to reduce the risk of a young person offending by generating conversations regarding concerns of antisocial and harmful/risk taking behaviour.

The team can offer person centred tailored interventions/support if appropriate. We offer support to our partners to provide a collaborative approach to offer the best support to a child/YP.

As a team we accept referrals from Police Scotland Youth Justice team as well as partners, and schools. If you have a child/YP who may benefit from our support, please ask your school to contact our team with an email in the first instance to discuss a potential referral and suitability.

Team Email - NorthEastEarlyIntervention@scotland.police.uk

Just a reminder to contact the Police on 999 for ongoing emergencies and 101 for incidents that do not require immediate police attendance. Alternatively go to [Police Scotland - Police Scotland](#) should you require further information on certain topics or click on contact us if it's easier than calling for slow time enquires. You can also follow Police Scotland on Facebook and Twitter.

Pupil Achievement:

Well done to all S1 Enterprise pupils who took part in the Charlie House fundraiser, raising a grand total of £2,500. The money raised will be going to their Big Build fund, where 10 bricks will be printed with “Ellon Academy” to give a permanent acknowledgement of the efforts made to this fundraiser.

This is an amazing accomplishment. and all pupils should be super proud of their achievement.



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



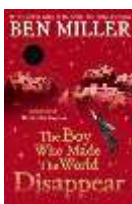
Addie is intrigued by her class topic when they are learning about the victims of witch hunts in her local area. She is bullied due to challenges she faces at school. She spots the similarities between how people treated those accused of witchcraft and how she is treated.

'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!



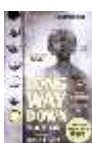
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as 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 S5 pupil 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.

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

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

ALL PUPILS – CHOIR

Choir will resume in G32 at lunchtime today (Thursday 11th May – starting at 12:35). We will be learning a top-secret song which includes choreography – come along to find out more! New members from any year group are always welcome – no audition or experience necessary! Mrs Nicholson

S1 PUPILS – JUNIOR COACHING AT ELLON TENNIS CLUB

Junior coaching is available at Ellon Tennis Club and the sessions take place at 16:45-17:45 on a Tuesday or 12:30-13:30 on a Saturday. It is a 5-week block, and the Tuesday sessions start on 23rd May (finish on 20th June) and the Saturday sessions start on 20th May (finish on 17th June). There is limited availability, so book early to ensure your place. To book or for further information, please pop down to Reception.

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 Strick & Kirsty Hannon
susan.strick@sdsc.co.uk
kirsty.hannon@sdsc.co.uk

My Future Work

Ellon Free School
Jody Hewitt
jody.hewitt@sdsc.co.uk

Community Information:

Meldrum Academy Health and Wellbeing Festival

WELLBEING

WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY
6.30 - 8.30PM

2023

This evening is open to all parents / carers, pupils and anyone in our local community looking to learn more about what is available locally.

We have a range of speakers including Hannah Miley, workshops to sign up to including yoga, mindfulness, Kung Fu, first aid and lots more including a range of stallholders.

Come and experience a wide range of opportunities that may help support your or someone you know's wellbeing.

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.
- S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks (from Coastguard and Fire Brigade) w/b Mon 15.5.23
- Junior Prizegiving 1.15pm Tues 23.5.23.
- S6 School Prom – Tues 23.5.23
- P7 Values Day – Tues 24.5.23
- S3 Build Your Future Week (Wed 24.5.23 – Fri 26.5.23)
- 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 – Thurs 8.6.23.
- Parent Council Meeting – Wed 14.6.23, 7pm.
- 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 12.5.23