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ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May is a national holiday to commemorate King Charles III's Coronation and like all other Aberdeenshire schools, Ellon Academy will be closed to all staff and learners. We will resume as usual on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May.



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. I 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.

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

**Quote of the Week beginning 9.5.23:**



**Assemblies during study leave:**

There will be no assemblies week beginning Tues 9.5.23 due to the shorter week.

### 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](https://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](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](https://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](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>).

- 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>.



## **RGU Discovery Day – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

The next RGU Discovery Day will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 all 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”.

## **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 – S2, S3, S4 and S5 and the first 2 parents/carers with children in these year groups to email the school email address by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May and provide your name, child's class/year and your contact details will be invited to come to school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Looking forward to hearing from you. Please use this email address - [ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



## S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks:

Water Safety Talks which will be delivered week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> 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 school 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.

### Water Safety Talks Schedule May 2023 - Theatre

S1	Mon 15.5.23	Period 1 - 8.35am Half Year Group	Period 2 - 9.25am Half Year Group
S3	Wed 17.5.23	Period 1 - 8.35am Half Year Group	Period 2 - 9.25am Half Year Group
S2	Thurs 18.5.23	Period 1 - 8.35am Half Year Group	Period 2 - 9.25am Half Year Group

## 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!

**SQA Exams at Ellon Academy:**

Our National 4 Practical Cookery learners worked so hard today on their final SQA practical exam. Here is a selection of their dishes! Well done to you all! Great effort!



**Pupil Achievement:**

Congratulations to Marcus M, 2K1, who participated at the Eric Twinam Youth National Wind Surfing Championships as part of the Scottish Team last weekend.

Marcus had a great weekend and was 10th in his class (Techno 6. 🏄) which is very respectable for his first championship! Very well-done Marcus!



## In the Classroom - Learning at Ellon Academy:

A recent article in the Scotsman celebrating Scotch Lamb, featured some of our S2 learners in Home Economics: Secondary schoolchildren up and down the country have had a taste for lamb thanks to a successful initiative celebrating red meat.

The recent initiative saw more than 18,500 pupils – including learners from Ellon Academy – take part and cook with around 1.85 tonnes of lamb. The worksheet covered three key themes – seasonality, locality and labelling to allow pupils to learn about the Scotch difference, making informed choices and the benefits of eating lamb as part of a healthy and sustainable diet.

Miss Hepburn, a Home Economics teacher at Ellon Academy, said: *“Pupils at Ellon Academy really enjoyed the Tasty Little Lamb Week demonstration and were engaged throughout the session. They were willing to volunteer, answer questions and listen to the chef discuss the benefits of Scotch lamb and the local produce used in their dishes. Generally, we found that lamb is a protein that many of the pupils don’t have at the dinner table, so the cookery demo has been a chance for them to take ideas home that the whole family can enjoy. They particularly enjoyed getting to try the dish at the end, a lot of pupils tasting lamb for the first time!”*

Well done all!



## Pupil Achievement:

S2 Boys Football – Congratulations on the 4-4 result this week against Alford. Although we didn't win, we went out there, battled hard and Mr MacBeath couldn't ask for more. Mr MacBeath said, *“You gave your personal best and that is all I will ever ask of you. Well done!”*

Good luck for the fixture against Fraserburgh Academy at home this week!

## Staff Achievement:

Last week the PE staff (minus Mrs Donald) took part in the inaugural Aberdeenshire Schools staff volleyball 🏐 tournament finishing a creditable 3rd 🏆. Well done! What a team!





**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 McNicoll



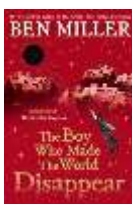
Addie is intrigued by her class topic when they are learning about the victims of witch hunts in her local area. She is bullied due to challenges she faces at school. She spots the similarities between how people treated those accused of witchcraft and how she is treated.

'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!



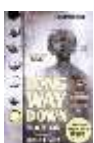
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers  
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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

### **S1 PUPILS – FOOTBALL**

S1 football training will take place after school (14:40-16:00) on Thursday 4th May. We will use the session to pick the final squad for our upcoming game against Meldrum!

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](mailto:susan.ritchie@sds.co.uk)

 [kirsty.hannon@sds.co.uk](mailto:kirsty.hannon@sds.co.uk)



**Ellon Post School**  
Amy Healy

 [amy.healy@sds.co.uk](mailto:amy.healy@sds.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 Exam Diet/Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts – Mon 24.4.23.
- King's Coronation Holiday – Mon 8.5.23
- 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.
- P7 Induction Days – Tues 27<sup>th</sup>, Wed 28<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> 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 5.5.23