



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 16th February 2024

Dear parents/carers,

We hope our Ellon Academy families had a lovely long weekend if you were able to get a break from work. It was good to welcome our pupils back to school on Thursday and good to see so many S3 parents/carers at the S3 Parents/Carers evening on Thursday night. We were delighted with the response to our survey, so ably administered by our Digital Champions. We will feedback the results in due course. Also, huge thanks to out to our team of Prefects who did a sterling job at the S3 Parents/Carers evening this week.

As ever, our learners continue to impress us every week with all of their various achievements in and out of school and we hope you enjoy our updates and reading about our pupil successes in this week's newsletter.

If your child/children have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Assemblies:

Assemblies will resume w/b Monday 19.2.24 during registration in the theatre as follows:

Mon 19.2.24 - S1
Tues 20.2.24 - S2
Wed 21.2.24 - S3
Thurs 22.2.24 - S4
Fri 23.2.24 - S5

Merits – Over and Above

We are pleased to report that the learners above are in the top group of learners for merits last week. Moving forward this term, we will be using messages to recognise those learners who are gaining most merits for 'dedication'. At Ellon Academy we look to develop a Growth Mindset and no better way to do this than praising effort. We will continue to celebrate pupils going Over and Above.

The learners below have accrued the most merits over the last week and will be given their Fast Passes by Mrs Buchan in the sunken social area on Monday 19.02.24 after registration. Well done to all.

Rachel	E	1C2	5
Veronika	M	1C2	5
Fraser	P	1S2	5
Rhys	B	2K1	5
Hannah	M	2K1	5
Harry	M	2K1	6
Holly	P	2K1	5
Ruby	Q	3S1	6
Lara	B	3S2	4
Sara	G	4S1	3

Quote of the Week beginning 19/2/24:



S6/Staff Burns Supper and Ceilidh

On Monday 19.2.24 we are planning a Burns Supper for S6 pupils and Staff in the canteen followed by Ceilidh dancing in the Theatre 5-8pm. Tickets cost £10 for a 3-course meal and dancing. Dress code is smart casual.

Here is the Menu:

- Lentil Soup
- Haggis, Neaps, Mince and Tatties (Vegetarian haggis available too)
- Sticky Toffee Pudding with cream or Fruit Pot

Ellon Academy S6 Burns Ceilidh
Monday 19th February '24



Burns Supper in Canteen at 5pm
Ceilidh in Theatre til 8pm
Ticket - £10
Dress – Smart/Casual

Learning at Ellon – Celebrating Chinese New Year – 2024 The Year of the Dragon

Today in music 1.11 were lucky enough to have a Guzheng musician and Chinese singer in to celebrate Chinese New Year! Here is a sample of what they saw! 🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳 Follow the links to view:

<https://www.facebook.com/100057076434892/videos/pcb.898081748771031/366428692821194>

<https://www.facebook.com/100057076434892/videos/pcb.898081748771031/278975665035801>

Yesterday, all pupils and staff at Ellon Academy received a red New Year gift envelope with a gold chocolate coin inside. Some lucky winners also received a raffle ticket inside their envelope too and came down to the sunken social area to choose a prize of either more gold chocolate coins, gift vouchers from Bare and Symposium, or non-permanent Chinese tattoos. Needless to say, the gift vouchers were the most popular and thank you so much to Bare and Symposium for their kind and generous donations.

Also, it's the Chinese Year of the Dragon and we had a Chinese Dragon Dance at break time to celebrate! Thanks to our visitors who came to demonstrate the Dragon Dance.

Our canteen did a fantastic Chinese meal at lunchtime too! Well done and thanks everyone!





Football Trip to Newcastle:

That's 41 pupils away for a footballing experience for 3 days at Newcastle Utd today. Training, games against local opposition, stadium tour and getting to see Newcastle v Bournemouth on Saturday will make it an excellent experience for our youngsters. We look forward to the photographs next week!



Pupil Achievement:

A massive well done to our S1 and S2 basketball teams who participated in the annual NASSA basketball tournament last Wednesday. 🏀🏀

The S1 team performed very well in what was their first competitive basketball tournament 🏀 and the S2 team were able to defend their title in the final against Peterhead Academy and were crowned champions once again. 🏆🏆

Well done everyone!
Photo to follow.

If your child/children has/have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

In-service Days at Ellon Academy

The staff had 2 very productive days on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February.

Making Thinking Visible:

One of their main tasks was to meet with their partner faculties to plan for peer lesson observations as part of our learning and teaching Making Thinking Visible Improvement Plan Priority No.1. During Term 4, teachers will engage in observing their partner teacher in a different faculty, focussing on the Making Thinking Visible Learning Routines in the classroom. They were also using some time to plan for our Gallery of Learning next term too, which will showcase staff's commitment to Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) work on the learning routines in lessons.

Professional Curriculum Support Groups:

Many of our staff participated in Aberdeenshire wide Professional Curriculum Support Groups where they met with their peers from the 16 other secondary schools to share good practice and work on understanding standards and moderation in the Broad General Education

Improvement Plan Reviews:

DHT Faculty Links and Principal Teachers have been meeting with Mrs Buchan to review their Improvement Plans at this mid-stage in the year.

Marking and Reporting:

Staff have also been working hard to mark prelims which informs our senior phase reports, which in turn contributes to the course choices processes and feedback for pupils re next steps in their learning in preparation for the SQA exams in April/May 2024.

Course Development:

Staff are also working on Moderation in the Broad General Education (S1/2/3) and new course development for session 24/25.

Senior Leadership Team:

The SLT were working on:

- Activities Days 2024 (S1/2/3)
- Prize Givings 2024 (Junior and Senior)
- SQA Timetable 2024
- Course Choice processes
- Staffing and finance for 24/25
- Pupil progress tracking
- Aberdeenshire Council Secondary Performance Review 2024
- Staff Career Long Professional Learning
- Projected school roll for next session



Ellon Academy Study Café

The Study Café is up and running again this year and will resume on Thursday 22.2.24, thanks to Mr Caskie and Mrs Murdoch.

Come along and study in a warm, safe, and encouraging environment in the Ellon Academy Library afternoon on Thursdays and enjoy free refreshments and snacks to help you relax into your study.

This tremendous advert for our senior S4-S6 Study Cafe was put together by one of our talented Digital Champions in S2, Scott M.

The advert provides information about the StudyCafe, who it is for, what its purpose is, and when it is running.

<https://www.facebook.com/EllonAcademy/videos/2401018523434496>



Here are some helpful websites for study:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>

<https://www.e-sgoil.com/>

<https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/students/higher-education/understanding-qualifications-study-tips>

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-study/>

Developing the Young Workforce Information:

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>)

- Digital Apprenticeships – QA (closing date: asap)
- Trainee Steel Wire Rope Operator – Hendrik Veder Group (c/d asap)
- Cabin Crew – Eastern Airways (c/d asap)
- Assurance/Tax Apprenticeships (start Sept 24) - EY (c/d asap)

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 modern apprenticeship opportunities are also currently accepting applications from across the North-East (via the Apprenticeships Scot Portal <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/>).

- DAF Heavy Vehicle Technician – Norcom Truck and Van (c/d 02/02/24)

These are some of the opportunities available locally. To find out more about these, as well as others available nationally, visit the Apprenticeships Scot Portal at <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/>.



Health and Safety - Please wear your seatbelt on school transport:

The DVSA have recently sent out a reminder to all operators of the importance of making sure all passengers wear seatbelts and thought that the schools / parents could help us to enforce the importance of this with pupils. All operators should be asking pupils to wear seatbelts, and wherever possible doing a quick check to make sure all seatbelts are on. However, it is difficult for them to ensure that pupils keep seatbelts on whilst driving.

We ask that parents/carers to speak to their children regarding seatbelts, to help make sure all pupils know how important it is and to encourage them to always put on and keep their seatbelt on for the whole journey.

Kind Regards,

Alana

Senior Transport Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

++Tesco Blue Tokens at the Ready for 2024! ++

The Reading Dog

Voting has started at **Ellon Tesco for Stronger Starts**.

Thank you so much to all those who have voted so far.

Voting will continue until **31st March 2024** so there is still plenty of time to pop your blue token in for The Reading Dog.

The funding (of either £1,500, £100, £500) will go towards buying resources (cushions, blankets, dog bowl/treats, new books) to create a more comfortable space for pupils and the Reading Dog when it comes into school.

Keep a look out in Ellon Tesco for The Reading Dog and keep voting!



Mrs Murray (ASL Teacher) and Mrs Murdoch (Head Librarian, Ellon Academy)

Car Park Health and Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

We ask that parents and carers remind their children of the following:

New addendum – On rainy days the pupil drop off and pick up times are much busier than usual. Recently, there were some near misses when drivers did not follow the one-way system. Please do so to keep everyone safe!

Here is a video as a reminder of our car park safety protocols: <https://youtu.be/Y89Gr4ihm-8>

To ensure that learners and staff are safe around the school campus, we are reminding learners not to walk/run through the car parks and bus parks. In the morning and after school there are over (approximately) 200 cars, taxis and buses coming in and out of the campus and learners must stick to the footpaths for their own safety and the safety of campus drivers.

We remind parents/carers/relatives who drop off and pick up learners that they should not access the school via the road past the bus shelter and the bus park. This access is reserved for buses and school staff. Please use the turning to the right at the front of the school (before the bus shelter) all learners drop offs and pick-ups.

We also ask that parents/carers continue to use the front facing parking and the one-way system at the front of the school when dropping off and picking up their children from school. Thank you.

Here is a link to the leaflet with car parking information for parents/carers:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Car-Park-Parents-Leaflet.pdf>

**ELLON ACADEMY
COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

CAR PARK

PUPIL DROP OFF (7:30 - 9 am)
Parent/Carers are asked to drop pupils off and pick them up in the designated drop off lane/zone and **NOT** to enter any of the assigned car parking spaces.

On leaving the drop off/ zone, Parents/Carers are asked to stick to the one way system by following the road down to the turning circle to the West of the Campus, thus ensuring that the traffic flow is all **one way**. Navigate the turning circle one car at a time and give it a wide berth as it has a tight radius.

PUPIL PICK UP
Parents/Carers should **forward park** in the angled parking bays (the angled design does not allow for reverse parking) then reverse out and continue to follow the road down to the turning circle to the West of the Campus, thus ensuring the traffic flow is all **one way**. Alternatively, park in the Community car park behind the swimming pool.

PARK AND STRIDE
Parents/Carers can also use the Meadows car parking facilities for pupil drop off/pick up. This will help alleviate traffic pressure on campus.

COMMUNITY USE
For access to Swimming, Leisure and Community Resources during the school week and outwith the drop off times for pupils please park in the public spaces beyond the drop off and disabled zones.

DISABLED
These spaces are reserved for blue badge holders and emergency vehicles only. They should not be used for dropping off/picking up.

CYCLING
It is advisable that all pupils who cycle to school are aware of wet and icy conditions, road safety, cycling in the dark and have working lights, visible clothing and cycle helmets. Cyclists should stick to cycle paths and ideally have passed their cycling proficiency test. Cycle stands available on campus.

The Ellon Academy Community Campus Management Team and Parent Council consider the safety and wellbeing of all campus users to be of paramount importance.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email: ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01358 720715

**Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL**

Keeping children and teenagers safe online:

'Report Remove'

The NSPCC has developed resources to support learners who have shared explicit photographs of themselves online. Please follow this link for more information:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/report-remove/>



COVID-19 symptoms and what to do:

As you may be aware, some strains of Covid-19 are on the rise, so this information from the NHS website is for parents/carers. Covid-19 symptoms can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Most people feel better within a few days or weeks of their first COVID-19 symptoms and make a full recovery within 12 weeks. For some people, it can be a more serious illness and their symptoms can last longer.

What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

You may be able to [look after yourself at home if you have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature.
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities.

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

If you are eligible for treatments for COVID-19, you should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test as soon as you get symptoms.

[Find out more about treatments for COVID-19 and who can have them](#)

What to do if you have tested positive

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms, but if you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day you took your test if you are under 18 years old.
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over.
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test.

[Find out more about who can get a free NHS COVID-19 test](#)

Ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if:

- you're worried about your or a child's COVID-19 symptoms or are not sure what to do.
- the symptoms are getting worse or are not getting better.
- you or a child have other signs of illness, such as a rash, loss of appetite, or feeling weak.
- you or a child have a high temperature that last 5 days or more or does not come down with paracetamol.
- a child under 3 months old and has a temperature of 38C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature.
- a child 3 to 6 months old and has a temperature of 39C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature.

It's particularly important to get help if you're at increased risk of getting ill from COVID-19, such as if you're pregnant, aged 60 or over, or have a weakened immune system. You can call 111 or [get help from 111 online](#).

Extra-Curricular Activities:

We are always encouraging our learners to take part in clubs and activities in and out of school to support skills development, so thanks to Mrs Warne for pulling together all the Ellon Academy extra-curricular activities into one booklet for pupils and parents/carers. The booklet can be viewed by following the link to our website below:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>



Pupil information:

ALL PUPILS: Interhouse cheer:

Interhouse Cheer will start next week with rehearsals taking place at lunchtimes in the PE department. This is the second last event in the 23/24 interhouse calendar and is a great event to be a part of.

Everyone is welcome to take part and no experience in cheer is necessary!

Sports captains will organise and run rehearsals and choose a theme for their routine.

Please look at the rehearsal schedule to know where your house is each day. It will rotate round the different halls and each house will have one day off per week.

The final performance will take place on Thursday the 21st of March at Lunchtime. The current champions are McDonald House.

If you would like to participate, please come to the games hall on Monday at lunchtime to sign up.

ALL PUPILS – MANDARIN LESSONS

Mandarin lessons have started again on Wednesdays and will run until study leave. They are being held in S42 during lunchtime every Wednesday. Pupils who have a place on the trip to China in July 2024 must attend because they need to have completed at least 10 hours of Mandarin before we leave. However, other interested pupils are also welcome to attend the lessons! Please see Mrs Duffus for more information. Mrs Duffus

ALL PUPILS - NASSA AND ALBYN OPEN CROSS COUNTRY

There are two exciting opportunities coming up to represent Ellon Academy at Cross Country. The first is NASSA Cross Country on Wednesday 21st February at The Gordon Schools (Huntly). The second is the Albyn Open Cross-Country Championship on Friday 15th March at Balgownie (Aberdeen). Both events will involve being out of school for part of the day. For anyone who is interested in participating at either/both events, and has not already put their name down, please attend a short meeting in Gym A at breaktime today (Wednesday 7th February). Miss Morgan

NESCOL Study Support for Higher Subjects:

There are places available on our Preparation for Higher evening classes, which run at our Aberdeen City Campus. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to pupils, parents, and relevant teaching colleagues. A full list of the available courses and their start dates is below:

Preparation for Higher Biology – commencing 4th March

[Biology - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 20th March

[Chemistry - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 13th and 14th March

[Maths - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 27th February

[Physics - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

For further information on any of these, please contact Dr Douglas Fraser, Curriculum Manager for Science, at douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk

Many thanks, Lauren MacAskill (she/her) Schools-College Partnership Manager

Bright Red Publishing - Bag a Bargain Bespoke for Ellon Academy parents/carers!

Bright Red Publishing is Scotland's leading independent educational publisher and home of top Study Guides and Course Books for Scottish Qualifications Authority exams (some of which have been written by our very own Mr MacBeath!) Star!

In conjunction with the school, we have secured a discount code for all to use – ELLON30. If you are ordering a study guide to help support your or your child's studies, please use the discount code ELLON30 to secure 30% off any purchase.

The catalogue can be found here, where you will find many study guides that we offer here at Ellon Academy.

<https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/Shop>



Happy [#ValentinesDay](#)! We love hearing about how our books have helped students across Scotland succeed. If you're looking for a helping hand this exam season, remember we have a sale on until the end of Feb! Shop here: <https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/>



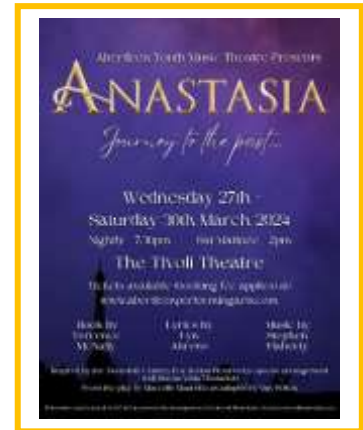
Community Information:

Tickets are now on sale for Anastasia by Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre for this March.

Our very own Laura J 2S1 and Isla M S6 are in leading roles.

They are available from the box office, but Laura J 2S1 can get them from AYMT at a discounted rate and no booking fee. If you are interested in getting tickets, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Children and Young People Mental Health Awareness Workshops (for parents and carers) **SAMH**

Want to learn about children and young people's mental health? Fancy some tips on how to speak to your child about their feelings?

If yes, then come along to our **FREE 90 minute workshops**:

- Mental health awareness
- Understanding and managing stress and anxiety
- Listening to and supporting my child
- Managing my wellbeing

Our workshops are information sessions and parents/carers are not expected to share personal stories. We will however be giving out lots of useful information and support links.

To book a space scan the QR code or click the link below:

These workshops are part of our wider work within some Aberdeenshire schools. If you would like to find out more contact:

Melanie McLellan
Time For Me Practitioner
T: 07817890852
E: melanie.mclellan@samh.org.uk

Eventbrite

Ellon Meadows Football Club 2008s

Ellon Meadows 2008s is looking for players to strengthen its squad playing it the 08's B league.

All coaches are SFA qualified, PVG checked and are First Aid trained.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE RING:

07739 759890

Ellon Meadows Football Club
info@ellonmeadowsfc.co.uk

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE GOLD COMMUNITY

Dates For Your Diary

Term 3:

Mon 19.2.24	S6/Staff Burns Supper and Ceilidh (5pm – 8pm)
w/b Mon 19.2.24	S4 Guidance Course Choice interviews this week.
w/b Mon 26.2.24	S4/5/6 Reports to be issued.
Mon 26.2.24	S5 Course Guidance Course Choice interviews this week.
Wed 28.2.24	S4 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual) 4pm – 6.30pm.
Fri 1.3.24	S3 Course Choice deadline.
Wed 6.3.24	S5/6 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual) 4pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 7.3.24	Parents/Carers deadline for change of level queries
Thurs 7.3.24	World Book Day



Fri 15.3.24 S4/5 Course Choice deadline.
w/b Mon 18.3.24 PE Practical Performance assessments this week.
Wed 27.3.24 Music for Spring Concert – 7.30pm
Thurs 28.3.24 Last day of Term 3.

Term 4:

Mon 15.4.24 Term 4 begins.

The Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 23/24 is available to view on our school website by following the link below.

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

Thank you for your continued support and we hope our Ellon Academy families and friends have a lovely weekend.

P Buchan

Rector 16.02.24