



Date: Friday 10th May 2024

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Dear parents/carers,

It's been so lovely to see some nicer weather this week so with that in mind, SLT have discussed relaxing the school uniform expectations as we did this time last year. We ask parental/carer support in ensuring that pupils turn up to school dressed in an appropriate manner for a school/working environment whilst considering the increasing temperatures in and out of school:

**Relaxed Uniform during warmer weather:**

SLT have agreed that pupils will be permitted to wear shorts during the expected spell of warmer weather. Pupils are asked to continue to wear usual shirts and ties and are reminded that this relaxation is not a reason to come to school in beachwear, it means shorts that are appropriate for school wear. Therefore, to clarify, no football strips, Lycra shorts (these are inappropriate can be a flammable risk), strappy tops or cropped bra style tops.

**Thank you, SLT.**

**Sexploitation:**

Please refer to pages 6 and 7 below for important information sent to schools for parents/carers from the National Crime Agency.

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](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**Quote of the Week beginning Monday 13.5.24:**



### Most Merits:

Here are the pupils who have accrued the most merits this week:

Well done, and they can collect their Fast Passes from Mrs Buchan after registration in the sunken social area on Mon 13.5.24.

**Well done all!**

Shania	C	1F2
Calum	M	1F2
Erin	R	1K1
Naomi	W	1K1
Zuzanna	Z	1S1
Aleisha	D	2F1
Jack	E	2F1
Logan	T	2F1
Clark	W	2F1
Kara	S	2M2
Cyprian	K	3F2
Patrycja	K	3S2

### Assemblies:

There are no planned assemblies weeks beginning 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, or 27<sup>th</sup> May due to the theatre being set up and used for range of events over the next 2 weeks and Activities Days week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### Parent Council Up-date:

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in person at Ellon Academy.  
Our new Chairperson Mr James Simpson is keen for more parents to join us that evening.  
The Parent Council also want to welcome P7 parents and remind them to answer the security questions if they would like to access the Ellon Academy Parent Council Facebook page.  
Thank you.

### Senior Study and Exam Support:

#### Study Skills Support:

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

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

#### Lunchtime and after school help clubs:

Faculties continue to offer support via help clubs for all senior phase learners.

#### Bright Red:

Get quizzical with our N5 Revision Cards for Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics! 📖 These cards are great for studying in the run up to exams, as they focus on those tricky questions that students historically get wrong. Visit our website for more info!

<https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/shop/revision-cards>



#### 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/>

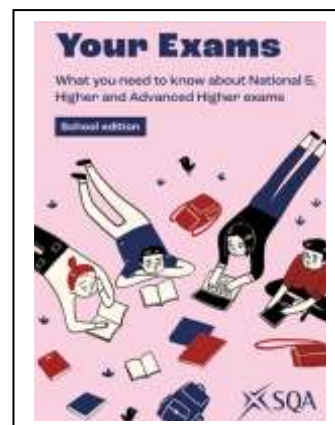
## **SQA Exam Information:**

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100863.html>

## **SQA Exam Timetable:**

<file:///C:/Users/pbuchan/Downloads/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf>

Please note that the Ellon Academy SQA exam timetable may vary to accommodate school bus times and additional assessment arrangements. Use this link as a guide only and your child will receive their individual timetable after the Easter break.



## **MyExams app**

Create a personal timetable, view your exam schedule, add notes, and add to other calendars.

- [Download MyExams from the App Store.](#)
- [Download MyExams for Android.](#)

## **Personal timetable builder**

Don't fancy an app? You can also create your own timetable using our online version.

Build your own [online timetable](#)

## **MyStudyPlan app**

Organise your revision by creating your own study plan.

- [Download MyStudyPlan from the App Store.](#)
- [Download MyStudyPlan for Android.](#)

## **Helping your Teens with Exam Stress:**

Parent Club resources are now available to help parents & carers to support their teens with the stress of exams. Nobody likes exams. But some teens find them particularly stressful and difficult, especially S4s who may be sitting exams for the first time this year.

Parent Club has tips and advice for parents & carers to help them support their teen if they are struggling to cope with exam stress - along with what to do if it all gets a bit too much.

You can find out more on the Parent Club website:-

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/how-cope-exam-stress>

## **Message from Rachael Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor:**

Please could parents/carers ensure that pupils on study leave have funds on their accounts to pay for food/drinks and any debt they may have. Any pupils not returning after study leave need to have all payments cleared and no debt left at the kitchen. Thank R Jarvis.

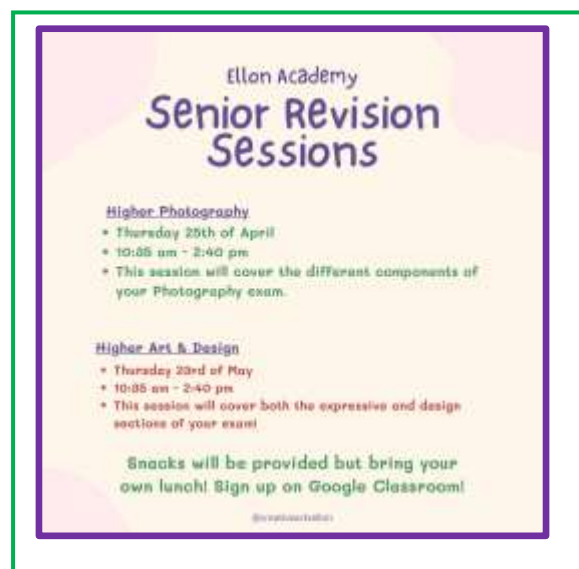
## Calling all Higher Art and Photography pupils! 📣

Revision sessions will take place during study leave in the Art Department with Miss Geoghan. 📚✍️

These sessions will cover the various areas of your exam for Higher Photography and Higher Art & Design. Attendance is highly recommended. 🍌📷

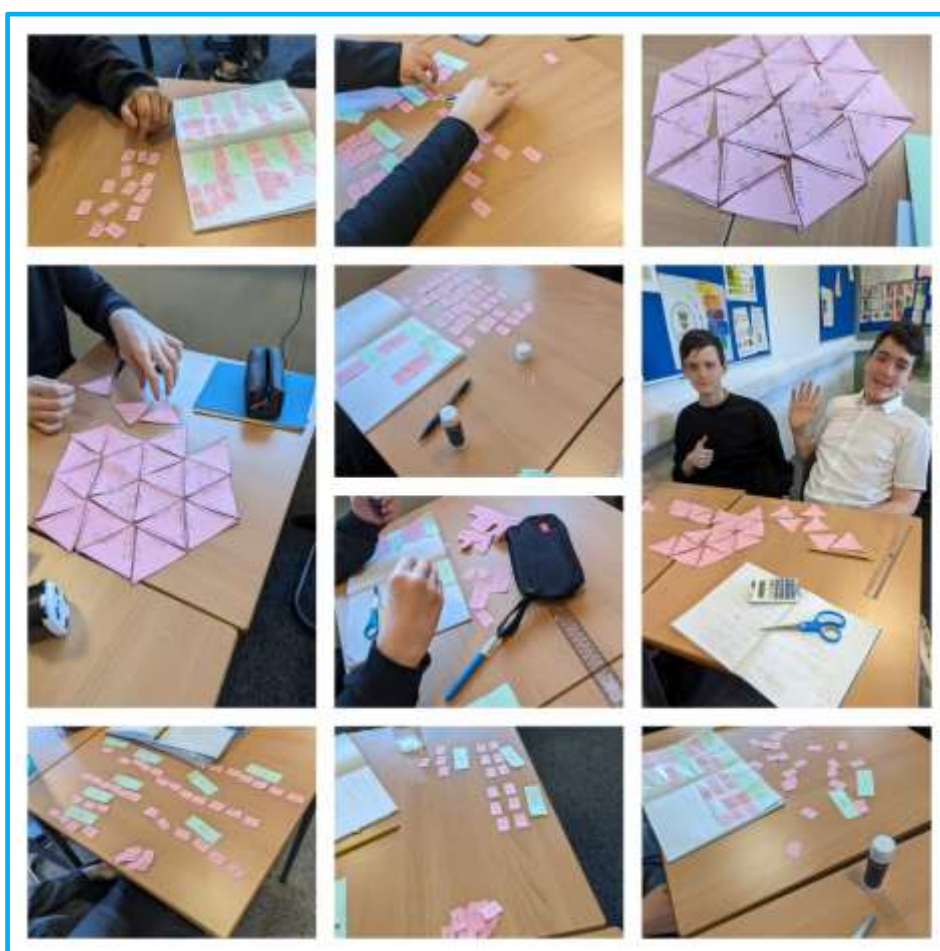
If you are attending a session, put your name on the sign-up sheet in Miss Geoghan's classroom or on Google Classroom.

- All pupils must sign in and sign out at the office when they arrive and leave school during study leave. ✍️
- All pupils must be in school uniform when they attend the revision day.
- Snacks will be provided by Miss Geoghan, but you will need to bring your own lunch.



## Learning in the Maths Faculty:

S3 absolutely smashed it last week when working with tolerances. We discussed different scenarios where tolerance would be used and its purpose. We then had an individual activity and a team task. Our individual activity was to organise different values into 8 different tolerances and identify those that didn't quite fit the bill. Our team task was a very tricky tarsia puzzle where different ways of saying the same thing tried to throw us off. Tried to...but didn't! Exceptional work all round!



**Learning in the Maths Faculty:**

S1 have been carrying out an analysis of the raw data we collected a few weeks ago. Some snapshots of the great work carried out by 1B1 this morning, involving pie charts, mean, median, mode & range from a frequency table and more! Well done everyone!



## **Important Information for Parents/Carers from National Crime Agency Alert - Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion**

The following information has been provided to schools by the National Crime Agency in order to raise your awareness of this issue and outline how to address it should you become aware of situation involving a child in your care. In school we will be reminding the children of how to use the internet safely and about the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they find themselves in a situation where they feel uncomfortable or that worries them.

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP Education's parents and carers website](#).

### **Talking to your child/young person:**

It's important to have frequent, open, and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Here are some tips about how to approach this:

- Chat regularly about their life online: have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online. Continue to take an interest as they grow, explore new apps and sites together and talk in a balanced way, considering the benefits and the potential harms.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex: organisations like [CEOP Education](#), [Childline](#) and [Brook](#) have age-appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics.
- Review privacy settings: talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice on [how to talk your child about their privacy settings](#).
- Make sure they know where to go for support: let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.
- Make sure they know where to report and remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police or using the CEOP Safety Centre. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).

To learn more about what resources are available to help you support your child, visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

## What can I do if this has happened to my child?

If your child tells you that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

- Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, and bank account details.
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

If it has already happened and your child has shared an image and sent money to someone exploiting them:

- Reassure them that they've done the right thing by telling you: make sure they know they are not to blame for what has happened and they have done the right thing to ask for your help.
- Children and young people's mental health may be negatively impacted by experiences of exploitation; you can [find advice on looking after your child's mental health from the NHS](#).
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report an incident. If your child is 18 and over, call 101 or 999 if they are at risk of immediate harm.
- Report any images or videos that have been shared: help your child to remove images that are online or prevent images being shared online by following these three steps:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).



## Pupil Achievement: Grampian Children's Book Awards – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, Mrs Murdoch, Mrs Quantrill, Mrs Cawthorne and Mrs Corser took some learners out to the University of Aberdeen for a series of activities.

Mrs Murdoch had arranged a variety of visits, in liaison with library colleagues and Dr Elizabeth Anderson who is the Undergraduate Programme Coordinator for English at the University.

The group to the right were taken on a tour of the Zoology building, and then the special collection in the Duncan Rice library. Local writer and another, Dr Shane Strachan who is a lecturer at the University too and a former pupil of both Mrs Corser and Mrs Buchan, also worked with the group by sharing his writing and taking them round campus.

The group had lunch at The Hub and then attended the awards ceremony of the Grampian Children's Book Awards.

Name	Class
Emma T	1S2
Matteo T	1F2
Owen A	1K1
Fraser P	1S2
Charlotte W	2F1
Joshua	1K1
Natania A	1S2
Molly B	1F2
Georgie Q	1S1
Ruby Q	3S1
Penny B	1S2
Brooke T	1F2



Left to right – Molly B and Natania A won first prize in the BookTok competition, where they made a BookTok style review of books they had read from the finalists. Very well done to them both!

<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/grampianchildrensbookaward/home>

Here is the winning book, Resist by Tom Palmer:





Also, some of our pupils ask the authors to sign some library books.

We're sure some of our pupils would love to borrow those!



The learners were a credit to the school and our colleagues were very generous in giving up their time (both in supporting learners who participated in the GCBA competitions, in organising the other activities on the day, and going on the trip).

Well done and thanks to all!



**Pupil Achievement:**

Commiserations to the U15 football team who were cruelly put out the North of Scotland Cup semifinal this week. Although normally not worth celebrating, the attitude and resilience shown sums up everything we try and get from our pupils in Ellon.

3-0 down at half time would be enough to make most people give up, but not this team!

They knew they had the ability, and that things were far from over. At the start of the 2nd half, they went out with a fire in their bellies, and quickly got one back with a nice finish from Dylan. The team continued to play well and dominating football and got another with a nice left foot finish from outside the box by Arran. The team kept going, and with literally the last kick of the regulation time, Lewis tapped in the equaliser. As cruel as it is, penalties was the only way to separate the teams, and it just happens luck just wasn't on our side this week. It was a brilliant game of football, and the players should be proud of what they did today. Well done all!



**Pupil Achievement:**

Marcus M 3K1 had a great weekend despite some challenging wind conditions (mainly at times no wind!) and was 10th overall in his Fleet and Team Scotland finished 3rd which is a great result! Well done, Marcus!



### **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 – BREAKTIMES IN THE LIBRARY**

Reminders for all pupils:

- The library is open at breaktimes for borrowing, returning and renewing library items, reading and printing.
- The library is a RED ZONE at break time – no phones.
- Pupils should have their snack before coming to the library at breaktime.

#### **ALL PUPILS – TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

If you want to get involved in playing some Table Tennis, come to gym A on a Wednesday at lunchtime.

Open to all pupils.

Start Date : Wednesday 20th March.

Time: Lunch Break

Location: GYM A

Mr Hatfield

#### **S1/2 PUPILS – NETBALL CLUB**

Due to the Games Hall being used for exams, Junior Netball will now take place in Gym B on the following dates:

Thurs 16.5.24 – S1/S2 only

Thurs 23.5.24 – S1 only

Miss Williams and Miss Morgan

#### **S1/2/3 PUPILS – BADMINTON CLUB**

Due to the Games Hall being used for exams, only Gym A and Gym B will be available for Badminton Club.

This means we will have to revert to a year group rota (due to numbers). Please get in touch if you have any questions:

Mon 13.5.24 – S1 only

Mon 20.5.24 – S2/S3 only

Mon 27.5.24 – S1 only

Miss Morgan and Mr Hatfield

#### **S2 PUPILS – FOOTBALL**

Football training will now take place every Tuesday on the grass pitches (15:30-16:30). Please keep an eye on Google Classroom for updates regarding training sessions and future games.

Mr Caskie

#### **ALL PUPILS**

The Garden Club will resume on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – all welcome. Miss Swallow.

### **Fund Raising for Maggie's**

Rachael C 5K1, her mum and brother have signed up to participate in Maggie's Culture Crawl this year, taking place on June 21st. They will be walking 6 miles around different areas of Aberdeen, which will be awesome! These different areas will include food/ drink/ entertainment etc, so it adds to the experience!

Maggie's provides support for those affected with Cancer, whether it be emotional, practical, physical, financial support, or for those with younger children, and other family members. As part of this exciting opportunity, they have to do a wee spot of fundraising!

They have a Mint Aero Chocolate Hamper for £2.00 per square.

A Galaxy Chocolate Hamper to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.

3 different Sweetie Bouquets to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.

Two x 1000-piece jigsaw + a 2025 Calendar to be raffled off- £ 2.00 per square.

Payment can be made through our Just Giving page @

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_fundraiser\\_page\\_launched&utm\\_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=postoffice&utm\\_term=1708890116649](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_launched&utm_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1708890116649)

Or PayPal / Bank Transfer/ cash.

Thank you.



# ELLON ACADEMY DANCE SHOWCASE

27TH OF JUNE 2024  
DOORS: 7:15 PM START: 7:30PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF DANCE,  
CHEER AND GYMNASTICS WITH PUPILS  
FROM ELLON ACADEMY AND M&D CHEER

LOCATION: ELLON ACADEMY GAMES  
HALL

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE  
FROM THE ELLON ACADEMY SCHOOL  
OFFICE

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO EASA

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Tickets:  
Adults £6  
Concessions £4

# ELLON ACADEMY DANCE SHOWCASE

SIGN UP NOW

27TH OF JUNE 2024 7:15PM

SIGN UP TO TAKE PART IN THE ELLON  
ACADEMY DANCE SHOWCASE TO RAISE  
MONEY FOR EASA.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DANCERS &  
GYMNASTS TO PERFORM SOLO OR  
GROUP ROUTINES ALONGSIDE OUR  
SCHOOL CHEER TEAMS IN A SHOWCASE  
TO PARENTS/CARERS AND THE  
COMMUNITY.

SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE BELOW..!  
CLOSING DATE 31/05/2024



## \*\*EASA RAFFLE\*\*

This year's EASA Raffle will take place at the Dance Showcase on Thursday the 27th of June. Tickets for the raffle will be available to buy on the night at the showcase.

Last year we raised an amazing £1347 for EASA and this money has gone towards equipment, uniforms, and subsidising bus costs.

## EASA Raffle

This year's EASA Raffle will take place at the  
2024 Dance Showcase on 27/06/24.

If you own or know of any businesses who  
are in a position to donate a prize please get  
in touch via email or with the school directly.

Last year we managed to raise an amazing  
£1347.50 which has helped to subsidise  
uniform, equipment and bus costs across  
EASA clubs.



Prizes can be dropped  
at school reception or  
PE Department or  
arranged for collection.

For all raffle enquiries  
please email:  
margaret.williams@  
aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Aberdeenshire Council would like to hear your views about your child's school - particularly in areas around communication home, learning in school, your involvement, and family learning.

By completing a short survey, your responses will help us improve our work with families and to inform and review our work on parental engagement in the future.

The survey is optional and no personal identifying information will be collected.

The survey will be open until May 13.

To take part, click here <https://forms.office.com/e/c8D766smMW>

Each school's results will be shared with them to support their ongoing work on parental engagement.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the survey posted to you, please email [christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey - your feedback is appreciated.

#### **Royal Air Force Air Cadets in Ellon and Peterhead:**

We have an open nights on Monday the 6th of May in Ellon at Neil Ross Square and in Peterhead on Friday the 17th of May at Boddam Cadet Centre, both starting at 1930hrs. We were wondering if you could pass it on to the pupils in your school (12-17).



## SAAS information for Parents/Carers:

Do you know a young person heading to college or university?

We recommend applying early for 2024-25 courses to ensure funding is in place prior to their course starting.

For information on types of funding, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk).

[#StartWithSAAS](https://twitter.com/StartWithSAAS)



## Dates for Your Diary:

### Term 4:

Thurs 16.5.24	Ellon Academy Digital Champions – Digi24 Conference (in school all day)
Mon 20.5.24	Ellon Academy Pupil Senate - Library
w/b 20.5.24	S1 Final Reports issue this week.
Wed 22.5.24	Junior (11.45am for 12pm) and Senior (9.15am for 9.30am) Prizegiving Ceremonies
Thurs 23.5.24	P7 Values Day
Fri 24.5.24	S6 Prom - Lochter
Mon/Tues 27/28 <sup>th</sup> May	S3 Build Your Future/Entrepreneurship Days
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	S1/2/3 Activities Days
Fri 31.5.24	S2/3 Tracking Report (2) issue.
Mon 3.6.24	Change of timetable
Thurs 6.6.24	Sports Day
Tues 11.6.24	Parent Council Meeting (In-person at Ellon Academy), 7.00pm – 8.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Induction Days
Wed 26.6.24	P7 Parents Evening
Thurs 27.6.24	Dance Showcase – 7pm Theatre
Tues 2.7.24	Drama Showcase – 7.30pm Theatre
Fri 5.7.24	Dress Down Day/End of Term

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 I hope you have a lovely weekend.

*P Buchan*

Rector 10.5.24