



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 5th July 2024

Dear parents/carers,

In this, my last newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents and carers for your wonderful support over the past 8 years. It has been an honour to hold the post of Head Teacher at Ellon Academy, and the greatest privilege is to know and work with your children in this lovely community.

The best part of this job is to see how young people grow, learn, and develop and I will miss the daily chats with them and seeing their fantastic achievements.

With your support, our young people will thrive and grow and when they work well with our staff, amazing things happen. Qualifications are very important, but what defines a person is their character, integrity and kindness towards others and I hope that the young people of Ellon take that mantra into their adult years.

Wishing you and your families a lovely summer and all the best of health and happiness that life can bring for the future.



Dress Down Day Collection for Cancer Research UK

Talking of 'making tiny changes to earth', we are overwhelmed by the response of pupils, parents and staff to their most generous donations for Cancer Research UK today, raising over £1,013.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your kindness and generosity, making tiny changes to others.

Staff and Pupil Achievement – Community Book Sale:

Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who have so kindly donated to our Book Sale on Monday of this week. Thanks also to the pupils and staff who set up and manned the stalls and to Ythan Valley Rotary for their support once again.



Ythan Valley Rotary members, Sue, Rosemary, Eleanor, Tanya, Sandra and Hilary helping out with Ellon Academy staff and Interact in GB & Ireland pupils at the book sale today. Held in the community room, a number of staff, pupils and general public popped in past. A busy day!

Ellon Academy Refugee Week:

The Ythan Valley Rotarians and Ellon Academy Community Campus Interact group invited Tanya to meet us for Refugee week. Tanya, who is from Ukraine, brought sunflowers (National flower of Ukraine) and we visited our sunflower plants and remembered Ukraine.

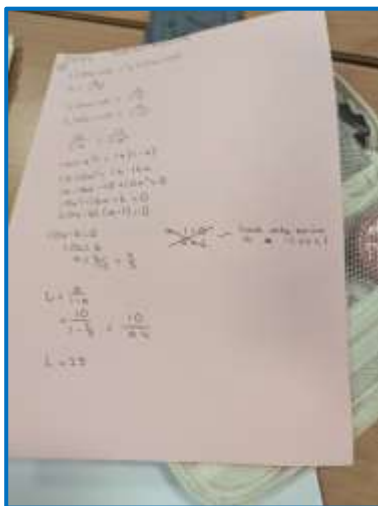




Learning at Ellon Academy

Maths Faculty

Higher Maths pupils reviewing their learning since timetable change with past paper questions in groups. First we had to organise each question into topics based on a first glance. We worked through the questions together and used the SQA marking schemes to ensure we had enough evidence for full marks. We then decided if we thought the question was a level A/B or C, based on the skills we used. There were questions which were a mix of topics and this highlighted that not everything is as it seems at first glance. Lots of great teamwork and excellent solutions produced!





Pupil Achievement – Health and Wellbeing Pupils of the Month – June 2024

June Pupil of the Month

Congratulations to our Health and Wellbeing Pupils of the Month for June.

Mr Caskie - Ryan G 3F1, Murray D 3M2

Mrs Godsman - Josh F 2C2, Erin R 2K1

Mr Hatfield - Ruaridh G 4M2, Ollie D 4S2

Miss Hepburn -Lame B 2F1, Matteo T 2F1

Miss Williams - Amy P 4M1, Lily P 4F1

Miss Daniel - Aiden T 6F, Abea J 5F1

Mr McCall - Alex Y 4S2, Burak E 4F1

Miss Morgan - Josh S 3K2, James M 3F1

Mr Lawson - Finlay R 2C1, Francisco C 5M2



Pupil Achievement:

Recently, Laura J 3S1 took part in the Aberdeen Kiltwalk 2024.

Laura joined a team of over 70 walkers raising money for SANDS, who support families following baby loss.

The team raised a fantastic £21,900 towards SANDS vital work as well as raising the profile of the charity itself.

Laura was proud to take part with family and friends and walked in memory of her precious baby Brother Matthew x.

Ellon Academy is so proud of Laura in this and all her endeavours.

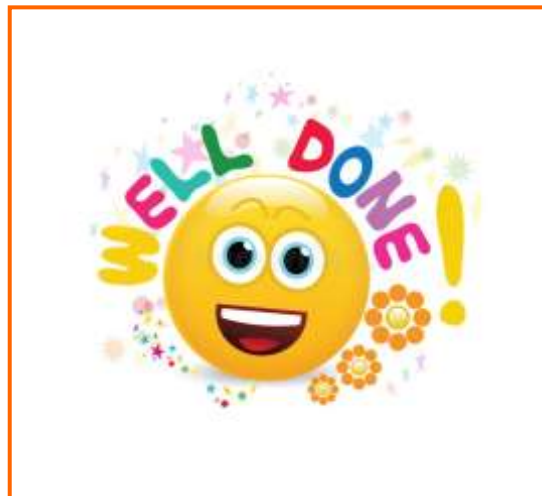


Pupil Achievement: S2 Merits Competition from this week (Monday-Thursday)

2C1 - 44
2C2 - 25
2F1 - 24
2F2 - 5
2K1 - 38
2M1 - 20
2S1 - 96
2S2 - 24

Running totals over term:

2S1 – 883
2S2 – 692
2F1 – 643
2C1 – 630
2M1 – 540
2K1 – 537
2F2 – 522
2C2 – 464



Top 3 merits achievers in each class since the competition started are:

2C1

Joshua Q – 50 , Finlay R – 41, Jamie D – 40

2C2

Dhaksha S – 33, Elya M – 31, Lily C – 26

2F1

Lame B – 51, Anna A – 40, Lilly H – 38, Katie M – 38

2F2

Matteo T – 39, Molly B – 35, Katie M – 32

2K1

Molly C – 44, Naomi W – 37, Erin R – 35

2M1

Sophie N – 43, Elise B – 35, Charlie B – 34

2S1

Kasper S – 71, Georgie Q – 69, Zuzanna Z – 56

2S2

Fraser Pain – 50, Adam F – 43, Freya D – 37



Well done all!

Pupil Achievement: Dance Showcase

A big thank you to all of the friends & family who came out to support our dance showcase last week. It was amazing to see all the hard work pupils from Ellon Academy and MD Cheer have put in this past year and a great opportunity for friends and family to see their award-winning routines!

Just a few thank-yous to the people we couldn't have run this event without:

- PE staff for helping with set up and with the running of the show.
- Janitors and cleaning staff for all their hard work with setup and take down before and after the event.
- Staff who helped with teas/coffees, raffles, doors, and general running of the event
- Senior and ex pupils who came along to support and helped with music, raffles, merchandise and teas/coffees.
- All of the businesses, parents & staff who donated raffle prizes.

A big thank you also to all of the people who purchased raffle tickets and merchandise, all of the money raised will be going to EASA and will help to support the uniform, transport, equipment, and competition costs for future years.

A HUGE £2206.21 RAISED FOR EASA 🎉🎉🎉

A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE SHOWCASE, DONATED RAFFLE PRIZES, BOUGHT RAFFLES, SWEETS & MERCH AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SPORT AT [Ellon Academy!!](#)



Pupil Achievement – Drama Showcase Tues 2nd July 2024

What an absolutely fantastic night of entertainment we had with the Ellon Academy Drama Groups presentation of Ernie’s Incredible Illusions! The audience were in stitches – absolute comedy gold!

A huge well done to all the pupils involved and the staff who produced and worked behind the scenes!

"ERNIE'S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS" CAST LIST

Auntie May	Markus van Heerden
Dad	Aubry Humphrey
Doctor	Logan Webber
Eddie Edwards	Finlay Ross
Ernie	Robert Ingram
First Banker	Ana Butchart and Bella Sives
Fourth Banker	Chloe Lawrence
Kid Saracen	James Sampson
Lady in the Library	Elieth Gronkowsk
Librarian	Amelia Gentry
Library Attendant	Elizabeth Dibley
Man in Boxing Match Audience	Anna Smith
Mum	Abby Porter
Officer	Cypran Kaczor
Receptionist	Natalia Atkin
Referee	Colson Burns
Second Banker	Isabella Jennings and Naomi Webster
Second Librarian	Varvara Lukash
Third Banker	Sophie Dunthorne and Alyssa Ewan
Timekeeper	Beth Lumsden
Tramp	Dunagh Fiddes
Woman in Boxing Match Audience	Rosie Flett

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Naemi Cozens, Vicky Moore
Set Production	Kathryn Geaghan
Stage Manager	Callum Scofield
Costumes	Vicky Moore, Chloa Campbell
Lighting	Lewis Dunn
Properties	Kathryn Geaghan, Lisa O'Connor
Sound Design	Scott MacPherson
Backstage	Margaret Nicholson
Poster Design	Lucy Thom
Front of House	Lisa O'Connor, Kathryn Geaghan







Aberdeenshire Libraries - Summer Reading 2024

Summer Reading Fantasy Fiction Starts on Thursday 13th June and will run until Saturday 24th August 2024.

Participants of all ages can take part (0 to 100+ years) - children, young adults, families, adults, friends, and groups. This year's summer reading theme is Fantasy Fiction to coincide with the bicentenary celebration of George MacDonald in 2024. He is often referred to as the founding father of fantasy fiction. George was born and lived in Huntly, Aberdeenshire and influenced well known authors such as CS Lewis and Tolkien.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clkm0ejnzedo>

How do I take part?

- Participant(s) can pick up a collector's card from their local library, and download from the Live Life Aberdeenshire website - <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>
- You can register to take part by filling in our online form, ask library staff for details or go online.
- The collector's card has 8 circles to keep track of the books you have read and events you have taken part in within Libraries.
- For each collector's card completed a certificate will be awarded by staff at your local library or you can download online.
- Your completed card can be dropped off at your local library, or an eCopy sent to - summerreading@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
- It will then be entered into a draw to win one of many prizes which includes signed books, book bundles, gift cards and much more... We also have a creative competition that everyone can take part in and prizes to be won.
- The creative competition for 2024 is for all ages to take part in.
- The competition this year will be to create a short fantasy fiction story and illustrate one of the characters in the created story - 500 to 750 words.
- Or you can write a story only or illustrate a fantasy creature only. There are different options for different abilities and ages.
- Creative Competition entry forms will be available to pick up from your library or download online.
- Creative competition will have 4 age group - Pre-School, 5-11 years, 12+ and Adults.
- Winners will be chosen from each Aberdeenshire area and will be published as an eBook on our Digital Library platform - Libby.

Find out more information on our website when summer reading launches on the 13th June - <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>

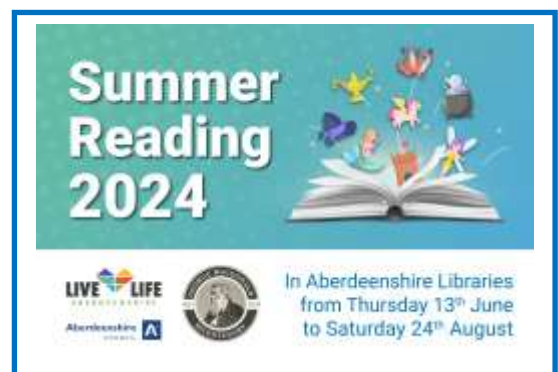
Further information is also available from Libraries HQ, Oldmeldrum - librarieshq@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Summer Reading 2024 - Fantasy Fiction Creative Competition

This year's creative competition is for all ages, you are invited to create a short fantasy fiction story and illustrate one of the characters in the created story – 500 to 750 words.
Or you can write a story only or illustrate a fantasy creature only. There are different options for different abilities and ages.

Create a fantasy creature.

LIVE LIFE



**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](#).



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Results Helpline

**Whatever your results, you have options,
and our careers advisers can help**

Talk to us about college and university, apprenticeships, training,
volunteering, getting into work, and more.

Call 0808 100 8000

Tue 6 and Wed 7 Aug: 8am to 8pm

Thurs 8 and Fri 9 Aug: 9am to 5pm

Dates for Your Diary:

Term 4:

Fri 5.7.24 Dress Down Day/End of Term

Term 1 – Session 24.25:

Mon 19.8.24 In-service Day for staff

Tues 20.8.24 First day of term for pupils (8.25am)

The new Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 24/25 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 over the past 8 years.
With warmest wishes for the future and have a lovely summer.

This week, I have been overwhelmed by the kind wishes, emails, cards, and gifts received from pupils, parents and colleagues and feel very humbled indeed. Thank you all so, so very much.

Below is the very last cartoon strip from Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes – a boy and his imaginary tiger cuddly toy and although this is a winter scene, I really like the sentiment as I retire.

Ellon Academy is a wonderful school and it's hard to say goodbye, but I will remember my time fondly and with great affection and I look forward to hearing about the future successes of young people in this community. Signing off...to go exploring!



With my thanks and warmest wishes,

Pauline Buchan

Rector 5.7.24