



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

To: All Parents/Carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 14th October 2022

Dear parents/carers,

The staff at Ellon Academy can't quite believe that Term 1 is now over but we are proud of the work we have done so far this session and we are so very grateful to be striving ahead in a new school year with no lockdowns or other disruptions to hamper our progress.

We appreciate all the support you give, and we hope you've enjoyed the Merits Texts that many of you will have received recognising your child's effort, commitment, demonstration of school values and going over and above in learning or duties to the school.

We also appreciate the efforts of parents/carers to support our school uniform and ensuring that pupils arrive at school on time.

We have a bumper newsletter this week with so many achievements for us all to be proud of. Enjoy reading these articles. This truly represents the kind of pupils we have here at Ellon Academy.

We hope our families have a lovely break over the October holidays and we look forward to welcoming our staff and learners back to school on Monday 31st October.

Quote of the week beginning 31.10.22:



Most Merits/Over and Above:

The pupils below have accrued the most merits week beginning Mon 10.10.22 and will receive their canteen fast passes on Monday 31st Oct after registration in the sunken social area. Well done, everyone!

Aleisha	D	1F1	8
Scott	M	1F1	7
Charlotte	W	1F1	6
Alexander	S	1K2	6
Cameron	T	1K2	6
Vanessa	M	1M2	6
Enzo	T	2F2	8
Adrijana	P	2M1	6
Ruaridh	G	2M2	6
Aleks	I	2M2	6
Ainoras	P	2S2	6
Ashley	R	3C2	6
Aiden	L	3S2	7
Sadie	G	4C1	5
Sophie	K	4C1	5
Eilidh	D	4F1	6
Nick	M	5C1	6
Cameron	H	5K1	5
Matthew	L	5K2	5
Clarissa	W	6K	6
Josh	C	6M	5
Lucy	D	6S	5



Staffing up-date:

1 FTE Music Post – Ms L O’Conner will join us during November. Currently in negotiations re her start date.
2 PTE PE Posts – Ms M Williams will start on 21.11.22 and Ms F Morton will start after the holidays on 31.10.22

Dress Down Day – Friday 14.10.22

A huge thanks to all pupils, staff, and parents/carers for their support in raising funds for the pupils’ chosen charity ‘Kayleigh’s Wee Stars’ today.
Also, thanks to our Exec Team who planned and organised the fund raising today, and they managed to raise a massive sum of £850.00!
Well done and thank you to everyone involved.



Google Classroom Parents/Carers Survey – Your voices matter!

Please complete by Friday 4th November if you can help:



As you will be aware, Digital Learning is a significant part of Scottish education and your child’s learning experience at Ellon Academy. Part of the Digital Learning experience sees pupils at Ellon Academy using Google Classroom to enhance their overall experience. This is a platform that allows streamlining of sharing files between teachers and pupils, formal homework to be set, various assignments/tasks to be set, and keeps a record of work completed by pupils (To Do List). The system also provides weekly summaries for parents who have signed up to Google Guardian, with information about work that children have completed or any work that has not been completed.

As part of our review process, we would like to gather the opinions of pupils, parents, and staff in our use of Google Classroom and the kind of experiences that pupils should have when using the platform. We would therefore be grateful if you would complete the following survey about Google Classroom; the deadline for completion is 5.00pm on Friday 4th November.

Due to the nature of this consultation, we would encourage all parents, guardians, and carers to speak with their children about their use of Google Classroom; this may help with the completion of certain questions throughout the survey.

Here is the link to the survey and a QR code if you prefer.

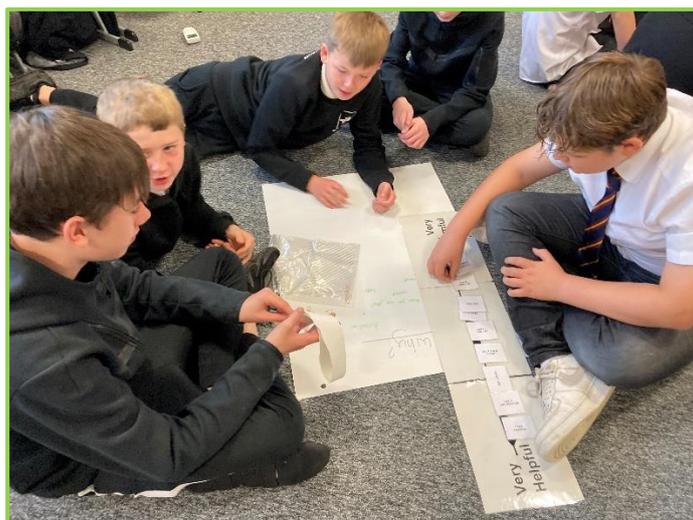
<https://forms.office.com/r/sZiwL28u8Y>



S2 Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre (ALEC) Talks:

All S2 classes had input from the ALEC educators on Thurs 29th and Fri 30th Sept.

Pupils learnt about the risks of substance misuse and strategies for improving mental health, complementing the work they are doing in PSE at the moment. The sessions were highly interactive, engaging, and informative and feedback from pupils has been very positive.



Digital Learning at Ellon Academy – Maddie is Online Series 4

Our current S2 Digital Champions have had recent success in a story writing competition for an online animated series focusing on digital safety. Please click on this link to access our Digital Learning write-up, which provides further details about the competition, the pupils' stories, and an image of their recent success.

<https://sway.office.com/pAxRm31Z3p3AG4I7?ref=Link>

Mr Armstrong, PT Digital Learning said:

"I cannot express again just how immensely proud I am of them all for such tremendous achievements and for having the bravery to enter this competition. We have now identified dates with Dina from the Robert Gordon University, and she is really looking forward to coming into our school to work with our young people.

Very well done to our S2 Digital Champions below and to Mr Armstrong for facilitating this work".



Look at those smiles! 😊



Pupil Achievement:

'A Song for Haddo 2022' for the Haddo Arts Festival

On Thursday 13th October, three pupils from Ellon Academy took part in this year's 'A Song for Haddo 2022' as part of the Haddo Arts Festival. The three pupils from Ellon were cellist Patrick Findlay (S5), violinist Charlotte Slater (S5) and violinist Murray Leuchars (S6). They were part of a mixed youth and professional orchestra, comprising pupils from Meldrum Academy, Inverurie Academy, Westhill Academy and Ellon Academy. This orchestra accompanied a professional baritone singer and a children's chorus comprising pupils from New Deer Primary School, Rayne North Primary School, and Udney Green Primary School in a performance of a brand new Haddo Oratorio called 'A Place to Play, composed by Scottish composer Peter Kemp. All young people taking part in the performance were of great credit to their schools, none more so that Patrick, Charlotte, and Murray from Ellon. We are very proud of their participation in this project, bringing new music to life and taking part in such an important north-east of Scotland arts festival. Thanks also go to Miss Katherine Gillies and Mr Joe Hibbs (our string instructors at Ellon Academy) who arranged for our young people to take part and prepared them for the performance. A couple of photographs from the evening can be found below.



Left to right: Miss Gillies, Charlotte, Murray, Patrick, and Mr Hibbs.

Pupil Achievement:

S1 Seeds (Growth Mindset Course) Poster Competition Winners

Last year our S1 pupils were asked to participate in a poster competition. The brief was to create a poster in any format of their choice, illustrating a well-known personality who having faced adversity, showed determination and perseverance to overcome their challenges and achieve success in their chosen specialism. Pupils had to find a quote from their chosen personality that demonstrated a growth mindset and include it in their poster. In the last unit of the Seeds course, all S1 pupils looked for positive words for every letter of the alphabet. They then made up 26 growth mindset sentences that included the word they had chosen for each letter. A selection of these words have been incorporated around the edge of the posters.

After a lot of careful consideration and discussions, 10 pupils were selected as the “winners”. The prize was to have their posters professionally printed and enlarged.

Finally, an S6 student, Summer W finished the posters by designing and producing graphics to unify them all. Staff and pupils are delighted with the finished result. The posters will shortly go on display for the whole school to view and refer to when we need a gentle reminder of what it means to have a growth mindset. Huge thanks to Mrs Campbell and Summer for all their work on this project.



Pupil Achievement:

Here's a clip of Sam H S6 competing at the recent UK National Windsurf Championships down at Rutland Water 2 weeks ago. He's now competing in the new Olympic windsurf foil class which will be showcased at the forthcoming Paris 2024 games. He came a very respectable 15th in his fleet (U19 Youth). Excellent achievement Sam and good luck for 2024! Click on the link to see Sam in action!

<https://www.facebook.com/1783266508573537/videos/1272249236944377>



Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Netball Team who played against Mackie Academy this week and were victorious, winning 20-19.

In the Seniors' game Ellon unfortunately lost to a very strong Mackie side. Well done to everyone representing the school!



Pupil achievement:

Well done to the junior and senior girls who represented the School in the NASSA hockey tournament at Mintlaw on Tuesday. Both teams did well and represented the school superbly. Well done all.



Pupil Achievement:

Senior Girls Football.

Ellon senior girls lost out this week against a very strong and talented Lochside side. A goal for Grace S was the highlight of day for girls today from an attacking point of view. At the other end of the pitch, Kayleigh R was in outstanding form, with some amazing saves.

Player of match- Kayleigh R.



Behind the Scenes:

Ellon Academy On-going work:

Here are some of the projects and on-going work of the school:

- Extracurricular and support clubs
- Revised Promoting Positive Relationships, Learning, Teaching and Assessment, Mobile Device Usage and Anti-Bullying Policies coming soon!
- Review of Senior Phase tracking and monitoring data and planned support interventions
- S4 Study Skills – Term 2
- Plans to mark Armistice Day (11.11.22)
- Careers Fair planning
- School Lockdown Drill Assemblies for all pupils - w/b 31.10.22
- School Lockdown Drill – Thursday 3.11.22
- S6 Youth Philanthropy Class Finals and Grand Final – Wed 9th Nov
- Planning for Learning and Teaching input during the November In-service Days (17th/18th Nov)
- Assessment/Prelim planning
- Shine Pupil Survey discussions
- Mobile Phone Policy discussions

The Ellon Academy Whole School Improvement Plan has now been finalised and is available to view with this link to our website:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Whole-School-Improvement-Plan-Framework-22.23-Final.pdf>

Principal Teachers have been asked to complete Faculty Improvement Plans by Friday 4th November

Below is a summary of improvement priorities:

Ellon Academy Improvement Plan Priorities Summary 2022/2023 (updated 21.9.22)

<p>Learning, Teaching and Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making Thinking Visible - CLPL• Digital Learning CLPL Offer• Review of S1 Digital Skills Course• Assessment and Moderation• BGE and Senior Phase Tracking• Policy Implementation/SEEDs• DYW – Skills and Career Education Standard• Reading School Implementation <p>QIs – 1.2, 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3</p>	<p>Ethos, Culture, Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement and Evaluate Excellence at Ellon• Learner Mark Relaunch – Ready, Respectful, Safe• Revise Promoting Positive Relationships Policy considering E@E• Growth Mindset/SEEDs/Profiling• Curriculum Review <p>QIs – 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2</p>	<p>Leadership and Self-Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact Teams• Self-evaluation Framework• Classroom Visits linked to CLPL and LTA Policy• Curriculum Review/Learners' Experiences• Pupil Leadership<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Subject Champions/Evaluators○ Peer Support <p>QIs – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.3, 2.7, 3.2</p>
<p>Developing the Young Work Force and Skills Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embedding skills across the curriculum• Embedding the Careers Education Standard Across the Curriculum• Co-ordination of events and work-related input for pupils <p>QIs – 1.2, 1.5, 2.2, 2.7, 3.2, 3.3</p>	 <p>EXCELLENCE AT ELLON READY RESPECTFUL SAFE</p>	<p>Support for Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing of information review• Universal Support (Circles) CLPL• ASL Tracking and Monitoring Systems• S4/Post 16 Planning Flexible Learning Pathways <p>QIs – 2.1, 1.5, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3</p>

Dates For Your Diary

- Week beginning 31st October – Senior S4/5/6 Tracking Progress Reports to be issued
- End of Term 1 – Friday 14.10.22
- Start of Term 2 – Monday 31.10.22
- Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Class Final – Wed 9.11.22
- Armistice Assemblies w/b 7.11.22
- Armistice One Minute Silence – Friday 11.11.22
- S1/2/3 Tracking Report 1 to be issued to parents/carers w/b Mon 14.11.22
- In-service Days – Thurs 17th and Fri 18th November – School closed to all pupils
- Sports Colours Ceremony – Provisional (Tues 22.11.22)
- S1 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual) – Wed 23.11.22
- YPI Grand Final – Wed 23.11.22

For information:

Library Homework Club:

Times next term will be:

Mondays and Tuesdays 1.20pm to 1.50pm

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 12.30pm to 1.00pm

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

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

All Girls – NETBALL:

Girls Netball takes place after school on Thursdays and will resume after school on Thursday 29th September. S

Miss Daniel & Miss Mathers

S1 Boys – FOOTBALL:

Training will resume on Wednesday 28th September – see you there!

Mr Caskie

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

Come and learn some Mandarin!

S2 pupils! Next term there is an opportunity to learn some Mandarin with Miss Li (who featured on our video earlier this week)! If you are interested, please see Mrs Duffus in S42 as soon as possible, or give your name to your usual French/German teacher. 🇨🇳

Have a lovely October break and thank you for your continued support.



Pauline Buchan

Rector
14.10.22