



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Monday 20th February 2023

Dear parents/carers,

We hope our Ellon Academy families have had a lovely long weekend last week. It was good to have learners back in school last week, despite the weather closure on Friday. Due to ICT issues, the newsletter was delayed on Friday, but here it is now. Also, staff had 2 productive In-service days last week working on:

- Our Improvement Planning Priorities for 22/23
- Making Thinking Visible (Part 2) which is a Professional Learning Programme for teachers looking at Thinking Routines in the classroom
- Our new Mobile Devices and Ear Buds Policy. More information on this is included in this edition of our weekly newsletter below.

Quote of the Week beginning 20.2.23:



Most Merits/Over and Above:

The pupils below have accrued the most merits week beginning Mon 6.2.23 and will receive their canteen fast passes on Tues 21.2.23 after registration/S2 Assembly in the sunken social area. Well done, everyone!

Aleisha	D	1F1	12
Lewis	D	1F1	13
Scott	M	1F1	15
Emily	T	1F1	10
Logan	T	1F1	10
Charlotte	W	1F1	13
Clark	W	1F1	12
Isla	W	1F1	15
Ross	T	1S1	10
Enzo	T	2F2	11
George	S	3K1	5
Emma	H	3K2	6
Chloe	W	3K2	5
Harris	C	3S2	5



Freya	K	3S2	5
Stephen	D	4K1	5
Millie	M	4M2	5
Mary	M	5C1	5
Kyle	M	5F1	5

Assemblies:

Please note the next round of assemblies as follows in the Theatre during registration:

Mon 20.2.23	S1 Assembly – extended by 10 minutes (New Mobile Devices Policy/S1 Trip to Dalguise)
Tuesday 21.2.23	S2 Assembly (New Mobile Devices Policy)
Wednesday 22.2.23	S3 Assembly – extended throughout Period 1 (New Mobile Devices Policy and PT Course Choice Presentations)
Thursday 23.2.23	S4 Assembly (New Mobile Devices Policy)
Friday 24.2.23	S5/6 Assembly (New Mobile Devices Policy and Positive Recognition)

S2 – S3 Subject Choices:

It was good to see so many S2 parents/carers attending our virtual S2 Parents Evening on Wednesday 1st February and we know you will be in discussions regarding course choices with your children.

As a reminder, here are our course choice key dates and a link to Mr Cowie's course choice presentation for S2 – S3:

S2 – S3 Course Choices Key Dates:

- S2 – S3 Course Choice Preferences Google Form submission deadline – 24.2.23

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/> or <https://youtu.be/11rvb0GSQdA>



Support with S2 Subject Preferences and S3 Course Choice 2023:

We are pleased to share some additional S2/S3 subject preferences/course choice information with you, prepared by our Faculty Principal Teachers regarding subject related skills and qualifications as S2 and S3 pupils plan their future pathway through secondary school.

We hope these presentations will supplement Planit Plus and other online parent forums that also support course choice.

Our Ellon Academy Faculty Presentations be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/.../1_Vxs3PBrBmPQXPUgngtgTL...

Yours sincerely,

Principal Teachers Faculty and Mr G Cowie, Depute Head Teacher

S3 – S4 Subject Choices:

It was so good to have S3 parents/carers in school on Thursday evening.

Here are our key date for S3 – S4 Course Choices and a link to Mr Cowie's DHT Course Choice Presentation for S3 – S4:

S3-S4 Course Choices Key Dates:

- S3 Course Choice Guidance Interviews – w/b 20.2.23
- S3 – S4 Course Choice Preferences Google Form to be issued to parents/carers – w/b 20.2.23
- Faculty Careers' S3 Assembly – Wed 22.2.23
- S3 – S4 Course Choice Preferences Google Form submission deadline – 3.3.23

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/> or <https://youtu.be/H0Ddi3QdK2U>

S4 – S5/6 Information to follow later in the month.

New Mobile Phone Policy:

As part of our Ethos, Culture and Digital Learning Improvement Priorities, Mrs Nicholson, Music Teacher and formerly PT Digital Learning has been working on a revised Mobile Phone Policy for Ellon Academy. The Senior Leadership Team and Teaching staff have now had opportunities to discuss the draft at Faculty meetings, and pupils will receive presentations at Assemblies next week to brief them on the new and revised expectations.

As you will be aware, mobile devices can play a vital part in learning and as a school we are embracing the advances in digital technologies to enhance learning and teaching. However, sometimes mobile devices can get in the way of learning and teaching, so our policy aims to encourage relevant and responsible use so that learning can be enhanced and not interrupted.

The new policy can be accessed here and please follow the link below to the video we will be using with pupils to help familiarise them with the new expectations:

Policy:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

Video:

<https://youtu.be/XsIt-UP5ObI>



S1 Trip to Dalguise (July 2023)

Look out for information coming to your inbox on Monday 20.2.23 regarding a S1 Trip to Dalguise in Perthshire during the last week of term 4, prior to the summer break.

S1 pupils will hear information about the trip at Assembly on Monday 20.2.23.

Trip to Berlin Feb 2023

Our pupils and staff had a wonderful trip to Berlin last weekend. Here is a selection of photographs:



NESCoL Short Courses - Sent on behalf of Dr Doug Fraser, NESCoL:

We are pleased to make you aware of short courses which are on offer at NESCOL to assist candidates in preparing for end of year exams in Higher Sciences and Maths. We would be grateful if you are able to pass this information onto your learners. All sessions are at Aberdeen City Campus, but physics is also available at Fraserburgh Campus.

Over seven evening sessions in the weeks leading up to the final exam, learners will work in small groups with other candidates to practice exam-style questions. Coaching during the class will help them improve the way they approach a range of questions. We will also cover aspects of the curriculum that have been identified as poorly answered in previous exams.

In previous years these sessions have been oversubscribed, so we would encourage early booking from any interested individuals.

Further details of all courses may be found on the links below.

Preparation for Higher Biology – commencing 27th February (Aberdeen City Campus)

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

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 15th March (Aberdeen City Campus)

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

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 1st or 7th March (Aberdeen City Campus)

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

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 16th March (Aberdeen City and Fraserburgh Campus)

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

Preparation for Higher Computing Science – commencing 29th March (Aberdeen City Campus)

[Computing Science - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](http://nescol.ac.uk)

For further information on Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology please contact Douglas Fraser

douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk or for Computing Science please contact Ben Thorn b.thorn@nescol.ac.uk

S1-3 Pupil – Vaccination

Vaccinations for pupils in S1-S3, who have already returned their consent forms, will take place in the Staff Centre on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd February. There will be a one-way system in operation (enter from the S5 social area side/exit towards the main stairwell side) and the schedule is as follows:

Pupils should register with their class teacher before going for their vaccination and the schedule will be displayed on pupil noticeboards/outside the Staff Centre. Mrs McGill, Cluster Business Manager.

Monday 20th February			Tuesday 21st February			Wednesday 22nd February		
Slot Start Time	Slot End Time	Reg Class	Slot Start Time	Slot End Time	Reg Class	Slot Start Time	Slot End Time	Reg Class
1. 08:35	09:00	HPV (C1 (1))	1. 08:35	09:00	101 (16)	1. 08:35	09:00	3M3 (18)
2. 09:05	09:25	101	2. 09:00	09:25	101	2. 09:00	09:25	3M1
3. 09:25	09:50	102 (20)	3. 09:25	09:50	2K1 (8), 2M2 (1), 2C1 (1), 2S1 (8)	3. 09:25	09:50	3S1 & 3S2 (18)
4. 09:55	10:15	102	4. 09:50	10:15	2K1 (8), 2M2 (1), 2C1 (1), 2S1 (8)	4. 09:50	10:15	3M1 & 3S2
BREAK	BREAK	BREAK (10:15-10:30)	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK (10:15-10:30)	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK (10:15-10:30)
5. 10:35	11:00	1P1 (17)	5. 10:35	11:00	3P1 (1), 3K1 (1), 3M1 (1), 3S1 (1)	5. 10:35	11:00	MMR
6. 11:05	11:25	1P1	6. 11:00	11:25	DTP/MenACWYMMR 3C1 (14)	6. 11:00	11:25	3C1 (1), 3P1 (1), 3M1 (1), 3S2 (3)
7. 11:25	11:50	1P1 (14)	7. 11:25	11:50	3C1	7. 11:25	11:50	3C1 (1), 3P1 (1), 3M1 (1), 3S2 (3)
8. 11:55	12:15	1M1	8. 11:50	12:15	3C2 (12)	8. 11:50	12:15	
9. 12:15	12:40	1M2 (16)	9. 12:15	12:40	3C2			
(10) 12:40	13:05	1M2	(10) 12:40	13:05	1P1 (8)			
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH (13:05-13:50)	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH (13:05-13:50)	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH (12:15-13:00)
(11) 13:00	14:15	1M1 (28)	(11) 13:50	14:15	3K1 (16)	(9) 13:00	13:25	MCP LIP
(12) 14:15	14:40	1M1	(12) 14:15	14:40	3K1	(10) 13:25	13:50	MCP LIP
(13) 14:40	15:05	1M2 (20)	(13) 14:40	15:05	3K2 (16)	(11) 13:50	14:15	MCP LIP
(14) 15:05	15:30	1M2	(14) 15:05	15:30	3K3	(12) 14:10	14:40	MCP LIP

Pupil Achievement:

Ellon U15 girls lost out last week in their quarter final match against Lasswade but can be heartened by their effort and footballing skills, which were praised by the opposition coaches. The Lasswade girls had an age and strength advantage that Ellon found too hard to keep up with. Ellon took the lead through Emily S and were still ahead at 25 mins before Lasswade took more control of the game. The National Cup run ends, but the adventure getting this far has been great and the experience gained will enhance the girls in their game. Goal scorer Emily S. Player of match as mentioned by opposing coaches - Millie B. Very impressive game too for Molly P and Amber S. Well done in getting this far girls and coaches!



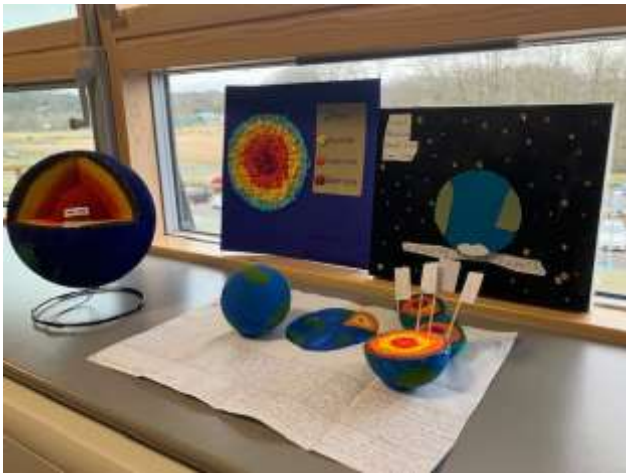
Limitless Learning at Ellon Academy:

Over the long weekend Mrs Leslie PT Humanities challenged 2S1 with a creative project:

Working individually or in small groups design and create a model that shows the structure of the earth. This can be designed as a poster or presentation. However, I would love to see some creative cakes, Lego models, or cardboard/paper mâché sculptures...the more creative the better!

Here's what they produced...amazing!

Over and Above certificates are being awarded to some of the most creative and merits for those who gave it a bash! Well done all!





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.



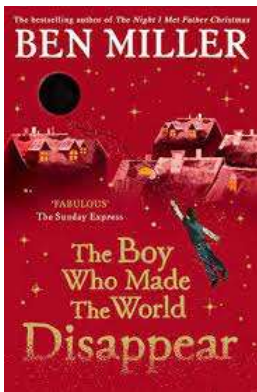
'I Know You Did It' by Sue Wallman

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

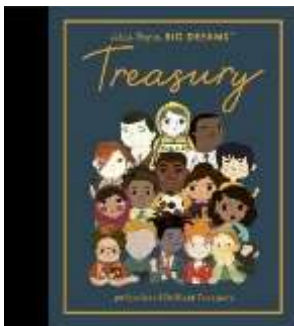
Harrison has a terrible temper. An unusual entertainer gives him his very own black hole. He starts to put things which annoy him in it – he soon regrets some of his decisions though!



Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers

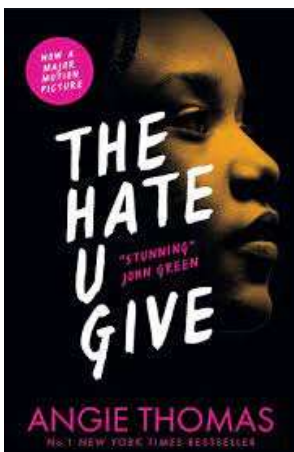
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as they grow up.

A great one for dipping in and out of for those who can find reading tricky and/or time-consuming!



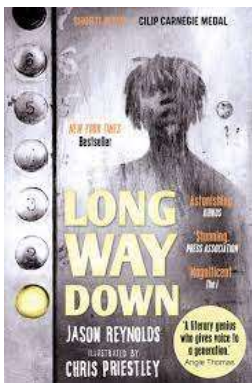
‘The Hate U Give’ by Angie Thomas

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 really easy to read. Another one for those who perhaps struggle to find the time to read.



For your information - School Activities

ALL PUPILS – DIGITAL DROP-IN

'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). The first session will be held at lunchtime today, Thursday 16th February, but pupils must ensure that their problem is school-related or for school use.

Mr Armstrong

S6 PUPILS – YEARBOOKS AND HOODIES

FINAL REMINDER: All payments for yearbooks and/or hoodies must be made by Thursday 16th February. It will not be possible to place orders after this date, so please make sure you have done it on time! The links to both shops are available on your Reg and S6 PSE Google Classrooms. If you are having any issues, please see me in S42 before the long weekend so that I have time to help you!

Mrs Duffus

ALL PUPILS – DRAMA CLUB

Due to S3 Parents Evening taking place after school on Thursday 16th February, Drama Club has been cancelled. It will resume after school on Thursday 23rd February.

Mr Price, Miss Moore & Mrs Cozens

ALL GIRLS – FOOTBALL

There will be no football training after school today, Thursday 16th February, due to S3 Parents Evening. Training will resume after school on Thursday 23rd February.

Mr McLean

ALL GIRLS – NETBALL

There will be no netball training after school today, Thursday 16th February, due to S3 Parents Evening. Training will resume after school on Thursday 23rd February. Can all players from both teams (Junior & Senior) please attend a meeting in Gym A at breaktime on Friday 17th February.

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

Unfortunately, there will be no S1 football training for the next two weeks. We are playing in a football match today, Wednesday 8th February, and Wednesday 15th February is an in-service day. Therefore, S1 football training will resume on Wednesday 22nd February.

Mr Caskie

ALL SENIOR PUPILS – STUDYCAFE

StudyCafe will take a break for the next two weeks to give pupils and staff a well-deserved break following the assessment block. It will restart after the February long weekend and continue to run on a Thursday (after school). A notice will feature in the Bulletin and a message will be posted on Google Classroom nearer to the resume date. Thanks to both pupils and staff for their hard work, attendance, and support over the last few weeks! Mr Meechan

ALL PUPILS – BADMINTON

Due to the Games Hall already being in use, Badminton will be open to S1 pupils ONLY on Monday 23rd January and pupils should make their way to Gym A instead. Badminton will be back to normal and open to all pupils on Monday 30th January. Please see Mr Murdoch (Humanities) if there are any questions/issues.

ALL PUPILS – DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Dungeons & Dragons club has been temporarily postponed due to the upcoming Prelims. Once the Prelims have finished, the club will resume in F12 at lunchtime on a Wednesday. The first session will be Wednesday 1st February and 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

Unfortunately, there will be no Mandarin class for a few weeks. It will resume on Thursday 9th March.

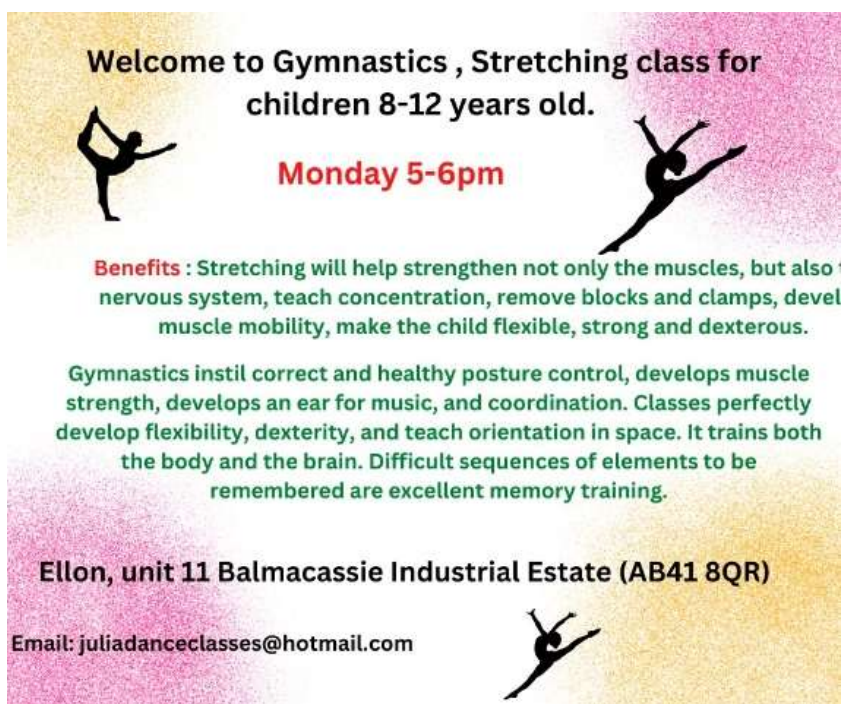
Mrs Duffus

External Opportunities:

S5 PUPILS – ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY COURSE

For any S5 pupils with a genuine interest in studying Law at University, Aberdeen University have been in touch with details of an exciting opportunity: "So you want to be a Lawyer". This event will take place at the Aberdeen University campus on Wednesday 8th March. For further information, or to apply for a place on the course, please speak to your own Guidance Teacher or Mrs Kaczmarek by Thursday 9th February. PLEASE NOTE: We are limited to 4 spaces per school.

Mrs Kaczmarek (on behalf of the Guidance Team)



Welcome to Gymnastics , Stretching class for children 8-12 years old.

Monday 5-6pm

Benefits : Stretching will help strengthen not only the muscles, but also nervous system, teach concentration, remove blocks and clamps, develop muscle mobility, make the child flexible, strong and dexterous.

Gymnastics instil correct and healthy posture control, develops muscle strength, develops an ear for music, and coordination. Classes perfectly develop flexibility, dexterity, and teach orientation in space. It trains both the body and the brain. Difficult sequences of elements to be remembered are excellent memory training.

Ellon, unit 11 Balmacassie Industrial Estate (AB41 8QR)

Email: juliadanceclasses@hotmail.com

Dates For Your Diary

Here is a link to our school calendar on our Ellon Academy website:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

- New Mobile Phone and Ear Buds Policy Launch – w/b 20.2.23
- Senior Cross Country (S5/6) – Mon 20.2.23
- Provisional Strike Days – Tues 28.2.23 and Wed 1.3.23
- World Book Day – Fri 3.3.23
- Music for Spring Concert – Wed 29.3.23 (7.30pm)
- End of Term 3 – Friday 31.3.23
- Start of Term 4 – Mon 17.4.23
- SQA Exam Diet/Study Leave for S4/5/6 starts – Mon 24.4.23
- May Day Holiday – Mon 1.5.23

Parents Evenings Term 3:

- S3 Parents' Evening (In person) – Thurs 16.2.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm) to include Curriculum drop-in session with Mr Cowie DHT
- S4 Virtual Parents Evening – Wed 15.3.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening - Tues 21.3.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)

Parents Evenings Term 4

- S1 Parents' Evening (In person) – Tues 30.5.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm)

S3-S4 Course Choices Key Dates:

- S3 Parents' Evening (In person) – Thurs 16.2.23 (4.00pm – 6.30pm) to include Curriculum drop-in session with Mr Cowie DHT
- S3 Course Choice Guidance Interviews – w/b 20.2.23
- S3 – S4 Course Choice Preferences Google Form to be issued to parents/carers – 22.2.23
- Faculty Careers' S3 Assembly – 22.2.23
- Faculty Careers/Course Choice Presentations issued to parents/carers – w/b 20.2.23
- S3 – S4 Course Choice Preferences Google Form submission deadline – 3.3.23

S4 – S5 Course Choices Key Dates:

- w/b 27th Feb: Senior Phase Options Form discussed with S4 and S5 in PSE.
- w/b 27.2.23 - Senior Phase Curriculum Slides issued to Parents/Carers.
- w/b 27.2.23 - S4 Guidance Interviews.
- w/b 27.2.23 - Faculty Careers' Assembly and Faculty presentations to Parents/Carers.
- w/b 6.3.23 - S5 Guidance Interviews.
- w/c 6.3.23- Tracking Reports issued to Parents/Carers. Google Course Choice Form issued
- 15.3.23 – S4 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- 21.3.23 - S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening (4.00pm – 6.30pm)
- 23.3.23 - S4/5 Course Choice form submission deadline

Thank you all for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Pauline Buchan

Rector 20.2.23