



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Thursday 9th February 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Just a reminder that Friday 10th and Monday 13th February are Ellon Cluster school half-term long weekend holidays and Tues 14th/Wed 15th February are in-service days for staff. Pupils return to school as normal on Thursday 16.2.23.

Assemblies:

Assemblies will resume on Monday 20.2.23 in the Theatre during registration:

- S1 - Mon 20.2.23
- S2 - Tues 21.2.23
- S3 - Wed 22.2.23
- S4 - Thurs 23.2.23
- S5/6 - Fri 24.2.23

SQA Up-dates – Examination Diet 2023:

Appeals and Exam Exceptional Circumstances 2023:

The SQA have made changes to the appeals services for learners taking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. Appeals 2023 and our Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service have been shaped through evaluation and feedback from last year's services. Learn more: [https:// bit.ly/3JwP621](https://bit.ly/3JwP621)

SQA Exam Invigilators 2023:

If you are interested in supporting the SQA Examination diet 2023 at Ellon Academy as an invigilator, please get in touch with Ms Booth, Depute Head Teacher (01358 281150) who will explain the opportunities, payment, and training. Thank you.

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 Course Choice Guidance Interviews – w/b 30.1.23
- Planned Industrial Action – Mon 30.1.23 – School closed to all pupils
- S2 Parents Evening (Virtual) 1/2/23 - 4.00pm – 6.30pm
- S2 – S3 Course Choice Preferences Google Form issued to parents/carers – w/b 6.2.23
- 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/.../1l_Vxs3PBrBmPQXPUgngtgTL...

Yours sincerely,

Principal Teachers Faculty and Mr G Cowie, Depute Head Teacher

S3 – S4 Subject Choices:

As you will be aware, you will be expecting your child's S3 report next week, and our S3 Parents Evening will be in person and on Thursday 16.2.23 from 4.00pm – 6.30pm.

As a reminder, 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 Full Reports to be issued w/b 6.2.23
- S3 – S4 Curriculum Pathways Presentation to be issued to parents/carers – w/b 6.2.23
- 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 – w/b 20.2.23
- Faculty Careers' S3 Assembly – w/c 20.2.23
- 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

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



Later this month we are planning a mini careers fair in school to support our learners in their subject choices and Principal Teachers Faculty will showcase their courses and demonstrate the career pathways relevant to their subjects.

Also, all faculties are currently preparing an infographic to support pupils in their choices too.

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

Pupil Achievement:

[Maddie is Online Series 4 - press coverage](#)

Recognising 'Safer Internet Day' (Tues 7.2.23) at Ellon Academy:

Ellon Academy Digital Champions are involved with The Robert Gordon University's online safety project. Well done to them and read more about this below:

Young people across the UK are to benefit from a new project to tackle online safety, that supports national Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, February 7th 2023 led by researchers from Robert Gordon University. The project, Maddie is Online @MaddiesOnline, includes online cartoon animations and storytelling resources, specially created for and with young people aged 9 – 12, that centre around the everyday life of a fictitious pre-teen girl called Maddie, who experiences troubles online.

Maddie is Online, has been rolled out to schools in Scotland and offers workshops on the ethics of online safety and security, ethical hacking, and video gaming.

The project is funded by the Scottish Government and supported by the Digital Xtra Fund.

Project lead, Dr Konstantina Martzoukou, an associate professor from RGU's School of Creative and Cultural Business, said: *"We wanted to create resources to engage young people, particularly pre-teen children, to manage their digital lives. "Our resources empower young people so that they can develop technical and behavioural strategies to safeguard themselves online."*

A competition for school children in S1 and S2 has been created as part of the project, where young people were asked to create a short story, of around 500 words, on the Ethics of online safety and security.

Five stories have been short-listed for the final from three schools across Scotland and will be developed into animations for the Maddie is Online series, with the winner announced in the spring.

The shortlist includes entries from Ellon Academy with a story entitled Friend Finder, two stories from Hazlehead Academy entitled Lucy the Influencer and Violet and two stories from St Andrew's and St Bride's High School in East Kilbride, entitled The Yolo Classroom and The Yphone Scam.

Reflecting on the success of the project, Principal Teacher Digital Learning at Ellon Academy Ewan Armstrong, said:

"Our pupils have really engaged with Maddie is Online and put some fantastic thinking into the development of their story. The story they chose is very mature in its contents whilst also unfortunately being very real for many children; befriending people online in apps and on websites who turn out not to be who they thought they were.

Our pupils have handled this in very sensitive ways, showing great maturity and creativity in their thinking. They have fully engaged with the ethos of the topic and considered carefully how the character of Maddie could in fact represent many of their peers.

Our five amazing Ellon Academy pupils go away from this competition with greater digital resilience, increased confidence in digital/online safety and security, and with the knowledge that they have helped to promote online safety and security within the rural north-east of Scotland."

(Mr E Armstrong, PT Digital Learning, Ellon Academy)

Maddie is Online supports the Scottish Government's Getting it Right for Every Child (GIFFEC) policy and the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

It has been so successful that RGU plans to be the first university in Scotland to include online safety in its Nursing MSc Advancing Practice.

Maddie is Online has also been endorsed by the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland and the School and Public Health Nurses Association (SAPHNA).

Chief executive officer for the UK's School and Public Health Nurses Association Sharon White OBE said:

"This is a much-needed resource for our school aged children who are subject to increasing online abuse and misinformation.

"Using animations and cartoons built on their self-identified needs is a fabulous example of co-production and, as such, much more likely to help empower them in making safer online decisions."

The current project aligns with the Scottish Government's Building Trust in the Digital Era: Achieving Scotland's Aspirations as an Ethical Digital Nation.

In an earlier project, funded by the Scottish Library and Information Council and RGU's Innovation Accelerator, the project team worked with children to create resources centred around online resilience, misinformation and copyright, with the aim of improving young people's understanding of online pitfalls. Visit maddiesonline.blogspot.com to learn more.



Pupil Achievement:

S1 Cross country winners were Emily T and Ryan M. Very well done to them and to all the other participants who gave their best.



S1 Cross Country Winners!



Pupil Achievement:

U15's boys football result: Alford 3 - 3 Ellon

A great performance from the boys who were unlucky not to take home the full 3 points. After going 2-0 down early into the first half, the boys rallied together and took a 3-2 lead with some great football on show in tough conditions. A late equaliser from Alford saw a well contested game finish in a draw.

Man of the match: Alex Gibb Scorers: Gibb, Gault, Lawrence Well done lads!



Pupil Achievement:

Well done to the S1 football team who won 6-1 away to Alford today. It was a physical game which the boys managed well. Offensively the boys played some great passing football. Whilst, defensively the boys done very well to limit the other team's chances. The win means the boys are still unbeaten in the league having played 4 and won 4. We now have the Aberdeenshire/Aberdeen City Cup Semi-Final coming up and 3 remaining league games. Goals - Josh (x3), Alfie, Ewan, James. Player of the Match – Josh



Pupil Achievement:

The winners of today's S2 Interhouse Cross Country were Burak E and Natalie G. Well done!



S2 Winners!



Pupil Achievement:

Winners of today's S3 Inter house cross country were Harris C and Rachel B. Well done!



Pupil Achievement:

Top 6 boys and girls today at S3 Inter house cross country this week. Well done all!





Pupil Achievement:

Well done to Millie U, who has once again been called up to the Scottish national U19 football squad to play in Pinatar in Spain. Another remarkable achievement that we, as a school, are so proud of.

SCOTLAND WOMEN'S UNDER-19s SQUAD

EILIDH ADAMS HIBERNIAN	LISA MAHER-ROGERS BOROUGHMUIR THISTLE ¹	MEGAN WEARING IPSWICH
AIMEE ANDERSON HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	MARIA MCANENY CELTIC	KENZIE WEIR EVERTON
AMELIE BIRSE SPARTANS	ANNA-LISA MCCANN ABERDEEN	¹ ON LOAN FROM HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN ² ON LOAN FROM CELTIC
JESS BROADRICK ABERDEEN	JODI MCLEARY RANGERS	 DENOTES SCOTTISH FA JD PERFORMANCE SCHOOL PARTICIPANT
MYA CHRISTIE ABERDEEN	LONDON POLLARD MONTROSE	
KAYLA JARDINE RANGERS	OLIVIA POTTER HAMILTON ACADEMICAL ³	
HANNAH JORDAN SPARTANS	EVA THOMSON ABERDEEN	
ROSIE LIVINGSTONE HIBERNIAN	MILLIE URQUHART ABERDEEN	
KIRSTY MACLEAN RANGERS	EMMA WATSON 	

 
Lead partner of the Scotland National Teams

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 McNicol

- 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.



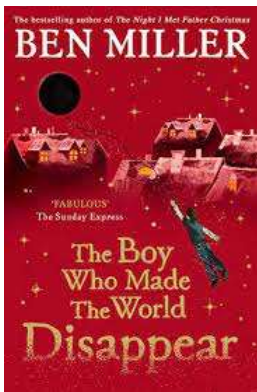
'I Know You Did It' by Sue Wallman

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

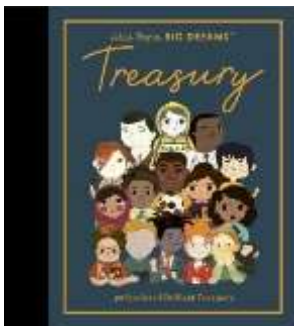
Harrison has a terrible temper. An unusual entertainer gives him his very own black hole. He starts to put things which annoy him in it – he soon regrets some of his decisions though!



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

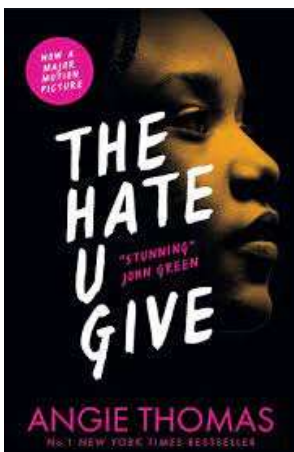
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have as they grow up.

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



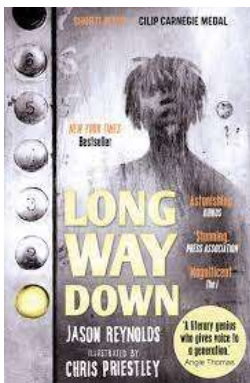
‘The Hate U Give’ by Angie Thomas

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

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 – 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

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.

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

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 after school.

Miss Daniel & Miss Mathers

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

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)

External Opportunities:

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/>

- Cluster Occasional Day Holiday – Friday 10.2.23
- Monday holiday – Mon 13.2.23
- In-service Days – Tues 14.2.23 and Wed 15.2.23 (All pupils return to school Thurs 16.2.23)
- 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

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)

S3-S4 Course Choices Key Dates:

- S3 Full Reports to be issued w/b 6.2.23
- S3 – S4 Curriculum Pathways Presentation to be issued to parents/carers – w/b 6.2.23
- 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 – w/b 20.2.23
- Faculty Careers' S3 Assembly – w/c 20.2.23
- 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 long weekend.

Pauline Buchan

Rector 9.2.23

