



Date: Friday 10th March 2023

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Dear parents/carers

**Adverse Weather:**

Thank you for your forbearance during this time of adverse weather.

The decision-making process at school level is difficult and complicated. For your understanding, on any given morning when the weather is treacherous, several factors must be considered:

- Local weather conditions which will affect learners, parents, carers, and local staff.
- Regional weather conditions in the locations where staff live and travel from.
- The weather forecast and prevailing weather warnings for the rest of the day, and what the weather is likely to be like at the end of the school day, with consideration for travel and at times, in the dark.
- An assessment of how many teaching staff may be delayed or will not be able to attend work. Can we run the school with decreased numbers of staff? (Not all schools are the same. Neighbouring schools may have different circumstances based on where their staff are travelling from.)
- Have the cleaners been able to get to school to work the morning shift?
- Do we have electricity and heating?
- Do we have catering staff? If not, we cannot open the school because we must provide meals for our learners.
- Have the janitors been able to get to the campus on time for checking heating and for snow clearing?
- The status of school transport:
  - The transport providers make independent decisions regarding running their buses and taxis.
  - These decisions are then relayed to one of our DHTs who passes this information on to the HT.
  - There are numerous different travel providers, and therefore numerous phone calls to deal with regarding each transport route.
  - Ideally the transport providers will pass this information on prior to 7am, but they are already scouting out the routes from 6am, so they tell us of their decisions as soon as they can, and we make our decisions when we know the status of school transport.
- Communications with other Secondary School Head Teachers
- Communications with Ellon Cluster Head Teachers

When we have all the information above, we are then able to make the best judgement in the interests of safety for pupils and staff.

Our next steps are to communicate our decisions:

- Up-date the Aberdeenshire Council Website/Adverse Weather page (because the situation is ever changing and not all transport providers give us their information at the same time, there may be multiple up-dates as we receive information.)
- Email to all school staff

- Group-call to all parents/carers (This is an additional to our usual procedures because it is reliant on the good will of admin staff who do not start work until 8am.)
- Facebook post for those who follow the school page.

Ideally, we could make decisions the night before when we know of weather conditions and warnings, but like most things, these forecasts are only predictions, and we do not wish learners to miss more days of school when the weather might be fine and settled the next day.

Here is the link to the Aberdeenshire Council Adverse Weather page which provides information regarding schools opening status:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/school-transport/adverse-weather/>

Also, MyAberdeenshire and the App are very helpful too:

[Sign in with myAberdeenshire](#) to register for email alerts or [download the myAberdeenshire app](#) to get notifications when your school(s) updates their closure status.

We will continue to do our very best for our learners with safety at the heart of all decisions for them and for the school staff.

**Quote of the Week beginning 10.3.23:**



**Most Merits/Over and Above:**

Well done to the learners below for getting the most merits over the past 2 weeks. They will receive their canteen Fast Passes after registration in the Sunken Social area on Mon 13.3.23.



Jackson	N	1C1	12
Lewis	C	1C1	10
Aleisha	D	1F1	10
Scott	M	1F1	10
Cameron	T	1K2	10
Vanessa	M	1M2	11
Callum	W	2M1	13
Connie	A	2M1	11
Adrijana	P	2M1	10
Ashley	R	3C2	1
Abea	J	3F1	9
Adam	B	3M1	7
Gregor	A	3S2	7
Leah	P	4F2	5
Erin	C	5K1	6
Alistair	H	6S	5

**Assemblies:**

Please note that due to industrial action and up and coming SQA Drama exams in the Theatre, assemblies will be affected:

Weeks beginning 13.3.23 and 20.3.23:

- No assemblies due to Higher and Advanced Higher Drama exams in the Theatre

**Senior Exam Support:**

On Monday 13.3.23 we have Live N Learn coming to Ellon Academy to deliver Mindset for Exams sessions for all S4 Learners to support them with preparation for their exams in April/May 2023. Here is the schedule for the day:

**Live N Learn S4  
Mindset For  
Exams  
Workshops**

**Monday 13.3.23 - Library**

<b>Periods 1/2</b>	<b>Maths/English - Col F</b>	4S1, 4S2
8.35am - 10.15am	<b>SLT/Whole School supervising session</b>	
	<b>Pupils to register in class prior to their session</b>	
<b>Periods 3/4</b>	<b>RME and PE (P3)</b>	4C1, 4F1, 4M1
10.35am - 12.15pm	<b>PE, PSE and RME (P4)</b>	
	<b>P3/4 Staff to attend session with classes please</b>	
	<b>Pupils to be registered in the Library with class teachers</b>	
<b>Periods 6/7</b>	<b>French, German - Col E</b>	4K1, 4M2, 4F2
1.50pm - 3.30pm	<b>Science - Col E</b>	
	<b>Mod/RE - Col E</b>	
	<b>Tech - Col E</b>	
	<b>SLT/Whole school cover supervising session</b>	
	<b>Pupils to register in class prior to their session</b>	

**Study Skills Sessions:**

Mrs K Leslie, PT Humanities is an expert on Study Skills, and she has offered to deliver sessions to all S4 classes during their Core RME time prior to the Easter break. Thank you, Mrs Leslie!

**Mentoring**

Several learners have been identified for 1-1 Mentoring Support from volunteer staff between now and the SQA exams.

They will be supported with organisation and study.

**Lunchtime and after school help clubs:**

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

**Study Café**

Mr Meechan continues to offer a safe, warm, and inviting study space in the library every week with free refreshments and snacks for senior phase learners.

### **Parent Council Meeting 8.3.23:**

This week the Parent Council Meeting met on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm via Zoom. Agenda items had been raised by some parents are here are the questions and responses:

#### **Why did Ellon Academy not have Study Leave for the January Assessment Block?**

*It is always our hope that our parents and carers respect the professional judgement of experienced educationalists in our school to make the right decisions which are best for our learners. This holds true for our January Assessment window. For the benefit of our learners, we are moving away from the traditional prelims of old to lessen the formality of exams for our learners.*

*There are 17 secondary schools in Aberdeenshire, each with their own model of 'prelims' and I can confirm, in discussions with my 16 Head Teacher colleagues, that Ellon Academy is not the only school not offering study leave to learners. Six Aberdeenshire secondary schools have not had study leave for assessments/prelims this year. Three further schools wanted to go with 'no study leave', but couldn't accommodate this due to significant staffing shortages, but if they had been fully staffed like Ellon Academy, that is what they would have done. I hope this shows that Ellon Academy is not alone in this approach.*

*As you will be aware, the SQA exam diet in May/June is fixed for all schools in terms of days/times of exams across Scotland and at that point, learners have completed their courses and can be afforded study leave. However, at this mid-point in the school year learners have not fully completed their courses, and having formal, but shorter assessments (not full-length prelims) in January, and for some schools in Aberdeenshire, December, is a better reflection of the work they have completed to date. Each school makes a judgement call as to what is best in each individual context.*

*For Ellon Academy, we fundamentally believe that it is more beneficial for our learners to remain in school during the assessment window, which lasts just over 2 weeks.*

*Teaching time is limited, and we feel that we need to maximise this time to ensure that learners have further opportunity for revision, consolidation and the continuation of Learning and Teaching from the experts in the classroom. In essence, we cannot afford to relax direct learning and teaching and therefore, the compromise is classroom-based assessments as opposed to a full-length examination diet with study leave, which we take up to 4 weeks out of school.*

*Study leave is badly named. Study should have been done prior to the assessment window starting, and 'top up' study should be done during the assessment window. It is too late for study to begin during any assessment period.*

*Our learners have known about the assessment window since November and should have been planning their revision accordingly and many have and are reaping the benefits. Learners have a responsibility to prioritise their time and for some, sacrifices must be made in terms of social activities and for some, part-time work. We also suggest that it is healthy for learners to have a level of trepidation prior to their assessments, it shows they care. We would be worried if they didn't.*

*The January Assessment block went well this year and S4 learners were given an 'exam experience' in the games hall to replicate what will happen during the SQA diet of exams in May 2023. As anticipated and is the case in most years, many learners did not perform as well as we/they would have hoped, but this is often the case when learners do not place enough importance on these assessments, thinking that they will increase their study prior to May. This is despite our advice to ensure that they always do their absolute best. However, many learners performed well as expected and now will be getting lots of support and revision in classes where the courses are coming to completion. Some faculties continue with on-going assessment to maintain momentum and standards. We continue to offer study support faculty sessions after school and during lunchtimes, but sadly the up take for these sessions is quite poor. We have introduced Study Café which had started again this week and Live N Learn will be delivering 'Mindset for Exams' to all S4 learners on Monday 13.3.23, complemented by bespoke Study Skills workshops delivered to all S4 learners by Mrs K Leslie, PT Humanities and these will take place in all S4 Core RME classes. We have also started a mentoring support system for targeted learners.*

S3 Work Experience/Activities Week 2023:

### **What's happening with S3 Work Experience this year?**

*This is a complicated issue and what has given us the most concern is that the Aberdeenshire Work Experience Unit is now no longer able to support secondary schools in organising work placements for whole year groups. They have limited funding and now they have been told to prioritise work placements for the ever-increasing number of senior pupils who are studying Foundation Apprenticeships and therefore they do not have the capacity to support schools in whole year groups going out for a week of work experience.*

*This affects Ellon Academy because our S3 learners would usually be out on a week-long placement every May, so this won't be happening again. This leaves us with a significant problem in that Activities Week is usually for S1/2 learners and we can only do this and have the staff capacity to do this when all of S3 are out on work experience. In the past this has freed up staff to take S1/2 pupils out of school or to provide in-house experiences for 450 learners. With S3s not going out on Work Experience, this year we will have over 600 learners in school, and we do not have the staff capacity to provide trips/activities for that number of pupils.*

*As an alternative, this year we are planning Interdisciplinary activities/projects for S1/2 learners during class time (This has no cost implication to families – a consideration within the current cost of living crisis) and a bespoke programme called 'Build Your Future' for S3 learners, which will involve a day out of school.*

*Plans so far for S3 Build Your Future are:*

- *Day 1 - S3 Entrepreneurship Day*
- *Day 2 – S3 Visit to Robert Gordon University*
- *Day 3 – S3 Work Related Activities Day*

More information will be communicated to parents in due course when we know for sure what we can deliver.

### **S1 ENTERPRISE – FUTURE MARATHON**

As part of our S1 Enterprise course, all pupils who are able will take part in a marathon to raise funds for our chosen charity, Charlie House. The last time we were able to do this was just before COVID hit so we are keen to build our links with external parties again. Back in 2020, our pupils ran a total of 18 marathons and raised just over £977. Over the next few weeks, pupils will be working on social enterprises and charities when in class. It is also hoped that a representative from Charlie House visits to tell pupils first-hand about the important work that they do. Sponsor forms have been issued to all pupils this week. Pupils have been tasked with asking family members and close friends for sponsorship. Safety is important and pupils have been reminded not to knock on the doors of strangers!

Whilst accepting that we are amid a cost-of-living crisis at this time, some families may not be able to contribute. It is hoped that, as a school, we can all pull together and manage to raise as much money as possible. 1p, 20p or £10 – whatever you can afford will all help to support this worthy cause.

Pupils will be running their marathons during normal PE time later this term.

Dates will be confirmed in class and via Google Classroom.

Big thanks to Mr Lawson and the Health & Wellbeing faculty for helping in this venture.

Keep an eye on social media and weekly news for further updates.

Mrs Ewen, PT Business Education



Life is precious

### S3 – S4 Subject Choices:

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 – S4 Course Choice Preferences Google Form submission deadline – 3.3.23

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/> or <https://youtu.be/HODdi3QdK2U>

#### **S4 – S5 and S5 – S6 Course Choices Key Dates:**

- w/b 27.2.23 - Senior Phase Curriculum Slides issued to Parents/Carers.
- w/b 27.2.23 - S4 Guidance 1-1 Interviews
- w/b 6.3.23 - S5 Guidance Interviews
- w/c 6.3.23 - Tracking Reports issued to Parents/Carers. Google Course Choice Form to be issued.
- 14.3.23 – Principal Teachers Faculty – Advice sessions for S4 and S5 learners
- 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

### **The National Sleep Helpline - The Importance of Sleep**

This resource can help parents, children, and young people to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children and young people to sleep better, which can help them to succeed in school. In response to caller feedback, The National Sleep Helpline have recently changed their opening hours to include a morning session. The poster below details the new opening times, and more information would be brilliant if you could share this resource with families at your school.

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

The free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.



You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

## Developing the Young Workforce Up-date from Mr Abberley-Nicoll, PT DYW:

### **S4-S6 – Job Vacancies and Apprenticeship Opportunities**

The following job vacancies and apprenticeship opportunities are currently accepting applications - from across the North-East (via the DYW Northeast Jobs Portal <https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal>).

- Trainee Engineer – Thermal Energy – SSE (c/d 12/03/23)
- Distribution Craft Apprenticeship – SSE (c/d 12/03/23)
- Distribution Trainee Engineer – SSE (c/d 12/03/23)
- Site Construction Graduate Apprenticeship – SSE (c/d 12/03/23)
- Apprentice Fitter/Linesperson – SSE (c/d 12/03/23)
- Various Apprenticeships (Logistics/Business, Engineering Design, Mechanical Fitter) – Baker Hughes (c/d 30/03/23)
- Apprentice Workshop Technician – Airpac Rentals (c/d 31/03/23)
- Graduate Apprenticeship: Civil Engineer – Balfour Beatty (c/d 31/05/23)
- Apprentice Draughtspersons – TechnipFMC (c/d 07/07/23).

To find out more and to apply for these exciting opportunities, visit the DYW North East Jobs Portal at <https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal>.

The following vacancies are also available outside of the DYW North East Jobs Portal:

- Land-based Pre-apprenticeship – Ringlink Scotland (c/d 31/03/23).  
[www.ringlinkscotland.co.uk/pre-apprenticeship](http://www.ringlinkscotland.co.uk/pre-apprenticeship)  
Application by email to [gail@ringlinkscotland.co.uk](mailto:gail@ringlinkscotland.co.uk)
- Trainee Technician – Reservoir Group (c/d ASAP).  
Application by email to [maureen.smith@reservoirgroup.com](mailto:maureen.smith@reservoirgroup.com)

### **NEWCASTLE 2024 BOYS FOOTBALL TRIP 2024**

On the back of a very popular and successful girls football trip to Newcastle FC last month, we are planning on returning again in 2024, this time with a boys group. The trip will take place in February or March, depending on the fixture list, this will be confirmed in June when the fixtures are announced. It will be from a Friday to the Monday.

The trip will include a match against local opposition, 3 training sessions, a tour of St James' Park and tickets to see Newcastle Utd play in a Premiership fixture.

We are looking to take 40 pupils on the trip and more information, via a letter, will be sent out to parents next week regarding this. The closing date for those who would like the opportunity to go on this trip is March 22nd. If demand for this trip is more than we can accommodate, a selection process will be in place, with senior pupils being the main priority.

If anyone has any questions, please get in touch with Mr McLean in S25.



**Boys Football trip to Newcastle Utd, Feb or March 2024. (Dependent on fixtures, which come out in June.)**

- 4-day trip (Friday to Monday) includes;
- 3 High quality training sessions
- Behind the scenes stadium tour
- Match against local opposition
- Tickets to watch Newcastle Utd FC

**More info to come out next week. For those interested, contact Mr McLean.**

## Pupil Achievement – Sports Colours:



This morning during S5/6 assembly our seniors were presented with half and full Sports Colours.

This is a wonderful achievement for our learners and demonstrates excellence and the commitment they have given to their chosen sports.

### Half Colours – School Sport Representation:

Tiegan B 5K2 School Sport & Dance  
Rasmus B 5C2 School Sport & Rugby  
Aaron B 5M1 School Sport & Football  
Harry C 6C School Sport & Football  
Lucy D 6S School Sport & Football  
Aedan G 6F School Sport & Football  
Cameron A 6K School Sport & Swimming



### Half Colours School Sport Representation:

Milly I 5M1 School Sport & Gymnastics  
Logan M 5M1 School Sport & Football  
Ross M 5F1 School Sport & Basketball  
Shannon M 6M School sport & Athletics  
Jack R 5S1 School Sport & Football  
Callum U 5M1 School sport & Triathlon

### Full Colours Representation at Regional Level:

Erin C 5K1 Swimming  
Madison D 5S1 Basketball  
Eilidh G 5M1 Swimming  
Alyssa G 5K1 Swimming  
Emily G 5C2 Netball

### Full Colours with Distinction – Representation at National Level

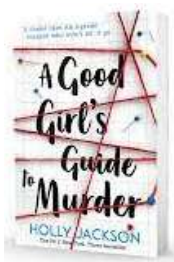
Ella C 5K1 Triathlon  
Millie S 5F1 Cheer  
Hannah T 6F Athletics





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



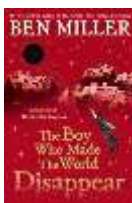
Addie is intrigued by her class topic when they are learning about the victims of witch hunts in her local area. She is bullied due to challenges she faces at school. She spots the similarities between how people treated those accused of witchcraft and how she is treated.

'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!



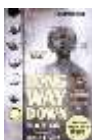
Little People, BIG DREAMS Treasury: 50 Stories from Brilliant Dreamers  
This is a beautiful collection of heroes – some well-known ones and some not so well-known. There is also a great section at the end for the reader to recognise their achievements and perhaps plan what adventures they will have 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 easy to read. Another one for those who perhaps struggle to find the time to read.

## **Pupil Notices:**

### **ALL PUPILS – BASKETBALL**

Starting next week, Basketball club will change from a Thursday lunchtime to a Tuesday lunchtime due to the Inter House Cheerleading rehearsals.

Miss Daniel

### **ALL PUPILS – INTER HOUSE CHEERLEADING**

The annual Inter House Cheerleading event will take place on Thursday 30th March. Boys and girls from each year group are invited to take part – regardless of previous experience! Sports Captains will be visiting reg classes this week to tell you a bit more about the event. Rehearsals will be held every lunchtime on Monday 27th February-Friday 3rd March.

Cheyne – Fitness Suite

Forbes – Games Hall

Keith – Gym B

McDonald – Games Hall

Sinclair – Gym A

Mrs Donald

### **ALL PUPILS – CROSS COUNTRY 2023**

Active Schools are delighted to announce the return of our Cross-Country series for this school year! Pupils will run a 3km course in 6 different locations across the North of Aberdeenshire.

NEW FOR THIS YEAR: Each Primary & Academy school will have the opportunity to win an overall winners' shield. This will be based on the percentage of participants attending all 6 races from each school. Therefore, Active Schools would advise each school to encourage as many pupils as possible to also attend the Run 4 Fun series 2022/2023

To sign up, please follow the link below and complete the online form. Details of payment will be sent in a confirmation email.

<http://bit.ly/asabevents>

For more information, please contact your local Active Schools Coordinator.

Kelly Green, Active Schools Coordinator

### **All Pupils**

'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). Pupils must ensure that their problem is school-related or for school use.

Mr Armstrong

### **ALL PUPILS – DRAMA CLUB**

We have resumed from Thursday 23rd February.

Mr Price, Miss Moore & Mrs Cozens

### **ALL GIRLS – FOOTBALL**

We have resumed from Thursday 23rd February.

Mr McLean

### **ALL GIRLS – NETBALL**

We have resumed from Thursday 23rd 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 breacktime and lunchtime).

Miss Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor

## S1 PUPILS – FOOTBALL

S1 football training will resume on Wednesday 22nd February.

Mr Caskie

## ALL PUPILS – BADMINTON

Badminton is now back to normal and open to all pupils on Mondays. Please see Mr S Murdoch (Humanities) if there are any questions/issues.

## ALL PUPILS – DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Dungeons & Dragons club has resumed in F12 at lunchtime on a Wednesday. 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

## Skills Development Scotland Support at Ellon Academy:

**Introducing your SDS advisers**

- **Career Advice | Employability**
- We offer support with career guidance, employability to help pupils and leavers plan their next steps. This could be speaking about different options, support with college applications, CV support, etc.
- If you are a parent or carer and would like to speak with an adviser or to arrange an appointment, please get in touch using the contacts below:

**Ellon Academy**  
Susan Ritchie & Kirsty Hannon  
susan.ritchie@sds.co.uk  
kirsty.hannon@sds.co.uk

**My World of Work**

**Ellon Post School**  
Amy Healy  
amy.healy@sds.co.uk

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is also delivering a national webinar ‘**How to have meaningful career conversations**’ on **Thursday 23 March** at 6.30pm.

Parents and carers can join the webinar to hear about the value and benefits of having career conversations and get some practical hints and tips on how to approach these.

<https://Meaningfulcareerconversationswithyoungpeople.eventbrite.co.uk>

Register here:

<https://Meaningfulcareerconversationswithyoungpeople.eventbrite.co.uk>

## For parents/carers' information:

### Scottish Child Payment Factsheet

Scottish Child Payment Factsheet, which can be accessed by clicking this link <https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/> which provides an overview of the forthcoming changes to Scottish Child Payment.

Full list of resources is available [here](#).

For further information please email [NationalEngagementandPartnershipTeam@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:NationalEngagementandPartnershipTeam@socialsecurity.gov.scot)

### Parent/Carer Sessions: Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Team

Please see poster attached for sharing across your networks and service users for Parent/Carer sessions being delivered by the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities team across Aberdeenshire in March.

Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireTP>

For further information please contact Caroline Hastings, Project Officer [Tackling Poverty & Inequalities](#) [caroline.hastings@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.hastings@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Dates For Your Diary

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

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

- S4 Live N Learn Mindset for Exams Presentations – Mon 13.3.23
- Advanced Higher Drama Prelim – Tues 14.3.23
- Principal Teachers Faculty – Course Advice for S4/5 learners
- SQA Advanced Higher Drama Performance Exam – Fri 17.3.23
- Higher Drama Prelim – Thurs 16.3.23
- SQA Higher Drama Performance Exam – Mon 20.3.23
- SQA Music Practical Exams – Tues 21.3.23 and Wed 22.3.23
- National 5 Drama Prelim – either Wed 22.3.23 or Thurs 23.3.23 (to be confirmed)
- SQA National 5 Drama Performance Exams – Mon 27.3.23 (postponed due to adverse weather)
- Comic Relief Dress Down Day (Bring a donation – suggestion £1) – Fri 17.3.23
- 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
- King's Coronation Holiday – Mon 8.1.23
- S1/2/3 Water Safety Talks (from Coastguard and Fire Brigade) w/b Mon 15.5.23
- P7 Values Day – Tues 16.5.23
- Occasional Day Holiday – Mon 5.6.23
- Provisional Sports Day – Wed 7.6.23
- P7 Induction Days – Tues 27<sup>th</sup>, Wed 28<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June
- S1 Dalguise Trip leaves – Sun 2.7.23
- End of Term 4 – Fri 7.7.23

Parents Evenings Term 3:

- 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)

S4 – S5 Course Choices Key Dates:

- w/b 27<sup>th</sup> 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
- 14.3.23 – Principal Teachers Faculty Course Choice Advice S4/5
- 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 10.3.23