



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 25th August 2023

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that our Ellon Academy families have had a lovely summer and some time to relax at home or away. We extend a warm welcome to our new S1 parents/carers. It has been a pleasure to welcome learners back to school this week and we extended a huge thank you to parents and carers for your support in ensuring that our learners are turned out super smart in their school uniforms.

Also, a special welcome to our new staff and S1 learners and also to the new learners in other years who have joined us this week.

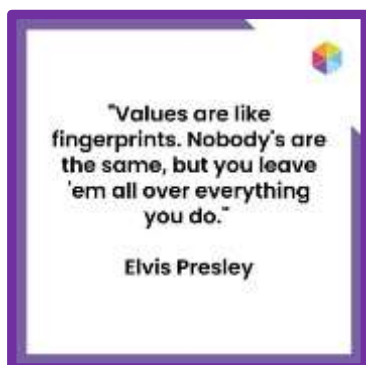
The staff had a productive in-service day on Monday 21st and our learners have settled well to the routines and rigors of secondary school.



If your child/children have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked
FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Quote of the Week beginning Monday 28.8.23:



Assemblies will resume in the Theatre during registration next week:

- Monday 28th August - S1
- Tuesday 29th August - S2
- Wednesday 30th August - S3
- Thursday 31st August - S4
- Friday 1st September - S5
- S6 will be during Team PSE

Weekly Merits

Most Merits/Over and Above:

We are looking forward to recognising our learners for their effort and work in classes so look out for our week 1 Most Merits Learners in next week's newsletter. They will receive a Canteen Fast Passes to reward them for this achievement.



Staffing Up-date:

This week we welcomed the following staff to our school:

Mr E	Bruce	Modern Studies Teacher
Mr A	Bunton	Computing Science Teacher
Miss I	Dunstan-Smith	Science/Biology Probationer
Mrs C	Gatehouse	PT Numeracy/Maths Teacher
Mrs F	Grassick	Admin Support Officer
Mr M	Kirk	English Teacher
Miss L	Lefebvre	French/Spanish Teacher
Miss I	Low	ASL Teacher
Mr E	MacLeod	History Teacher
Mrs C	Pettit	CSN Admin
Miss E	Stewart	ASL Teacher

We are also delighted to share that Mrs R Seifert; Technical Teacher will be returning to work at Ellon Academy after the October break. A warm welcome to them all and we wish them well in their careers at Ellon Academy.

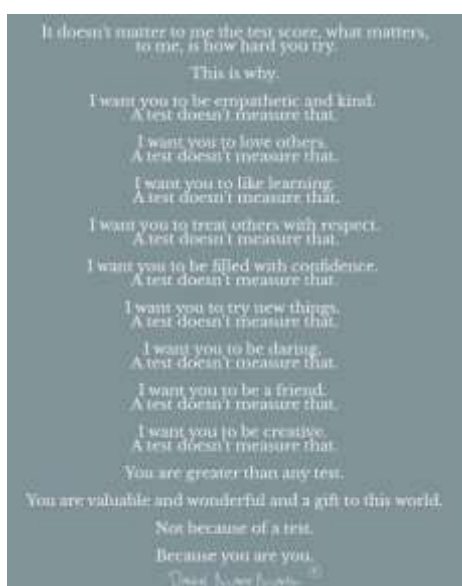
Improvements to our School Environment:

As you may be aware, our school roll is increasing, and we have been working hard to ensure that there are plenty of social spaces with seating for our learners to access at break and lunchtimes. Most learners opt to stay on campus during lunchtime, so over the past 3 years we have increased the seating capacity in our Sunken Social Area, then in 'The Street', and finally over the summer we removed a partition wall and added new tables and seating which has increased the capacity of the canteen by 70 learners.



SQA Exams Results 2023

Waiting for and receiving exam results can be very stressful for young people and this year most of our learners have been rewarded for their continued hard work and commitment to their studies. As a school we continue to do well against a local and national backdrop and despite the covid years, we have been able to maintain our high standards of attainment and achievement at all levels for all learners. We believe that every learner is an individual with their own skills, strengths, and talents and 'personal best' for each learner is individual too. The staff at Ellon Academy want to encourage and celebrate all learners' successes, and achievements which can be different for each individual young person. There is 'no wrong path' for our young people and the learners who have returned to school for S5 and S6 will be supported towards the courses and pathways which best suit their aspirations and strengths. The amount of out of zone applications to Ellon Academy is significant and this is testament to the hard work of staff who do their personal best for our learners.



Ellon Academy Improvement Planning Priorities for Session 23/24

Below is a summary of our Improvement Planning Priorities for this coming session.

During lunchtime and after school staff meet as Impact Teams to work on the priorities below.

These priorities arise from our whole school self-evaluation activities which take place throughout the school year and most significantly during Term 4 of each session. The QIs are the Quality Indicators from 'How Good is Our School 4', the Education Scotland guide for school self-evaluation. Our priorities also arise from our records of classroom observations and the good practice we identify as part of this process.

If anyone is interested to find out more about our self-evaluation framework and our improvement planning processes, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs P Buchan Rector to arrange an appointment.

Ellon Academy Improvement Plan Priorities Summary 2023/2024 (updated 6.7.23)

Theme 1 - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- 1.1 - L,T&A Policy Implementation
- 1.2 - Making Thinking Visible – CLPL Year 2
- 1.3 - Assessment and Moderation – Sharing Practice
- 1.4 Digital Learning – Cyber Security Event 23/24 and review of Google Classroom Implementation
- 1.5 - Universal Support – Circles (Aberdeenshire)
- 1.6 - Reading School Implementation – Year 2
- 1.7 - Increase opportunities for Interdisciplinary Learning supported by curriculum mapping

QIs – 1.2, 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3

Theme 2 - Ethos, Culture, Conduct

- 2.1 - Continuation of Implementation and Evaluation of Excellence at Ellon
- 2.2 - Growth Mindset/SEEDs/Profiling
- 2.3 - Curriculum Rationale Refresh
- 2.4 - New House System Launch

QIs – 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2



Theme 3 - Leadership and Self-Evaluation

- 3.1 - Impact Teams
- 3.2 - Self-evaluation Framework
- 3.3 - CLPL linked to whole school improvements and Digital Learning.
- 3.4 - Pupil Voice/Leadership
 - Exec Team, House/Sports Captains, Prefects
 - Subject Champions/In-class Supporters
 - Peer Supporters/Restorative Practitioners/Paired Readers

QIs – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.3, 3.2

Theme 4 - Developing the Young Work Force and Skills Development

- 4.1 - Embedding skills across the curriculum
- 4.2 - Embedding the Careers Education Standard Across the Curriculum
- 4.3 - S4/Post 16 Planning Flexible Learning Pathways
- 4.4 - Co-ordination of events and work-related input for pupils

QIs – 1.2, 1.5, 2.2, 2.7, 3.2, 3.3

Theme 5 - Improving Wellbeing, Equality, and Inclusion

- 5.1 - Sharing of information review
- 5.2 - ASL Tracking and Monitoring Systems
- 5.3 - Circles (Aberdeenshire) Training and planning for implementation – See Theme 1.5
- 5.4 - Refresh of Anti-bullying Policy
- 5.5 - Cluster approach to Health, Wellbeing and Resilience

QIs – 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Theme 6 - Raising Attainment and Achievement

- 6.1 - Making use of evidence data and interventions via BGE and Senior Phase Tracking and SNSA Data
- 6.2 - Use of SP Tracker to identify Mentoring Term 2
- 6.3 - Strategy for Wider Achievement
- 6.4 - Improved Quality Assurance of Course Choices

QIs – 2.3, 3.2

Pupil Achievement:

Leo F 5M2 has just passed the GDPR training – first go! What a star! He will now get a login to use the library management system, Spydus, and will be able to help us support pupils borrowing, returning, and requesting library items.

Leo is pictured sitting between Cameron T 5S2 and Mrs Quantrill. Cameron helped Leo get set up on the computer, sorted out headphones and paper for his notes – a great moral support as he had already completed his GDPR training. Mrs Quantrill and Mrs Murdoch have been a brilliant support for the pupils too. Well done!

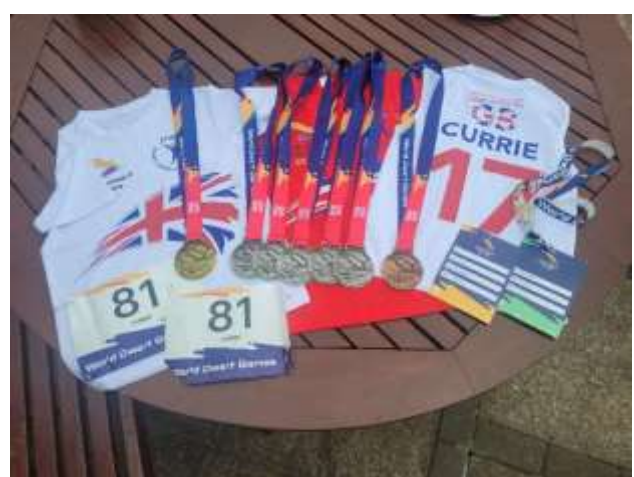


Pupil Achievement:

During the summer, Anna C 1S2 was competing at the World Dwarf Games in Cologne, Germany with 76 other athletes who made up team GB to compete. A total of 534 athletes competed from 29 countries.

Anna competed in volleyball, football, badminton singles and doubles, basketball, boccia singles and doubles, athletics, and table tennis. We are delighted to let you know she won a total of 7 medals for the following events:

Gold – 60m run, Silver – 40m run, Silver – relay, Silver – cricket ball throw, Silver – Football, Silver – Basketball
Bronze – Volleyball. She also got to the bronze medal play off in doubles boccia. All in all, she had a great time and her parents, and the school are so proud of her. Very well done, Anna.



Pupil Achievement:

Over the summer, Advika A (2M2) entered and won the Unsolved: Murder Mystery competition and won a cash prize for herself and official publication of her story. The organisation got in touch with her a few weeks ago to let her know and now this will be the second official publication of her writing. Very well done Advika!



Pupil Achievement:

We are delighted that our S2 pupils have been recognised for the 'Farewell to the Giant Pandas' cards they made back in May. The cards were sent to Edinburgh Zoo to say bye to the pandas Yang Guang and Tian Tian before they returned to China. Please click on the link below to view the cards:

Best Wishes for the Giant Pandas | PDF to Flipbook (heyzine.com)
<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/e2d3adc461.html#page/5>



If your child/children have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

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School Achievement:

Ellon Academy has been awarded The Fairtrade Foundation Fair Achiever Award!
Well done to Mr M Paterson and the staff and pupils in the Fairtrade Committee.

This is the highest category awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation and means that the school has fully embedded Fairtrade into their daily life and work to raise awareness of Fairtrade in their local community.
Here are some of the extracts from the assessment:

SUBMISSION	ASSESSOR'S FEEDBACK
FAIRTRADE POLICY	<i>This is an excellent policy - it is clear to see that you have considered each of the requirements of the FairAchiever award and worked hard to incorporate this into your policy. It's great to see that your policy is supported by different members of the school community, the bigger support, the bigger the success!</i>
LEARNER AUDIT	<i>The learner audit clearly shows the impact of the school's actions, all students recognise the Fairtrade mark and have a good understanding of what it represents. It is <u>really great</u> to see how widely Fairtrade is embedded in your school – by integrating the concept across your school curriculum and running lots of Fairtrade school events</i>
PRODUCT AUDIT	<i>Well done for using a wide variety of products across the school. We are particularly impressed by how many Fairtrade products are used in events; this is a fantastic way to promote Fairtrade in the wider community. Your efforts to promote Fairtrade around school and to a wider audience are excellent – holding Fairtrade assemblies, promoting Fairtrade products in the staff room and running a regular tuck-shop are good ways to raise awareness and show your commitment to integrating Fairtrade products into school life. For your renewal you might want to consider other aspects of the school where non-food Fairtrade products can be used such as cotton uniforms.</i>
EMBED LEARNING	<i>You have provided compelling evidence showing how well Fairtrade is embedded learning throughout the school in a variety of topics and age groups. It's particularly great that the curriculum is focusing on the deeper issues relating to Fairtrade and the ideas of global inequality, <u>fairness</u> and trade imbalances. Well done!</i>
CHALLENGE 1 – FAIRTRADE FRIDAY	<i>What an amazing challenge and well done for building the relationship with the school canteen to allow you to use their facilities. The range of offerings during the year is</i>



Learning at Ellon Academy:

Here are some examples of the great work from S3 in Maths this week.

We were revising on tidying up terms. "If this is the answer, what was the question?"

Pupils chose their own questions depending on confidence and progressed when ready.

This led to some great discussions on negatives and what happens when you multiply and divide algebraic terms.

Well done! ★



Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

We ask that parents and carers remind their children of the following:

To ensure that learners and staff are safe around the school campus, we are reminding learners not to walk/run through the car parks and bus parks. In the morning and after school there are over (approximately) 200 cars, taxis and buses coming in and out of the campus and learners must stick to the footpaths for their own safety and the safety of campus drivers.

We also ask that parents/carers continue to use the front facing parking and the one-way system at the front of the school when dropping off and picking up their children from school. Thank you.

Pupil Information:

DRAMA CLUB

Drama club will commence after school on Thursday 31st August (15:00-16:00). Miss Moore

GARDEN CLUB

The EAGerBunch Memorial Garden club will resume at lunchtime today (Friday 25th August) – bring your lunch and help us weed the garden! All year groups are welcome! Miss Swallow

ALL GIRLS – FOOTBALL

Football training (for all S1-6 girls) will commence after school on Thursday 31st August (15:00-16:00). Depending on the weather, training will either take place outside on the pitches or in the Gym Hall. Pupils should bring suitable footwear and plenty to drink! Mr McLean

ALL BOYS – NEWCASTLE TRIP 2024

A space has become available for the Newcastle trip next year (16th-19th February 2024). For those interested, please see Mr McLean before the end of the day on Monday 28th August. If we have more than one applicant, we will put all names into a hat to ensure a fair decision. The trip cost is £520 and includes training sessions, a tour of the stadium and a ticket to watch the Newcastle v Bournemouth (English Premiership) match. If anyone requires further information, please feel free to get in touch with Mr McLean. Mr McLean .

S5/6 PUPILS – DRAMA AUDITIONS

Auditions for Dennis Kelly's DNA will take place after school on Thursday 31st August. Please go to G60 to sign up for a slot and collect an audition monologue and a parental letter. Please return the consent form at your audition. Mrs Cozens

Dates For Your Diary

Thurs 21.9.23	NASSA Road Relay (Ellon Academy hosting at the Meadows this year)
Mon 25.9.23	School Photographer Individual Photos for S1/S3/S5/S6
w/b Mon 9.10.23	S4/5/6 Tracking Report (1) to be issued to parents/carers.

The new Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 23/24 is now available to view on our school website by following the link below.

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/calendar/>

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another year of celebrating our learners in all their achievements.

P Buchan

Rector 25.8.23