



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 1st September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

This week we have welcomed another 5 new learners to Ellon Academy. We wish them well in our school. It has been another busy week and we re-established our assemblies, celebrating some of the achievements of our learners.

We hope you enjoy our up-dates and reading about our pupil success in this week's newsletter.

I have been delighted to receive some emails from parents this week sharing their child's successes at out of school events, so 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 4.9.23:



Assemblies week beginning Mon 4/9/23:

- Monday 4th September – S2
- Tuesday 5th September – S3
- Wednesday 6th September – S4
- Thursday 7th September – S5
- Friday 8th September – S1
- S6 will be during Team PSE

Weekly Merits

Most Merits/Over and Above:

Well done to the learners below for getting the most merits over the past week. They will receive their canteen Fast Passes after registration in the Sunken Social area on Mon 4.9.23.



Although we have learners below receiving the most merits, in total there are 1140 learners at Ellon Academy and this week 775 young people were positively recognised by staff. That's 70%.
Very well done and thanks to the staff who recognised these learners.

Kodi	M	1F1	9
Tom	S	1F1	8
Max	R	1M1	8
Adam	F	1S2	10
Penny	K	1S2	8
Cian	S	1S2	8
Sarah	C	2K1	7
Janey	L	2M1	9
Rory	B	2M1	7
Advika	A	2M2	8
Rhys	K	3C1	7
Alex	E	3F2	7
Archie	C	3M1	9
Adrijana	P	3M1	8
Ruaridh	G	3M2	7
Ruby	Q	3S1	7
James	C	4C1	7
Skye	T	4C1	7
Ashley	R	4C2	11
Jack	C	4F1	8
Sophie	K	5C1	7
Leah	M	5F2	5
Freya	C	5M1	7
Johnny	A	5M2	5

Child Protection Briefing for Parents/Carers– Aug 2023 – Online Safety

During the year we as a school deal with many issues with our learners inside and outside the classroom. Over the weeks leading up to summer and on our return, we have been dealing with more incidences relating to online safety than we have before. To this end we'd like to give information and promote online safety for you and your family.

There are two specific areas that repeatedly come up we'd like to share with parents and try to give some advice around.

Sharing of inappropriate photos. This happens much more often than you think. Last session we had over 30 incidences where inappropriate photos and videos were shared by children and young people, and then shared amongst groups. Most of these photos were originally shared willingly by a young person.

On-line exploitation. This doesn't only happen to adults with banking or delivery e-mails! Many young people are lured into a conversation/relationship by someone posing as a friend. This chat quickly moves onto sharing explicit photos and this has led on several occasions last session where young people have then been extorted for money – with the threat of these willingly given photos by young people.

These incidences are those we know about, as sensible young people tell their folks at home and sensible parents contact the police. There are possibly many more out there that haven't been reported.

Where does this happen most?

WhatsApp : This app is great tool for contacting people, however there is a dangerous side for some of our learners who are not mature enough or ready to be part of a WhatsApp group. Photo's shared can be sent to hundreds of people in short space of time.

Snapchat : This app is again great for contacting and keeping an eye on where your child is but anyone can try to add your child and can begin chatting with them, find out information and share information about them.

What can you do?

Monitor your young person's online use. If they are constantly on their phone as to see or hear about what their chats involve. . If a young person is very defensive about letting you see their phone, it might be a sign something untoward is going on. Make sure they know everyone in their chat group, also make sure they understand they can remove themselves from any group at any time. Watch out for unusual messages from friends – they may have been hacked or their identity stolen. Keep talking to your young person about their friendships and keep the lines of communication open so you can support them through anything that might be going on. Remind them that their online footprint is there for life. If a young person is very defensive about letting you see their phone, it might be a sign something untoward is going on.

A general rule I share with the pupils is "If you don't want Mrs Wilson to SEE it or READ it – don't post it on-line!"

Useful websites:

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

[Staying safe online | Childline,](#)



Learning in the Maths Faculty:

Just a quick snapshot of some of the great work with significant figures in S2 this week.

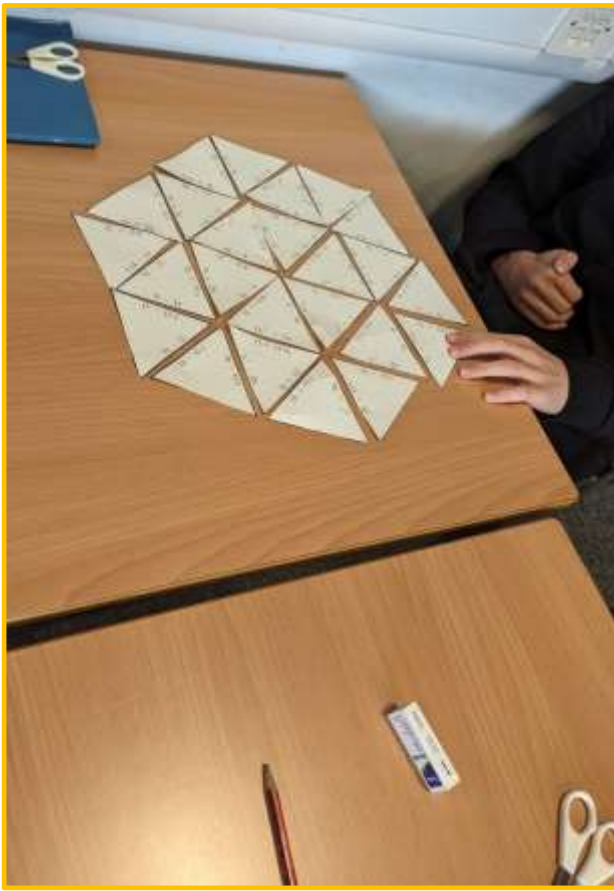
Pupils worked in pairs to create the loop of correct questions and answers. Some tricky questions involved which generated a lot of discussion. Some pupils moved on to creating "two truths and a lie" with this topic and we're looking forward to seeing more of these this week! Fantastic work everyone!



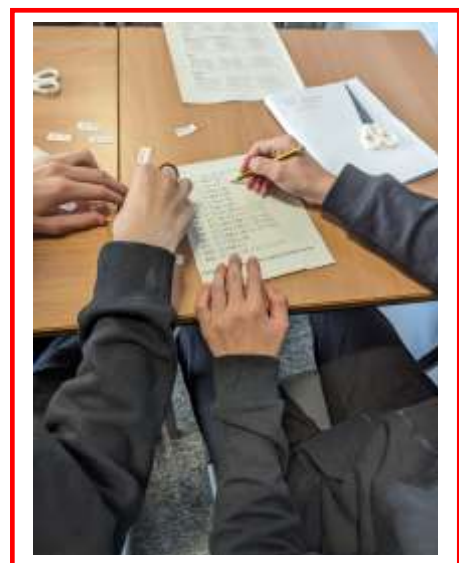
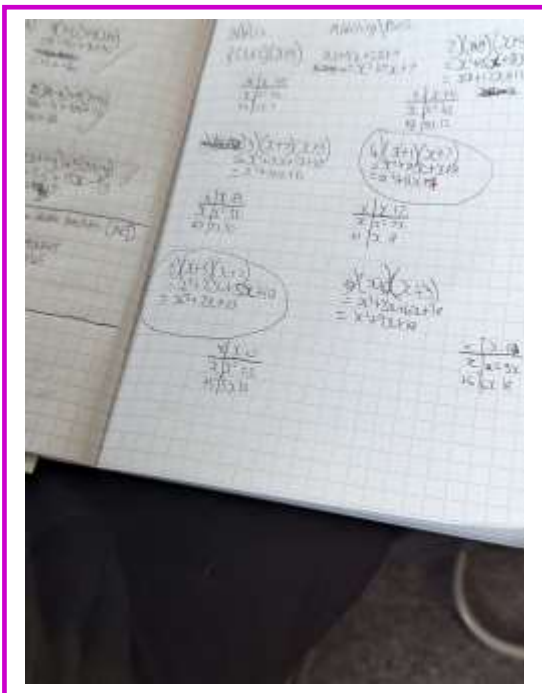
Also, prioritising our revision in S2 this week. Pupils discussed learning from last year and organised into categories. Green for topics we are very confident with, yellow for middle of the road and pink for things we really want to work on. Hoping to move those topics in pink to the other colours as we revise, to see our progress!



Excellent teamwork in S3 this week completing a tarsia puzzle on expanding brackets. Great conversations were heard with pupils discussing different powers and the best way to write expressions that involve negatives. Well done everyone!



Also, in S3 we multiplied out pairs of brackets using the grid method. We had a matching activity which led some pairs to discover a "trick" to finding the correct pairs of brackets needed for the expressions...and by "trick" I mean we just figured out how to factorise some trinomials! Absolutely amazing work! Well done!



Pupil Achievement:

During the Summer Laura J in 3S1 auditioned for Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre (AYMT).

Laura took part in a 3-hour audition process which included acting, dancing & singing. She's absolutely delighted to have been offered a place in their Senior group!

Laura is looking forward to rehearsing for their show "Anastasia" and getting the chance to perform it on stage at the Tivoli Theatre in Aberdeen next Spring!

As pictured, Laura also supports children's parties as a Disney Princess. She says her favourite Disney Princess is Rapunzel because she doesn't need a wig!

Well done, Laura.



Pupil Achievement:

Well done to Ythan ASC swimmer Mya L (3M2) who has achieved selection to the Scottish Swimming Youth Academy for the 2023-24 season.

Mya represented the North District as part of the national squad programme last season, but has now progressed further to the top national age group squad, and will join the very best swimmers from around the country for regular training sessions with national squad coaches.

She has also been selected as part of the North District squad who will compete at the UK Inter Counties Team Championships at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in October.

Congratulations Mya!



Pupil Achievement:

Last weekend Natalie's C 5F2 parents were invited to attend the 2nd Battalion of the Highlanders Army Cadet Force's Celebration Event. At this event parents and guests were treated to the cadets on parade, observing a variety of presentations and promotions which were awarded to cadets across the battalion. They were also able to visit various stalls set up by the cadets where they very ably explained in detail about where their interests lay. The stalls included STEM, Field Craft, Pipes and Drums, Weapon Handling, Duke of Edinburgh & First Aid. Everyone said it was a delight to be able to speak to the youngsters and their enthusiasm was infectious.

We are delighted to let you know that Natalie was invited to receive the award for Echo cadre. This was the cadre that Natalie was part of for annual camp in Weymouth during the Summer, and they were awarded this cup for best turned-out cadre.

The biggest surprise of the day came when Natalie was invited by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire to receive the Kaylee McIntosh Award for Outstanding Commitment and Endeavour. Natalie faced many challenges during the annual camp but always managed to keep a smile on her face, whilst supporting fellow cadets who were in attendance with her in Weymouth. In addition, she was also supporting and encouraging her own Ellon Detachment Cadets, who were at a separate camp at the other end of the country!

These are wonderful achievements Natalie, and we are very proud of you indeed.
Very well done!



Pupil Achievement:

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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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 Thursdays (15:00-16:00). Miss Moore

GARDEN CLUB

The EAGerBunch Memorial Garden club will resume on Friday lunchtimes. 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) has commenced after school on Thursdays (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

S5/6 PUPILS – DRAMA AUDITIONS

Auditions for Dennis Kelly's DNA will take place after school on Thursday 7th September. 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

Come Join EASA!!

For a fee of £35 (which works out around £1 per week), EASA can open you up to a lot of new and exciting sporting opportunities. Membership allows you to join in with any sport we offer at Ellon Academy – and we have many for you to try out! From Football and Rugby, to Badminton and Cheerleading – whatever your interest you can join in with – no matter experience levels. Have a look at the EASA timetable to see what is on offer and when. Joining in with sports and trying out new things is not only beneficial for your mind and body, but is actually really quite enjoyable!

All sports are free until Friday 8th September, so if you are unsure, come try it out first. We look forward to seeing you!



Community Information:

Ellon 1st Girls' Brigade runs on a Friday and Ellon 1st Boys' Brigade runs on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Anyone is free to join at any point, they would be made very welcome and support with fees is available.



Opportunity for Mental Health Champion Training:

from Debbie Mckay, Community Learning and Development Officer

I would like to offer a shire wide training opportunity for young people who wish to get involved in a local youth mental health project.

The training is a 6-hour face to face session (on a Saturday - date to be decided) followed by a short online catch up/reflection session.

We are currently looking for names of young people who would be interested in getting involved with this project. The young people themselves can be any year group (S1-S6), the only criteria is that they are confident, good communication skills, approachable and willing to give up their time to help and support other young people. They will be guided through a short training programme where they will focus on the importance, benefit and value of peer education along with a basic introduction to the main mental health type issues they are likely to come across while supporting young people (for example, anxiety, stress, social media pressure, eating disorders etc.). The young people who would like to be Champions are by no means counsellors or therapists, but rather someone that a young person having a difficult time can relate to and talk through their issues. The Champions will be a non-judgmental ear to listen to and well placed to refer and signpost them on to any local partners or services who would be best placed to help or support them further.

On completing their training (one 6hr Sat session followed by a short online reflection session) they will be introduced to their local CLD Worker who will support them to develop and launch a local project to support their peers. This can be anything! For example they may choose to:

- deliver some MHWB information to peers through PSE sessions
- they might develop and distribute an information leaflet
- run a MHWB poster campaign
- have a big annual mental health information fayre with partners
- a weekly/fortnightly/monthly/lunchtime youth drop in during or outwith school
- or any other type of project they think would attract and be on benefit to young people

To register your interest, please email Debbie as per the attached poster or let your Guidance Teacher know.

Best wishes, Debbie

Debbie Mackay | CLD Worker | ECS, Aberdeenshire Council



Ellon-Newburgh-Foveran - Active Travel Consultation:

Aberdeenshire Councils Strategy Team within Environmental Services are currently consulting on an active travel route between Ellon to Newburgh and Foveran.

The aim of the consultation is to seek the views of the public on the designs for this route, how often people may use this route and for what purpose. We are keen to engage with as many people as we can, especially people who live local and may themselves make use of this route.

All the information and a QR code in regards to the survey can be found within the attached poster.

Joanna Stewart
 Strategy Development Officer
 Strategy Unit, Environment & Infrastructure
 Aberdeenshire Council



Public engagement

We want to hear your opinion about the new proposed walking and cycling route. Have a look at our plans, and please complete this survey to help us understand your traveling and commuting habits. You can find the paper version of all documents at Ellon Library.

Scan the QR code or visit our website
<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/>



Dates For Your Diary

Wed 20.9.23	NASSA Road Relay (Ellon Academy hosting at the Meadows this year)
Thurs 21.9.23	Senior Phase Family Learning Evening 6-7.30pm (More information to follow)
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 celebrating our learners in all their achievements.

P Buchan

Rector 01.09.23