



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 8th September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your continued support with our uniform. The weather is set to cool down to average September temperatures next week, so we will expect learners back to school in full school uniform week beginning Monday 11.9.23.

At assemblies this week we introduced our wonderful new Exec Team to all year groups, and they ably informed their peers of their roles in school and the importance of Pupil Voice at Ellon Academy.

Here is their official photo and left to right they are: Tiegan B, Alyssa G, Erin C, Matthew M, Harris G, and Isla M.



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 11.9.23:



Assemblies - week beginning Mon 11/9/23 will be on the theme of On-line Safety and will be delivered by Mrs M Wilson, DHT:

- Monday 11h September – S3
- Tuesday 12th September – S4
- Wednesday 13th September – S5
- Thursday 14th September – S1
- Friday 15th September – S2
- S6 will be during Team PSE on Wed 13.9.23.

Weekly Merits

Most Merits/Over and Above:

Last week the total number of pupils who received a message home from the school regarding their 'Over and Above' merits was 159! The total number of learners recognised and achieving at least one merit was 763. Again, that's over 70% of all learners in school! Well done everyone!



Carly	I	1C2	9
Kodi	M	1F1	10
Lilly	H	1F1	8
Matteo	T	1F2	8
Scott	M	2F1	8
Charlotte	W	2F1	8
Harry	M	2K1	8
Advika	A	2M2	8
Skye	S	3F1	8
Ruaridh	G	3M2	9
Rian	G	4F1	7
Harris	C	4S2	7
Tahlia	N	5C1	5
Sarah	M	5F2	5
Oliver	S	5K1	4
Leona	A	5M2	4
Connor	D	6C	4
Katie	M	6F	5
Caitlin	W	6K	4

Child Protection Briefing for Parents/Carers– Aug/Sept 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 English Faculty:

S1:

It has been great getting to know our S1s over the last few weeks. They have been set a Reading Bingo challenge where they can choose a task to complete based on a book of their choice. The variety of tasks and books at this early stage is great. Owen in 1F2 got 'stuck in his book' today as he was enjoying it so much.



S2:

S2 classes have been working on persuasive writing to help them become better at arguing. Sorry! Some classes have created adverts for products while some have been focusing on animal captivity.



:

S3 classes are working on research skills: the recent case of Lucy Letby has caught the attention of one class, and they were discussing details of the case. Their conversation so engaging that a passing S6 joined in.



S4:

This S4 class were revising the poet we have studied and created resources as a class. They worked really well together and produced a great class resource.



Media:

Media classes are planning their products at the moment. Harris G in S6 has a particularly exciting project in mind. We look forward to seeing the finished films & trailers.



Adv H:

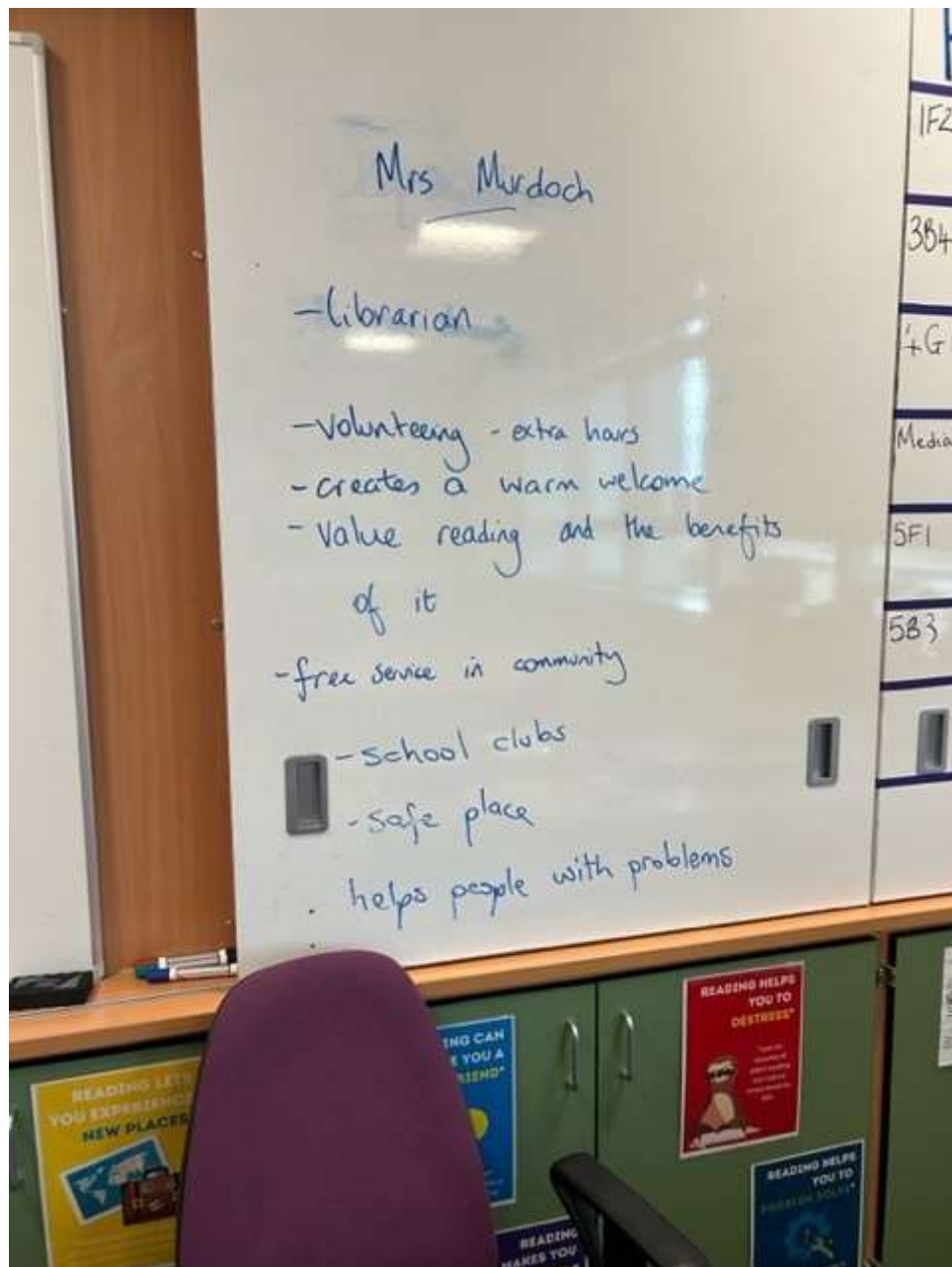
Miss Craig and Advanced Highers are working on dissertation proposals – there is a wonderful range of topics being investigated.



Our Library supporting learning:



When discussing heroes in the community – the S1s independently identified librarians and made notes about why they are heroes!



Higher Health and Food Tech visit to RGU:

Last Friday, Higher Health & Food Technology pupils visited The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. They enjoyed taking part in practical experiments in the food handling lab, where they baked muffins trying out different replacements for eggs and learning about the nutritional benefits of each ingredient.

Pupils also learned about the Food, Nutrition and Human Health degree, as well as going on a tour of the facilities in the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences.

Thank you to [Robert Gordon University](#) for hosting us!



PSE Day Tues 5.9.23:

This week, our S6 learners participated in several seminars discussing future pathways. These included inputs from various universities, colleges and partners including Heriot Watt, Napier, Aberdeen, Stirling, Edinburgh, University of Highlands and Islands, Abertay, RGU, NESCOL, Skills Development Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce Northeast. We hope they have a helpful and informative day. #futureplanning



Ellon Academy Senior Phase Family Learning Evening

Thursday 21/09/23 – 6pm – 7.30pm

The staff at Ellon Academy would like to cordially invite you to attend our Ellon Academy Senior Phase Family Learning Evening on Thursday 21st September between 6pm and 7.30pm. The staff doors at the back of the school will be open allowing plenty parking in the staff car park behind the school.

The purpose of having a Family Learning Evening for Senior Phase is to ensure that parents/carers are informed and confident in supporting their sons and daughters with the rigors of S4, S5 and S6.

We aim to provide parents/carers with information regarding their child's courses, expectations, assessments, and key deadlines. We will also ensure that parents are aware of the support that faculties and partners in school can offer their child as they navigate the senior phase, and how parents/carers can help support and encourage their child at home. This is not an evening to discuss your child's individual progress, but it is to hear about our expectations, the support we can offer and how you can support your child at home.

Please see the programme overleaf and teas/coffees will be available in the Market Place session in the sunken social area for staff and parents/carers.

I hope you will be able to join us on the 21st of September, and we look forward to seeing you then.

Programme

6.00pm Introduction in the Ellon Academy Theatre

- Setting the Scene – P Buchan, Rector
- Communication – T Booth Depute Rector
- SQA Entries and Change of Level – N Corser Depute Rector
- Support in English and Maths – S Warne, PT English, and R Gatehouse PT Maths
- A Learners' Perspective – Members of the Exec Team

6.15pm Information sessions and Market Place.

After the introductory session in the Theatre, parents/carers will be split into 4 groups and rotate around the following 15-minute information sessions:

Library Support and Study Cafe	J Murdoch, Librarian M Meechan, PE Teacher	Library
Growth Mindset and Study Skills	H Campbell, PT Learning, Teaching and Assessment K Leslie, PT Humanities	HOLA (Humanities Open Learning Area)
Digital Learning, Google Classroom/Guardian, Plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence	E Armstrong, PT Digital Learning Digital Champions (pupils)	MOLA (Maths Open Learning Area)
Market Place	Teaching staff – Course Expectations Skills Development Scotland Community Learning & Development, Mentoring	Sunken Social Area

Teas and coffees will be available in the Market Place session in the Sunken Social Area.

If you are unable to attend on the night, we will provide a video presentation and electronic versions of any handouts provided at the event on our school website.

For parent/carers information – Ellon Academy Parent Council Meeting

Ellon Academy Parent Council is inviting you to attend our first Parent Council meeting of session 23/24. It is on Wednesday 13th September at 7pm in room F51 at Ellon Academy.

You can also join be a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: September Parent Council Meeting

Time: Sep 13, 2023, 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83750029499...>

Meeting ID: 837 5002 9499

Passcode: 533768

Hope to see you there,

Mrs A Stott, Parent Council Chairperson



Positive Feedback:

We were asked to pass this on from a local gentleman who was walking over the bridge in the torrential rain last week:

"I was walking over the bridge with an umbrella just after the school bell. The pupils moved out of the way for me and other members of the public despite their rushing to get out of the rain. One of them was funny and asked me if I'd give up my umbrella in a friendly and joking manner. Their behaviour was exemplary".

Lovely to hear.

Pupil Achievement:

Ruby Q (3S1) has just reached her next Saltire Award level for 50 hours, reached after her recently adding in some further Digital Champion voluntary work hours.

What a fantastic ambassador she is for our school and learning community.

Mr E Armstrong, PT Digital Learning.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Sinclair House who were winners in this year's S1 Inter House 7 a side football. Well done to all who participated in the sunshine today.



Pupil Achievement:

Well done to MacDonald House, who won this week's S2 Inter House Football. Well done to all players who participated.



Pupil Achievement:

S3 Interhouse Football winners this week were Sinclair House and MacDonald House. A tie today for the top spot. Well done to all our players!



Pupil Achievement:

Huge commiserations to the S3 football team who were defeated 6-5 tonight by a very good Inverurie side. Within 10 minutes we found ourselves 3-0 down as we struggled to deal with their strong attack, but the team fought extremely hard and ended up 5-4 up with 10 minutes to go.

The extreme effort the boys put in to get to that point drained them, and the game unfortunately just didn't end quick enough for us, and we conceded 2 in the last 6 minutes. They deserved more out the game, but they should be proud of their efforts (as I know I am!) and know if we play like that for the rest of the season, the sky is our limit! Goals came from an own goal, Dylan (x2), Owen and Burak. Mr MacBeath.



New Strip!

We are delighted to show off our new S2 and S3 boys football strip for the next few seasons, proudly sponsored by David Smith Contractors Ltd. David Smith Contractors are one of the leading Civil Engineering and Demolition Contractors, based in the Northeast of Scotland, and we cannot thank them enough for the support they have offered our school. We look forward to great success with their backing.



Pupil Achievement:

U15's Girls Football league result. Meldrum Academy 3-9 Ellon Academy.

An excellent start to the new season, as Ellon U15 girls came from being 0-2 down in the first 10 mins, to win 9-3, in a thoroughly exciting match.

Meldrum made it extremely difficult, with Ellon going into half time only narrowly ahead. The girls swift passing, and trickery of feet, enabled Ellon to go on in the second half to make the score line much more emphatic.

Both teams can be proud of their achievements, as they both tried to play passing football. The passing and emphatic finishing by the Ellon midfielders and attackers was particularly pleasing.

Players of match for Ellon were shared between Ava R, whose creative skills and speed always caused problems for the Meldrum defence, and Millie B, whose tenacity, composure on the ball and ability to hit a defence splitting pass stood out once again tonight.

Mention must also be given to Alisha M, who went upfront for the last 15 mins and grabbed herself 2 goals.

Goal scorers.

Ava R 2, Emily S 2, Alisha M 2, Myah R 1, Katie G 1, Millie B 1

Assists Ava R 2, Natalie G 2, Molly P 1, Millie B 1, Emily S 1.



If your child/children has/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

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.

Memorial Garden Up-date:

From Mrs S Swallow, ASL Teacher

The Memorial Garden is a whole school project, and we hope that it will be a calm and peaceful space in future where small groups and undertake activities, or those experiencing hardship can find some quiet.

It has been a slow process, but a lot of work has been done to get where we are today!

We have a circular path with central area, rose arch near the gate, willow arch with a seat in one corner, fruit trees with spring bulbs for early colour in another corner and a wild-flower corner with gabion seating in. We have also created a “dry riverbed” of stones and money has been raised to buy a solar powered fountain for one end, with the intention of planting a “pool” of blue flowers at the other end. I also hope to buy some blue glass to add into the river to let it shimmer on a sunny day! We are slowly planting the central circle with flowers and are currently rather inundated with weeds after the summer break! When we are “finished” (!), Craig who built the path for us is happy to return to give it a top-dressing to make it look less functional.

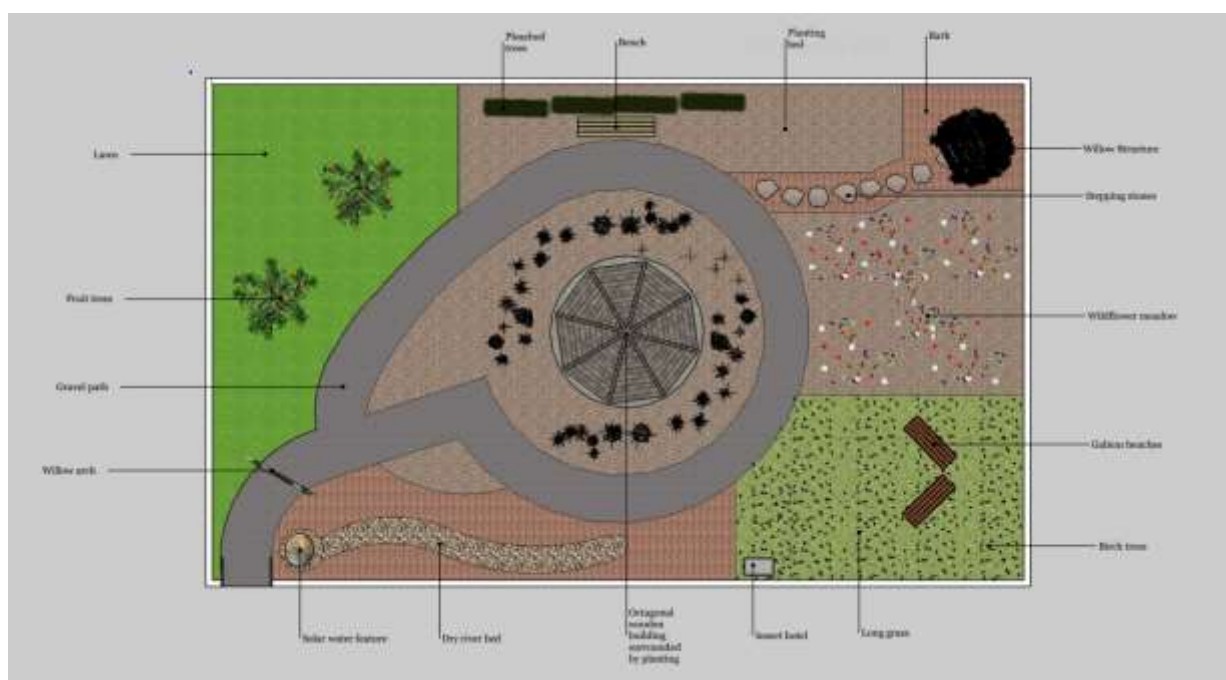
We have a gazebo in storage ready to be put up and we also have coloured Perspex discs that the Youth Forum raised money for, to match their bench under the willow arch. Also in storage, we have timber for making seat-tops for the cabion cages.

It is a large and lovely space and if anyone would like to help or get involved in its development that would be fantastic. Any ideas or help would be appreciated.

We also have a small keen group in the lunchtime club – Tuesday and Friday, who help weed, clear, plant etc. This garden is over and above our productive teaching garden. I believe that we are quite unique in remembering lost pupils and staff in this way, with such a lovely big garden, and it does mean a lot to some of the families who have lost loved ones. I dream in future of having an “opening day” where we can invite some families to come to see it!

If you would like to know more or get involved, just email me, susan.swallow@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Here is the design plan. Pupils worked with a designer in the early days and came up with this:



COVID-19 symptoms and what to do:

As you may be aware, some strains of Covid-19 are on the rise, so this information from the NHS website is for parents/carers. Covid-19 symptoms can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Most people feel better within a few days or weeks of their first COVID-19 symptoms and make a full recovery within 12 weeks. For some people, it can be a more serious illness and their symptoms can last longer.

What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

You may be able to [look after yourself at home if you have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature.
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities.

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

If you are eligible for treatments for COVID-19, you should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test as soon as you get symptoms.

[Find out more about treatments for COVID-19 and who can have them](#)

What to do if you have tested positive

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms, but if you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day you took your test if you are under 18 years old.
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over.
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test.

[Find out more about who can get a free NHS COVID-19 test](#)

Ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if:

- you're worried about your or a child's COVID-19 symptoms or are not sure what to do.
- the symptoms are getting worse or are not getting better.
- you or a child have other signs of illness, such as a rash, loss of appetite, or feeling weak.
- you or a child have a high temperature that last 5 days or more or does not come down with paracetamol.
- a child under 3 months old and has a temperature of 38C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature.
- a child 3 to 6 months old and has a temperature of 39C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature.

It's particularly important to get help if you're at increased risk of getting ill from COVID-19, such as if you're pregnant, aged 60 or over, or have a weakened immune system. You can call 111 or [get help from 111 online](#).

Pupil Information:

EASA HOODIES

These are a new addition to school uniform for 2023/24, meaning EASA pupils can wear these around school and in class. Hoodies will only be available to order when purchasing your EASA membership which will be released for purchase shortly. Hoodies will be black with the Ellon Academy badge embroidered on the front. They will also have your chosen team name printed on the front (e.g. cheer) and the pupil's first name printed on the back. The colour of the writing will be determined by the club attended and can be found on the poster below. There is also an option to have EASA printed on the front instead of a club name.

(Please see Cheer example below) Sizes available are: XS, S, M, L, 1X-5X.

Please come and try on sample sizes which will be available to try on in the PE department all this week at regular club times or at break times.



Extra-Curricular Activities:

We are always encouraging our learners to take part in clubs and activities in and out of school to support skills development, so thanks to Mrs Warne for pulling together all the Ellon Academy extra-curricular activities into one booklet for pupils and parents/carers. The booklet can be viewed by following the link to our website below:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>



This week we also had our annual Activities Fair. Thanks to Miss Jeffrey and Mrs Murdoch for organising. Here are some of the clubs represented: Minecraft, Creative Arts, Debating, Reading, News Group, Lego, Chess and Confucius Committee.



ALL PUPILS – DRAMA CLUB

Drama club commenced after school on Thursday 7th September. It is open to all S1-6 pupils and no prior experience of acting or performing is necessary. Activities will include creating brand new dramas, performing scripts, and working behind the scenes. Mrs Cozens

ALL PUPILS – CHESS CLUB

Come along to the Library at 12:30 on Friday 8th September for the first meeting of the new Chess club. Suitable for both beginners and experts! Mrs Murdoch (School Librarian) & Richard B (5C1)

ALL PUPILS – DIVERSITY CLUB

Diversity club will resume in the Library at lunchtime on Monday 11th September. Everyone is welcome! Mr Higgins

ALL PUPILS – CHOIR

Did you know that free singing lessons are available at Ellon Academy?! Choir is being held in G32 at 12:35 this week (Thursday 7th September). Everyone is welcome with no experience necessary, and you do not have to audition to join! You are welcome to bring packed or cold food and enjoy a social lunch before we start! Mrs Nicholson

ALL PUPILS – CONFUCIUS COMMITTEE

Are you interested in China? In meeting new people? Speaking other languages? Developing key skills such as communication, collaboration, and leadership? Helping organise whole school events like Chinese New Year? Potentially getting the opportunity to visit China? Please come along to S42 at lunchtime every Wednesday to find out more! Mrs Duffus

ALL PUPILS – PAIRED READING

Last year, as many of you will remember, Mrs Cawthorne and I supported some of you to share reading with others. Some S5/6 pupils completed Paired Reader training and worked with S1s. Some S1-4s completed training and then came out to the local primary schools with me – in the minibus! We hope to do this again this session! If any of you would like to be involved, please join us for a meeting in S10 at lunchtime on Wednesday 13th September. Please bring your lunch and we will start at 12:30. If you can't make it, pop by to see myself/Mrs Cawthorne and let us know you are interested. Mrs Warne

ALL PUPILS – ART CLUB

Art club returns! It will take place at lunchtime every Friday (12:15-13:00) so come along, bring your lunch, and get creative! Miss Geoghan

ALL PUPILS – EASA

Various EASA clubs and teams started up last week! All pupils are welcome to come and try any clubs for free during the two weeks from 28th August-8th September and there's no experience necessary. An EASA membership will be required from Monday 11th September onwards. All clubs will take place in either the PE department or outside on the pitches. Please see a member of staff from the PE department if you have any questions relating to EASA or a specific club/team.

Monday (after school)

S1-6 Badminton

Tuesday (after school)

S4-6 Cheer and S1-6 Rugby

Wednesday (after school)

S4-6 Netball, S1-3 Cheer, S4-6 Gym session, S1, S2 & S3 Football teams.

Thursday (lunchtime)

S1-6 Yoga

Thursday (after school)

S1-3 Netball, Staff Yoga, S1-6 Gymnastics club, S1-6 Girl's football

Friday (after school)

S1-6 Basketball

ALL PUPILS - Instrumental Tuition

S1 and S2 pupils, If you are interested in learning to play a music instrument, please come along to a meeting on Tuesday 12th September in Music Room G22 at 1.20pm.

We offer lessons in Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, Piano, Percussion and Strings.

Come along for more details. Mr Birse

ALL PUPILS – Music Extra Curricular Activities

Our music activities are starting up following the summer holidays. There are several more in the pipeline so we will keep you posted. Mr Birse and Mrs O'Connor

The following groups have restarted:

Monday lunchtime:

Jazz Jam – open to any instrumentalist

Folk Group – open to all

Wednesday lunchtime:

Concert Band – for all brass, woodwind, and percussion players

Wednesday afterschool

Orchestra – for all string, brass, woodwind, and percussion players.

Friday lunchtime

String Orchestra – for all string players



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.



1st Ellon Girls' Brigade
Meets on Friday evenings
at The Kirk Centre, Ellon
6:30pm - 8pm

Enrolment Night Friday 25th August

EXPLORERS - P1 - P3
JUNIORS - P4 - P7
BRIGADERS - S1 - S6



Crafts
Games
Friends
Dancing
Fun
Singing
Learning
Bible Stories



1st Ellon THE BOYS' BRIGADE
with admission by donation

Anchor Section
P1 - P3 | Wed | 5:30pm
e: ellon1stboysbrigade@hotmail.com


Company & Seniors Section
P7 - S6 | Thurs | 7:30pm
e: ellon1stboysbrigade@hotmail.com

Junior Section
P4 - P6 | Wed | 6:30pm
e: ellon1stboysbrigade@hotmail.com

KIRK CENTRE
STATION RD | ELLON
t: 725690

HADDO VOICES
Non auditioned Choir for Youngsters
Music from all genres

Come and join us!



Wednesday Term Time
P5-S4: 7 – 8pm
St Mary on the Rock Church – Ellon
£20 a term
For further details email: haddovoices@gmail.com
(Or just turn up!)
First session: Wednesday 6th September

Methlick Cycle Challenge for Juniors 2023

Methlick Cycle Challenge are a group of keen off-road cyclists from the Methlick area. We organise the annual event around the roads and tracks of Buchan and Formartine.

We have once again been given sponsorship by Davie Smith of Skelmonae Wind farm to organise a Junior Cycle Challenge around his windfarm site. The event will take place on Sunday 10 September 2023 at Midday.

It is free to enter, and all participants require is a sturdy bike and a cycle helmet.

There are two categories:-

P7 and younger, who will ride a 4K route

P7 to S3, who will ride a 7k route.

For entries just email info@methlickcyclechallenge.co.uk.

Email should include entrants name, parent/guardian name and a contact number.

Participants receive a medal for taking part and after the ride there will be a barbeque, free for all entrants. Parents and supporters will be catered for on a voluntary donation basis.

We have devised an excellent route, all on closed road tracks and through a field around the second group of wind turbines at Skilmafilly. Health and Safety have been given prime consideration in this and we take our responsibilities in this regard very seriously. Water etc. will be provided.

The venue lies between Methlick, Auchnagatt, and New Deer, a search on Google using Denmore Farm AB41 8TL gives the location of the entrance road to the turbines, the start and barbeque take place immediately adjacent to these. Entry is free by sending an email with the name of the entrant, school class and parent/guardian contact details to info@methlickcyclechallenge.co.uk

Primary 7 pupils should indicate which of the two categories they will be entering.

We want to continue to run this annual event and your child's participation will help that to happen. We expect the cycling to finish around 2pm and the barbeque to finish around 4pm. The event has been endorsed by British Cycling and is covered by their event levy system. We hope that you will allow and encourage your child or children to take part.

For more information, you can check the Methlick Cycle Challenge Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/methlickcyclechallenge>,

website at www.methlickcyclechallenge.co.uk or call Jay at Ythanview Hotel on 01651 806235.

On behalf of the Methlick Cycle Challenge Team.



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 regarding the survey can be found within the attached poster.

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



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.
Wed 11.10.23	S1 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual 4pm – 6.30pm)
Fri 13.10.23	End of Term 1

The October holidays this year are from Monday 16.10.23 – Friday 27.10.23 inclusive and Term 2 starts on Monday 30th October '23 at the usual time.

The 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 08.09.23