

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

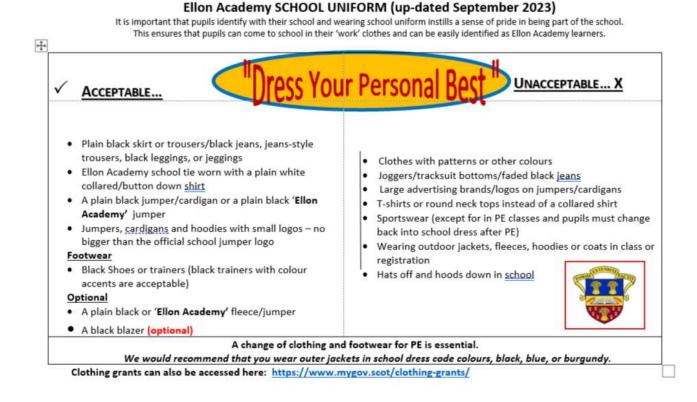
Date: Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware, most schools will be affected in some way by the planned industrial action of Unison members on Tues 26th, Wed 27th and Thurs 28th September. Ellon Academy will be open as usual apart from a small number of learners who will be directly affected, and the parents/carers of these learners have been informed this week. If there is any change to this at the beginning of next week, we will let parents/carers know.

Assemblies w/b 18/9/23: At assemblies this week Mr Cowie delivered a presentation to all learners including a reminder about our Mobile Devices Policy, The Blob Tree, and the Circle of Courage (Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity).

Uniform: Just a reminder of our uniform expectations. A small number of learners are still coming to school in shorts so your support with that would be appreciated. Here is our poster demonstrating our expectations:



Also, clarification on the issue of logos on black school jumpers, cardigans, and hoodies:

- EASA hoodies are acceptable for learners to wear in class. These have school logos on the front, the EASA group the learner represents and learners' first names on the back.
- If learners do not have an EASA hoodie, they are expected to wear plain black jumpers/cardigans or hoodies. Some learners have jumpers etc with the official school logo on them and that's always what we strive for. However,
 - The rule of thumb is that the 'alternative' logo should not be any bigger than the school one and tops that have very large logos/letters/phrases printed across the front/black/sleeves are not acceptable.

For example:

Acceptable

Not acceptable





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

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 25.9.23:



Thanks to Miss Mathers for this week's Quote of the Week.

Assemblies - week beginning Mon 25/9/23 will be House Assemblies:

- Monday 25th September Cheyne House
- Tuesday 26th September Forbes House
- Wednesday 27th September Keith House
- Thursday 28th September McDonald House
- Friday 29th September Sinclair House

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 180! The total number of learners recognised and achieving at least one merit was 719. Again, that's over 70% of all learners in school!

The learners to the right have accrued the most merits over the last week and will receive their canteen fast passes on Mon 25.9.23 after registration in the sunken social area. Well done everyone!

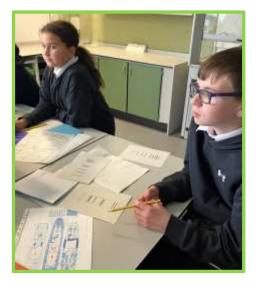


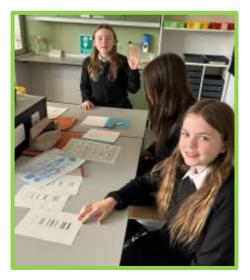
Dhaksha	S	1C2	8	
Kodi	М	1F1	8	
Amaia	L	1K1	8	
Stewart	Р	1K1	8	
Mason	С	1M1	9	
Alix	J	1S1	8	
Georgie	Q	1S1	8	
Fraser	Р	1S2	10	
Oliver	В	2S1	8	
Cerys	F	2S1	7	
Dylan	К	2S1	7	
David	К	2S1	8	
Ella	Т	2S1	8	
Anna	S	3F1	5	
Cooper	Т	3F2	5	
Emily	S	3K1	5	
Lewis	Т	3M1	5	
Robyn	G	3M2	5	
Mya	L	3M2	5	
Lewis	Р	3S1	5	
Rylee	E	3S2	5	
Robert	Ι	3S2	7	
Orlaith	S	3S2	5	
•				

Learning in the Science Faculty week beginning 18/9/23:

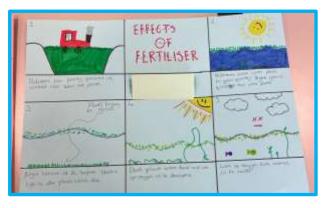
This week we are showcasing the work of our Science Faculty:

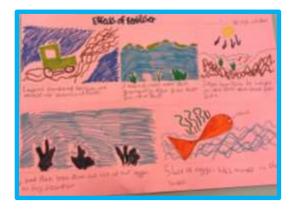
S1 Science – Learners have been applying their new-found knowledge of DNA profiling to solve a murder mystery.





Level 3 Biology – Learners have been creating storyboards to explain the effect of fertilisers on waterways.





S3 Physics – Learners have been studying electrical circuits, both through practical work and using digital software.





N5 Biology and Chemistry – Learners have been preparing to complete SQA assignments by working on practice assignments before tackling the real thing!



Section	Description	Marks
Title and structure	An informative title and a structure that can be easily followed.	. 1
Alm	A description of the purpose of your investigation.	
Underlying chemistry	A description of the chemistry relevant to your aim, which shows your understanding.	3
Data collection and hundling	A brief description of your experiment, including safety measures.	1
	Sufficient data from your experiment,	1
	Data from your experiment presented in a table(s) with headings and units. Units shown after any values you have calculated.	1
	Values correctly calculated from your experimental data using a chemical relationship.	3.8
	Data/information from an internet/literature source.	- 1
	A citation for an internet/literature source and the reference later in the report.	4
Graphical presentation	Appropriate type of graph used to present your experimental data.	. 4
	Suttable scales.	1
	Suitable labels and units on axes.	1
	All data plotted accurately, with line or curve of best fit if appropriate.	1
Analysis	Experimental data compared to data from internet/literature source.	. 1
Condusion	A conclusion relating to your aim, based on all the data in your report.	. 1
Evaluation	Three evaluative statements supported by justifications and identifying impact.	3
Total		20

N5 Biology – Learners have been summarising their understanding of genetic engineering by creating 3D stopmotion animations.





N5 Lab Skills – Learners have been finding out how to clean up chemical spillages and putting their skills into action in a practical assessment.



Practical activity 2: Dealing with a chemical spill

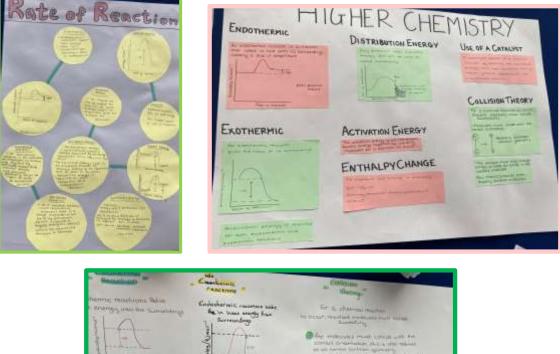
Select and use appropriate personal	 Equipment selected
protective equipment and materials	should be suitable to the
when dealing with a chemical spill.	task.

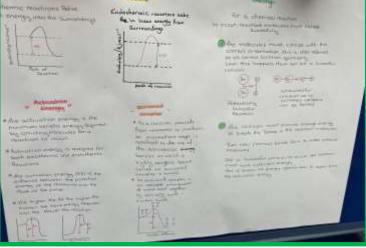
N5 Chemistry – Learners have been using models to help develop their understanding of different carbon compounds.





Higher Chemistry – Learners have been summarising and organising their learner for key topics.



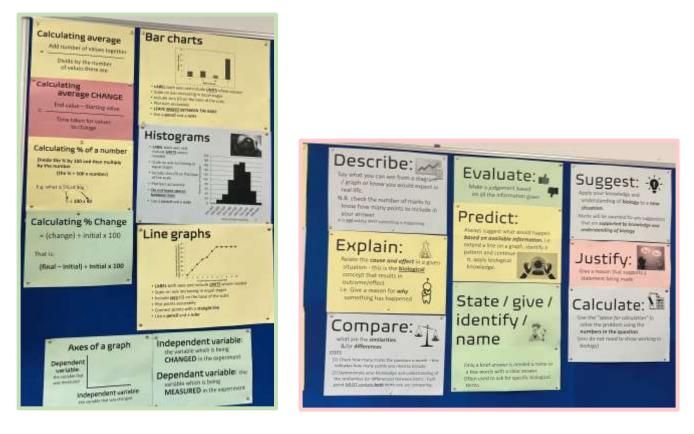


S2 Science – Learners carrying out a practical demonstration to find out why convection currents are useful to birds of prey.





To help learners prepare for SQA assessments, we provide guidance on skills and command words used in assessments and exams.



To help learners prepare for future careers, we involve them in events like the BAE roadshow, delivered to all S1 and S2 pupils. We also provide careers information.



Thanks to Dr MacPhee, the Science staff, and learners for showcasing their work this week.

Next week, look out for Learning in our Modern Languages Faculty!

Ellon Academy Senior Phase Family Learning Evening

Thursday 21/09/23 - 6pm - 7.30pm

It was great to see so many of our Senior Phase parents and carers at our Senior Phase Family Learning Evening last night. We hope that it was worthwhile and informative.

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

Our aim was to provide parents/carers with information regarding their child's courses, expectations, assessments, and key deadlines. We tried to 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.

Mr Armstrong, our Principal Teacher Digital Learning has created a Google Site so that we can share all the information and resources from the event on one place for parents/carers who were unable to attend and for those who'd like to look back at what was presented.

We will share the link as soon as the site is fully populated with all resources and presentations from the evening.

A huge thanks to the staff presenting and leading workshops, the teaching staff for their hard work in preparing resources and to the Janitors and the Technicians for all the behind-the-scenes preparations. Also, thanks to our wonderful Exec Team and Prefects for their support last night and to our musicians for their performances. Thanks to our Digital Champions Enzo T, Ruby Q, Callum SL, and Beth for their support too and to Georgie Q for supervising the book sale. We are also very proud of our Pupil Led Café learners Connor D, Cameron T, and the Pupil Development Team staff who did a great job serving lovely coffees as part of their soft opening. A big thank you and shout out to our local businesses Tesco, Trellis, Murley Tuck, Mrs Smith's at Haddo, Caber Coffee and The Club Hoose for supporting our cafe by donating their time and materials to help us set up our little venture. If there are any other companies that would like to hear what we are doing and support us along the way, please don't hesitate to get in touch by calling Mr Pennycook or Miss More at Ellon Academy.







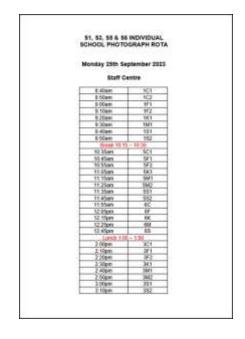


School Photographer 2023 – Mon 25.9.23

It's time to ensure your child is dressed in their 'personal best' school uniform because the School Photographer will be here on <u>Monday 25th September</u> in the Staff Centre to take individual pupil photographs for learners in S1/S3/S5 and S6. There is no compulsion for learners to have their photograph taken, so if you do not wish this, your child can opt out, stay in class, and not attend the photo session.

These photos will only be offered to you as parents/carers to buy if you so wish. They will not be used for any other purpose.

Classes are requested to attend the staff centre 2 minutes prior to their allocated times below. Thank you.



Senior Mock Interviews:

We are delighted to be able to announce the return of mock interviews for our S5 and S6 learners. We have been fortunate to secure the time and experience of several professionals from a range of industries, including STEM, finance, architecture, design, business, AHP, hair and beauty and hospitality amongst others who have kindly volunteered to come into the school to offer a mock interview slot to the majority of our S5 learners and some of our S6 pupils too. These will take place during the final three weeks of term (from Monday 25th September until Friday 13th October) and interviews have been allocated to pupils from the career pathways they have indicated they would like to pursue in the future. Dates and times for pupils to attend these will be shared during morning registration, and pupils are reminded that these professionals have kindly taken time out of their working day to be able to provide these, so their punctuality is appreciated.

In preparation for these, pupils have been supported to prepare application forms by their PT Guidance during their PSE lessons. These application forms will be shared with the interviewer in advance of the interview and are an opportunity for pupils to set the tone of their interview by detailing some of their own skills and qualities and how these link into their own experiences. Pupils will then be interviewed for approximately 10 minutes and will receive a short feedback session on their interview, including their application forms, first impressions and the quality of their responses and conduct during the interview.

In preparation for these, parents and carers could support their young person by helping them to consider some of the typical questions which might appear in an interview. Some examples have also been provided, though interviewers have been encouraged to ask any career-specific questions if pupils have indicated that they wish to pursue a particular career pathway:

- Which skills and qualities do you have that make you a suitable employee?
- What is you biggest strength and your biggest weakness?
- What are your hobbies and interests and how will they help you in this career?
- Which accomplishments/achievements are you most proud of?
- Can you tell us about a time when you had to use problemsolving?
- What made you choose the subjects you are currently studying?



Pupil Achievement:

We are delighted to let you know that Megan M 5F1 was successful in achieving an Arkwright Scholarship.

The Arkwright Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship of its type in the UK and is designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as an outstanding engineer of the future. Megan went through a rigorous selection process to achieve this accolade, from an application form and project to an exam, and an interview, which included preparing a PowerPoint presentation on an area of study to a selection of judges that ranged from university lecturers, teachers, and industry professionals.

As part of this scholarship Megan will instantly receive a boost when applying to university as this award means she already has one foot in the door when applying for an Engineering, Computing or Technical Design course. She will also receive financial support through her time at university and will be assigned an industry mentor to help her. She has been paired with someone in the RAF as she wants to become an Aerospace Engineer. Wonderful news for Megan. Very well done!



Pupil Achievement: NASSA Road Relay - 20/09/23

Very well done to all pupils who took part in the first NASSA competition of the year - the Road Relay hosted by Ellon Academy PE dept at the Meadows 3

With very changing weather, all pupils did brilliantly, and Ellon came away 5th overall 😂

Special mention to the Senior Girls team who came 1st, Senior Boys team who came 3rd, S3/4 Boys team who came 3rd and S2 Girls team who came 2nd \leftarrow . Well done to all!





Pupil Achievement:

Girls Football North of Scotland Cup 1st Round.

In Inverness this week Ellon Academy U15 girls football team defeated Millburn Academy to progress to the next round of the cup. The girls played some very good football against an inexperienced, yet very eager Inverness side, who never gave up and competed until the last kick off the ball. Players of match today were Ava and Myah R. With Amber S not far behind.

Goal scorers:

Ava R , Molly P , Amber S , Natalie G , Myah R , Myah R , Alex Y ,

Assists:

Millie B - 3, Natalie G - 2, Ava R - 2, Myah R - 1 and Katie G – 1



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Grace S in S4, who after impressing in the recent trials, has been named in the Aberdeenshire U18 girls football squad for the season. Well done, Grace, a great achievement!



Pupil Achievement:

Senior Netball Fixture 18/09/23 Well done to all senior girls who participated in the first away fixture of the season against a very impressive RGC A team. Although Ellon lost 46-21, the girls were very resilient particularly as they travelled to the fixture with a Goal Shooter and Centre down!



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.

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Preparing for Maths Week Scotland:

Staff have been sharing their uses of Maths recently.

- Mr Cowie has been analysing merits for different house groups.
- Mrs. McGill has been working out class contact time for cover classes.
- Mrs. Buchan has been looking at the school budgets and finances.
- Dr. MacPhee worked out how many stitches to cast on her new knitted jumper.
- Mr. Bunton has been looking at interest rates.
- Mrs. Penny has been calculating a VAT return for HMRC.

Looking forward to seeing more everyday uses of maths and numeracy as we head into Maths Week Scotland next week!



Health and Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

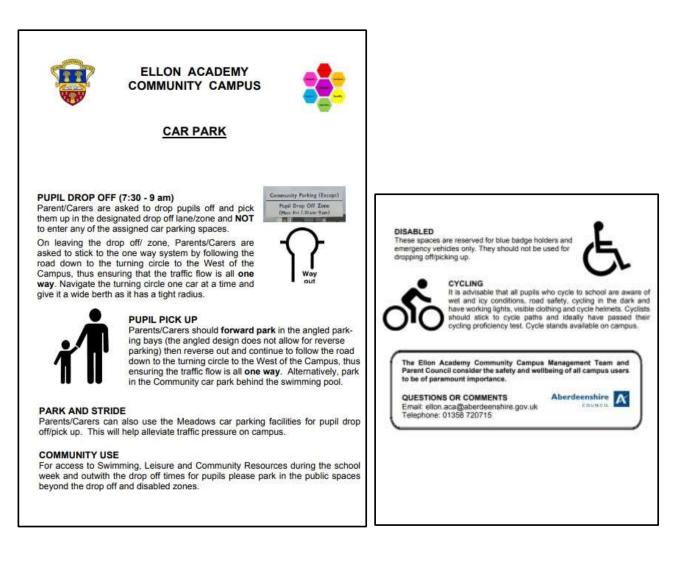
We ask that parents and carers remind their children of the following:

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 remind parents/carers/relatives who drop off and pick up learners that they should not access the school via the road past the bus shelter and the bus park. This access is reserved for buses and school staff. Please use the turning to the right at the front of the school (before the bus shelter) all learner drop offs and pick-ups. 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.

Here is a link to the leaflet with car parking information for parents/carers:

https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Car-Park-Parents-Leaflet.pdf



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.

Parents/Carers and Pupil Information:

EASA Hoodies:

The deadline to order EASA hoodies is Monday the 2nd of October.

After this date you will still be able to sign up to EASA, but you will not be able to order a hoodie. An EASA membership is required to attend extracurricular clubs, fixtures & NASSA competitions. EASA membership £35

EASA Hoodies are £20 (cheerleading £22)

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx...



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/



Pupil Information:

ALL PUPILS – GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP GROUP

The Global Citizenship Group meets in S28 at lunchtime on a Thursday (12:15-13:00) and pupils can bring their lunch with them. We are looking for pupils with an interest in children's rights, environmental issues and raising awareness of global issues. Activities include creating displays and assemblies for the whole school, fundraising charity events, crafts and making new friends. This term we are looking at Black History Month (October) and will also be preparing for our Remembrance Day activities in November. Mrs Leslie.

ALL GIRLS - NASSA HOCKEY

All girls who are interested in competing at the NASSA Hockey event on Tuesday 10th October are invited to attend a short meeting in Gym A at breaktime today (Friday 22nd September). We are looking to take both a junior and senior team. Please see Mr Meechan if you have any questions! Mr Meechan.

S2- 6 PUPILS - READING SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Just before the holidays we were accredited as a Gold Reading School and many of you were involved. We are having a presentation (and thank you) ceremony on Monday 2nd October. If you would like to join us, please attend a short meeting at lunchtime in S10 today (Friday 22nd September). Mrs Warne

S5/6 PUPILS - MANDARIN

If you have a study period on a Tuesday and would like to have the opportunity to learn some Mandarin this year, please give your name and the period you would be available to Mrs Duffus before the end of today (Friday 22nd September). Mrs Duffus



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.





P4 - P6 | Wed | 6:30pm + ellonjeboydorgedeentotmelizom KIRK CENTRE STATION RD | ELLON 1: 725690





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



For parents/carers and learner information:

Technical Faculty Facebook Page:

Our Technical Faculty has created its own Facebook page! There the Faculty will celebrate and show off what happens in Tech. You will be able to see pictures of pupils work, success stories will be shared, and generally they will just show off what they do. Please like this page and see what goes on. https://www.facebook.com/EllonTech



Bright Red Publishing - Bag a Bargain Bespoke for Ellon Academy parents/carers!

Bright Red Publishing is Scotland's leading independent educational publisher and home of top Study Guides and Course Books for Scottish Qualifications Authority exams (some of which have been written by our very own Mr MacBeath!) Star!

In conjunction with the school, we have secured a discount code for all to use – ELLON30. If you are ordering a study guide to help support your or your child's studies, please use the discount code ELLON30 to secure 30% off any purchase.

There catalogue can be found here, where you will find many study guides that we offer here at Ellon Academy. <u>https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/Shop</u>

(Much to both my sons' delight, one Christmas when they were still at school, a set each of these amazing study guides were left under the tree from Santa! What hope did they have with teachers as parents! Mrs B 😉



Dates For Your Diary

Mon 25.9.23 Mon 25.9.23	School Photographer Optional Individual Photos for S1/S3/S5/S6 S5/6 Mock Interviews
$26^{th} - 28^{th}$ Sept	Industrial Action
Thurs 28.9.23	S5/6 Mock Interviews
Mon 2.10.23	Celebration Event – Reading School Gold Accreditation (Invited guests 4pm)
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	Dress Down Day and End of Term 1
Mon 30.10.23	Start of Term 2 (usual times)

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.

Р Висћап Rector 22.09.23