

#### ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 29th September 2023

#### Dear parents/carers,

What a bumper issue of our newsletter we have for you this week! It's been another busy week at Ellon Academy with our European Languages Day and Maths Week Scotland activities. We have published some photos in this week's newsletter to show what we've been up to.

**Assemblies** - We've also enjoyed our House Assemblies and officially welcomed our new S1s and new enrolments to their House Teams, and given badges for House Captains, Sports Captains, and Class Reps in each House. Our learners now have access to a QR code so they can log their participation and achievements to gain points for their respective Houses. Thanks to the Guidance Team, DHTs House, Exec Team, House/Sports Captains, and Class Reps for their involvement in assemblies this week.

**Uniform/Dress Down Day** – A huge thank you to parents/carers who continue to support our school uniform and for your early information we will be holding a Dress Down Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October (last day of term) and all funds raised will go to support former pupil Ethan Walker as he recovers from the serious injuries, he sustained following an accident in America. We are thinking of him and his family and sending our love and best wishes to them.

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

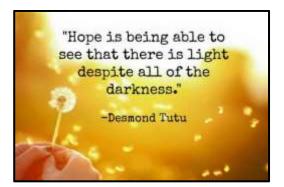
If your child/children have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email

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 2.10.23:



Assemblies - week beginning Mon 2/10/23 will be as follows and will be led by our Global Citizenship Group:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October S3
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October S4
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October S5
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October S6 (Period 1)
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October S1
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October S2



#### **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 177! The total number of learners recognised and achieving at least one merit was 743. 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 2.10.23 after registration in the sunken social area. Well done everyone!



Lucy	В	1F2	9
Katie	М	1F2	9
Charlie	С	2C1	6
Ethan	L	2F1	6
James	М	2F1	6
Kirsten	W	2F1	6
James	Н	2K1	6
Hannah	S	2S1	6
Emma	К	3C1	6
Dylan	В	3F1	6
Rennie	Н	3K1	6
Mya	L	3M2	7
Murray	D	4C2	8
Rian	G	4F1	7
Abea	J	4F1	6
Tahlia	Ν	5C1	5
Esther	А	5F2	6
Blair	W	5F2	5
Oliver	S	5K1	5

#### Learning in the Modern Languages Faculty week beginning 25/9/23:

This week we are showcasing the work of our Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Faculty, especially when it's been European Languages Day too!

#### S1 MFL:

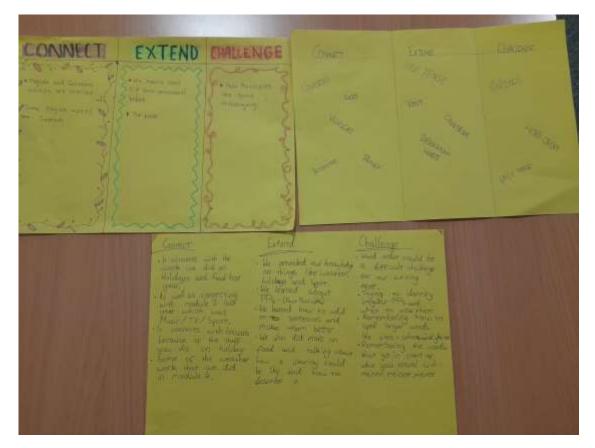
It's been great getting to know our new S1 learners over these last few weeks. They have been using their prior knowledge to create some fantastic posters all about themselves, 'Moi'! We have also started on a new topic which builds on their prior knowledge and have been learning all about school, their subjects, learning to give opinions and describing their teachers. Some classes have been using the Making Thinking Visible routine of Colour, Symbol, and Image to help them remember the new vocabulary.



#### S2 MFL:

We have hit the ground running in S2 with the introduction of the past tense!! Classes have been amazing at understanding the concept of the past tense and have used the Making Thinking Visible Headlines routine to capture the key parts of the past tense. Another class has been using the Connect, Extend and Challenge routine to think about how this new material connects to their prior knowledge.





#### S3 MFL:

We have been so impressed with our S3 classes who have been working hard on their first talking assessment of the year. In the lead up to this assessment, we have been focussing on pronunciation. One of the activities that has really helped has been sentence stealers, which has really engaged the pupils and allowed them to get lots of talking practice in. As a result, there have been some great performances from many of our pupils, who have completed the assessment and we know that those pupils who are doing it next week will be just as good. Keep up the good work S3!







## Sentence Stealers

Without letting anybody see, pick 4 sentences from the table below and write them onto 4 nieces of paper.

Elle accoste mes problèmes
EVer we tratte bles
Ella m'excourage
Eller my falt conflicter
Elle respecte mes téles
Elle est suggars de banne summur
Eller out instances not reserving
titles your current Your V. Bulley
the manager
filles = a peri das treven peter such
Elle me attrace sets cesse
Ciles inter and the stephistophic

#### Walk around the class and fin a partner.

You each have to try and guess what 1 of their 4 sentences is 7 you guess correctly, you can steal "that piece of paper. 1 you guess incorrectly, just nove onto the next person

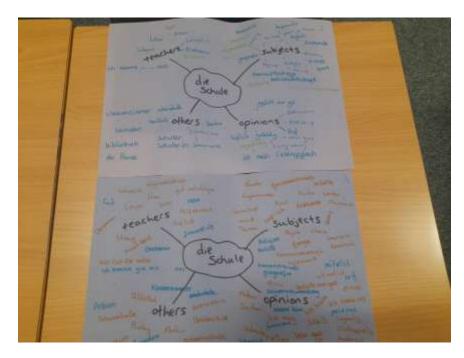
#### S4 MFL:

S4 is another year group who have been busy since the start of term as they are working on their first SQA assignment which is taking place next week. In class, we have been completing lots of work in preparation for this including some peer assessment of paragraphs which pupils have been working on. Good luck to them all next week!

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Preparation folio
Give your partner a point for all different
<ul> <li>Frequency words (einmal in der Woche/jeden Tag)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Linking words with inversion + verb to end</li> </ul>
(jedoch/dagegen/Außerdem)
Opinion phrases (ich finde/Meiner Meinung nach)
• Weil/denn – becuase
Ich mag Sport, denn es macht Spaß
Ich mag Sport, weil es Spaß macht
Complex sentences – input sentences ***
Make a suggestion

#### S5 MFL:

Terms 1 and 2 are incredibly busy for our Higher pupils who have also been working on preparing their SQA assignment and starting to look at their final talk preparation. We used Concept Maps to think about all the prior knowledge we have gathered from S1-S4, and how that vocabulary and grammar can help with both the assignment and the talk.



Thanks to Miss Mathers, the Modern Languages staff, and learners for showcasing their work this week.

Next week, look out for Learning in our Technical 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 week. 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 in one place for parents/carers who were unable to attend and for those who'd like to look back at what was presented.

We are delighted to let you know that the site has been populated with all resources and presentations from the evening for you to view at your leisure.

## https://sites.google.com/as.glow.scot/seniorphasefamilylearning2324/home

Thanks to Mr Armstrong and all the staff who have provided resources and information.





#### **Developing the Young Workforce:**

#### Senior Mock Interviews:

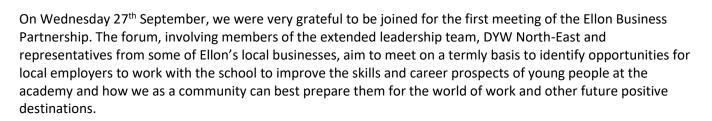
We are delighted to be able to announce the return of mock interviews for our S5 and S6 learners. We have been fortunate to secure the time and experience of several professionals from a range of industries, including STEM, finance, architecture, design, business, AHP, hair and beauty and hospitality 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 25<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 problem-
- solving?What made you choose the subjects you are currently studying?

## Developing the Young Workforce – Ellon Business Breakfast (Wed 27.9.23)



During the first meeting, we were able to:

- Discuss the long-term goals of the Ellon Business Partnership.
- Share recent success stories:
  - During the last session, a small group of pupils applied for and took part in a bespoke work experience programme with KR Group. The experience was highly successful, and one of the young people involved was able to gain employment with KR Group as a result.
  - Earlier this session, pupils from Engineering Science and Graphic Communications classes were able to attend site visits at Sulzer's local workshop.



- During the S3 Build Your Future 2023 event, Baxter Design ran a session of architecture workshops which 27 of our pupils attended. The feedback from the pupils following these workshops was incredibly positive.
- Many members of the Ellon Business Partnership have been involved in delivering mock interviews to our S5 pupils this week and will continue to do so over the next fortnight.
- Discuss the opportunities for local businesses to develop faculty links to help shape curricular content and ensure that this remains relevant to the world of work.
- Provide feedback on the Ellon Academy Skills Framework and its relevance to the world of work.

We are very fortunate to have such a strong team of employers from the local community who are so passionate about supporting our young people as they enter the world of work and other positive destinations.

We would also welcome additional members to the Ellon Business Partnership from other local employers and industry experts to ensure that the partnership has representation from a diverse range of careers.

Please get in touch with jordan.abberleynicoll@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you would like any further information or to discuss how you can also become involved in future meetings.





ARCHITECTURAL AND BUILDING CONSULTANTS



Rhys Y is playing in the Stephen Gallagher Fairmont Open Golf Competition from 4th to 6th October and we wish him well for this wonderful opportunity.

Also, Rhys represented Ellon Academy at the Alfred Dunhill Links Schools Championship at Carnoustie last week. Rhys finished 3rd in the scratch section and 4th in the handicap section. Very well-done Rhys!





Here are some pics from our senior boys first football match of the season, a friendly against Meldrum.

















Alyssa 6K (also Depute Head Prefect) recently won an award from Young Writers through Ellon Academy and she entered another competition for them with an excerpt of her short story 'Hoax' which she wrote for her English Higher. She has also won another certificate of merit, and this is another piece of work which will be published in another book 'Young Writers Annual Showcase 2023.'

She will also be put forward for overall winner in her age group which will be decided early 2024. Very well-done Alyssa.



#### STEM Roadshow 2023:

Last week S1 and S2 learners took part in activities such as a communication challenge and a memory challenge and the staff running the roadshow were impressed that our learners asked a lot of questions and showed a keen interest in all tasks. Well done all!



The EAGer Bunch meet every Friday lunchtime and they aim to build a garden where they can grow lots of edible produce and encourage wildlife with flowers and habitat boxes. They hope to enjoy eating the food they grow and to sell some to help them buy more seeds.



Thanks to the local Ellon Tesco for giving us a chair!

Last Friday it poured with rain, and we couldn't weed, so we harvested grapes and tomatoes instead!





Colin Stirling from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society came in to verify the folders of work our Junior Hub pupil have been working on and you can see they've been very busy!





Sophie S (3F1) did so well in representing Ellon Academy this week in the Norma Buist Schools Swimming Gala organised by Grampian Disability Sport.

She had fun seeing her swimming friends again and swam brilliantly winning 3 Golds for front crawl, backstroke, and butterfly. She also won a Silver for back crawl too!

Sophie has also now qualified for the National Schools Swimming Gala to be held in Glenrothes in November. Very well done, Sophie!

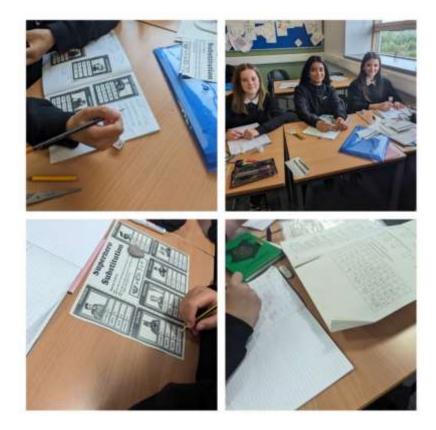


If your child/children has/have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too. <u>ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>

#### Maths Week Scotland at Ellon Academy:

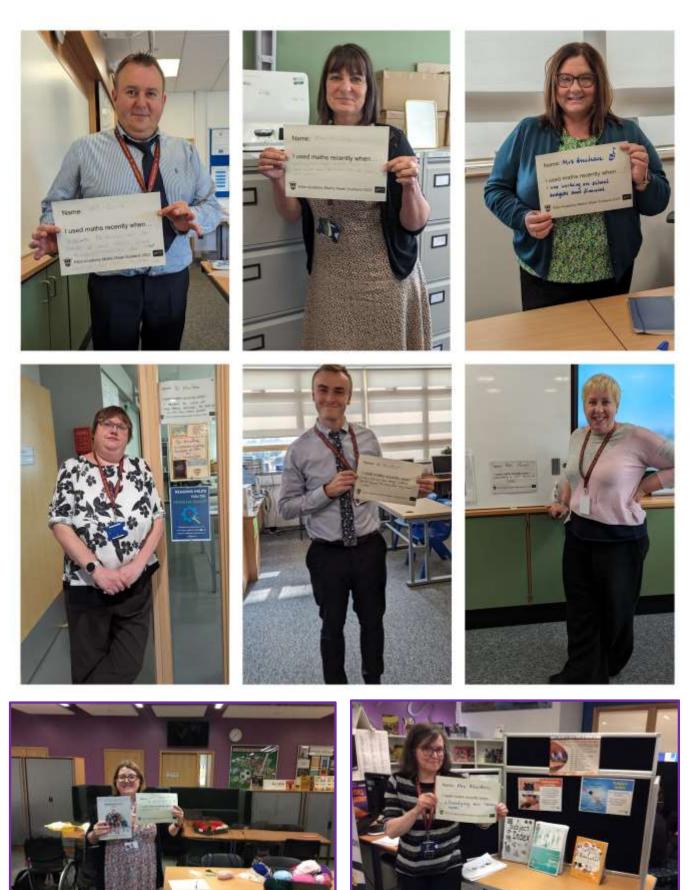
As well as our extra puzzles and activities for Maths Week Scotland, our pupils have shown an excellent "can do" attitude towards extension activities this week. Our S1s faced some very tricky backwards substitution problems and S2 have spent some of their own time working on "Information Sheets" for topics we have found tricky in the past, to help pupils when they begin those topics.

1M1 absolutely smashed their work with substitution this week! We substituted values into expressions and had to really think about our work with BODMAS last week. Some pupils then tried some tricky extension work where we were given answers but had to come up with the initial expressions. A brilliant "can do/growth mindset" attitude was shown!





This week staff and learners have participated in various activities to celebrate Maths and Numeracy. Staff were given posters and displayed these in classes detailing how they use Maths in their day to day lives. Some examples are featured below:

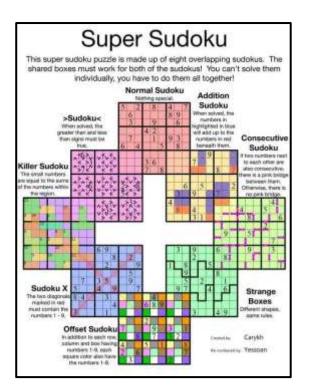


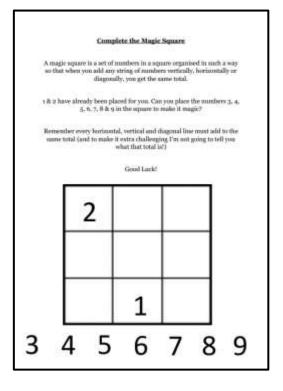
Our Maths Subject Champions were down at The Club Hoose this week and helped out the little ones with their Maths Week Scotland activity! We've had really good feedback and would like to thank The Club Hoose for working with us and spreading some Maths Magic in the community! We loved seeing all the number pictures in the window too! Spreading the love of numbers across all ages!



Future Exec Team members?

Pupils have been completing some tricky puzzles as extension activities and have shown some great determination in solving them. Below are two examples.





17

#### Fairtrade Friday (29.9.23)

And... Based on the success of today, next Friday (6.10.23) will be Fairtrade Friday too! A huge thanks to Mr Paterson, Mr McLean, and the Fairtrade Committee.





# e-Sgoil Study Support 2023-24

Welcome to the e-Sgoil Study Support programme page. Registration for Evening Study Support is now OPEN. Check out this Thinglink to find out more: <u>https://www.thinglink.com/card/1761376381146497510</u>

Webinars will start in the week beginning October 30th. We offer fifty-one FREE weekly Study Support webinars during term time, covering a wide range of subjects and levels. Study Support is for Senior Phase learners who are working towards National Qualifications.

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On this page, you'll find the <u>timetable</u> for the full Evening Webinar programme, as well as supporting materials, and information about how to register.

This is a sample of the timetable:

MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY		
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#### Health and Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

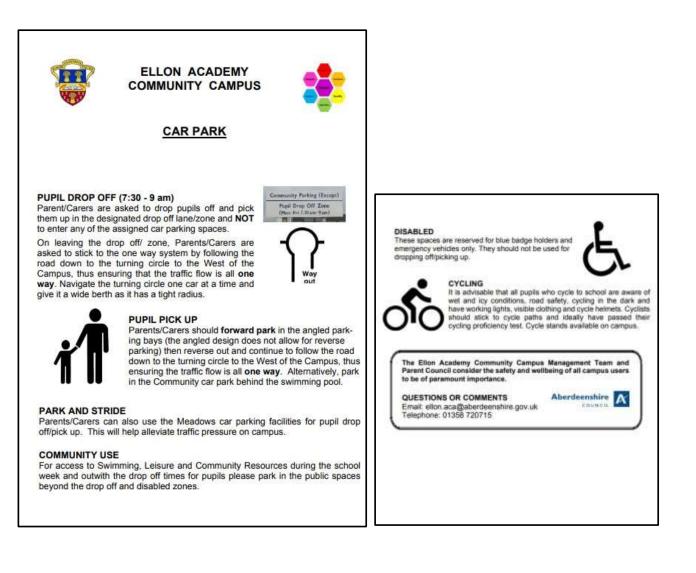
We ask that parents and carers remind their children of the following:

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



#### 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.

#### 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 – INTERHOUSE FOOTBALL

Our next Inter House sports event will take place next week. There will be 8 events throughout the school year where you can compete for your House and win points. At the end of the school year, the House with the most points will win the House trophy!

The next event is badminton! Sports Captains will be visiting reg classes to take a note of those pupils who are interested in taking part. Each House needs 2 players per year group (1 boy and 1 girl).

All matches are taking place in the Games Hall, and we will begin sharp so please arrive on time – 13:15 on Monday & Tuesday and 12:25 on Wednesday & Thursday.

Monday 2nd October - S1 Tuesday 3rd October - S2 Wednesday 4th October - S3 Thursday 5th October - S4/5/6 PE Department

#### 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 PUPILS – ART & DESIGN SUPPORTED STUDY

Supported Study for all Art & Design and Photography pupils will take place in Miss Geoghan's classroom after school every Wednesday (14:40-16:00). The sessions are a great opportunity to complete any outstanding coursework for SQA portfolios. Miss Geoghan

#### 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.

#### JUNIOR GIRLS – NETBALL

Unfortunately, due to a staff meeting on Thursday 28th September and an away fixture on Thursday 5th October, there will be no junior netball training for the next two weeks. It will resume on Thursday 12th October. Miss Morgan

#### 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



#### 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 2.10.23	Celebration Event – Reading School Gold Accreditation (Invited guests 4pm)
Fri 6.10.23	Fairtrade Friday – Bring £1-£2 in cash to purchase Fairtrade treats!
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 for Ethan Walker 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 29.09.23