



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 17th November 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Another busy week at Ellon Academy with the S1 Navy activities, our annual Careers Fair, Book Week, and our in-service days too. Even though it's been a shorter week for learners, we still have so many pupil achievements to share again this week. Enjoy!

Activities Days 2024

Ellon Academy is pleased to announce our annual Activities Programme will be re-established this session.

S1-S3 pupils will participate in a 3-day package of activities from Wednesday 29 May to Friday 31 May 2024.

Packages range from school-based activities, outings in the local area to trips further afield including residential to Shetland, London, and Alton Towers. The packages on offer cover a wide range of activities including arts & crafts, cultural, cooking and baking, sporting, adventurous activities, and S1 Camp.

Further information will follow shortly.

Please note, the Loch Insh residential trip (information to parents/carers tomorrow) is out with the 3-Day Activities Programme and is in addition to this.

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 20.11.23:



Assemblies – This week we will be having the 2nd set of House Assemblies this session at Registration in the Theatre as follows:

- Mon 20.11.23 Sinclair House Assembly
- Tues 21.11.23 Cheyne House Assembly
- Wed 22.11.23 Forbes House Assembly
- Thurs 23.11.23 Keith House Assembly
- Fri 24.11.23 McDonald House Assembly

Weekly Merits

Most Merits/Over and Above:

We are pleased to report that the learners to the right are in the top group of learners for merits last week. Moving forward this term, we will be using messages to recognise those learners who are gaining most merits for ‘dedication’. At Ellon Academy we look to develop a Growth Mindset and no better way to do this than praising effort. We will continue to celebrate pupils going Over and Above.

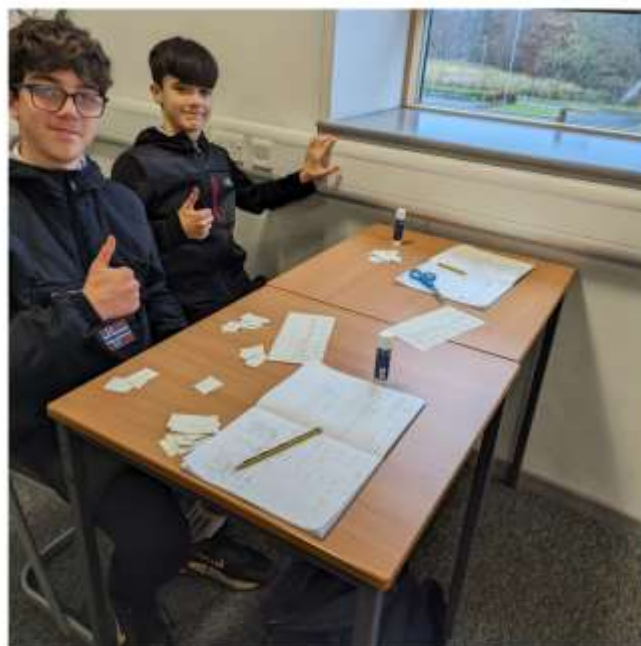
The learners to the right have accrued the most merits over the last week or so and their canteen fast passes as still valid for week beginning Mon 20.11.23. Any learner who has lost or has not collected their fast pass can meet Mrs Buchan in the sunken social area on Mon 20.11.23 after registration. Well done everyone!

Russell	E	1C1	4
Lexie	S	1C1	4
Veronika	M	1C2	4
Anna	A	1F1	4
Lily	B	1F1	4
Lily	G	1F1	4
Jayden	Y	1F1	4
Connie	D	1S1	4
Freya	D	1S2	4
Lewis	D	2F1	3
Scott	M	2F1	3
Charlotte	W	2F1	3
Eva	G	2K1	3
Crystal	G	2K1	3
Alyssa	E	2M2	3
Isla	O	2M2	3
Emma	K	3C1	3
Alana	M	3C1	3
Lennox	A	3M2	4
Rian	G	4F1	4
Sophie	K	5C1	3
Kayleigh	F	5F1	3
Aidan	D	5M2	3
Lila	W	5M2	3
Cameron	H	6K	3
Sofia	M	6K	3
Eilidh	G	6M	3



Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty:

2B2 Maths were revising some angles work this week. We discussed our previous knowledge of angle types and then sorted different statements, diagrams, and degrees into mind maps. There were some excellent discussions on certain diagrams where it was difficult to tell from a glance if it was right angled or not. We then went on to revise calculating missing angles and have a chilli challenge to work on over the long weekend 🌶️⭐

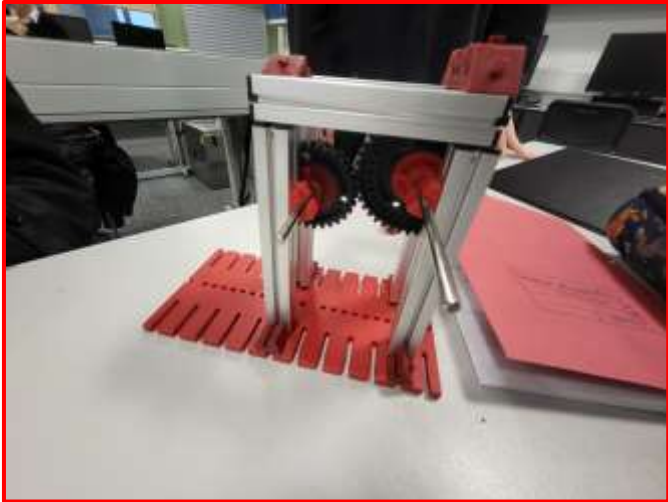
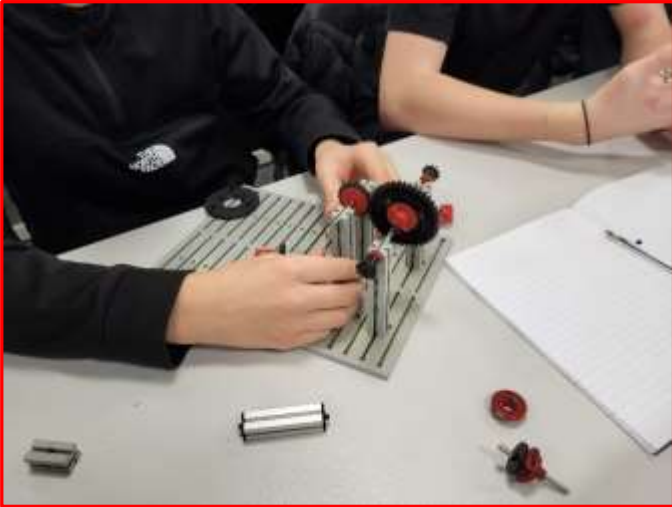


2A3 Maths have been looking at the circle and calculating the circumference. Today we looked at how our knowledge of the formula could help us calculate the diameter. Lots of deep thinking going on and great working, showing that we can find out lots about a shape when we have the right info! Well done everyone! ⭐



Learning in the Technical Faculty:

Our S3 Engineering Science pupils were using Fischer-Technik today to learn about gearing systems. By building the systems themselves, they were able to work out how to increase (and decrease) output speeds by changing gear sizes, and how adding an extra gear called an idler gear can make the input and output gears turn in the same direction.



Ellon Academy Careers Fair 2023

A huge thanks to our team of Prefects, Mr Abberley-Nicol PT DYW, Mr N Corser DHT, the DYW Impact Team, our partners and providers, our Careers Advisers Susan Ritchie and Elizabeth Bruce, Mrs Rachael Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor, the Janitors, Technicians and Office staff for all their hard work in making our Ellon Academy Careers Fair such a success.

Thanks to learners, parents, carers, and staff for coming along to support too! One parent spoke to me regarding how impressed she is with our school. She said that staff go 'over and above' to support learners with extra help, support, and homework clubs. She said that she appreciates the communication which regularly comes from us and that she is delighted with the school in general. Also, many of our business partners and providers on the night complemented our learners for their polite conduct and appreciation of the information they received. Well done everyone. Great team effort!



Pupil Achievement:

Emily S, was voted the overall best player of the 7 a side tournament today at Huntly, as chosen by coaches and spectators today. Pictured here with her player of the tournament and winning team trophies.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to our girls and coaches, who won a 7 a side football tournament at the Gordon Schools, in Huntly last week.



Pupil Achievement:

A huge thanks to Ms Booth DHT and the S6 RIT (Recycling Initiative Team) for planning and organising the collection and recycling of paper waste every week via register classes in school. Their next mission is card, then cans and plastics.

Pictured left to right, the Recycling Initiative Team are Caitlin W, Elspie B, Maddison B, Ms Booth DHT, Archie A, Sophie C and Lauren D.

Also, as part of their work, they initiated a S1 poster competition and pictured are most of the winners with their posters. They were invited for a celebration this morning with juice and cakes. 🍷🍰 They will also be receiving badges and House points for their success and their posters will be used to promote our eco-school, green flag work.

Well done for the legacy, S6 and well done for your participation and creativity, S1!

🍌🍌♻️🌱🌱 #leadership #ecoschool #greenflag



Pupil Achievement

Girls in Energy. Seren M is on the winning team! (Seren is pictured 3rd from the left). Well done! Hundreds of school pupils attended the packed the annual Girls in Energy conference in Aberdeen in a bid to find solutions to food, water, or energy related challenges. The one-day conference, which was held at Aberdeen's Music Hall last Friday, was attended by more than 200 girls from across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Sponsored by Shell UK and delivered in partnership by Northeast Scotland College (NESCol) and Fife College, Girls in Energy is a year-long engineering course for 14 to 17-year-old secondary school students. Throughout the day, the girls worked in small teams to brainstorm ideas and potential solutions to sustainability challenges. Mentors from the energy industry, including volunteers from Shell, were on hand to provide the teams with support. Following initial presentations, five groups were chosen to present to a Dragon's Den style panel of judges, made up of Gillian Martin, minister for energy and the environment, Professor Lesley Sloss, an environmental consultant with the IEA clean coal centre and Lucy Ferguson, global discipline head mechanical engineering, Shell. The winning team presented an idea for a seed bank and growth project to encourage people to grow their own food at home.

Katie K from Aberdeen Grammar School, Ellie G from Lochside Academy, Erin H from St Machar Academy, Seren M from Ellon Academy and Lottie G from Mintlaw Academy were all presented with high street vouchers. Gillian Martin, who is also an Aberdeenshire East MSP, said: "Engaging young women in science, technology, engineering, and maths is incredibly important to support growing our economy and moving towards the just transition to net zero.

"Colleges such as Northeast Scotland and Fife College work closely with employers and industry to respond flexibly to the skills demands of the regions and communities they serve and support a fair, green and growing economy. "The Girls in Energy initiative is a great example of what can be achieved by cooperation. I am in no doubt that it has over the years inspired many young women to think about a career in one of the most exciting sectors that has the potential to play a huge part in getting us to net zero and will continue to do so. It's a privilege to be invited along to play a small part in that."



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



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: <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1761376381146497510>

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.

Study Support Webinars – A Nutshell Guide for Learners

What are the Webinars and who are they for?
The Webinars will complement your subject courses in school. They are for any pupil that is currently undertaking a SQA course. They are offered in the evenings during term time and delivered via Microsoft Teams.

What will I gain?

- Knowledge of different aspects of subjects that I am studying in school
- Different approaches to the subjects that I am studying in school
- Some exam/assessment techniques that will help me to do well in my assessments
- Topic/subject knowledge that will complement what I am already studying in school

How will I learn?

- Through live online webinars with a specialist teacher
- Alongside learners from a range of schools across Scotland
- By accessing high quality learning resources that will be available to you on Teams
- By using appropriate digital tools
- By posing questions and queries in the Teams chat during the webinars

What is my role?

- To learn in a different context
- To develop new skills
- To communicate effectively with Teams so that teachers can provide the correct level of support
- To share feedback on the experience

How do I sign up?
Visit e-sgoil.com/study-support/ for more information

“Thank you so much for this brilliant resource! It has developed my learning both in school and focused my revision for upcoming assessments.”
– SA webinar attendee

National e-Learning Offer

Higher Education - SAAS – Funding Awareness Online Events



Is your child applying to go to university next year (2024)? If so, I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about the upcoming online funding presentations we will be offering from 30 October until 29 November 2023. These sessions can be attended by pupils/students and their parents/legal who are considering starting higher education in the 2024-2025 academic year.

During the online application presentation, we will explain the funding available from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) for those planning to undertake higher education courses (HNC/HND/Degree courses). We will also provide information on how and when students should apply to SAAS for their funding. We can provide bespoke advice to attendees should they have any questions about the funding available or application process. We would be grateful if you could please help us to raise awareness of these sessions by sharing the details with stakeholders you feel would benefit from attending. This could be via a newsletter, social media, or any other channels you use to share information.

These sessions can be booked here; ; Join the guestlist – SAAS Funding Presentation - National – Microsoft Teams, Multiple dates and times ([tickettailor.com](https://www.tickettailor.com))

If you have any questions, then you can contact us at saasevents@gov.scot
Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Kind regards Michael Scott, Customer Outreach Manager Funding Awareness

Health and Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

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

New addendum – On rainy days the pupil drop off and pick up times are much busier than usual. This week, there were some near misses when drivers did not follow the one-way system. Please do so to keep everyone safe!

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 learners 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>

ELLON ACADEMY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

CAR PARK

PUPIL DROP OFF (7:30 - 9 am)
Parent/Carers are asked to drop pupils off and pick them up in the designated drop off lane/zone and **NOT** to enter any of the assigned car parking spaces.

On leaving the drop off/ zone, Parents/Carers are asked to stick to the one way system by following the road down to the turning circle to the West of the Campus, thus ensuring that the traffic flow is all **one way**. Navigate the turning circle one car at a time and give it a wide berth as it has a tight radius.

PUPIL PICK UP
Parents/Carers should **forward park** in the angled parking bays (the angled design does not allow for reverse parking) then reverse out and continue to follow the road down to the turning circle to the West of the Campus, thus ensuring the traffic flow is all **one way**. Alternatively, park in the Community car park behind the swimming pool.

PARK AND STRIDE
Parents/Carers can also use the Meadows car parking facilities for pupil drop off/pick up. This will help alleviate traffic pressure on campus.

COMMUNITY USE
For access to Swimming, Leisure and Community Resources during the school week and outwith the drop off times for pupils please park in the public spaces beyond the drop off and disabled zones.

Community Parking (Excerpt)
Pupil Drop Off Zone
(Mon-Fri 7.30am-9am)

Way out

DISABLED
These spaces are reserved for blue badge holders and emergency vehicles only. They should not be used for dropping off/picking up.

CYCLING
It is advisable that all pupils who cycle to school are aware of wet and icy conditions, road safety, cycling in the dark and have working lights, visible clothing and cycle helmets. Cyclists should stick to cycle paths and ideally have passed their cycling proficiency test. Cycle stands available on campus.

The Ellon Academy Community Campus Management Team and Parent Council consider the safety and wellbeing of all campus users to be of paramount importance.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email: ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01358 720715

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

Keeping children and teenagers safe online:

'Report Remove'

The NSPCC has developed resources to support learners who have shared explicit photographs of themselves online. Please follow this link for more information:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/report-remove/>



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](#).

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/>



Health and Wellbeing Extra-Curricular Timetable for Term 2:

Please note all pupils attending sports clubs/NASSA events must have paid their EASA membership, or they will be unable to attend.

NEW SPORT: Girls Rugby every Monday afterschool with Ellon Rugby Club Development officer ! Come and give it a try!! 🍌🍌🍌

	Lunchtime	Afterschool: Games Hall	Afterschool: Gym B	Afterschool: Gym A	Afterschool: Fitness Suite	Afterschool: Pitches	Alternate Space
Mon		S1-6 Badminton 3:30 – 4:30pm				S1-6 Girls Rugby Active Schools 3:30-4:30pm	
Tues				S4-6 Cheer Miss Daniel, Miss Williams 3:30 – 4:45pm		S1-6 Rugby Mr McCall 3:45 – 4:45pm	S1-6 Girls Hockey Mr Meechan (every second week) 3:30-4:30 pm
Wed		S3-6 Netball Miss Williams 2:40 – 3:45pm		S1-3 Cheer Miss Daniel 2:40 – 4:00pm	S4-6 Fitness Mr McCall 3 – 4pm	Football S1 Mr Meechan S2 Mr Canale S3 Mr McBeath 3 – 4pm	
Thurs	S1-6 Teen Yoga Mrs Winterbottom	S1-2 Netball Miss Williams 2:40 – 3:45pm		S1-6 Gymnastics Sports Captains 2:40 – 3:45pm		S1-6 Girl's football Mr McLean 3 - 4pm	Staff Yoga Mrs Winterbottom 2:40 – 3:45pm
Fri		S1-6 Basketball Sports Captains 2:40 – 3:45pm		Staff Badminton 2:40-3:45pm			

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.

<https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/Shop>



Pupil Information:

ALL PUPILS – WEEKLY MERITS

Congratulations to all learners who are routinely receiving messages home for the weekly merits and over and above's and/or termly House certificates too. As we enter Term 2, most year groups are preparing for assessments and practising for SQA exams. As a school, we promote a growth mindset and 'can do' attitude. For that reason, we will be sending messages home to those pupils who are being recognised for their hard work and dedication. Working hard and giving it your best effort is the key to success this term. Good luck!
Senior Leadership Team

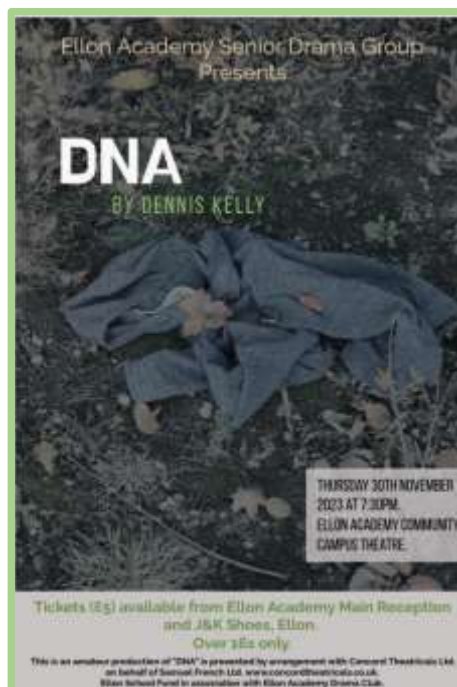
S5/6 PUPILS – WORK EXPERIENCE: NURSES AT WORK

Are you interested in a career in nursing, healthcare, or medicine? NHS Grampian are offering a live virtual work experience programme from Monday 4th-Friday 8th December 2023. The programme is suitable for anyone considering a career in healthcare, particularly a career in nursing, as well as for those applying for entry onto courses in September 2024. The proposed topics include learning disability nursing, paediatric nursing, adult nursing, mental health nursing, midwifery, healthcare support workers, paramedic practice, and support for applying and interviewing for higher education courses in nursing, medicine, healthcare, or occupational therapy. If you are interested, please speak to Mr Abberley-Nicoll (F44) before Tuesday 21st November to receive an application form. Your application form will need to be signed by your Guidance Teacher.
Mr Abberley-Nicoll

For your information:

SENIOR DRAMA GROUP: DNA 30/11/2023

For one night only – Ellon Academy Senior Drama Group presents: DNA by Dennis Kelly. Tickets are £5 and available from the Main Reception at Ellon Academy and J&K Shoes (Ellon). **We recommend that tickets are bought for audience members who are 16 years or over due to some adult content.**



S2/3 Tracking Reports

These reports were due to be sent to parents last week, but due to various circumstances, these were delayed. They will be issued to parents/carers week beginning 20.11.23.

Community Information:

Ellon United Junior Football Club are keen to have lots of local support at their home games at Ellon Meadows. The next fixture is on Saturday 18th November, Ellon United v Fraserburgh United @ The Meadows, 13:30PM K.O. All welcome!



Dates For Your Diary

Term 2:

w/b 6.11.23	S6 Guidance Interviews over the next 4 weeks
w/b 20.11.23	S2/S3 Tracking Report 1 issue to parents/carers.
Mon 20.11.23	S2 Parents Evening (Virtual) 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 30.11.23	Senior Drama Club presents 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly, 7.30pm in the Theatre
Weekly from 29.11.23	Christmas lunches in the canteen (S1 – 29.11.23, S2 – 6.12.23, S3 – 13.12.23, S4/5/6 – 20.12.23)
Thurs 7.12.23	Interhouse Swimming Gala
Fri 8.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day (Foodbank collection)
Thurs 7.12.23	S4 Parents Evening (Virtual) 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Wed 13.12.23	S5/6 Parents Evening (Virtual) 4.00pm – 6.30pm
Tues 19.12.23	Music for Christmas Concert – 7.30pm
Thurs 22.12.23	Christmas Ceilidh
Thurs 22.12.23	Dress Down Day
Thurs 22.12.23	End of Term 2 (Fri 23.12.23 is an Occasional Day holiday for the Ellon Cluster)

Term 3:

Mon 8.1.24	Term 3 begins.
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The Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 23/24 is 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 hope our Ellon Academy families and friends have a lovely weekend.

P Buchan

Rector 17.11.23