



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 24th November 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Yet another busy week at Ellon Academy with our Youth Philanthropy Finals, House Assemblies, our Fairtrade Christmas Fair, and our Faculty Attainment Reviews. Our learners continue to impress us every week with all of their various achievements in and out of school.

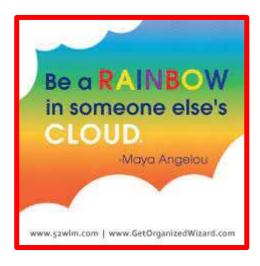
Activities Days 2024

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 residentials 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.

Loch Insch Trip 2024 – Sadly we've had to cancel this trip due to lack of pupil interest. We'll try again next session! Parents/carers of the small group of learners who had expressed an interest have been informed.

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 27.11.23:



Assemblies – This week we will at the usual times at Registration in the Theatre as follows:

Mon 27.11.23 S3

Tues 28.11.23 S4

Wed 29.11.23 S5

Thurs 30.11.23 S1

Fri 1.12.23 S2

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 and will be given their Fast Passes by Mrs Buchan in the sunken social area on Tues 28.11.23 after registration.

Well done everyone!

Emails will be sent home to parents/carers on Monday 27.11.23.

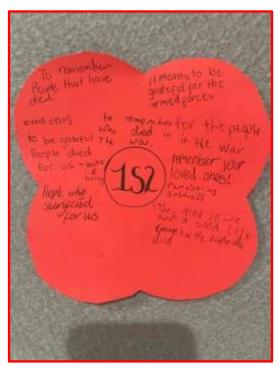


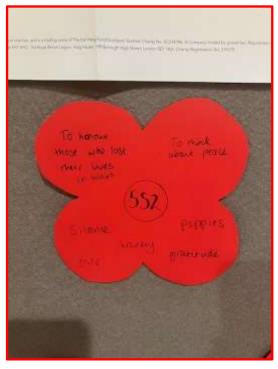
Molly	С	1K1	4
Jade	D	1M1	4
Jenson	F	1M1	5
Andy	W	1M1	4
Connie	D	1S1	4
Molly	N	151	4
Georgie	Q	1S1	4
Kasper	S	1S1	4
Lucy	G	1S2	4
Kate	R	1S2	4
Cian	S	1S2	4
Advika	Α	2M2	7
Brodie	М	2M2	6
Isla	0	2M2	6
Murren	Α	3F2	5
Rennie	Н	3K1	5
Mark	М	3S1	5 7
Rian	G	4F1	7
Ellie	С	4K2	6
Chloe	W	4K2	7
Findlay	В	5F1	3
Esther	Α	5F2	3
Johnny	Α	5M2	3
Millie	D	5S2	3
Luke	S	5S2	3

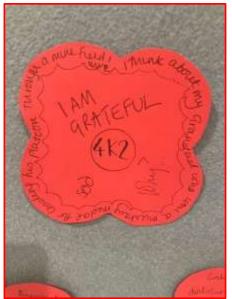
Remembrance 2023 at Ellon Academy:















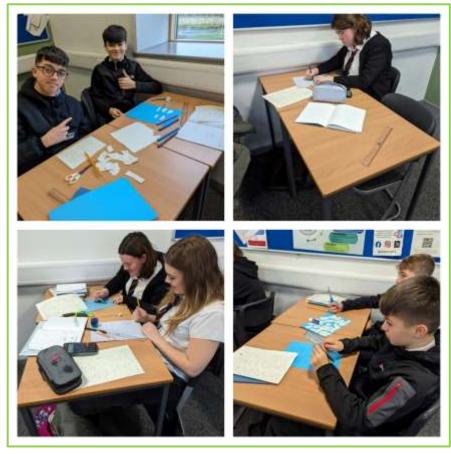
Learning at Ellon Academy - Maths Faculty:

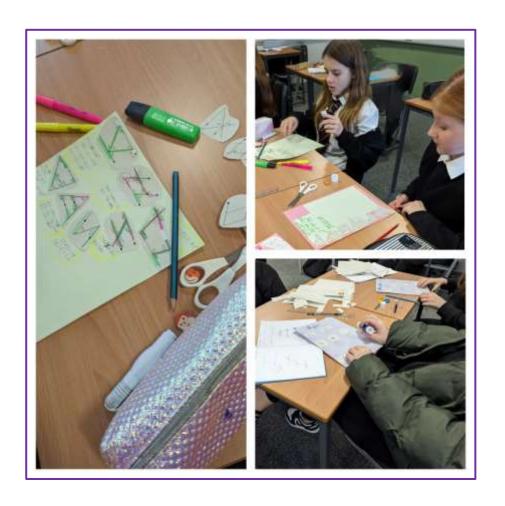
2B2 used one of our Making Thinking Visible routines today to consolidate our learning so far and prepare us for the next stage of work with angles. Pupils worked in teams of 4 and each had a different coloured piece of paper. We wrote down one fact we felt was important about angles and passed this to the next member of our team. They checked this and then added a new important fact and so on. By the end of the activity we had built up a bank of important facts which we will have to hand tomorrow, as a study tool, to help us with our next lesson. It was great to hear pupils asking each other about the statements made, and checking thoroughly, so as not to repeat any facts. Well done everyone!

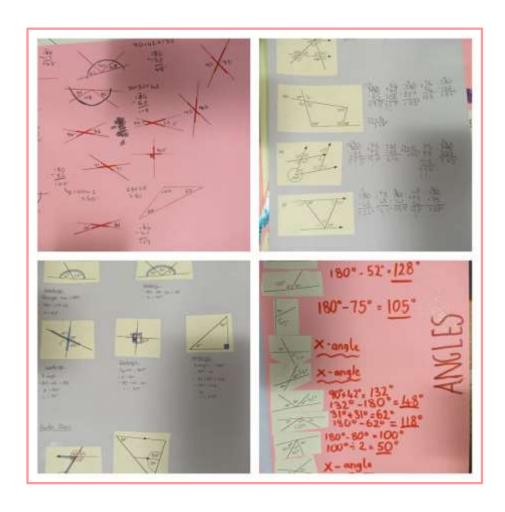


Following on at the next lesson, 2B2 pulled their learning together and calculated a variety of missing angles. Pupils decided which questions to attempt, based on confidence and progressed when ready. It was all about showing our thinking. We either drew or cut out the diagram, calculated all missing angles and wrote our steps out alongside. Some pupils preferred to highlight different angle facts on the diagrams and some preferred to write the names etc at the side. We discussed different ways of demonstrating our thinking and pupils chose the methods that worked best for them. Brilliant work everyone!



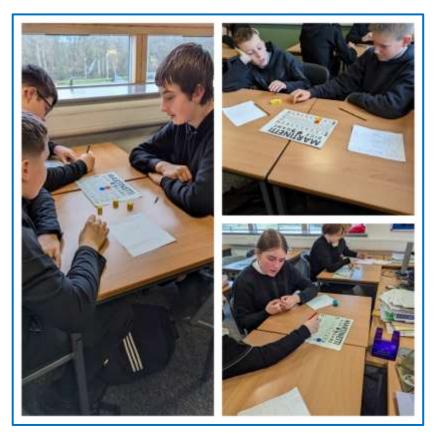






Today in enrichment we played the Martinetti dice game. Our competitive side was certainly shown in some pairs! A game of chance for sure but we started trying to work out what throws we would need to progress as far through the board each time!

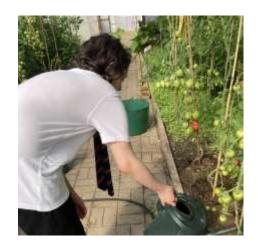




Learning at Ellon Academy:

Learners working in our school garden:









Trip to Aberdeen Sports Village:



Working with our senior pupil Sports Leaders:



Community Partnerships:





Working with Drake Music:



Thanks to Ms Perk for the photographs this week.

Pupil Achievement - Youth Philanthropy Finals 2023

This morning, 6 teams of S6 learners delivered their final presentations to pitch for £3,000 for their chosen charities. The charities represented by our learners were:

Rebecca's Rainbow Heart, Shirley's Space, Befriend a Child, Pawpalz, Friends of Anchor and Age Peterhead. The event this morning was ably hosted by our Master of Ceremonies Harris G (S6). Well done, Harris! Our S6 learners' presentations were all of an excellent standard, providing lots of information and reasons why their charity was deserving of the £3,000 cash prize from our YPI Partners, The Wood Foundation.

Judges today were Rebecca Cheyne YPI Programme Office, James Bream CEO of Katoni Engineering, Chris Lamont former pupil and owner of the Old School Vintage shop in Balmedie, Sarah Kyle our very own school Technician and all-round creative expert, Sarah Eggleton our RGU Engagement Assistant and learners Sadie G S5 and Scott M S2. Well done to our pupil judges and to Sadie for announcing the winners!

Some of our charity leaders came along too, and it was great to see Jane Gibson from Rebecca's Rainbow Heart, Suzanne from Befriend a Child and Tobby McKillop and his dog Ebby from Pawpalz.

Our S6 learners were all winners today, but the judges finally decided that Tiegan B, Erin C and Milly I representing Shirley's Space were the overall winners of the £3,000.

We were delighted to host our YPI final again this year and we were grateful to our wonderful audience of S5/6 learners and staff for their warm reception to the presentations.

Thanks to Miss Tomlinson and Mr Corser for organising and for providing tea and biscuits for all during the judging. Well done and thanks to all.

The winning team and judges:



Front Row L–R: Sarah Eggleton, Tiegan B, Millie I, Erin C, Harris G, James Bream, and Scott M. 2nd Row L-R - Chris Lamont, Sadie G.



















Well done this week to our S2-S4 football girls, who today finished in the top 3 teams, and have secured a place in the National Finals of the Spar 7-a-side football competition, due to be played in Edinburgh in March 2023. They were joined today in the finals by Westhill and Dingwall Academy.

This is the 3rd year in a row that these girls have achieved this, with no other school in the whole of the North of Scotland managing to do likewise. Our girls played in some cold, tough conditions today against some very good opposition. They won 5 out of their 7 games and narrowly lost out in the other 2. The passing and attacking moves was really good today, with skill and precision evident in the build-up play. The girls had to show some dig and steel at times today against tough opposition, which was good to see as well as their undoubted technical abilities.

Players of tournament today for Ellon were Ava R, whose ability to go past defenders and cross a quality ball is exceptional and also Natalie G, who is getting better and better in the heart of midfield. Goal scorers: Grace S 7, Myah R 3, Natalie G 2, Alisha M 1, Erin M 1, Ava R 1

Well done girls, and good luck in the finals in March 2024.















Matthew G 1C2 and Sophie S 3F1 have had a great few days in Glenrothes competing in the 2023 National Junior Swimming Championships for participants with learning difficulties.

Huge congratulations to Matthew who did really well. He swam 25m f/c and 25m b/c achieving PB's in both. He took 5 seconds off his f/c time and came 2nd receiving a silver medal! Very well-done Matthew! Great achievement! Massive congratulations also to Sophie as she swam in 4 events beating all of her previous times! She won the 25m butterfly event gaining the gold medal and came third in the Breaststroke event and was delighted to take home the bronze. Very well-done Sophie! Great achievement!



Pupil Achievement:

Wishing our super talented Ellon Academy swimmers good luck today as they compete in the Scottish Schools Swimming heats at the Aberdeen Aquatics Centre.



Here are some pics from this week's junior girls netball where the score finished Ellon 4-29 Alford. Ellon's most valuable player, as nominated by Albyn, was Sophia E in S1. Well done.



















Here are our Netballers in their new EASA Hoodies. Looking great!



Here are some pics from this week's senior girls netball game against Albyn where the score was Ellon 11-29 Albyn. Ellon's most valuable player as nominated by our opponents was Leona A. Well done!







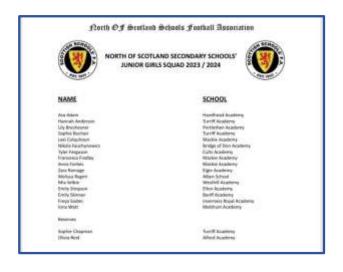








Another achievement for one of our footballers! Congratulations to Emily S in S3 who has received a call up to the North of Scotland squad later this month! A great opportunity! Well done from everyone.



Girls senior football Aberdeenshire Cup QF result. Kemnay 1-6 Ellon.

An excellent result tonight and a second half for the Ellon girls to be proud of.

In what was a bitterly cold night, our senior girls progressed to their second semifinal of the season. Many of girls playing tonight are actually juniors, so now have reached the semifinals in all 4 competitions they have entered this season. The girls were up against it in the first half and were all level at 1-1 until Grace S scored the second right on the stroke of half time. The girls came out in second half and upped their passing game and played some very good football against a Kemnay team that tested us tonight.

Grace S played a captain's role by scoring another hat trick for Ellon and chased and harried the Kemnay defence all evening. The girls played well at the back too with Sienna G and Kylah K putting in some strong performances for the team. Millie B was instrumental in midfield with her precise passing, tacking and ability to help out at the back. The game changed in Ellon's favour, in no small part with the inclusion of Nicole I in midfield. Her drive, ability to run with ball and assists proved clinical.

Players of match. Nicole I and Grace S.

Goals - Grace S 🖤 😘, Erin M 🚭, Millie B 🚭, Myah R 🚭

Assists - Natalie G. 2, Nicole I. 2, Myah R. 1

Well done in reaching the semifinals where we meet Turriff Academy, in what will prove to be a very interesting encounter.



Huge congratulations to Johnny A in S5 who after his performances for the <u>Aberdeenshire Secondary Schools</u> <u>Football Association</u> U18's team has been selected for the 1st round of trials for the boys international squad! A great Achievement! Well done!



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.



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 booked here; ; Join the guestlist – SAAS Funding Presentation - National – Microsoft Teams, Multiple dates and times (<u>tickettailor.com</u>)

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:

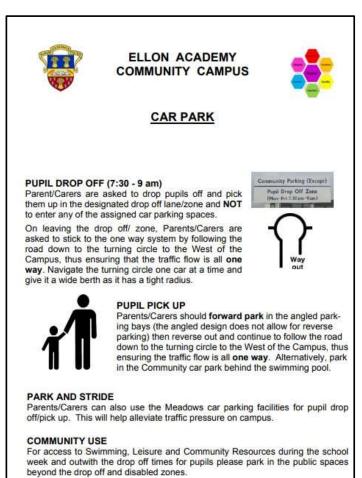
New addendum – On rainy days the pupil drop off and pick up times are much busier than usual. Last week, there were some near misses when drivers did not follow the one-way system. Please do so to keep everyone safe!

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





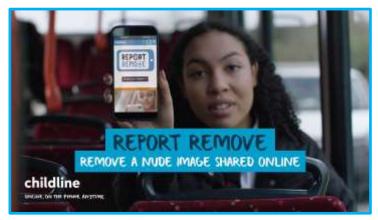
Keeping children and teenagers safe online:

'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/





childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME childline.org.uk | 0800 1111



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		51-6 Badminton 3:30 – 4:30pm			51-6 Girls Rugby Active Schools 3:30-4:30pm		
Tues				54-6 Cheer Mins Daniel, Mins Williams 3:30 – 4:45pm		S3-6 Rugby Mr McCall 3:45 ~ 4:45pm	51-6 Girls Hockey Mr Meechan (every second week) 3:30-4:30 pm
Wed		S3-6 Netball Miss Williams 2:40 – 3:45pm		51-3 Cheer Miss Daniel 2:40 - 4:00pm	S4-6 Fitness Mr McCall 3 – 4pm	Football 31 Mr Merchan 52 Mr College 53 Mr Mr Seath 3 -40th	
Thurs	S1-6 Teen Yoga Mrs Winterbotto m	51-2 Netball Miss Williams 2:40 – 3:45pm		\$1-6 Gymnastics Sporrs Captums 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:

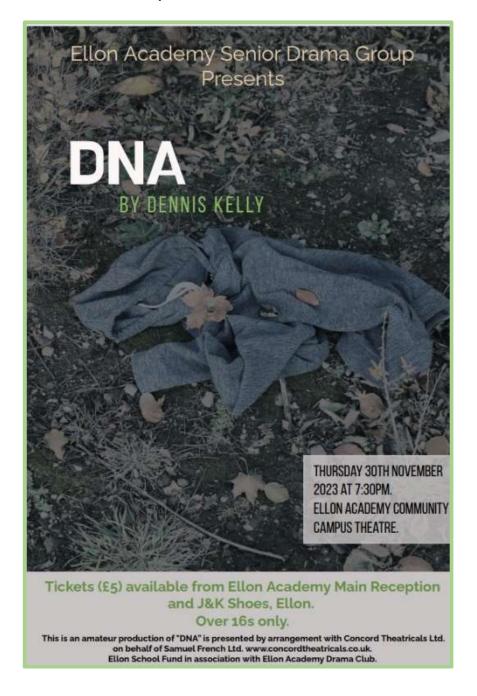
ALL PUPILS – WEEKLY MERITS

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. During 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

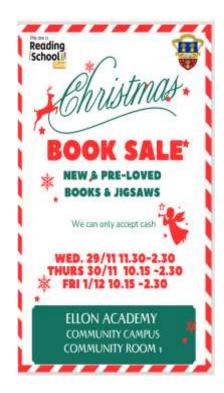
For your information:

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.**







Next week we are hosting a Community pre-loved Booksale in Community Room 1 and we will have some jigsaw puzzles for sale too. We will also have new books for sale.

We were generously donated over 100 brand new copies of the No.1 Sunday times best seller book "Friendaholic" by Elizabeth Day to sell at our book sale, for library and charity funds. Copies will be on sale at our community book sale for a minimum donation of £5.00. Come along and get yourself a bargain or start that Christmas Shopping!!

As you will see from the link below the book is currently on sale for £10.94 online, and we are offering it for a minimum donation of £5. (Cash only) If we have tempted you, please come to the book sale.

<u>Friendaholic: Confessions of a Friendship</u>
<u>Addict: Amazon.co.uk: Day, Elizabeth:</u>
<u>9780008374891: Books</u>

Interhouse Swimming:

Interhouse swimming is taking place on Thursday 7th December and will start at lunchtime and continue until the end of the day. Each House requires a minimum of 8 pupils per year group (4 boys and 4 girls).

The event is open to anyone who can swim 25m (one length of the pool) and you do not need to swim for a team/club.

Sign-up will take place at lunchtime on Friday 24th November. If you would like to take part, please come along and see your House Captain between 12:30-13:00 at the following locations:

Cheyne - Gym A, Forbes - Gym B, Keith - Games Hall, McDonald - Games Hall, Sinclair - Gym A PE Department



7th December, 1245-1440

S1-3: 2x 25m individual event & 1x relay

S4-6: 2x 50m individual event & 1x relay

Sign ups will take place on Friday @ lunchtime in the PE department.

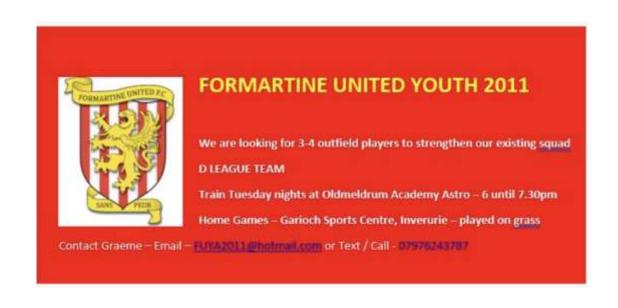
If you would like to take part please come and sign up with your house captain between 12:30 and 1pm.

All pupils must be able to swim 25m confidently but do not need to swim for a team/club.

Community Information:

The Balmedie Cubs are having a Christmas Fair! A great day out for the family!





Dates For Your Diary

Term 2:

w/b 6.11.23	S6 Guidance Interviews over the next 4 weeks
Thurs 30.11.23	Senior Drama Club presents 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly, 7.30pm in the Theatre
Weekly from 22.11.23	Christmas lunches in the canteen ($S1 - 21.11.23$, $S2 - 29.12.23$, $S3 - 06.12.23$, $S4 - 13.12.23$ $S5/6 - 20.12.23$)
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

End of Term 2 (Fri 23.12.23 is an Occasional Day holiday for the Ellon Cluster)

Term 3:

Thurs 22.12.23

Mon 8.1.24 Term 3 begins.

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 24.11.23