

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Thursday 8th February January 2024

Dear parents/carers,

February is passing so quickly and here we are at the long weekend/half term.

Just as a reminder, Friday 9th and Monday 12th February are holidays and Tuesday 13^{th,} and Wednesday 14th February are in-service days. Pupils are expected to return to school at the usual time of 8.25am on Thursday 15th February.

As ever, our learners continue to impress us every week with all of their various achievements in and out of school and we hope you enjoy our updates 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. <u>ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>

Assemblies:				
There will be no assemblies w/b 12.2.24.				
Assemblies will resume w/b Monday 19.2.24 during registration in the theatre as follows:				
Mon 19.2.24	-	S1		
Tues 20.2.24	-	S2		
Wed 21.2.24	-	S3		
Thurs 22.2.24	-	S4		
Fri 23.2.24	-	S5		

S6/Staff Burns Supper and Ceilidh

On Monday 19.2.24 we are planning a Burns Supper for S6 pupils and Staff in the canteen followed by Ceilidh dancing in the Theatre 5-8pm. Tickets cost £10 for a 3-course meal and dancing: Dress code is smart casual.

Here is the Menu:

- Lentil Soup
- Haggis, Neaps, Mince and Tatties (Vegetarian haggis available too)
- Sticky Toffee Pudding with cream or Fruit Pot

S6 pupils to see Head Prefect Erin Currie for tickets and names and cash payment to her by Thurs 8th February to allow enough time to order the food! Staff to see Mrs Buchan for tickets.



Learning at Ellon Academy – Girls in Energy

Alanna Barnes is a Project Engineer within the Decommissioning Sector and visited our Girls in Energy group this week. She started by telling the girls about herself and said she wished her school had done the Girls in Energy course. She told them about her career, how she got there, why she chose this industry and described some of the places she's been to and projects she's been involved with as part of her job.

The session concluded with an open Q&A session where the girls were able to anything about jobs and other career types within the industry, the pros and cons and what school subjects to take.





Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty

S1 & S2 have moved on the percentages this week. We began by reviewing the important skill of converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages. 30 cards with a different fraction, decimal or percentage were placed around MOLA. We worked together to convert them and see how many we could get through in a set time. There were some great discussions about how to write decimal percentages such as 2.5% as a fraction and also some great thoughts when deciding if we could simplify further. We finished by grabbing a random card each and splitting into two teams. We organised ourselves from smallest to largest and concluded that we preferred percentages first, followed by decimals. We made notes/tips how to convert in our jotters for future questions. Well done everyone!



Senior Boys are the league winners! Congratulations to the senior boys team! Here's hoping for some more silverware!





Interhouse Netball 2024 Results \$1 Results:

- 1st Forbes
- 2nd Cheyne
- 3rd Keith
- 4th Sinclair

S2 Results:

- 1st Sinclair
- 2nd McDonald
- 3rd Cheyne
- 4th Keith

S3/4 Results:

- 1st Sinclair/Cheyne
- 2nd Keith
- 3rd McDonald



Senior Netball:

On Wednesday night (7.2.24) the senior netball team played their penultimate fixture of the season at home against Lathallan.

Ellon started strong emerging with 9-1 after Q1. They maintained their lead throughout Q2 until half time when the score was 18-6. Lathallan came back strong in Q3 and Q4 and closed the gap to end the game 29-22 to Ellon. This is the first win of the season for the girls after a challenging but well-played game. It is the first time this combination of players have been able to play together due to illness/other factors and it was definitely a strong one!

The senior girls have one match left against RGC (B) next month.

Player of the Match (as voted by the other team): Freya B (S4)



On Tuesday night our Junior Netball Team played their last fixture of the season against Lathallan. This is the first time the team have played 4x10 minute quarters and it resulted in them having their highest scoring game of the season. Lathallan started strong in the first two quarters, but Ellon came back fighting after half time to see 6 back-back goals putting pressure on the opposition. The game finished 34-12 to Lathallan who were a strong and experienced team.

Player of the Match: (as voted by opposition) Sophia E S1

Miss Williams & Miss Morgan are extremely proud of the team after their first season playing in the Aberdeen/Shire Netball League Cup. The girls have improved so much since beginning the season in August and have demonstrated resilience and determination throughout despite being in the top league against schools who are in and have previously won the Scottish Cup.

For the majority of the team this was their first time playing competitive netball and we are glad to see many of them now playing for Ellon Netball club U15s. We can't wait to see them continue to grow and improve as players and as a team next season!

Well Done 🍸



Girls U15 Scottish Cup QF result: St Ninians 3-0 Ellon.

The Scottish Cup dream for our Ellon girls came to an end this afternoon against a very good St Ninians side. Our girls battled well but the home side gave our girls no time on the ball and hit us down the sides and middle with their pace in first half. We did have some real opportunities in first half too, but our efforts were straight at keeper when we were through one on one.

Ellon went in 0-2 down at half time and we changed our formation a few times in the game to try and get back into it. Keeper Amber S had a very good game with some excellent saves and good positional play. Nicole having to come off at half time was far from ideal as Ava R had to play at left back, so her attacking presence was a miss to the team.

The girls did keep pushing in the second half, which ultimately resulted in the loss of another goal. We were really unlucky though, with Myah R twice hitting the crossbar from 30 yards, that had their goalkeeper truly beaten. Twice hitting the crossbar and failing to score when a few times through one on one with the keeper. Really good effort from the squad to reach the QF of a national competition. Time to get the heads up again and focus on the 2 cup finals the U15 girls have reached and also the league which has still to be decided. Player of match Myah R. Well done all!



Former Pupil Achievement:

KR Group demonstrates commitment to developing young people ahead of National Apprenticeship Week

With National Apprenticeship Week fast approaching, Aberdeenshire based steel and cladding company KR Group continues to demonstrate its commitment to developing young people. The family business not only has more apprenticeship opportunities available for 2024 and a student from Abertay University due to start an internship in May; Business Director, Nicola Fraser, will also be volunteering again to conduct mock interviews with pupils at Aberdeenshire secondary schools to help prepare them for entering the working world.

A significant achievement for the group and one of their employees came at the turn of the year, when Graduate Apprentice, Lauren Moroney, received news that she has been shortlisted for a British Education Award. Lauren was unaware of being nominated for the award, but it has since been revealed that her achievements were recognised by a third-party scout for the British Education Awards. The Business and Accounts Coordinator from

Newburgh is the only finalist from the north of Scotland in the Vocational category.

Upon leaving school, Lauren joined KR Group and completed her Modern Apprenticeship in Business and Administration through NESCol which led her to a Graduate Apprenticeship in Business Management with Robert Gordon University. Lauren initially left school with plans to complete a HND in Events Management but having the hands-on experience of part-time employment at KR Group tempted her towards the apprenticeship route. She said, "My apprenticeship gave me a chance to consolidate my knowledge by applying the theoretical learning to a real work-based situation which makes more sense to me than having to make that choice between full time education or employment.



"I feel so passionate about young people choosing this route, that I have become an ambassador for Developing the Young Workforce. It's so rewarding to go to schools and career fairs, speak to students and ignite the spark of interest in those considering a career in construction and even those who have never considered it."

Lauren will travel to Manchester for the awards ceremony on the 9th of February, alongside Nicola Fraser. The awards are described as a unique event where young people, their families, and teachers, along with politicians, professionals, and celebrities from across the UK come together to celebrate educational attainment. Nicola said, "Lauren is a prime example of the success achievable through vocational training. I am a true believer that there is no wrong way to enter the world of work. If you work hard, there will always be opportunities for change and growth." The Business Director was previously employed in the field of psychology and social work which contributed to her passion for nurturing young people, and now KR Group has confirmed that 20% of its workforce are in 'earn while you learn' roles which include apprenticeships, traineeships, and graduate placements.

KR Group will be advertising opportunities for apprenticeships and internships from March onwards via the company website and social media channels.

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>

Ellon Academy Study Café

The Study Café is up and running again this year and will resume after the February long weekend, thanks to Mr Caskie and Mrs Murdoch.

Come along and study in a warm, safe, and encouraging environment in the Ellon Academy Library afternoon on Thursdays and enjoy free refreshments and snacks to help you relax into your study.

This tremendous advert for our senior S4-S6 Study Cafe was put together by one of our talented Digital Champions in S2, Scott M.

The advert provides information about the StudyCafe, who it is for, what its purpose is, and when it is running.

https://www.facebook.com/EllonAcademy/videos/2401018523434496



Here are some helpful websites for study:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv

https://www.e-sgoil.com/

https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/students/higher-education/understanding-qualifications-study-tips

https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-study/

Developing the Young Workforce Information:

Job Vacancies and Apprenticeship Opportunities

The following job vacancies and apprenticeship opportunities are currently accepting applications from across the North-East (*via* the DYW Northeast Jobs Portal <u>https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal</u>

- Digital Apprenticeships QA (closing date: asap)
- Trainee Steel Wire Rope Operator Hendrik Veder Group (c/d asap)
- Cabin Crew Eastern Airways (c/d asap)
- Assurance/Tax Apprenticeships (start Sept 24) EY (c/d asap)
- Apprentice Site Engineer Balfour Beatty (c/d 11/02/24)
- Apprentice Electrical Engineer Balfour Beatty (c/d 11/02/24)

To find out more and to apply for these exciting opportunities, visit the DYW North East Jobs Portal at <u>https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal</u>.



The following modern apprenticeship opportunities are also currently accepting applications from across the North-East (*via* the Apprenticeships Scot Portal <u>https://www.apprenticeships.scot/</u>).

• DAF Heavy Vehicle Technician – Norcom Truck and Van (c/d 02/02/24)

These are some of the opportunities available locally. To find out more about these, as well as others available nationally, visit the Apprenticeships Scot Portal at <u>https://www.apprenticeships.scot/</u>.

APPRENTICESHIPS.SCOT

From Skills Development Scotland

<u> S4 Mock Interviews – Can You Help?</u>

Following the overwhelming success for the S5 Mock Interviews last term, it is our aim to offer a mock interview to all of our S4 pupils between 19th February and 15th March. These 1-to-1 interviews will take place during the school day with an industry expert from the local area, and pupils have been asked to share the industries or fields that they are interested in pursuing careers in in the future so that appointments can be scheduled with relevant interviewers. The mock interviews always serve as an excellent opportunity for our young people to find out more about the career pathways they are interested in and to practice the skills required during an application process.

If you would be interested in supporting us in this venture, then please email <u>jordan.abberleynicoll@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u> for further information and an interviewer availability form.

We would be particularly grateful for support from any members of the following fields: medicine, law, police forces, paramedic sciences, armed forces, media and performing arts.



Thank you from Mr Abberley-Nicol, Principal Teacher Developing the Young Workforce.

Health and Safety - Please wear your seatbelt on school transport:

The DVSA have recently sent out a reminder to all operators of the importance of making sure all passengers wear seatbelts and thought that the schools / parents could help us to enforce the importance of this with pupils. All operators should be asking pupils to wear seatbelts, and wherever possible doing a quick check to make sure all seatbelts are on. However, it is difficult for them to ensure that pupils keep seatbelts on whilst driving.

We ask that parents/carers to speak to their children regarding seatbelts, to help make sure all pupils know how important it is and to encourage them to always put on and keep their seatbelt on for the whole journey. Kind Regards,

Alana

Senior Transport Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

++Tesco Blue Tokens at the Ready for 2024! ++

The Reading Dog

Voting has started at Ellon Tesco for Stronger Starts.

Thank you so much to all those who have voted so far.

Voting will continue until **31**st **March 2024** so there is still plenty of time to pop your blue token in for The Reading Dog.

The funding (of either £1,500, £100, £500) will go towards



buying resources (cushions, blankets, dog bowl/treats, new books) to create a more comfortable space for pupils and the Reading Dog when it comes into school.

Keep a look out in Ellon Tesco for The Reading Dog and keep voting!

Mrs Murray (ASL Teacher) and Mrs Murdoch (Head Librarian, Ellon Academy)



Car Park Health and Safety at Ellon Academy Community Campus:

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

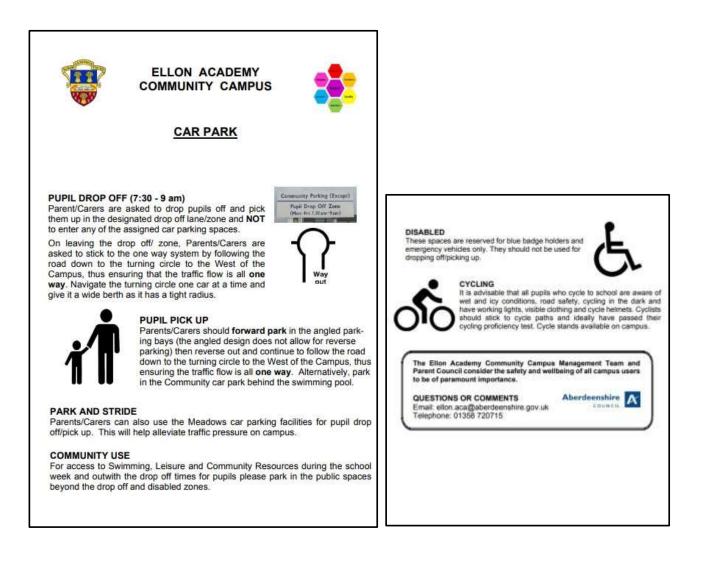
New addendum – On rainy days the pupil drop off and pick up times are much busier than usual. Recently, there were some near misses when drivers did not follow the one-way system. Please do so to keep everyone safe! Here is a video as a reminder of our car park safety protocols: <u>https://youtu.be/Y89Gr4ihm-8</u>

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



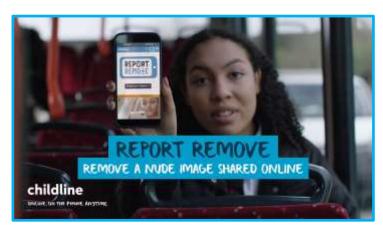
Keeping children and teenagers safe online:

'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/









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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/



ALL PUPILS – MANDARIN LESSONS

Mandarin lessons are starting today, Wednesday 7th February, and will run until study leave. They are being held in S42 during lunchtime every Wednesday. Pupils who have a place on the trip to China in July 2024 must attend because they need to have completed at least 10 hours of Mandarin before we leave. However, other interested pupils are also welcome to attend the lessons! Please see Mrs Duffus for more information. Mrs Duffus

ALL PUPILS - NASSA AND ALBYN OPEN CROSS COUNTRY

There are two exciting opportunities coming up to represent Ellon Academy at Cross Country. The first is NASSA Cross Country on Wednesday 21st February at The Gordon Schools (Huntly). The second is the Albyn Open Cross-Country Championship on Friday 15th March at Balgownie (Aberdeen). Both events will involve being out of school for part of the day. For anyone who is interested in participating at either/both events, and has not already put their name down, please attend a short meeting in Gym A at breaktime today (Wednesday 7th February). Miss Morgan

ALL PUPILS - CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCH

The Canteen is serving a special 'Chinese New Year' menu at lunchtime on Thursday 15th February.

Starter:

Chicken Noodle Soup

Mini Spring Rolls

Main:

Honey Chilli Chicken with Noodles

Beef in Black Bean Sauce with Rice

Singapore Vegetable Noodles

Dessert:

Chocolate Cracknel

(Paninis, pizzinis, pasta, sandwiches and snacks will still be available)

Canteen Staff

NESCOL Study Support for Higher Subjects:

There are places available on our Preparation for Higher evening classes, which run at our Aberdeen City Campus. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to pupils, parents, and relevant teaching colleagues. A full list of the available courses and their start dates is below:

Preparation for Higher Biology – commencing 4th March <u>Biology - North East Scotland College (nescol.ac.uk)</u>

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 20th March Chemistry - North East Scotland College (nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 13th and 14th March Maths - North East Scotland College (nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 27th February <u>Physics - North East Scotland College (nescol.ac.uk)</u>

For further information on any of these, please contact Dr Douglas Fraser, Curriculum Manager for Science, at <u>douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk</u>

Many thanks,

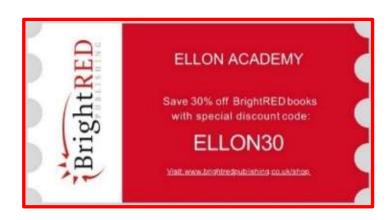
Lauren MacAskill (she/her) Schools-College Partnership Manager

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>



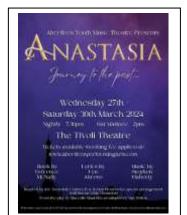
Community Information:

Tickets are now on sale for Anastasia by Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre for this March. Our very own Laura J 2S1 and Isla M S6 are in leading roles.

They are available from the box office, but Laura J 2S1 can get them from AYMT at a discounted rate and no booking fee. If you are interested in getting tickets, please send us an email via the school

email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk





Dates For Your Diary

Term 3:

Fri 9.2.24	Feb long weekend - Occasional Day holiday
Mon 12.2.24	Feb long weekend – Monday holiday
Tues 13.2.24	Feb long weekend – In-service Day (1)
Wed 14.2.24	Feb long weekend – In-service Day (2)
Thurs 15.2.24	Learners return following long weekend/In-service.
Thurs 15.2.24	S3 Parents Evening (In-person) 4pm – 6.30pm
Fri 16.2.24	S2 Subject Preferences deadline
Mon 19.2.24	S6/Staff Burns Supper and Ceilidh (5pm – 8pm)
w/b Mon 19.2.24	S4 Guidance Course Choice interviews this week.
w/b Mon 26.2.24	S4/5/6 Reports to be issued.



Mon 26.2.24	S5 Course Guidance Couse Choice interviews this week.
Wed 28.2.24	S4 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual) 4pm – 6.30pm.
Fri 1.3.24	S3 Course Choice deadline.
Wed 6.3.24	S5/6 Pastoral Parents Evening (Virtual) 4pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 7.3.24	Parents/Carers deadline for change of level queries
Thurs 7.3.24	World Book Day
Fri 15.3.24	S4/5 Course Choice deadline.
w/b Mon 18.3.24	PE Practical Performance assessments this week.
Wed 27.3.24	Music for Spring Concert – 7.30pm
Thurs 28.3.24	Last day of Term 3.
Term 4:	

Term 4 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 long weekend and we look forward to welcoming pupils back at school on Thursday 15.2.24.

P Buchan Rector 08.02.24

Mon 15.4.24