

ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear parents/carers,

This week at assemblies, we have been talking about perseverance and resilience and pupils were shown a video featuring Danny Macaskill from the Isle of Skye. Danny is an extreme sports enthusiast who set himself the challenge of summiting the Inaccessible Pinnacle in the Cuillin Mountains on his bike! When the terrain got too tough for cycling, he put his bike on his back! Worth a look! Click on the link to view the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ_IQS3VKjA



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>

Quote of the Week beginning Mon 26.2.24:



Assemblies:

Assemblies w/b Monday 26.2.24 will be led by Mrs Wilson DHT and will be during registration in the theatre as follows:

Mon 26.2.24	-	S5
Tues 27.2.24	-	S1
Wed 28.2.24	-	S2
Thurs 29.2.24	-	S3
Fri 01.3.24	-	S4

Merits – Over and Above

We are pleased to report that the learners above 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 below have accrued the most merits over the last week and will be given their Fast Passes by Mrs Buchan in the sunken social area on Monday 26.02.24 after registration. Well done to all.

Matteo	Т	1F2	5
Penny	В	1S2	5
Fraser	Р	1S2	7
Scott	М	2F1	6
Isla	W	2F1	5
Adrijana	Р	3M1	2
Ruby	Q	3S1	2
James	С	4C1	3
Erin	М	4C1	3
Kyle	М	4K2	3
Findlay	В	5F1	2
Liam	D	5M2	2
Miller	F	5S2	2





S6/Staff Burns Supper and Ceilidh

On Monday 19.2.24 we had a lovely evening at our S6/Staff Burns Supper in the canteen followed by Ceilidh dancing in the Theatre. Huge thanks to all involved.























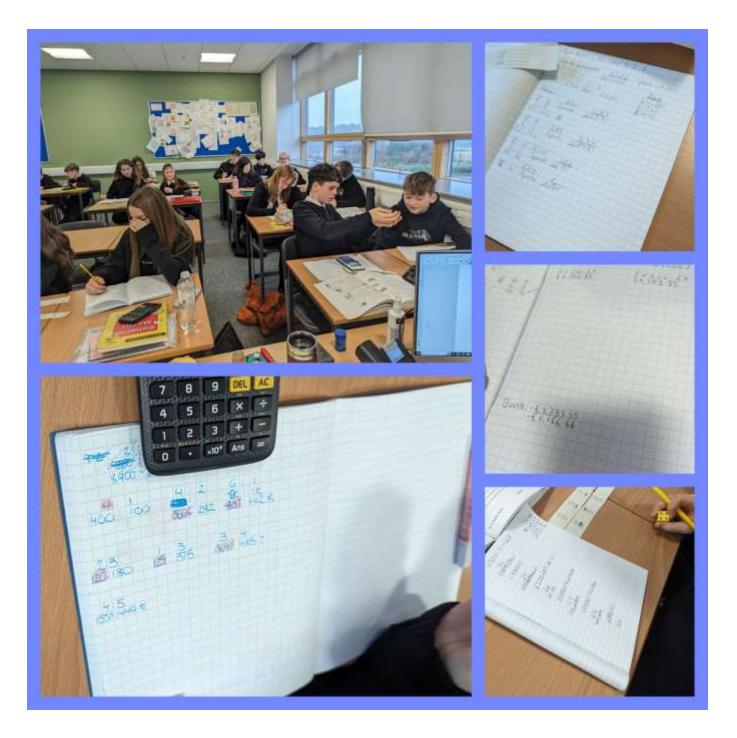
Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty

A very big thank you to Mrs. Murdoch and Mrs. Quantrill for running dewopoly events for S1 over the past few terms in the library! We've learned a lot about the Dewey Decimal system and tested our strategy and numeracy skills with some very serious games of dewopoly! It became very clear who our very competitive board gamers were quite quickly! More photos to come from the different classes over the past few months! Delighted to be giving out merits to the top performers, as well as those who showed great responsibility and leadership skills! Very well done!



Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty

S2 got competitive whilst splitting ratios this week. We were given 2 tables with lots of different values (some negative) and took turns to pick what we were splitting. We then rolled a die each to set up the ratio. We split the money according to our random ratio and noted how much we had banked. The aim was to get the highest banked total by the end of the period...except with ten minutes to go when Mrs. G decided there was a runner up prize for lowest value too... negative values certainly became popular at that point! Lots of teams showed great teamwork, helping their partners out and looking over working Cour highest total was over 40000 and our lowest at -2240! Quite a difference!



Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty:

3B1 have been working on angles within circles and polygons. Today we had the task of creating our own N5 level questions for others to answer, ensuring we could work it through beforehand. Some pupils added some extra challenge by using trigonometry within the question! Great discussions and thoughts all round! Well done everyone!





Learning at Ellon Academy – Energy for Girls:

Yesterday was "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" and it's a day dedicated to inspiring young girls to consider a career in engineering. This is an industry crying out for more female talent, and one that many women don't consider due to stereotypes, believed discrimination, or thinking it's a "dirty" job working out on oil rigs. This isn't the case though – Engineers change our world. Engineers are responsible for the innovation and development of new products, services, technologies, and processes. They can work in many different fields, which makes this a very diverse career for aspiring engineers to explore. It has been proven diverse teams perform better. Studies have shown that women generally think and act differently to men when approaching a task and come up with a different sorts of solution. Having you in this industry makes it a more diverse workplace and can only lead to making our world be a better place!

Here at Ellon to support your interests in this career, we have several projects within our S1 and S2 course to peak your interests. As you progress into S3 you have the chance to choose Engineering Science as a subject which will help you learn about this career and what engineers do (and you can continue this all the way into Highers), as well as the "Girls in Engineering" course which is only open to young women. This is supported by NESCol and Shell as they both realise the difference (and improvement) having females in the industry would make. Come speak to us in the Technical Faculty about this career and we can show you that it is possibly a career path for you!





Good luck to our Cheer Teams!

An early start for the Cheer pupils... but we are on our way to the Scottish Schools competition in Paisley





Football Trip to Newcastle:

What a great time our lads had in Newcastle at our footballers trip last weekend. Here's a great video which gives an amazing flavour of the weekend's activities: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpKsg9aI2tQ</u>















Here is some feedback from Newcastle United and Inspire Sport about our young people:

Ellon Academy pupil's attitude and commitment on the training pitches and games has been absolutely brilliant and that's the girls we had last year and the boys this week.

He said he has told the other coaches that they should make every effort to get Ellon back again! He said "I can't speak highly enough about the Ellon pupils".

Well done everyone!





On Thursday last week 17 pupils attended the Stephen Gallacher Foundation Open Day at Trump International, Scotland. All the pupils got the chance to hit a few shots and get some feedback from Stephen. All of the pupils conducted themselves very well whilst on the trip. Stephen also shared stories of his Ryder Cup days, playing with Tiger Woods, and his dream four ball. Massive thank you to Trump International for hosting us! Hopefully we can have future opportunities with Trump International moving forward.







Under 15 boys football result

A five-star performance from the boys this week as they beat Meldrum 5-1 in the Aberdeenshire League. A nervy first half saw the boys go in at half time drawing 1-1, but we grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half and showed our dominance. 2 goals came from Burak, 2 from Owen and a superb freekick from Ethan.

Well done boys - the attitude and teamwork shown today was second to none. Brilliant football too!

Pupil Achievement:

Pictures from the S1 match on Friday against Bucksburn Academy. Thanks to Ms Masson for taking these pics for us.









The learners detailed below recently took part in a round of Primary Reading Visits.

One /two on the list didn't manage due to illness/rearranged dates - but they all completed the training and were ready to go.

These learners were a credit to their school. It was great to see them in a different setting and working with others. I will be logging merits & issuing Praise Postcards to them. Mrs S Warne, PT English.

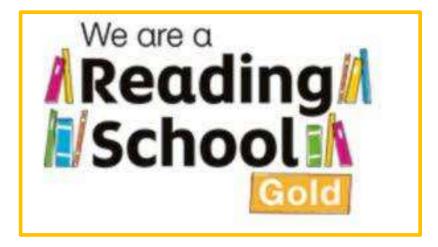








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Aimee F	1F2		Lucy T	3K1
Matteo T	1F2		Adrijana P	3M1
Molly B	1F2		Cara M	3S1
Georgie Q	1S1		Laura J	3S1
Adam F	1S2		Ruby Q	3S1
Fraser P	1S2		Keira F	4C1
Natania A	1S2		Isla R	4C2
Penny B	1S2		Ashleigh T	5C1
Lewis D	2F1		Leah P	5F2
Scott M	2F1		Brodie F	5K1
Cameron T	2K2		Heather M	5M1
Ella I	2M2		Erin B	5S2
Abby P	3C1		Kyle M	6F
Emma K	3C1			



Senior Girls Football League Result: Ellon Academy 10-1 Meldrum Academy.

Our girls put on an excellent performance this afternoon against a very spirited Meldrum side, who gave as good as they got in the first half, with Ellon going in at half time only 1-0 up, courtesy of a tremendous strike by Millie B from the edge of the box. Millie B and Rhianna S were the players of the match in the first half. In the second half, a tactical switch saw Grace S move upfront, where she contributed with 5 goals and 2 assists. Some of her goals were very well worked team goals, but her 30-yard chip over the keeper was all her own doing! Her goals today take her beyond the 40 now in her school colours! The girls had to dig deep as we were depleted in numbers in the second half due to player commitments and also injuries. This saw players playing through the pain barrier so we could finish the game with 11 players on the park. Grace S's finishing was clinical today and once again Natalie G put in a tremendous shift when she came on, with her and Millie B forming an excellent midfield duo. Natalie C also had a good game today and was also a contender for player of the match. The defence was very solid again today too, with Alisha M, Kylah K and Sienna G all having strong games. Shout

out again to a very dependable Alex Y, who didn't know until this morning that she was playing yet steps up and always performs well. Player of match Grace S with 5 goals and 2 assists, with Rhianna S and Millie B a very close second.

Goal scorers: Grace S 5, Rhianna S 2, Millie B 1, Erin M 1, Natalie G 1 Assists: Grace S 2, Millie B 2, Rhianna S 2, Natalie G 1 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.

Staff Achievement:

Our very own Rachael Jarvis, Canteen Supervisor and her friend raised over £825 and braved The Hot Fire to participate in a FIREWALK for CLAN. Well done, Rachael! We are very proud of you!



Ellon Academy Study Café

The Study Café is up and running again this year and has resumed from Thursday 22.2.24, 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 https://www.dyw.org.uk/jobs-portal

- 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)

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



NORTH EAST

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

APPRENTICESHIPS.SCOT

From Skills Development Scotland

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 **31st 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:

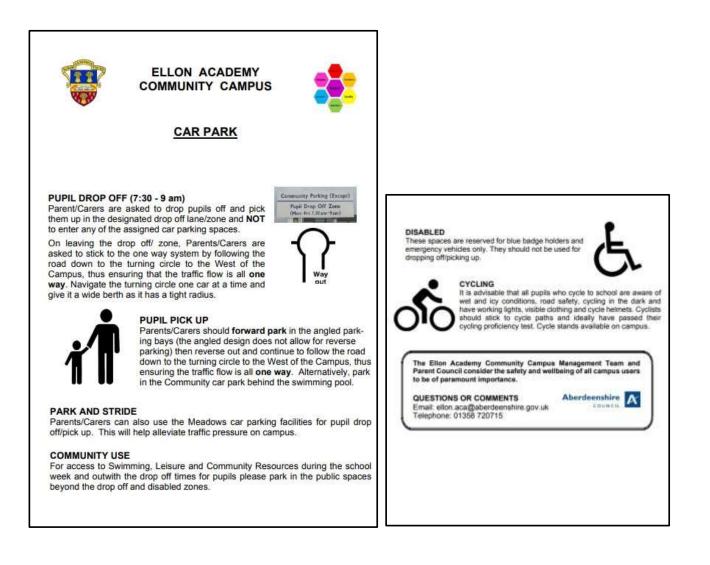
New addendum – On rainy days the pupil drop off and pick up times are much busier than usual. Recently, there were some near misses when drivers did not follow the one-way system. Please do so to keep everyone safe! Here is a video as a reminder of our car park safety protocols: <u>https://youtu.be/Y89Gr4ihm-8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



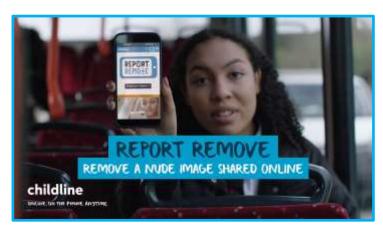
Keeping children and teenagers safe online:

'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/









OHLINE, GO THE PHYSIC, ANSTAL (MINIMETERS) (1990) 1111 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/



Pupil information:

ALL PUPILS: Interhouse cheer:

Interhouse Cheer will start next week with rehearsals taking place at lunchtimes in the PE department. This is the second last event in the 23/24 interhouse calendar and is a great event to be a part of.

Everyone is welcome to take part and no experience in cheer is necessary!

Sports captains will organise and run rehearsals and choose a theme for their routine.

Please look at the rehearsal schedule to know where your house is each day. It will rotate round the different halls and each house will have one day off per week.

The final performance will take place on Thursday the 21st of March at Lunchtime. The current champions are McDonald House.

If you would like to participate, please come to the games hall on Monday at lunchtime to sign up.

ALL PUPILS – AQUATHLON 2024

Any pupils who are interested in competing in the 2024 Scottish Schools Aquathlon Championships on Friday 19th April should speak to Mr Lawson in the PE department by the end of this week. Miss Williams

S5/6 PUPILS – PSE

For the attention of all S6 pupils and any S5 pupils who have applied to University or for an HNC/HND course at College: The next S6 PSE session with your Guidance Teacher will be on Wednesday 6th March (period 1 and 2). We will have a presentation during one of the periods from SAAS to explain College/University funding. For any pupils who are out of school on a Wednesday morning due to College or a Foundation Apprenticeship, SAAS have very kindly agreed to repeat the session on Friday 8th March (period 4) so you can get all the necessary information about Higher Education funding too. Rooming arrangements TBC.

Mrs Kaczmarek (on behalf of the Guidance Team)

S6 PUPILS – YEARBOOK

We will be taking a photo of the full year group during period 2 on Tuesday 27th February. Please meet in the sunken social area. Mrs Duffus

NATIONAL 5 ART & DESIGN PUPILS – PORTFOLIOS

IMPORTANT: Pupils in Mr Burr's National 5 Art & Design class are expected to attend lunchtime sessions in G62 to complete their Design portfolios for presentation to the SQA. These are valuable tutored times, and all National 5 students should be attending. Mr Burr.

S6 PUPILS & STAFF – CEILIDH PHOTOGRAPHS

Please see Miss Geoghan (G62) if you would like a copy of any photographs from the Ceilidh on Monday 19th February. Miss Geoghan.

ALL PUPILS – MANDARIN LESSONS

Mandarin lessons have started again on Wednesdays 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

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

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 Physics - North East Scotland College (nescol.ac.uk)

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



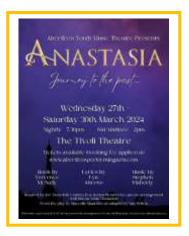
Community Information:

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.

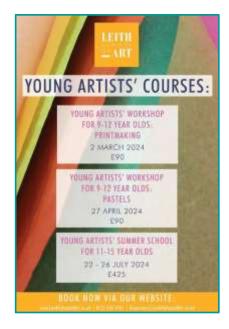
They are available from the box office, but Laura J 2S1 can get them from AYMT at a discounted rate and no booking fee. If you are interested in getting tickets, please send us an email via the school

email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



The Leith School of Art Young Artists' Workshops which will be running on Saturdays 2nd March and 27th April, as well as a week-long Summer School. It would be great if you could pass this information on to any staff or parents/guardians who may be interested.





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:	
Man 15 4 24	Town 4 hosing
Mon 15.4.24	Term 4 begins.
Mon 22.4.24	Start of SQA Exams and Study Leave for S4/5/6
Mon 6.5.24	May Day Holiday
w/b 20.5.24	S1 Final Reports issue this week
Wed 22.5.24	Junior and Senior Prizegiving Ceremonies
Fri 24.5.24	S6 Prom
Mon/Tues 27/28 th May	S3 Build Your Future/Entrepreneurship Days

S2/3 Tracking Report (2) issue

Provisional change of timetable

Drama Showcase – 7pm Theatre

Wed 29th – Fri 31st May S1/2/3 Activities Days

Sports Day

End of Term

P7 Induction Days



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 16.02.24

Fri 31.5.24

Fri 5.7.24

Mon 3.6.24

Thurs 6.6.24

Thurs 27.6.24

25th, 26th 27th June