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## ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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Date: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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Dear parents/carers,

This week at assemblies, we have been talking about self-image.

Thanks to Mrs Wilson, DHT.

Follow this link to view the slides:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>



## Need more help and support?

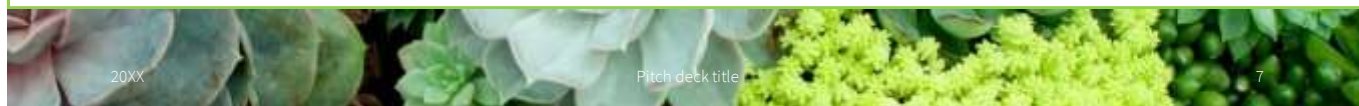
### Websites

- [Information for 11-18 year olds on confidence and self-esteem – Mind](#)
- [samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/children-and-young-people](http://samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/children-and-young-people)

### School supports

- School Counsellor
- SAMH worker
- Pupil Wellbeing Workers
- Guidance staff
- School Nurse

... or any member of staff you feel comfortable helping you!



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.

[ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## Quote of the Week beginning Mon 4.3.24:

"Believe in your infinite potential. Your only limitations are those you set upon yourself."

— P. J. Berne

www.findawaybooks.com

### Assemblies:

There are no assemblies next week because the Theatre needs to be available for SQA Drama rehearsals and exams.

### 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.

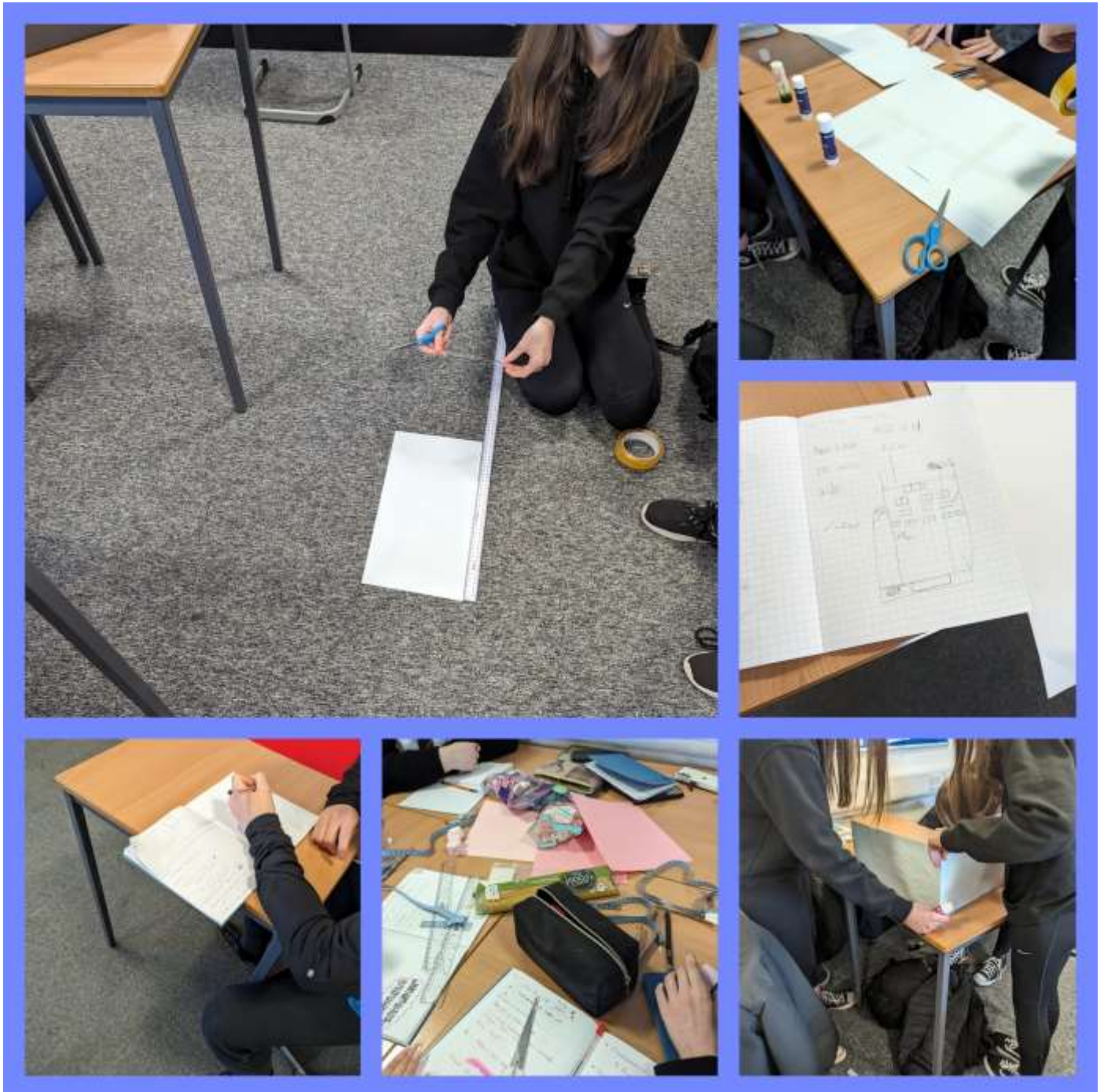
The learners below have accrued the most merits over the last week and will be given their Fast Passes by Mrs Buchan in the sunken social area on Monday 26.02.24 after registration. Well done to all.

Lucy	V	1F1	3
Lily	B	1F1	3
Kodi	M	1F1	3
Fraser	P	1S2	3
Sam	D	2K1	5
Harry	M	2K1	5
Jack	N	2K1	4
Lara	B	3S2	4
Ruby	Q	3S1	3
Adrijana	P	3M1	3
Lennox	A	3M2	3
Harris	C	4S2	2
Alex	A	4C1	2
Adam	B	4M1	2
Struan	W	4K2	2
Savannah	B	5S1	2



## Learning at Ellon Academy – Maths Faculty

It was a busy morning in S2 on Thursday! We've been looking at ratio and scale drawings. Our task was to measure the classroom or MOLA, make a floor plan and create a 3-D model to scale (1:20), with limited materials. There were some superb problem-solving skills shown when it came to getting the card to stay upright for our 3-D models. Some groups used dried spaghetti to strengthen the walls, some created their own hinges, and all had to use team work to figure out their method! Models will be measured and assessed for accuracy in the next few days to assist with determining an overall winner! Given the limited time we had for this task, it's great to see the detail that was put in by teams! If you look closely, you can see scale desks, pupils, boards, posters...and even model spaghetti and marshmallows from today's task! 🥳🌟 Time for staff to get cracking and measure so we can announce the winners next week! Well done everyone! 🍀











## Pupil Achievement:

Huge congratulations to the senior boys team who today travelled north to Inverness Royal Academy in the quarter finals of the NOS Cup coming away with a deserved 4-2 win!

The game started in the worst possible way for Ellon, conceding from a corner inside the first two minutes. Liam G in goal had two excellent saves at this time to keep the score at 1-0 and Ellon in contention, before they finally settled into the game.

After 15 minutes Ellon were awarded a penalty after Alex G was taken down in the box. Aidan McC stepped up and duly dispatched the spot kick. video to follow

Not 2 minutes later Ellon went 2-1 ahead after Alex G broke away down the right and swung in a cross that was met fully 15 yards out with a bullet header from Finlay M that went in off the post. Ellon were now firmly in the ascendancy and Alex G broke free down the right after good work from Aidan T and hit a powerful drive across the keeper to make it 3-1 at half time.

Ellon started the second half strongly, but Inverness scored against the run of play and with the score now 3-2 the next goal would be crucial. From an Ellon corner with 20 minutes remaining the ball broke to the edge of the Inverness box, up stepped Alex G again. From fully 35 yards he hit a half volley through a crowd of onrushing players with the ball rocketing into the bottom right corner of the net. Ellon then managed the game to see it peter out with little chances for either side. A fantastic effort from all of the boys who now have 3 semifinals to look forward to, the first of which is Friday afternoon away to Banff Academy.

The semifinal of NOS will be played in Ellon with our opponents and date 4 TBC. Well done all again!



## Pupil Achievement:

Senior Girls Football league and Aberdeenshire Cup semifinal. Ellon 2-4 Turriff.

The girls put in a battling performance this afternoon, against a good strong and pacy Turriff who deserved their win. The late call offs of 6 players due to injury and other commitments meant that today's game was just a stretch too far for our girls, but massive credit to those who did play, especially S2 pupils Molly P and Katie G, who were playing girls much older and more physical than them.

Turriff went 2-0 up but Grace S scored another well worked goal for the school, assisted by Molly P before Turriff went straight up the park to make it 3-1. Ellon played much better in the second half and despite being 4-1 down they stuck to their task with Grace S scoring a penalty, after being pole axed to the ground, despite the Turriff protests that nothing happened!

Katie G went in goals in the second half and produced some outstanding saves to keep the visitors from adding to their score. Overall, with all the call offs and girls being added at last minute, many who were younger the girls did very well.

Player of match. Alisha M, who is a rock at the back and always looks to drive forward from defence and Katie G who performed heroics in goals.

Goals. Grace S 🏆🏆

Assist Molly P





### Pupil Achievement:

What a day at the Scottish Schools Cheerleading competition in Paisley last week! 🥳 All of the pupils were amazing and were a credit to the school! It was a tough competition with 12 teams competing in the Level 1 division and 8 teams in the Level 2 division 🤖 but luckily, we are coming home with some trophies. 🏆 Fusion came 1st and Jets came 2nd in the level 1 division and the seniors came 2nd in the level 2 division. 🥳  
🏆 We are going to have to make some space in our trophy cabinets. 😊 Massive well done to everyone, a very early start and everyone smashed it, ⭐ we are so proud of you! ⭐























## Pupil Achievement:

Some pics of the S2 boys match against Mintlaw this week:



## Pupil Achievement:

### NASSA XC 2024!

A big well done to all pupils who participated in the NASSA Cross Country at The Gordon Schools, Huntly on Wednesday 21st Feb. All runners did really well and were a credit to Ellon Academy 😊 The weather was very kind for once, with a rare showing of blue skies, mild temperatures and ☀️. Here's hoping it will be the same at the next XC event in March! Special mention to Emily T (S2), Harris C (Senior Boys) and Sarah T (Senior Girls) who placed individual 1st and to Alyssa G (Senior Girls) who came 3rd. The Senior Girls Team comprising of Sarah T, Alyssa G, Rachel B and Eilidh G took 1st team prize which was a great effort.





### Former Pupil Achievement:

Since May 2023 former pupil Dylan Jakeman has been contracted with the Scottish Rugby Union as a Junior Academy Player as part of the Caledonia Academy. During that time, Dylan has represented Caledonia on numerous occasions, including co-captaining the team to win the FOSROC U18 Regional Title at the start of this year. Dylan then went on to be selected to play for and vice-captain the U18 Glasgow Warriors team who beat Edinburgh across both legs in the 1872 Cup. Most recently, Dylan has been training with the U18 Scotland squad and will be travelling to Wales this weekend to play in his first U18 Scotland match. Good luck Dylan!



## 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>.



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



## 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<sup>st</sup> 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:** <https://youtu.be/Y89Gr4ihm-8>


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>



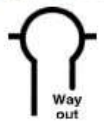
### ELLON ACADEMY COMMUNITY CAMPUS



#### 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.



**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](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01358 720715



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/>





## **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)

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> March

[Biology - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Chemistry – commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March

[Chemistry - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Maths – commencing 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March

[Maths - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

Preparation for Higher Physics – commencing 27<sup>th</sup> February

[Physics - North East Scotland College \(nescol.ac.uk\)](https://www.nescol.ac.uk)

For further information on any of these, please contact Dr Douglas Fraser, Curriculum Manager for Science, at [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk)

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

## **MANCHESTER CITY 2025 World Class Academy Football Trip**

**February or March 2025  
From Friday to Monday .**



**Manchester City 2025  
World Class Academy Football Trip.  
Feb or March, 2025.**

For those interested, an online zoom meeting, led by Inspire Sports, will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm. Please go to the form provided here and you will get access to the link for the meeting.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ch2RPXgkNN>

For more information, contact Mr McLean





## Community Information:

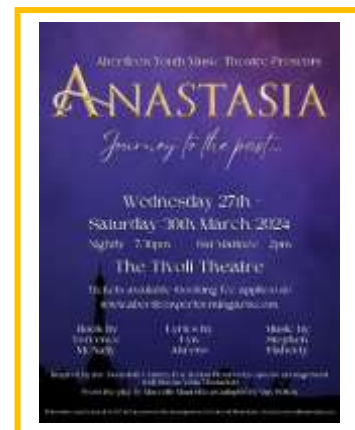
Tickets are now on sale for Anastasia by Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre for this March.

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](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



**The Leith School of Art Young Artists' Workshops** which will be running on Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Dates for Your Diary:

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:

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 <sup>th</sup> May	S3 Build Your Future/Entrepreneurship Days
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	S1/2/3 Activities Days
Fri 31.5.24	S2/3 Tracking Report (2) issue
Mon 3.6.24	Provisional change of timetable
Thurs 6.6.24	Sports Day
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Induction Days
Thurs 27.6.24	Drama Showcase – 7pm Theatre
Fri 5.7.24	End of Term

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 1.03.24