



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that our senior phase learners have been taking full advantage of the on-going exam preparation support offered by school staff and faculties, particularly over the past few weeks.

Also, we have noticed some learners' standard of dress has slipped somewhat. We see learners in black tops and t-shirts, white trainers, and a very small minority not in uniform at all. We ask that parents/carers support our school uniform and encourage your children to take pride in their school by wearing the unform as per our expectations.

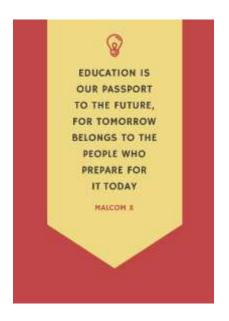


Plea from Police Scotland:

Officers from the local Ellon Police station have asked that if any pupil or parents have any information to share about the vandalism and damage to vehicles at Gordon Park if they could let a member of school staff know. Any information shared will be held in strictest confidence and police colleagues wanted to pass on that there will be increased police patrols in the community again this weekend.

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

Quote of the Week beginning Mon 25.3.24:



Assemblies:

Due to SQA Drama exams and the Music for Spring Concert, there will be no more assemblies this term. Mr Corser will be taking Senior Phase SQA assemblies during the first week of the new term during registration as follows:

> Tues 16.4.24 **S4**

Wed 17.4.24 **S6**

Thurs 18.4.23 S5

Dress Down Day - Wed 27.3.24:

Our Dress Down Day this term will be held on Wednesday 27th March (2nd last day of term so our Paris trip pupils can take part too) in memory of Mr Alan Murdoch, our Maths teacher who sadly died earlier this year.

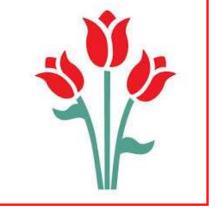
We are asking pupils and staff to come to school in red, white, and blue clothing, Mr Ms favourite colour combination, and to bring a suggested donation of £1/whatever you can spare for the Anchor Unit at ARI, as per the wishes of Mr Murdoch's wife and family.

We hope that our school, our Ellon families, and our staff can support this cause in Mr Murdoch's memory.









Merits - Over and Above:

This week we have had 560 learners recognised for Over and Above and we are pleased to report that the learners below are in the top group of learners for most 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 25.03.24 after registration. Well done to all.

Harrison	М	1C2	6
Veronika	М	1C2	6
Matteo	Т	1F2	6
Sarah	С	2K1	5
Ruby	Q	3S1	5
Megan	С	4C1	3
Erin	М	4C1	3
Eilidh	R	4C2	3
Harris	С	4S2	3
Ava	В	5F2	2
Heather	М	5M1	2
Logan	В	5M2	2
Gregor	W	5M2	2
Owen	М	6C	2
Sean	М	6K	2
Madison	D	6S	2



Extreme Reading at Ellon Academy... and other locations!

A few weeks ago, for World Book Day, staff & learners took part in Extreme Reading. (Reading in unusual places!)

Thank you to the staff who participated – your efforts certainly inspired our learners!

The winning member of staff voted for by learners is... Mrs Margaret Nicholson, Music Teacher.

The top three learners are:

First place: Heather M – 5M1
 Second place: Natania A – 1S2
 Third place: Molly C 1K1

Prizes will be delivered to pupils this week and all learners who took part have been given a merit. Pictures below: Cameron T - 2B2, Charlotte W - 2A1, Daniel F - 1F1, David K - 2S1, Finlay R - 1C1, Georgie Q - 1S1, Heather M - 5M1, Laura Jones 3A2, Layla H - 1C2, Matteo Tizzano - 1F2, Molly Burnett - 1F2, Molly Cameron 1K1, Naomi W - 1K2, Penny B 1S2, Ruby Q - 3B1 and Natania A - 1S2.































Pupil Achievement:

7 Ellon Academy pupils participated in a whole weekend workshop last weekend (16-17th March), which was run by the Benedetti Foundation at the Music Hall in Aberdeen. Pupils participated in workshops and learned about creative music making, rhythm and aural training, as well as working together in an ensemble.

Over 300 pupils joined forces to play a piece of music together, and the beginner, intermediate and advanced ensembles all played individual pieces of music too. The whole workshop was led by the world-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti, alongside a team of inspiring tutors and ambassadors from the Benedetti Foundation.

Pupils involved were:

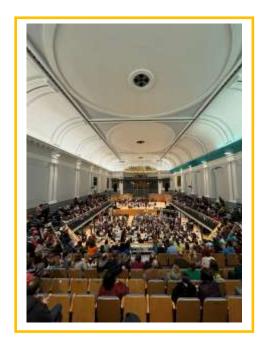
Violinists:

Stephanie B 5M2 Hayley D 5F1 Lewis D 2F1 Abigail H 4M1 Alasdair L 2S1

Cellists:

Chloe L 3M1 Lucy T 3K1

Well done to you all!



Pupil Achievement:

Sophie S 3F1 and Matthew G 1C2 competed in the Mary Duncan disability swimming gala on Saturday at Fraserburgh swimming pool. Matthew won a silver medal for front crawl and Sophie won a gold medal for breaststroke, Gold for butterfly and a Bronze medal for back crawl.

They both thoroughly enjoyed the gala and had great fun supporting and cheering on friends.



Pupil Achievement: Layla T 2C2 competed with Northeast Gymnasts centre on Saturday at the gymnastics British Championships in the disability Masters competition. Following selection last October at the British disability championships, Layla was selected to attend the disability masters apparatus finals for bars at the British Championships in Liverpool. This was a fantastic achievement for Layla where she competed alongside the best gymnasts in Great Britain. Layla was a fantastic ambassador for our club, showing great sportsmanship for the sport. Sarita, NEGC coach.



Pupil Achievement:

Ellon Rugby u13 team made it to the final of the SRU organised Culblean Challenge knock out competition played at the Meadows on St. Patrick's Day last weekend. They were playing against Moray and won the match 40-35. The team includes Ellon Academy pupils as well as m players from Oldmeldrum and Mintlaw Academy too.

Pupil Achievement: Pictures of today's U14 league football match, which finished Ellon 2-2 Inverurie:







Pupil Achievement: Albyn & RGC XCountry 3.4 Friday 15th March

A big well done to all participants who braved the elements last Friday! As you can see the course was very, very muddy after a lot of overnight and on the day rain so everyone showed brilliant resilience throughout the runs.



There were some fantastic individual times and places including a 2nd place medal for Emily T in S2 Girls and a 3rd place medal for Sarah T in Senior Girls. Full results can be found on the perfect timing Scotland website



















Aberdeenshire Council Good News:

Ellon Academy is featuring in this term's Aberdeenshire Council Good News bulletin! Click on the link to view.

Achievements in ECS - 21 March 2024 (cloud.microsoft)

Thanks to pupils and staff – P7 Parents/Carers Information Evening (Wed 20.3.24)

Last night about 200 parents/carers of the incoming P7s came to a Support Information evening. A huge thank you to staff for their presence and presentation skills.

There was a great turn out and feedback was extremely positive. Pupils as ever also praised for their amazing tours. The seniors below stayed back for the evening and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

- Madison D 6S, Katie W 6F, Matthew M 6K, Kyle M 6F, Nikki K 6K2
- Lila W 5M2, Patrick M 5C1, Kyle N 5F1, Keira H 5M1, Rebecca M 5S1, Leah P 5F2, Duncan S 5C1
 Erin B 5S2, Alexander M 5K1, Megan M 5F1, Sienna G 5C1, Ashleigh T 5C1, Brodie F 5K1, Mauli J 5M2, Aidan D 5M2, Lewis S 5F2, Cameron K 5S2, Kieran T 5M2, Ciaran S 5S2

Music For Spring Concert - Wed 27th March 2024

The "Music for Spring Concert" takes place on Wednesday 27 March at 7.30pm in the Theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the Main Reception priced at £6.00 (Adult) and £4.00 (Concession/ Child/ School pupil).



Senior Study and Exam Support:

Study Skills Support:

Here is a link to Mrs Leslie's Study Skills presentation and the Ellon Academy Study Guide:

https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/pupils/

Lunchtime and after school help clubs:

Faculties continue to offer support via help clubs for all senior phase learners.

Bright Red:

Get quizzical with our N5 Revision Cards for Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics!

These cards are great for studying in the run up to exams, as they focus on those tricky questions that students historically get wrong. Visit our website for more info! https://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/shop/revision-cards



STUDY CAFÉ at Ellon Academy

Thank you very much to the Co-op who have been supplying our students with snacks and drinks during our Study Café. Our pupils have been very grateful for the Co-op snacks and drinks which have been helping them with their studies. Study Café is back and will be running every Thursday from now until study leave! It is being held in the library from 14:45-15:45 to offer pupils a safe and quiet place to study and prepare for their final exams. As always, snacks/refreshments will be available to keep pupils fuelled to study. Please see Mr Caskie or Mrs Murdoch if you have any questions.



Here are some helpful websites for study:

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

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

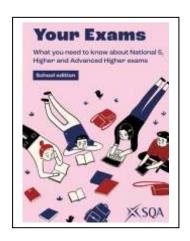
https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/students/higher-education/understanding-qualifications-study-tips

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

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

SQA Exam Information:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100863.html



SQA Exam Timetable:

file:///C:/Users/pbuchan/Downloads/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf

Pleases note that the Ellon Academy SQA exam timetable may vary to accommodate school bus times and additional assessment arrangements. Use this link as a guide only and your child will receive their individual timetable after the Easter break.

MyExams app

Create a personal timetable, view your exam schedule, add notes, and add to other calendars.

- <u>Download MyExams from the App Store</u>.
- Download MyExams for Android.

Personal timetable builder

Don't fancy an app? You can also create your own timetable using our online version.

Build your own online timetable

MyStudyPlan app

Organise your revision by creating your own study plan.

- Download MyStudyPlan from the App Store.
- Download MyStudyPlan for Android.

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 – BREAKTIMES IN THE LIBRARY

Reminders for all pupils:

- The library is open at breaktimes for borrowing, returning and renewing library items, reading and printing.
- The library is a RED ZONE at break time no phones.
- Pupils should have their snack before coming to the library at breaktime.

ALL PUPILS - TABLE TENNIS CLUB

If you want to get involved in playing some Table Tennis, come to gym A on a Wednesday at lunchtime.

Open to all pupils.

Start Date: Wednesday 20th March.

Time: Lunch Break Location: GYM A Mr Hatfield

ALL S5 PUPILS - Exec Team 24/25!

Any S5 pupil interested in being part of the Exec Team next year should join Google Classroom ik5qzva and fill in the nomination form. The deadline is 19th April., last day before exam leave. Any questions, please see Miss Tomlinson in S19 or any member of the current team.

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 Wednesday the 27th of March at Lunchtime. The current champions are McDonald House.

ALL PUPILS - CAREER INSIGHT SESSION - JM ARCHITECTS

During period 2 on Tuesday 26th March, we are delighted to welcome Stewart Davey from JM Architects to host a short career insight session on careers involving architecture. The session will last approximately 30 minutes, and you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions you have about a career in architecture during the session.

JM Architects are the lead firm responsible for designing the new Peterhead Academy Campus. Stewart will use the session to highlight the roles and responsibilities of an architect, the skills and qualities required, potential career routes and, most importantly, how you can access these in the future. If you wish to attend, please complete the form which can be found on your registration Google Classroom or speak to Mr Abberley-Nicoll in F44. Mr Abberley-Nicoll

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.

NAT 4/5 PUPILS – WOODWORK AND METALWORK

There's only 1 week (4 periods) left to finish your assignment! If you feel that you cannot complete your project in time, please come to our lunchtime sessions. Whether you quickly eat your lunch first, or bring a sandwich into the department, pop in and we will allow you to work on your assignment. There can be no extensions to this deadline!

S4-S6 PUPILS – SENIOR SINGERS

S4-6 singers who would like to participate in the Easter concert on Wednesday 27 March should come to a rehearsal in G32 at 12:35pm today. To listen to/see the music for our program, join the Choir Google Classroom using the code: advpdxo. S4-6 pupils who are studying or intend to study singing as one of their SQA performing choices are expected to attend.

Mrs Nicholson

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

SENIOR PUPILS - REVISION IN THE TECHNICAL FACULTY

During the run up to the exams, we will be holding specialist revision sessions in the Technical Faculty to help you with those tricky areas you may struggle with. The sessions below will run every week until study leave.

- Monday: Higher Graph Comm. This week we will be focusing on answering complex CAD questions.
- Monday: N5 Graph Comm. This week we will be looking at identifying and explaining DTP principles and elements.
- Wednesday: N5 Eng Science. This week we will be looking at how to approach electronic questions.
- Thursday: Higher Eng Science. This week we will be focusing on complex Op Amp questions.

Community Information:

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

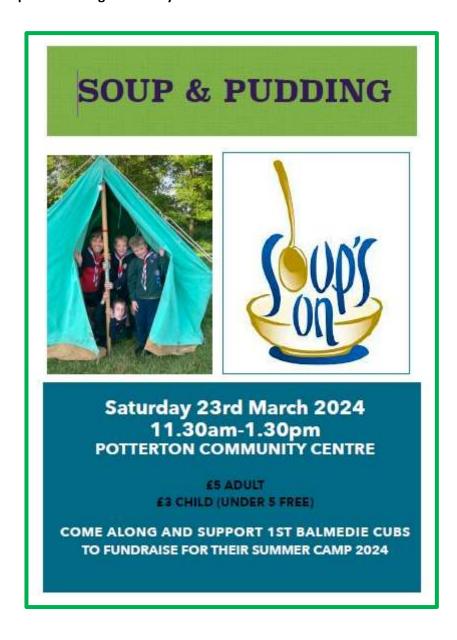
Our very own Laura J 2S1 and Isla M S6 are in leading roles.

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

Wednesday 27th
Saturday 38th March 2824
Saturd

Balmedie Cubs - Soup and Pudding - Saturday 23rd March '24



Live Life Aberdeenshire:

Looking for something fun and Eggciting over the Easter Holidays to keep your Bunny's happy? Look no further at LLA we have crafted an exceptional Easter Programme designed to entertain children and teens. From sports sessions to arts and crafts sessions, ASN and outdoor activities, we have something for everyone, regardless of age or interest.

To secure your spot, simply log in as your child on our app or visit our website to check availability and make your booking.

Please remember to log in with your child's account otherwise the sessions will be full. Website:

https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/easter-programme/





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.







The Period Place

The following events are up and coming and will be organised by the charity 'The Period Place'.







Live Life Aberdeenshire – Ellon Pool Attention, parents, and guardians!

Get ready for fun-filled moments of adventure and unforgettable memories. Live Life Aberdeenshire is delighted to present the programme for Easter Holidays. From sports sessions to arts and crafts workshops, ASN activities, and outdoor activities, we have something for everyone, regardless of age or interest. Do not let your kids and teens spend these Holidays glued to screens. Instead, provide them the opportunity to have fun and stay active with our fantastic programme! To secure your spot, simply log in as your child on our app or visit our website to check availability and make your booking.

Website: https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/easter-programme/

App: http://bit.ly/LLA app



Dates for Your Diary:

Wed 27.3.24	Dress Down Day for Mr Murdoch
Wed 27.3.24	Interhouse Cheer Competition
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 27/28th May S3 Build Your Future/Entrepreneurship Days Wed 29th – Fri 31st 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

25th, 26th 27th 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/

Yesterday, I told my staff that I will be retiring from my post as Headteacher of Ellon Academy at the end of the summer term. I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to have worked with some wonderful young people, talented staff and supportive parents and carers and I wish to say a special 'thank you' to you for your continued support.

Aberdeenshire Council will shortly be advertising the post and I have every confidence that they will appoint an excellent candidate who will continue to work with all stakeholders to bring further success to Ellon Academy. I look forward to continuing to work with you until my retiral date of Friday 5th July 2024.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope our Ellon Academy families and friends have a lovely weekend.

P Buchan
Rector 22.03.24