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ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

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Date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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**Dear parents/carers,**

I will be such a relief for pupils, parents, and staff that the SQA exam diet has concluded, and we are delighted we welcome our senior pupils back to school this week and it's been a busy one!

Last week, our S1/2/3 pupils have had many and varied experiences of Activities Days and the S3 Build Your Future Days last week and we have changed timetable this week.

**Relaxed Uniform during warmer weather:**

SLT have agreed that pupils will be permitted to wear shorts during the expected spell of warmer weather. Pupils are asked to continue to wear usual shirts and ties and are reminded that this relaxation is not a reason to come to school in beachwear, it means shorts that are appropriate for school wear. Therefore, to clarify, no football strips, very short Lycra shorts (these are inappropriate and can be a flame risk), strappy tops or cropped bra style tops. Thank you, SLT.

**School Blazers:**

We will shortly be planning to secure blazers for who seniors want to buy one for next year. However, a good number of our departing S6 wish to donate their old blazer so someone else can get the good of it. This is commendable, so we ask if any school leaver wants to do the same, then they can be handed in to the school office. We will do our best to ensure they someone else gets the benefit. Thank You to those parents/carers who have already donated pre-loved and new blazers to the school. This is very much appreciated.

**Share your Success:**

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)





### Weekly Merits:

At respective House Meetings, we are really pleased to report home, that your child is in the top group of learners who earned merits from their teachers this week. Well done, and we are sure parents/carers will pass on the good news and our appreciation of those learners achieving Excellence at Ellon!

Here are the pupils who have accrued the most merits this week:

Well done, and they can collect their Fast Passes from Mrs Buchan after registration in the sunken social area on Mon 10.6.24.

**Well done all!**

Murron	B	2S1	6
Adam	F	2S2	6
Riley	G	2S1	6
Georgie	Q	2S1	6
Murray	D	3M2	5
Varvara	L	3K2	5
Megan	M	5M1	5
Brodie	M	5K2	5
Thomas	R	5C2	5

### Assemblies:

Assemblies next week will be during registration as follows:

- Tues 11.6.24 – New S2
- Wed 12.6.24 – New S3
- Thurs 13.6.24 – New S4
- Fri 14.6.24 – New S5

### Parent Council Up-date:

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in person at Ellon Academy.

Our new Chairperson Mr James Simpson is keen for more parents to join us that evening.

The Parent Council also want to welcome P7 parents and remind them to answer the security questions if they would like to access the Ellon Academy Parent Council Facebook page.

Thank you.

### Plea to parents

Please could you encourage your child to return any unneeded textbooks to our faculty departments asap?

In the current financial climate, we cannot afford to be using our limited school budget to replace textbooks year on year. It may come to the stage where we have to request payment for textbooks which have not been returned to school.

### First Aid Procedures at Ellon Academy

Recently, there have been a few occasions when a pupil has been feeling unwell and they have called their parents directly. The parents have then come to the school and waited in their cars for their child to come out.

As you will understand, there are child protection considerations in this circumstance, and we ask that all pupils report to the First Aider if they are feeling unwell and staff will call parents/carers to liaise about getting the child home in a way that accounts for our pupils whereabouts at all times and so that we can ensure that the child is being picked up by an appropriate adult. Thank you.

**Introducing our New Exec Team for session 24/25:**

The interviews this year were highly competitive, and we are proud of all the candidates who gave great speeches and well done to those who got through to the final interviews.

We are delighted to introduce our new Exec Team for session 24/25.

They are:

**Head Prefects:** Brodie F 6K1 and Sienna G 6C1.

**Depute Head Prefects:** Lewis A 6S2, Sadie G 6C1, Mauli J 6M2 and Kiera P 6C1.

**Ellon Academy**

**Exec Team 24.25**

**7/Jun/24**



LEWIS ANDERSON



BRODIE FRASER



SADIE GARLAND



SIENNA GRUGEON



MAULI JAIN



KEIRA PIRIE

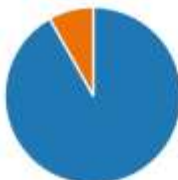
## S1/2/3 Vaping Workshops May 2024 Feedback:

### Ellon Academy ALEC Vaping Workshop Feedback (Based on LI's) - 110 respondents:

1. After this workshop, I feel that I have had the opportunity to develop my knowledge and attitudes towards vaping

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)



2. As a result of this workshop, I am more aware of the chemicals and technology inside a vape.

[More Details](#)



3. As a result of the workshop, I am more aware of the risks associated with unregulated/counterfeit vapes.

[More Details](#)

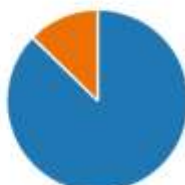
[Insights](#)



4. As a result of the ALEC workshop, I have a greater understanding of nicotine addiction.

[More Details](#)

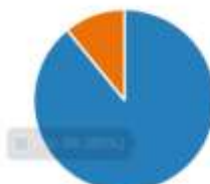
[Insights](#)



5. As a result of the workshop, I have a greater awareness of how companies market and promote their products.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)





## S1/2/3 Activities Days 2024

A huge thank you to Ms Booth DHT for organising Activities Days 2024 for S1, S2 and S3 and also to the staff who planned and organised a vast array of trips for pupils to choose from.

Here are a selection of photos from a very successful few days:

### S1 Camp:



### Get Fit Girls:



### Drill and Thrills:



**Days Here and There:**



**Ellon Bakes:**



**AFC Football:**





**Creative Arts and Theatre:**



**Crime Scene Investigation:**



**Glam Candy:**





**Cycling:**



**WhatSUP:**





**Active Bites:**



**Shetland Explorer**



EAGer Buchan – Ellon Academy Gardeners Activities Days:





**Ellon Academy Sports Day 2024**

Congratulations to MacDonald House, who were winners of this year's Sports Day.







## Aberdeenshire Libraries - Summer Reading 2024

Summer Reading Fantasy Fiction Starts on Thursday 13th June and will run until Saturday 24th August 2024.

Participants of all ages can take part (0 to 100+ years) - children, young adults, families, adults, friends, and groups. This year's summer reading theme is Fantasy Fiction to coincide with the bicentenary celebration of George MacDonald in 2024. He is often referred to as the founding father of fantasy fiction. George was born and lived in Huntly, Aberdeenshire and influenced well known authors such as CS Lewis and Tolkien.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clkm0ejnzedo>

How do I take part?

- Participant(s) can pick up a collector's card from their local library, and download from the Live Life Aberdeenshire website - <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>
- You can register to take part by filling in our online form, ask library staff for details or go online.
- The collector's card has 8 circles to keep track of the books you have read and events you have taken part in within Libraries.
- For each collector's card completed a certificate will be awarded by staff at your local library or you can download online.
- Your completed card can be dropped off at your local library, or an eCopy sent to - [summerreading@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:summerreading@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)
- It will then be entered into a draw to win one of many prizes which includes signed books, book bundles, gift cards and much more... We also have a creative competition that everyone can take part in and prizes to be won.
- The creative competition for 2024 is for all ages to take part in.
- The competition this year will be to create a short fantasy fiction story and illustrate one of the characters in the created story - 500 to 750 words.
- Or you can write a story only or illustrate a fantasy creature only. There are different options for different abilities and ages.
- Creative Competition entry forms will be available to pick up from your library or download online.
- Creative competition will have 4 age group - Pre-School, 5-11 years, 12+ and Adults.
- Winners will be chosen from each Aberdeenshire area and will be published as an eBook on our Digital Library platform - Libby.

Find out more information on our website when summer reading launches on the 13th June - <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>

Further information is also available from Libraries HQ, Oldmeldrum - [librarieshq@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:librarieshq@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)





## **Important Information for Parents/Carers from National Crime Agency Alert - Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion**

The following information has been provided to schools by the National Crime Agency in order to raise your awareness of this issue and outline how to address it should you become aware of situation involving a child in your care. In school we will be reminding the children of how to use the internet safely and about the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they find themselves in a situation where they feel uncomfortable or that worries them.

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP Education's parents and carers website](#).

### **Talking to your child/young person:**

It's important to have frequent, open, and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Here are some tips about how to approach this:

- Chat regularly about their life online: have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online. Continue to take an interest as they grow, explore new apps and sites together and talk in a balanced way, considering the benefits and the potential harms.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex: organisations like [CEOP Education](#), [Childline](#) and [Brook](#) have age-appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics.
- Review privacy settings: talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice on [how to talk your child about their privacy settings](#).
- Make sure they know where to go for support: let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.
- Make sure they know where to report and remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police or using the CEOP Safety Centre. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).

To learn more about what resources are available to help you support your child, visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

## What can I do if this has happened to my child?

If your child tells you that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

- Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, and bank account details.
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

If it has already happened and your child has shared an image and sent money to someone exploiting them:

- Reassure them that they've done the right thing by telling you: make sure they know they are not to blame for what has happened and they have done the right thing to ask for your help.
- Children and young people's mental health may be negatively impacted by experiences of exploitation; you can [find advice on looking after your child's mental health from the NHS](#).
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report an incident. If your child is 18 and over, call 101 or 999 if they are at risk of immediate harm.
- Report any images or videos that have been shared: help your child to remove images that are online or prevent images being shared online by following these three steps:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).



### **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 PUPILS – DIVERSITY CLUB**

Diversity Club has been paused until after the change of timetable (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June). We will add a new notice to the bulletin soon, so watch this space.

#### **S2 PUPILS – FOOTBALL**

Football training will now take place every Tuesday on the grass pitches (15:30-16:30). Please keep an eye on Google Classroom for updates regarding training sessions and future games. Mr Caskie

#### **ALL PUPILS**

The Garden Club will resume on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – all welcome. Miss Swallow.

#### **Fund Raising for Maggie's**

Rachael C 5K1, her mum and brother have signed up to participate in Maggie's Culture Crawl this year, taking place on June 21st. They will be walking 6 miles around different areas of Aberdeen, which will be awesome!

These different areas will include food/ drink/ entertainment etc, so it adds to the experience!

Maggie's provides support for those affected with Cancer, whether it be emotional, practical, physical, financial support, or for those with younger children, and other family members. As part of this exciting opportunity, they have to do a wee spot of fundraising!

They have a Mint Aero Chocolate Hamper for £2.00 per square.

A Galaxy Chocolate Hamper to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.



3 different Sweetie Bouquets to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.

Two x 1000-piece jigsaw + a 2025 Calendar to be raffled off- £ 2.00 per square.

Payment can be made through our Just Giving page @



[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_fundraiser\\_page\\_launched&utm\\_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=postoffice&utm\\_term=1708890116649](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_launched&utm_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1708890116649)

Or PayPal / Bank Transfer/ cash.

Thank you.



**\*\*EASA RAFFLE\*\***

This year's EASA Raffle will take place at the Dance Showcase on Thursday the 27th of June.

Tickets for the raffle will be available to buy on the night at the showcase.

Last year we raised an amazing £1347 for EASA and this money has gone towards equipment, uniforms, and subsidising bus costs.



### SAAS information for Parents/Carers:

Do you know a young person heading to college or university?

We recommend applying early for 2024-25 courses to ensure funding is in place prior to their course starting.

For information on types of funding, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk).

[#StartWithSAAS](#)



### Dates for Your Diary:

#### Term 4:

Tues 11.6.24	Parent Council Meeting (In-person at Ellon Academy), 7.00pm – 8.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Induction Days
Wed 26.6.24	P7 Parents Evening
Thurs 27.6.24	Dance Showcase – 7pm Theatre
Tues 2.7.24	Drama Showcase – 7.30pm Theatre
Fri 5.7.24	Dress Down Day/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 I hope you have a lovely weekend.

*P Buchan*

Rector 07.6.24