



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 14th June 2024

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a much quieter week at Ellon Academy this week with no major additional events. However, we are gearing up for our P7 Induction Days on 25th, 26th and 27th June and looking forward to our Dance and Drama Showcase evenings and our Sports Awards too!

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.

Book Drive and Book Sale:

On Thursday 20th June we are asking pupils and staff to bring their pre-loved books to school for our Book Drive. These books will be used for our pre-loved book sale on Monday 1st July to raise funds for Ellon Academy library. Pupils will get a Merit for bringing their books! We hope everyone can support us!



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

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. There were 570 pupils recognised, 85 over and aboves and 78 other well done texts

Well done, and they can collect their Fast Passes from Mrs Buchan after registration in the sunken social area on Mon 17.6.24.

Well done all!

Lame	B	1F1
Astrid	M	1S1
Georgie	Q	1S1
Kyle	R	1S1
Kasper	S	1S1
Aron	S	1S1
Kai	C	2C1
Emma	B	2C2
Lawrence	G	2C2
James	M	2F1
Caleb	S	2K1
Murray	D	2M2
Cara	M	2S1
Beth	L	3F1
Charlie	W	3M1
Kayla	N	3M2
Lewis	P	3S1
Rylee	E	3S2
Abea	J	4F1
Olivier	K	4S2
Chloe	R	4S2
Ashleigh	T	5C1
Eilidh	D	5F1
Kayleigh	F	5F1

Assemblies:

Assemblies next week will be during registration as follows:

- Tues 18.6.24 – New S4
- Wed 19.6.24 – New S5
- Thurs 20.6.24 – New S2
- Fri 21.6.24 – New S3

Parent Council Up-date:

The next Parent Council met on Tuesday 11th June and the minutes will be published on the school website in due course.

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.

Quote of the Week For Refugee Week:

"To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished."

Malala Yousafzai



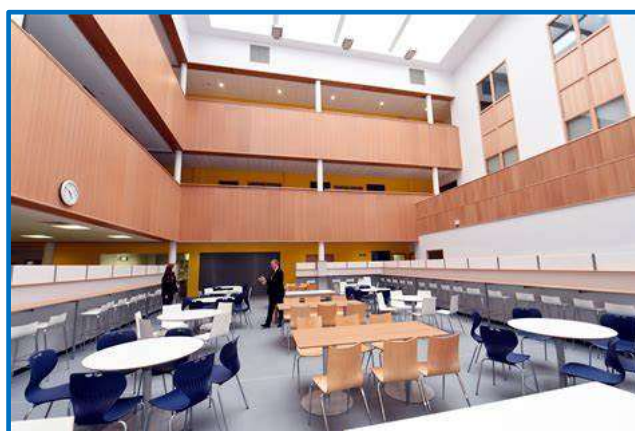
First Aid Procedures at Ellon Academy

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.

Here is our Canteen Menu for Week beginning 17.6.24:

Week beginning 17/6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup	Broth	Potato Soup	Lentil	Carrot & Corriander	Yellow Pea Soup
Main 1	Katsu Curry & Rice	Veggie Curry	Roast Chicken & Mealie	Chicken & Blackbean Sauce with Rice(49g)	Fried Haddock
Main 2	Singapore Veggie Noodles	Chicken Tikka & Naan Bread	Creamy Carbonara	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Vegetarian	Singapore Veggie Noodle	Quorn Mince	Creamy Carbonara	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Snack	Rollover Hotdog Pizzini	Pizzini Sausage Roll	Breaded Chicken Burger Pizzini	Hot Dog Pizzini	Pizzini Rollover Hot Dog
Panini	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
	Chicken Tikka	Sweet Chilli Chicken	BBQ Chicken	Tuna Melt	
Vegetable 1	Broccoli	Peas	Broccoli	Peas	Baked Beans
Vegetable 2	Sweetcorn	Carrots	Carrots	Sweetcorn	Peas
Pot / Carb	Mash / Garlic Bread	Mash	Potatoes	Garlic Bread	Chips



Introducing our official photos of the new Exec Team 24/25:

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.

Thanks to Mr McLean for the photos!



Sharing Good News:

Please see the email received this week, from the Secretary of the Ellon Wheel Park Group below:

Good evening,

I am the Secretary of the Ellon Wheel Park Group. I popped along to the Wheel Park at about 7.45pm this evening to do a quick litter pick. I took a bin bag and had a quick look around. After saying who I was, I asked if some of the young people would pick litter - I confess I offered a bribe of some Moaom and Haribo sweets! At this point you may be panicking about Child Protection. Please be assured I have up to date PVGs.

The youngsters all willingly went to collect what small amount of litter there was. In addition, many of them said they would ask parents for a bin bag and try to do a regular litter pick at the Pump Track - they don't want it untidy or vandalised, they said.

I asked only for first names and said I would email schools so that these young people can be recognised by your rewards system.

The pupils are Lachlan (2F1), Charlie (2C2), Niamh (2K1), Codi (4S1) and Kodi (2F1).

A big "well done and thank you" from all of us at the Wheel Park committee.

Kind regards

Secretary

Ellon Wheel Park Group (EWPG)

Well done to all involved – we are proud of you!



Some more from Activities Days 2024

Library arts and crafts:



Volunteering Week:

It was Volunteering Week last week [#volunteersellonacademylibrary](https://twitter.com/volunteersellonacademylibrary) and here are some photos of some of the wonderful pupil library volunteers at our Reading Bingo Awards event last week.



Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to Emily T and Sarah T in S3 and S6 🏆🏆

The girls were competing at the Scottish Schools Athletics Association Track and Field Championships in Grangemouth at the weekend.

Sarah finished in 11th place in the 800m after setting a new school record at sports day on Thursday.

Emily finished in 3rd place in the 1500m setting a new PB of 4.52.

A fantastic performance from both girls! Well done.



Pupil Achievement – Health and Wellbeing Faculty Pupils of the Month:

Well done to the following pupils who have been awarded May Pupil of the Month.

Mr Hatfield - James M 2F1, Astrid M 2S1

Miss Hepburn - Joe F 4M2

Miss Morgan - Amy McA 4F1, Connie A 4M1, Amy P 4M1

Mrs Godsman - Romach F 3K1, Alexander S 3K2

Miss Daniel - Daniel McF 3C1, Jack McG 3M1

Miss Williams - Jemma F 3F2, Amelia G 3F2

Mr Caskie - Lilah McP 2C2, Lewis N 4M2

Mr McCall - Alasdair L 3S1, Connie A 3M1



Pupil Achievement:

Well done to Arianna M 6S who was awarded the Eric Liddell medal for sportsmanship and integrity. Arianna displayed incredible sportsmanship during sports day last week.



Pupil Achievement:

Abigail H, 5M1, was involved with a pit orchestra project for the Academy of Expressive Arts' production of Shrek the Musical JR last week. Abigail auditioned for a place in the pit orchestra back in November and attended rehearsals that started back in March. There was a full week of shows last week which gathered an audience of over 800 people throughout the 5-show run. Along with other Instrumental Music Service pupils from across Aberdeenshire and a few professional musicians, Abigail formed part of the 18-piece pit orchestra to play for a full production of Shrek the Musical JR at the Arts Centre in Aberdeen. Well done Abigail! (Mr Hibbs, Abigail's teacher is 2nd from the left and Abigail is 3rd from the right).



Pupil Achievement: NORTH OF SCOTLAND CUP FINAL U15 GIRLS SUCCESS.

Ellon 3-3 Inverurie. (Ellon won 4-2 on pens)

Congratulations to Ellon Academy U15 Girls and their coaches as they are the winners of the North of Scotland Cup, making that the cup double, with the league decider still to be played next week!

Ellon went into the match with a few girls unavailable for selection and a few who could only play for some of the match. The effort these girls put in was amazing, as was the attitude, determination and willingness of the other girls who stepped up to the squad. Our girls found themselves 0-2 down at half time, in what was an even first half possession. The half time introduction of Alisha M, who went on and played through the pain barrier, gave us inspiration, not just because of Alisha's ability, but it allowed Millie B, who had a brilliant first half in defence, to move into her more accustomed midfield position. Millie and Natalie G soon formed a formidable partnership in midfield and soon Natalie was on the scoresheet to make it 1-3. Millie then added a 2nd goal by hitting a 30-yard screamer into the roof of the net, and now it was all to play for. Ellon kept up their pressure and Natalie scored her 2nd of the night and Ellon's 3rd to make it 3-3.

A couple of excellent saves from Amber S, one from a 30-yard free kick, and a goal line clearance by Alex Y, saw the game go into a penalty shootout. With Amber S in goals, it certainly gives players and coaches some peace confidence going into these penalty shoot outs. Amber saved a penalty and penalties from Millie B, Myah R, Molly P meant that Katie G's penalty was enough to win the shootout. We must admit, with all the tension and pressure, we didn't really notice that Katie's penalty had actually won it.

What a shift from these girls. They gave their all and were substituted when they knew they needed to come off. It was definitely a squad effort tonight. It's really unfair to pick players of the match because any team that can come back from 0-3 all deserve that accolade. However, Millie B, for her composure at centre half to help the team and her drive and determination, plus a 30-yard strike would make her joint player of the match with Natalie G, who did extremely well in first half despite not being 100% fit and also for her 2 goals in the second half. Alex Y did very well against a very quick and skilful Inverurie attack force, and Edie I also had a very strong game at left back, always looking to play the ball to the midfielders feet. Alisha M, also really put herself out there, showing her commitment to her teammates and her determination to try and get the 2nd cup won this season. (3 if you count the 7 a side tournament in Huntly!)

Well done girls. We are so proud of your ability and desire. The school teaches growth mindset, and you certainly demonstrated that tonight. Next week is the league decider, also against Inverurie, which I am sure will be another difficult fixture, and one in which Inverurie will be desperate for revenge. Let's keep believing and aim to finish what has been an incredible season on a high!

Players of match: Natalie G and Millie B, Goal scorers: Natalie G 🏆🏆, Millie B 🏆, Assists: Katie G

Well done from a very proud, Mr McLean and Mr Mackie.



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
- 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

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.

S5/6 PUPILS (NEW TIMETABLE) – PAIRED READING

Can any new S5/6 learners who are interested in 'Paired Reading' please attend a short meeting in S10 at lunchtime on Friday 14th June. Mrs Warne.

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 3rd June). We will add a new notice to the bulletin soon, so watch this space.

ALL PUPILS – SUMMER READING QUIZ

Summer Reading 2024 launches on Thursday 13th June. Please come along to the library at lunchtime on Friday 14th June to find out more and sign up to take part. We will also be holding a Summer Reading Fantasy Kahoot Quiz – enter as a team or individually! Mrs Murdoch, School Librarian.

S1-S3 PUPILS – ANIMAL ANTICS PACKAGE

Together, you managed to raise £90.37 for Guide Dogs and £32.20 for the SSPCA. Well done to everyone! A big thankyou to those of you who returned your Smartie tubes with donations from friends and family! Thank you. Miss Kettle

S2 PUPILS – FOOTBALL

Our match against Lochside Academy has been moved to Thursday 20th June so please check Google Classroom for further information. Mr Caskie.

ALL PUPILS

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

ALL PUPILS - 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

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.

[#StartWithSAAS](#)

SAAS - The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) is Scotland's student funding agency. We provide government money to colleges and universities to pay for your course tuition fees, as well as giving money directly to you to help with your living costs while you study.

Our Path to Possibilities campaign is now fully underway and I'm getting in touch to let you know that we now have six new videos on our YouTube channel to help students, parents and carers familiarise themselves with the funding available and the steps they need to take to submit an application.

Our Guarantee Date is the 30th of June and we are encouraging all students to submit their application by this date to ensure their funding is in place for their course starting.

To note: this is not a deadline, we just encourage early applications to avoid any delays in receiving their funding.

To register with SAAS please copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://myportal.saas.gov.uk/saas/register?execution=e1s1>

You will also find videos on YouTube to support too:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L89U2BwmYbY>



Dates for Your Diary:

Term 4:

Thurs 20.6.24	Book Drive – Please bring your pre-loved books for our Book Sale!
25 th , 26 th 27 th 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 14.6.24