



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Date: Friday 28th June 2024

Dear parents/carers,

It's been another busy one at Ellon Academy and we have been delighted to have our P7 pupils on their 3 Visit Days this week. A huge thanks to our Pupil Guides who did a fantastic job and to our S5 and S6 pupils who helped with tours at the P7 Parents Evening on Tuesday 25th June. We were pleased that Mr Thom Sherrington, Rector in waiting, was able to attend and meet with many of our pupils and our P7 parents on Tuesday evening.

Mr Sherrington was also able to attend our Senior Leadership Team meeting on Thursday this week and met with myself, our Cluster Business Manager Mrs S McGill and our Depute Headteachers Ms T Booth, Mr N Corser, Mr G Cowie and Mrs M Wilson. Staff and pupils look forward to welcoming Mr Sherrington officially on Monday 19th August 2024.

Look out for some great pupil successes again in this week's newsletter!

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.

Book Sale:

Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who have so kindly donated to our Book Drive this week. These books will be added to 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!



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 1.7.24.

Well done all!

Joshua	Q	1C1
Jamie	R	1C1
Kasper	S	1S1
Lewis	C	2C1
Scott	M	2F1
Codi	C	2M1
Advika	A	2M2
Aiden	C	3F2
Vitalii	R	3K1
Milo	B	3M1
Rylee	E	3S2
Scarlett	G	4K2
Sean	M	4M1
Grace	S	4S1
Ashleigh	T	5C1
Leo	F	5M2

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.

Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Assemblies:

I am led to believe there are assemblies next week but no-one's telling me who's taking them or what they are about! Eek!



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. The next parent council meeting is on Wed 11/9/24 at 7pm in Ellon Academy. Thank you.

Quote of the Week beginning Mon 01.07.24:



Here is our Canteen Menu for Week beginning 01.07.24:

w/b 1/7/24	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup	Lentil	Sweet Potato & Butternut Squash	Broth	Lentil	Potato & Leek
Main 1	Macaroni Cheese	Katsu Chicken Curry and Rice	Roast Chicken & Mealie	Chicken Pie	Breaded Haddock
Main 2	Beef Teriyaki with Noodles (49g)	Veggie Curry	Spaghetti Bolognese & Garlic Bread (48g)	Veggie Singapore Noodles	Creamy Carbonara
Vegetarian	Macaroni Cheese	Veg Curry & Rice	Quorn Bolognese	Veggie Singapore Noodles	Creamy Carbonara
Snack	Breaded Chicken Burger Pizzini	Rollover Hot Dog Pizzini	Pizzini Southern Fried Chicken Wrap	Pizzini Breaded Chicken Burger	Pizzini Rollover Hot Dog
Panini	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
	Sweet Chilli Chicken	Cheese & Ham(20g)	Tuna Melt	BBQ Chicken	
Veg 1	Peas	Broccoli	Peas	Broccoli	Peas
Veg 2	Sweetcorn	Baked Beans	Carrots	Carrots	Baked Beans
Pot / Carb	Garlic Bread	Rice	Mash	Mash	Chips

Community Book Sale – Mon 1.7.24:

Our Library Pupil Volunteers are getting ready for our Community Book Sale next week. We are delighted to be supported by members of Ythan Valley Rotary. Come along to the campus to Community Room 1 to get some great bargains. New and pre-loved books and jigsaws priced from 20p to £2. We can only accept cash on this occasion. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 1st July from 10am to 3.30pm.



P7-S1 Induction Days:

Here are some photos of our P7 pupils this week:



Assembly – 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time – 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Break time 25.6.24

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest



Ready, Respectful, Safe

#personalbest

Mr Burr's Art Class – 25.6.24



Ready, Respectful, Safe

#personalbest

Mr Burr's Art Class with Brodie F (S6) Head Girl



Mr Birse's Music Class

Ready, Respectful, Safe
#personalbest

Also in the academy library, p7 pupils have been designing posters to "brighten up" the library book trolleys! They've been choosing books to get them started on their reading journeys and finding out about the Summer Reading 2024 challenge.



Learning at Ellon Academy

Maths Faculty – New S1/P7s

It was great to meet our new S1s this week! We had some great discussions about what maths means to us and then had some fun with problem solving and strategy games. S1 seeds with Mrs G. discussed different mindsets and transformed some fixed mindset quotes to growth mindset ones. Great to hear how well your first day went and looking forward to seeing you after the summer!

2A1 were working on substitution skills outdoors today. We assigned each letter of the alphabet with a different value, then had a set amount of time to find as many items as possible beginning with each letter. We returned to class and worked out our total value. We will use this later in the week to determine what value we would have, had we been out longer. Lots of creative thinking when it came to finding items and great to see lots of fantastic encouragement and teamwork! Superb work everyone! Blue, blue sky, green, green grass!



Also, 3A1 enjoyed some of the good weather today by taking their statistics outside. We were given random pieces of coloured card, with different values, and had to organise ourselves into teams based on the colours. We then had to work out the mean, median, mode, range, and standard deviation of our team. We then joined teams together to compare data and see if the standard deviation changed significantly with all values. Our final task was to organise ourselves as a class and identify who was the median (Q2). Good teamwork and some strong leadership skills were demonstrated. Well, done!



Pupil Achievement:

Well, done to the new Girls in Energy pupil who made their keyrings to go on their kit bags. With the level of interest and enthusiasm shown, this should be a very successful year!



Pupil Achievement:

Rachael C (S6) - Culture Crawl for Maggie's - Home of Cancer Care

Rachael and her family want to say a huge thank you for all the support that they received leading up to the Maggie Culture Crawl this year. They had a blast and, in the process, raised more than £500 for Maggie's. They successfully completed a 6-mile walk, enjoying all the shenanigan's in between times! They started at the Sir Duncan Rice Library and finished at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (Queens Cross area of Aberdeen).

They've made lots of treasured memories and the weather remained dry and bright. Here are some photos taken during the Culture crawl! Brilliant experience had by all. Well, done and thank you!



Pupil and Staff Achievement - Ellon Academy Memorial Garden:

Work to prepare the ground for a Gazebo.

The EAGer Bunch Cementing Team!

This week work started with a great team and what lovely weather for some outside work!

Period 1 - We set up equipment for laying a large concrete platform in the Memorial Garden. We will bolt a gazebo to it in future, so it won't blow away in winter winds!

Period 2 - We started ferrying gravel and sand to the garden. We filled buckets to get a strong mix in the correct proportions. Adding water starts the chemical reaction for the concrete to form.

Periods 3/4 - Work continued with a break built in.

Period 5 - More volunteers came out to help fill more buckets. It took a lot of trips to get the material we needed into the garden. It was very tiring in the heat of the day, but it was good to rest in the shade!

Work continued after lunch right through periods 6 and 7. We used a long "tamper" to smooth the concrete and level it.

A huge thank you to Ellon Timber for donating rebar - the metal grid submerged in the concrete to make it even stronger. We will need another day to get the whole platform done.

Thank you to everyone who helped today. It was a real team effort and you all worked extremely hard in the hot sun! Look out for merits and "over and above-s" coming your way!



Pupil Achievement:

Aberdeenshire League U15 Girls winners- Ellon Academy.

Well, done to our girls who won the league in style, winning 5-0 against an Inverurie side who pushed us all the way till the last game of the season. This league win makes it a clean sweep of trophies for our talented and hard-working girls team, winning 4 trophies this season. Well, done girls and coaches, what an array of trophies, medals, and cups! What a season!



Pupil Achievement - S3 Football Game

Robert Gordon 7-6 Ellon Goals: Alfie S (2), Ewan B, Josh S, Brodie McD, Finlay T
POTM - Alfie S

In the last game of the season the new S3 football team went to Spain Park to play Robert Gordon in a friendly match. In what was a very closely fought match the boys done very well to come back from 3-0 down to lead 5-3 at HT. The team will be back in action from August as they compete as the new S3 football team



Some pics from Robert Gordon's v Ellon. Current S2 boys. Tuesday 25th June.



Pupil Achievement - BACK TO BACK NASSA GOLF CHAMPIONS! 🏆

Congratulations to the three senior boys representing Ellon today, Cameron K, Saul P, and Kyle M. They took home the Team scratch Trophy for a second successive year with Cameron also collecting the singles scratch trophy by 1 shot. Well, done and congratulations boys!



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.livelifeaberdeenshire.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.livelifeaberdeenshire.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.

ALL PUPILS – ART CLUB

The Art Club returns! We provide a creative place where pupils can create their own work, work on mini projects, and meet new people! Bring your lunch and your imagination. This is open for all skills levels. Come along to G62 at lunchtime every Wednesday!

ALL PUPILS – DIVERSITY CLUB

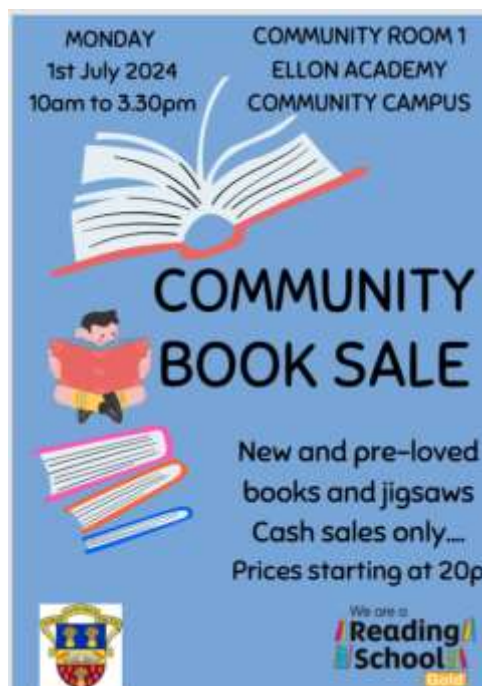
The Diversity Club will relaunch on Thursday 4th July! All pupils are welcome to join us in the Library at lunchtime.

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.

ALL PUPILS

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



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:

Fri 5.7.24 Dress Down Day/End of Term

Term 1 – Session 24.25:

Mon 19.8.24 In-service Day for staff

Tues 20.8.24 First day of term for pupils (8.25am)

The new Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 24/25 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 28.6.24