



Ayr Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week 06/11/23 - 10/11/23

Respect

Ambition

Community

Compassion

Responsibility

Believe...Achieve

Upcoming Events

- 9th November Remembrance Service
- 10th November S1 Friday Challenge
- 13th November Book Week Scotland
- 15th November Primary Open Evening
- 17th November S1 Friday Challenge
- 21st November Challenge Day 2
- 23rd November S1 'Welcome to Ayr' Parents' Event
- 1st December 5@5 Dolphin House
- 4th December Prelims begin

1	January	2	February	3	March															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	
4	April	5	May	6	June															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
30														25	26	27	28	29	30	
7	July	8	August	9	September															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31													24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10	October	11	November	12	December															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														24	25	26	27	28	29	30

AYR ACADEMY - CALENDAR OVERVIEW 2023/2024

Ayr Academy
University Avenue
Ayr
KA8 0SZ
Email: ayr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01292612028
Twitter: @Ayr_Academy2016

AUGUST	
17th	In Service Day
18th	In Service Day
21st	Pupils Return
SEPTEMBER	
22nd to 25th	Local Holiday
26th	Pupils Return
OCTOBER	
16th to 20th	October Holiday
23rd	In Service Day
24th	Pupils Return
DECEMBER/ JANUARY	
2th to 5th	Christmas Holidays
8th	Pupils Return
FEBRUARY	
12th	Local Holiday
13th	Inservice Day
14th	Pupils Return
MARCH/ APRIL	
29th to 12th	Easter Holiday
15th	Pupils return
MAY	
2nd	In Service Day
3rd	Pupils Return
6th	May Day Holiday
24th to 27th	May Day Long Weekend
28th	Pupils Return
JUNE	
28th	Summer Holidays

FULL REPORTS	
24th November	S1-S3
16th February	S3
8th March	S4-S6
10th May	S2-S3

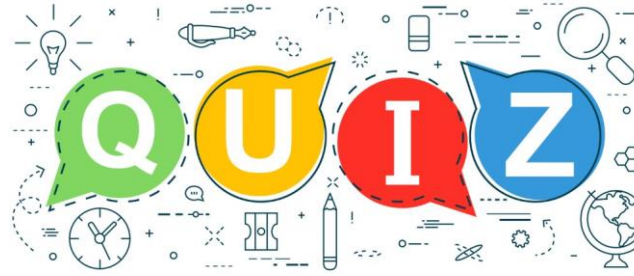
TRACKING REPORTS	
15th September	S4-S6
19th January	S4-S6
13th May	S2-S3

PARENTS EVENINGS	
3rd October	S1s
30th October	S4-S6
5th December	S3
16th January	S2
5th February	S4-S6
13th May	S1

EVENTS	
8th September	Bake Sale—Seniors
11th October	Senior Career Event
13th October	Ayr Factor
13th October	Bake Sale
2nd November	Immunisations
13th November	Book Week Scotland
4th December	Prelims Begin
4th December	S3 Fashion & Textile Trip
6th December	Immunisations
15th December	Bake Sale
15th December	Reward Day
20th December	Panto
21st December	Christmas Disco
7th to 9th February	London Trip
7th March	World Book Day
25th March	Reward Day
11th 12th June	Bump up days



Weekly Quiz



If



Example

7 D in a W

Answer

= 7 Days in a Week

then



=

?



Mr Murphy's Vegan Brownies

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp ground flaxseed
- 200g dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- ½ tsp coffee granules
- 80g vegan margarine, plus extra for greasing
- 125g self-raising flour
- 70g ground almonds
- 50g cocoa powder
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- 250g golden caster sugar
- 1½ tsp vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 170C/150C fan/gas 3½. Grease and line a 20cm square tin with baking parchment. Combine the flaxseed with 6 tbsp water and set aside for at least 5 mins.

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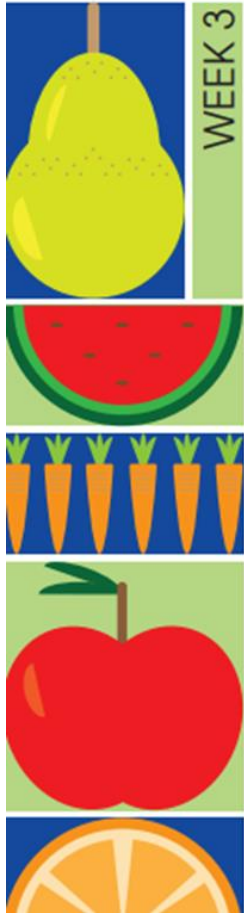
2. In a saucepan, melt 120g chocolate, the coffee and margarine with 60ml water on a low heat. Allow to cool slightly.
3. Put the flour, almonds, cocoa, baking powder and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt in a bowl and stir to remove any lumps. Using a hand whisk, mix the sugar into the melted chocolate mixture, and beat well until smooth and glossy, ensuring all the sugar is well dissolved. Stir in the flaxseed mixture, vanilla extract and remaining chocolate, then the flour mixture. Spoon into the prepared tin.
4. Bake for 35-45 mins until a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean with moist crumbs. Allow to cool in the tin completely, then cut into squares. *Store in an airtight container and eat within three days.*

 Freezable  Dairy-free  Egg-free  Vegan  Vegetarian

Nutrition: Per serving

kcal	fat	saturates	carbs	sugars	fibre	protein	salt
314	16g	6g	36g	25g	3g	5g	0.3g

SOUTH AYRSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOL MENU 2023/2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Starter	Lentil soup Tomato & red pepper soup	Lentil soup Farmhouse soup	Lentil soup Cream of mushroom soup	Lentil soup Chicken & rice soup	Lentil soup
Mains option 1	Macaroni cheese	Steak pie	Chicken curry & boiled rice	Lasagne	Breaded fish
Mains option 2	Fish goujons	Quorn chilli wraps	Tomato & mascarpone pasta & garlic bread	Cheese & tomato pizza	Chicken goujons
Veg	Potato wedges, peas, baby carrots & salad bar	Mashed potato, broccoli & salad bar	Roast vegetables & salad bar	Potato wedges, sweetcorn & salad bar	Chips, beans, coleslaw & salad bar
Sweet	Self-service fruit bar available daily				

Available Daily
 Sandwiches, rolls, wraps and baguettes with a variety of fillings
 Panini's, pizzini's and toasties
 Baked potatoes
 Pots to go
 Salad bar
Check the menu board for daily specials



Scan here to see the dates for each weekly menu and allergen information

- Vegetarian

- Vegan



Next week's menu

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Preliminary Examinations Timetable December 2023/January 2024

Day/Date	Subject	Level	Location	Times
Monday	Chemistry	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	9.00 - 9.40
4 th December	Chemistry	H - Paper 2	Gym 1	10.10 - 12.30
	Graphics	N5	Gym 1	13.00 - 14.30
	Graphics	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	13.00 - 15.30
Tuesday	Mod Studies	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	9.00 - 10.30
5 th December	Mod Studies	H - Paper 2	Gym 1	11.00 - 12.30
	Mod Studies	N5	Gym 1	13.00 - 14.30
	Music Technology	N5	Room 1	14.15 - 15.05
	Music Technology	H	Room 1	14.15 - 15.00
Wednesday	Maths	N5 paper 1	Games Hall	9.00 - 10.00
6 th December	Maths	N5 paper 2	Games Hall	10.30 - 12.00
	Application of Maths	N5 paper 1	Games Hall	9.00 - 9.30
	Application of Maths	N5 paper 2	Games Hall	10.15 - 11.15
Thursday	PE	H	Gym 1	9.00 - 11.30
7 th December	Art	H	Gym 1	13.00 - 14.15
	Art	N5	Gym 1	13.00 - 14.00
Friday	History	N5	Gym 1	9.00 - 10.30
8 th December	History	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	9.00 - 9.45
	History	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	10.15 - 11.45
	Practical Woodwork	N5	Gym 1	13.00 - 14.00

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Day/Date	Subject	Level	Location	Times
Monday	Biology	N5	Gym 1	9.00 - 11.30
11th December	Biology	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	11.45 – 12.25
	Biology	H - Paper 2	Gym 1	13.00 - 15.20
Tuesday	English	H paper 1	Games Hall	8.45 - 10.15
12th December	English	H paper 2	Games Hall	10.45 - 12.15
	English	N5 paper 1	Games Hall	12.30 – 13.30
	English	N5 paper 2	Games Hall	13.45 - 15.15
Wednesday	Geography	H - Paper 1	Gym 1	9.00 - 10.30
13th December	Geography	H - Paper 2	Gym 1	10.40 -11.40
	Geography	N5 – Paper 1	Gym 1	9.00 – 11.00
	Music	N5	Room 1	12.15 – 13.05
	Music	H	Room 3	13.30 - 14.30
Thursday	Physics	N5	Gym 1	9.00 - 11.30
14 th December	Drama	N5	Gym 1	12.00 – 13.30

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Additional Information

Hospitality/Music practical exams will take place on the following days:

Music

Thursday 23rd November

Friday 24th November

Monday 27th November

Tuesday 28th November

Practical Cookery

Wednesday 29th November

Thursday 30th November

Friday 1st December

The following subject prelims will take place during class time in January

- Hospitality N5 Written Paper
- Business Management N5
- Admin – N5 and Higher
- Chemistry – National 5
- French and Spanish – All papers
- Drama N5 – Practical

Information to follow directly from departments.

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Countdown to 1st
SQA examination
of 2024.....

24 weeks

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Ayr Academy Attainment Programme



It was a really productive week last week for the Ayr Academy Attainment programme. Supported study and prelim timetables have now been issued, the mentoring groups all have their personalised study programmes and all pupils received a fantastic input from Tree of Knowledge! The focus on raising our aspirations and believing in ourselves.

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It was really fun
with Andrew and
it's helped me be
a little less stressed
about Exams. :)

Tell Us What You Thought...
(feel free to use the back of this sheet if you need more space!)

great way of learning and boosting
confidence for the year ahead

Andrew was great.

Pupil feedback from Tree of Knowledge sessions

Tell Us What You Thought...
(feel free to use the back of this sheet if you need more space!)

I ~~know~~ know to believe
in myself more and
NOT to underestimate
myself.

Tell Us What You Thought...
(feel free to use the back of this sheet if you need more space!)

I thought andrew was very
inspiring throughout and gave
me a different view on my
progress

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Supported Study Timetable

Monday				
Subject	Level	Time	Teacher	Room
Art	Higher	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Art	National 5	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Cairns	202
English	Higher	15.40 - 16.40	Mr Campbell	128
Administration	National 5/ Higher	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Campbell	209
PE	National 5/Higher	15.40 - 17.00	PE Staff	PE
Music	National 5/Higher	15.40 - 16.40	Miss Gibson/Mr Roy	1

Tuesday				
Subject	Level	Time	Teacher	Room
Art	Higher	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Art	National 5	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Administration	National 5/ Higher	13.20 - 14.00	Mrs Campbell	209
Modern Studies	National 5	15.45 - 17.00	Miss Alexander	211
Geography	Higher	15.45 - 17.00	Mr Kennedy	218
Maths	National 5	13.20 - 14.00	Mr Murphy	222
Maths	National 5/ Higher	15.45 - 17.00	Mr Murphy	222

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Wednesday				
Subject	Level	Time	Teacher	Room
Art	Higher	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Art	National 5	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Practical Cookery	National 5	15.00 - 16.30	Mrs Morison	10
English	National 5	14.50 - 15.50	Miss Kinnen	127
Business Management	National 5	14.50 - 15.50	Mrs Campbell	209
Administration	National 5/ Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Mrs Campbell	209
Graphic Communication	Higher	15.00 - 17.00	Miss Roche	15
History	Higher	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Gray	214
Geography	National 5	14.50 - 16.00	Miss Stott	217
Physics	National 5	12.30 - 13.10	Mr Hirst	115
Chemistry	National 5/Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Mrs Thompson	110
Physics	National 5	14.50 - 16.00	Mr Hirst	115
Music	National 5/Higher	14.50 - 15.50	Miss Gibson/Mr Roy	1
Maths/Apps	National 5	12.30 - 13.10	Mrs Beattie/Mr Murphy	219/222

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Thursday				
Subject	Level	Time	Teacher	Room
Practical Cookery	National 5	15.00 - 16.30	Miss Turnbull	12
Administration	National 5/ Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Mrs Campbell	209
Graphic Communication	National 4/5	15.00 - 17.00	Miss Roche	15
Graphic Communication	Higher	15.00 - 17.00	Miss Roche	15
Practical Woodwork	National 5	14.50 - 15.50	Mr Rich	23
History	National 5	12.30 - 13.10	Mr Poulter	216
Modern Studies	Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Mr Poulter	216
History	Higher	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Gray	214
Biology	National 5	12.30 - 13.10	Mr Standing	112
Biology	Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Miss McCreadie	113
Health Sector	Level 5	12.30 - 13.10	Miss McCreadie	113
Maths	National 5/ Higher	14.50 - 15.50	Mr Murphy	222

Friday				
Subject	Level	Time	Teacher	Room
Art	Higher	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Art	National 5	14.50 - 16.00	Mrs Cairns	202
Administration	National 5/ Higher	12.30 - 13.10	Mrs Campbell	209

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November Focus

Book Week

School Values:

- Respect
- Compassion

Wellbeing (SHANARRI):

- Included
- Nurtured

5 Ways to Wellbeing:

- Learn
- Give



'WELCOME TO AYR ACADEMY'

**P6, P7 & S1
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

**THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
5.00- 7.30PM**

All Activities Free

Information Stalls

Hot drinks and food

Wellbeing activities

Games

School Lunch Samples

Karaoke

Bake Sale

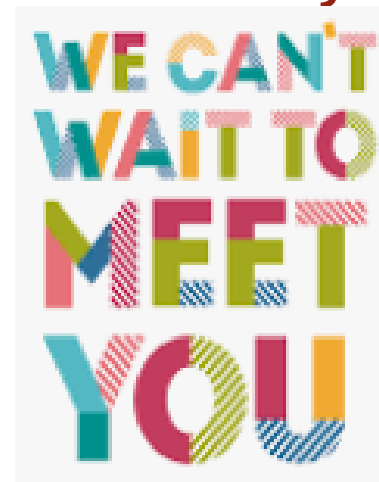
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**RSVP BY
SCANNING
THE QR CODE**



BELIEVE..... ACHIEVE

We have now extended this invite to include our P6 families
We hope to see as many of you as possible! We can't wait to meet you!



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Ayr Academy Counselling Service

65 Counselling Session attended in October !!!!!

We currently have appointments available for anyone who is struggling and not coping with any aspect of their life, including exam anxiety/stress

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH – Referral forms can be found outside counselling and guidance rooms, complete and pop into red post box or just pop along to the counselling room and speak to one of the counsellors who are keen to help you.

We will arrange an appointment for you as soon as possible



Counselling Service is here to support you

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ambition

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responsibility

Immunisations



There will be a catch up day on 06.12.23 for pupils who have missed their flu vaccines this past week.

The next round of immunisations will take place in January, 2024.

S1 Targeted Support



S1 Targeted Support in action last week! Thank you to Mr Sloan & Dolphin House for the great activities.

Respect

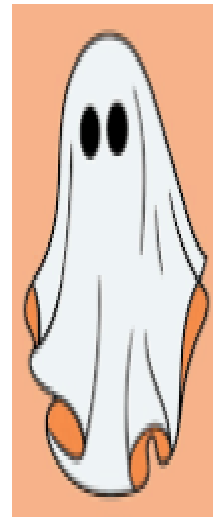
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Halloween in the Canteen



Maris and the rest of the canteen staff did us proud last week dressing up for Halloween! The grapes weren't quite as juicy as normal though!! 🍠



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New Canteen Meal Deals



MEAL DEAL

£2.45

Main



+

Salad & Veg



+

Fruit



+

Drink



MEAL DEAL

Margherita Pizza



£2.45

MEAL DEAL

Pepperoni Pizza



£2.45

MEAL DEAL

Quorn Burger Sub



£2.45

MEAL DEAL

Fish Finger Sub



£2.45

ASN Family Support Network ...
Upcoming events

Wed 31 Jan 2024 Ayr Grammar Primary

6.30 - 8pm "Supporting your child with Literacy Difficulties"

Holly McBlane from South Ayrshire Reads

To book contact Fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tue 20 Feb 2024 Ayr Grammar Primary

6.30 - 8pm "Supporting young people with ADHD" Tanya Tenant from Tanya Tenant Autism Training and Consultancy

To book contact Fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Wed 24 April 2024 in Walker Halls, Troon

1-5pm: this year's theme is "**Transitions**"

Over 40 charities and third sector organisations offering support and advice.

Keynote speakers including Tanya Tenant on "Transitions from Secondary Education"

No need to pre-book for this event

Further information from

fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Or ASN Website www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/asn



ASN
Family Support

Offering support, advice and friendship for any parents and carers of young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) living in South Ayrshire



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Thank You!



Ayr Academy would like to extend thanks to the Arnold Clark group for their generous donation for the continued support of our Breakfast club. Generous support from companies like Arnold Clark allows us to continue to provide a free breakfast for all our pupils.



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Careers Week - 13th-17th November



Scottish Careers Week 2023 takes place from 13 to 17 November. Delivered by Skills Development Scotland with a range of local and national partners, the week features events and activities to help people of all ages explore, understand and manage their career choices, and the services and resources available to support them.

Follow the link below for the toolkit for next week:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/50515/scottish-careers-week-2023-toolkit.pdf>

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**AYRSHIRE
CANCER
SUPPORT**
Children & Young People

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

Our service offers therapeutic support on a one to one and group basis for children and young people aged 5 to 25 who are affected by their own cancer diagnosis or that of

a significant person in their life, or who have been bereaved as a result of cancer.

We provide a safe space for children and young people to explore and share their feelings and support them to develop helpful coping strategies. We offer services in a kind, caring and compassionate way and have children and young people's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.



We have qualified and experienced practitioners who can offer support within one of our centres or in a school, college or the local community.

We can offer one to one counselling, as well as more creative approaches, using play and therapeutic art activities to help children and young people express themselves and talk about what is happening in their life.



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We want to support individuals to develop their resilience and find ways to manage their emotions, loss and grief, to allow them to be able to make sense of their world and find ways of taking the next steps in their life. We work with other organisations to ensure the child or young person receives the very best support to meet their needs, at a time that is right for them.

We can provide support for families and can help develop peer support through groupwork, such as bereavement, anxiety and resilience, mindfulness, outdoor and other activity based groups. Children, young people and families can also access complementary therapies. We work in a person-centred way, therefore following assessment with a practitioner, the child, young person or family will agree together on an individualised plan of support.

We can provide resources and signpost to other services who can help with other areas of the child or young person's life. We are happy to provide support to schools and can plan that based on individual need; please contact Gill Birrell, Service Lead, at cyp@ayrshirecs.org for more information.

Children and young people's safety is paramount, and we have policies and procedures in place to ensure safe working practices.

Requests for support can be made by completing a form on our website www.ayrshirecs.org/services or by calling 01563 538008.



LIAM

Let's Introduce Anxiety Management

If you are 8 to 18 years old, from Ayrshire, and have been affected by or bereaved through cancer, we can help you to understand and manage your anxiety



Register interest in the LIAM - Let's Introduce Anxiety Management programme



If you are interested in this 9 session programme please register via the QR code

For more information

Call 01563 538008 or
Email cyp@ayrshirecs.org



AYRSHIRE
CANCER
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Children & Young People



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BOXERCISE

For young people aged 12 to 25 years old

.....who have been affected by or bereaved through cancer

These sessions can help you to connect with other people and promotes positive health and wellbeing



Come along and have fun!

Register for our next group

- Via the QR code or
- Call 01563 538008
- Email cyp@ayrshirecs.org

Register your interest in our
Boxercise Workshops



AYRSHIRE
CANCER
SUPPORT
Children & Young People

Climbing Group

For children and young people who have been affected by or bereaved through cancer

- Have fun
- Build confidence
- Meet new people
- Try something new



Wednesday
6.30 - 8pm

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
November
6th, 12th December

ABOVE ADVENTURE

REGISTER NOW

- Via this QR code
- Call 01563 538008
- Email cyp@ayrshirecs.org

Register interest in an Ayrshire
Cancer Support Climbing Group



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Staff News



Mrs Hamilton, Maths, finished up on Friday for her long anticipated maternity leave. We all wish her plenty of relaxation before baby arrives!



Respect Ambition Community Compassion



Congratulations to Mrs Wyper after becoming the Young Carer Champion for Ayr Academy!

Responsibility

COMING SOON

COURSES ARE LOADING



*B A R I S T A A N D
N A I L B A R*

BIKE MAINTENANCE HAS STARTED ALREADY

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Last session in South Ayrshire Secondary schools, nearly 100,000 days (the equivalent of over half a million teaching hours!) were lost to unauthorised absence. Poor attendance has been linked to lower levels of attainment, peer relationships, emotional and behavioural difficulties and poorer employment opportunities, which is why we want to see **Every Learner Every Day!**

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Command Word of the Month

In your own words ***“when you say or write something in a different way, not using the same words”***

Command Word focus for this month

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Ayr Academy's Finest



If anyone would like to nominate a pupil as one of Ayr Academy's Finest, please email nicola.mcgarra@south-ayrshire.gov.uk with details and any photos you may have. 😊

LOGGING INTO TEAMS



1



:GLOW

Log into your GLOW account by going to the following website:
<https://sts.platform.rmunity.com/Account/SignIn>



2



Finding TEAMS

In the Launch pad, click on the wee house on the left. Find the Microsoft Teams app and click it.



3



Finding your subject TEAM

All the TEAMS you need will be there - so open them and find the work allocated.



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Questions to ask your child

What things are you looking forward to?

Is there anything you want to talk about?

When was the last time you were very happy?

What makes you feel calm?

What things would you like to do in the future?

What difficulties are you facing now?

What can I do to help?

Where is a place you feel safe?

How are you finding things at school at the moment?

What are you worried about when you lie in bed and can't sleep?

Would it be helpful if we planned each day together?

Do you have any worries about the coronavirus?

Where in our home do you feel like you can have your own space?

What have you enjoyed about today?

Can you show me what you like about gaming?

How do you feel about things changing?

What do you think could help you to feel better?

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YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



Ayr Academy

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to
help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!
- Drawn every Saturday at 8pm

To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Ayr Academy**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

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S1 Weekly Challenge - Week 1



Our first S1 Friday challenge took place during lunchtime last Friday and what a great laugh everyone had!! Carrick came 1st, Galloway 2nd and Kyle 3rd! Well done to all our competitors and the amazing supporting crowd!



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

16+

In UK and Europe, rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original - and might not be entirely factual, either.



'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content - but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location - potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



EMA Grants



Applications for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for school session 2023/24 are open - available to young people aged between 16-19 years old who are in full time school education.

Guidance, criteria, and the application form can be found here: <https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/28209/Education-maintenance-allowance>



EXCITING NEWS!

There is a brand-new sporting opportunity coming to Ayr North.

Table Tennis

The Ayr North Community Sports Hub, Thriving Communities Health and Wellbeing team have linked up with Scottish Table Tennis to offer

FREE SESSIONS

to all ages and abilities.

The sessions will run weekly starting on Wednesday 1st November at **Ayr Academy (Gym Hall)**

3pm - 4pm
ACADEMY SESSION
4pm - 6pm
ADULT SESSION
6pm - 7pm
FAMILY SESSION

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND TRY. THE TIMES ARE DROP IN SO YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COME ALONG FOR THE FULL TIME.



Need more info? CONTACT northayrcsh@outlook.com

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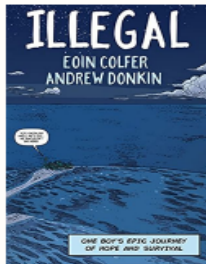
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31ST OCTOBER 2023 AYR ACADEMY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Mrs Palomino's
currently
reading...



"Illegal tells the story of Ebo, a 12-year-old boy who flees grinding poverty, zero opportunities and a drunken uncle in his small village in Africa. His brother Kwame and sister Sisi have already left in the hope of a better life in Europe and he's determined to find them en route."



This week in the library

- We have begun our S1 star reading competition. We have gotten off to a great start with 1k2 in the lead by two puzzle pieces.



Reminders

Don't forget to come along to our Manga Book Club 7/11/2023 at Lunchtime.

N5 Practical Cookery

For those pupils in S4-6 sitting N5 Practical Cookery, practice of the prelim recipes will take place over the next two weeks. It is essential that students attend class to practice their dishes.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

COME DOWN TO P.E FOR SOME AFTER SCHOOL FUN!

Monday - basketball



Tuesday – Fitness + Badminton



Wednesday – Netball



Thursday – Volleyball + Football



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Weekly Quiz Answers



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House Points



Ayr Academy House Points



2630 points



2040 points



2070 points

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