

Speyside High School



October Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of session 2020-21.

Those of you, who have been with the school for some time will note the reduced size of this newsletter. I hope you understand why this is:



1. There is little or no extra-curricular clubs taking place.
2. All colleagues are working under great pressure to ensure COVID safety and provide online learning.

This having been said, I am as ever very proud of the whole Speyside High School Community on our return following lockdown. The vast majority of young people have been helpful, respectful and responsible in terms of all the new regulations in place. I would also like to thank Parents/Carers who have supported Speyside High School to manage all these changes.

I am delighted to say, that we have had a very successful term, in terms of learning and teaching. It has been amazing to see the innovative way everyone has developed lessons and activities to be as inspiring as possible whilst maintaining COVID safety.

One of my particular highlights was visiting an S1 Music class to see them sign Bob Marley's 3 Little Birds—brilliant.

Every teacher and department has worked to find innovative ways to deliver learning and teaching.

I would also like to say a well done to the eight young people, who have stood to be our Head Students. They all produced excellent videos and answers to difficult questions shown through our virtual hustings/.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe holiday. Please remember to maintain COVID safety by following FACTS.

Healthy
Responsible
Dedicated
Ambitious
Respect
Achieving

Mrs P Goodbrand

Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

- F** Face coverings 
- A** Avoid crowded places 
- C** Clean your hands regularly 
- T** Two metre distance 
- S** Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms 

nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
#WeAreScotland



S1 GLOBAL GOALS

During S1, all pupils attend Global Goals for one period a week. This interdisciplinary learning opportunity encourages pupils to explore the *UN Sustainable Development Goals* and ensure that all Speysiders gain a wider appreciation of *Learning for Sustainability*. After a short introduction to consider major global issues and how these can be addressed, pupils spend 7 week blocks with 4 different teachers, exploring different elements of the SDGs.



Here is some of our latest news:

Early in 2020, Mr Turner linked up with the Wildlife & Access Rangers at *EDF Renewables* in the Cabrach. With the support of *DYW Moray*, we are putting together a Rewilding project for S1 Global Goals. As COVID/.



./As COVID restrictions are limiting visitors to the school, Mark and Stephen have been busy making us lots of short films about their work and the potential for rewilding and landscape restoration in the area. We're looking forward to using this with the Rewilding group after the October holidays.

Mrs O'Hara has been inspiring her first Global Goals group to consider up-cycling rather than adding more to landfill. After learning about different forms of waste management, the class began work restyling some old furniture. The pupils have been working on old stools, cutting templates for bags and redesigning some old bins. The results are looking amazing and they have also been learning important lessons about what materials are suitable for different environments.



WEE FLAGS FOR CHANGE

September was Global Citizenship month and to mark this, our friends at *Highland One World Global Learning Centre* in Inverness, launched the **Wee Flags for Change** campaign. School pupils from across Scotland were asked to design bunting linked to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. As well as highlighting important local and global issues, the pupils were asked to make a personal commitment of how they will help achieve a particular Global Goal.



Students from S1 Global Goals, S3 Geography, and Higher Geography all contributed their ideas, pledges and artwork.



The Flags have now been sent to HOW who are coordinating a public display at Eden Court in Inverness. If you are in Inverness over the October break, perhaps you might like to see if you can find the Speyside pledges amongst the display.



CAREER READY

This has been a challenging time for our Career Ready students. However, remote meetings and Masterclasses and an alternative to the usual summer Internship have been organised and it's great to see pupils continue to participate. The employers from local businesses have also continued their support and our S6 pupils should still graduate from the programme next year. Well done to our Career Ready students!



RAGBAG

Well done to all who recycled using the Rag Bag bin. Since our last collection we have raised £103.20. Since the Rag Bag bin has been at Speyside High School we have raised more £1500.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Interested in getting involved with The Duke of Edinburgh Award? Any Parent/Guardian interested in volunteering with Speyside DofE please get in touch.



THE WELLBEING HUB

During lockdown every young person experienced a degree of grief, loss and change so Speyside High School sprang into action. With the help and support of the local and wider community, we have been able to provide a dedicated space in school for our young people, The Well-Being Hub.

The Hub provides a safe and nurturing space to offer support, be a listening ear or refer to other supports/agencies. At the Hub we work closely with the Senior Leadership Team, Guidance colleagues and outside agencies to bring about the best possible outcomes for our young people. We will ensure that we work in a COVID safe manner in the Hub.

The Hub would not have been possible without the incredible and generous help from the following partners;

- Aberlour Fire Station
- Aberlour and Speyside Rotary
- Moray Waste Busters
- Riverside Kitchens
- Moray School Bank
- Speyside High Pupils



In times of great uncertainty, partners have gone above and beyond to enable us to support our young people. Thank you.



HEAD STUDENT ELECTIONS

Speyside High School has held its annual Head Student Elections again this year.

The logistics of the campaign had to be adapted slightly this year due to the COVID-19 safety measures in school, but we had an exceptional set of teams running, in what has proved to be a highly competitive election.

The candidates made election videos with the help of Mr Naples-Campbell, which were played to UPS classes, and the whole School Community had the chance to vote in the election on Monday 5 October.

The vote has now been counted and we are very pleased to announce that Brodie Bain 6L and Jack Spence 6F will be our head students this year. The other candidates proved to be hard competition and a massive well done goes to them all.

The other candidates were:

- Amberlie McKeown and Penny Laing
- James Smith and Megan Davison
- Megan Watson and Christine Dolor



RURAL SKILLS

An exciting chapter is about to start in Rural Skills when students start their work placements on farms all over Moray. The Rural Skills course is designed for students who want to explore the Community they live in – looking at the Agricultural contributions their community makes to the workforce for Scotland. Mr Reid runs the course and the options available to the young people throughout the year really show Speyside High School at the heart of the community! Harvey Stuart has started his placement already and we are really excited to hear and see how he is getting on! Good Luck Harvey!



SQA REVISED GRADES

With the announcement that all pupil grades would be reverted to teacher estimates, we would like to congratulate the following S4 pupils who all achieved straight A's in their National 5 courses:

- Fraser MacDonald 7As
- Rhea Fraser 7As
- Sandy Bond 7As
- Hannah Craig 6As
- Harris Polak 6As



MUSIC NEWS

As we guide our way through COVID-19 we have found that the school year isn't as normal as previous years, however that hasn't stopped us looking at how we can develop the skills of our young people in the Music Department.



Instrumental Lessons are slowly starting again with the reintroduction of Strings and Percussion. Woodwind, Brass and Guitar will start when it is feasible to do so.

Over in S1 Music we have been taking advice from the daily government briefings and looking at the use of British Sign Language to support all viewers in communicating what is going on. S1 have learnt the British Sign Language to various song lyrics including Disney classic 'You Have A Friend In Me' from Toy Story and the classic 'Three Little Birds'. It's been great to see the S1 students embrace this new skill in such a fun and enthusiastic way!



PARENTSPORTAL

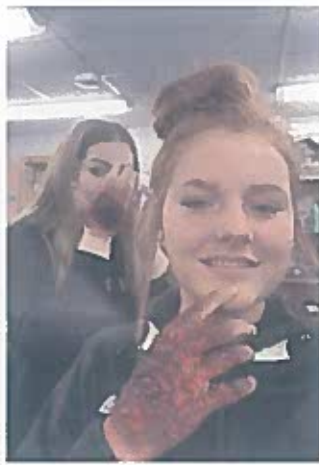
The Parentsportal is now live and is an exciting opportunity for Parents and Carers to update contact details, view your young person's timetable, report absences and link directly to iPay. Please use this link www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal to create your account and do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like further information.

parentsportal.scot



N5 CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: MAKE-UP ARTISTRY

Four students are taking part in this specially designed SQA course this year looking at Make-Up Artistry and Special Effects! The four students, through COVID regulations, have each received their own professional industry standard make-up kit to start learning their new trade! Once mastering the basics they have set to work looking at Special Effects. First up was burns! Students worked on how to develop the layered effect using Liquid Latex and tissue paper before developing their look using their bruise wheel, different styles of blood, different tones of colour and finishing off the burn effect using black hair spray! Casualty! Watch out! We are sending some make-up artists your way! Great work S4!



THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department would like to thank Parents for supporting our pupils with their online learning during lockdown. Many pupils demonstrated excellent engagement and produced some impressive work.



During lockdown, our junior pupils took part in the online UKMT competition. The Junior Mathematical Challenge was a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to our winners: Bronze awards went to Erin Addison, Cameron Corson, Maisie Dunbar, Rowan MacDonald, Melissa Poppy and Archie Scott. Silver awards were achieved by Ashley McDonald (also “best in S1”), Katie Taylor and Katie Walker (“best in S2” and “best in school”).

We would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of bringing the right equipment to class as we cannot issue equipment for borrowing in the same way as we did pre-COVID. It would be most appreciated if all pupils could endeavour to bring a pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator each period.

Now that we are back in class, we have started assessing our SQA courses and most senior pupils will have done their first SQA unit test. Our pupils have worked hard this term and should be congratulated on their resilience and positive attitude. Well done on a productive term and enjoy your well-deserved October break!



BUS LISTS

We take our responsibility for the Health and Safety of our young people very seriously.

To further address our duty of care, we are undertaking a review of our bus lists to ensure their accuracy.



The accuracy of our bus lists is vital for us to be able to communicate accurate information in the event of school closures, etc. To ensure this, members of the School's Senior Leadership Team will be undertaking bus checks soon after we return from the October break. This will involve ensuring that all bus lists are checked and all young people are carrying the correct bus pass for the bus they travel on. Staff will meet buses at the start of the school day and also at the end of the day to carry this out.

Please ensure your child has the correct bus pass, replacement bus passes can be obtained from our Public Transport Department, 01343 543451.



SHS LAUNCHES THE SCOTTISH BACCALAUREATE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

This year we are proud to have the first S6 students enrolled in our **Scottish Baccalaureate in Social Sciences**. This SQA qualification is open to Senior Students who are studying a mixture of subjects from across the Social Subjects, Humanities and English. The students are tasked with designing, researching, and completing a large-scale project on a topic of their choice, that shows linkages across the Highers and Advanced Highers they are currently studying. The qualification is excellent preparation for university and employment through the research skills and personal skills that are developed. It is also an excellent opportunity for real interdisciplinary learning in the Senior Phase.

Mr Turner and Ms Childs will be supporting Amberlie and Janey this year and we look forward to updating the Community on their research projects as the year progresses. Already their plans are sounding exciting and relevant!

Hopefully, the Baccalaureate will be an option in session 2021-22 for our current S5 students, providing an extra motivation to aim high in their S6 courses.



**Have a Great
October Break.**



**See you all on
Monday 26 October.**

