



# Speyside High School Christmas Newsletter



*I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break. Thank you all for your continued support in these very difficult times.*

*We look forward to welcoming everyone back, safe and well, on Tuesday 5 January 2021. Here's to a better year!*

*Mrs P Goodbrand*

## **Wee Sleep Out Goes Remote**

Our annual Wee Sleep Out has become an important part of the SHS calendar. Previously, staff and students have spent a night sleeping out in the school grounds to raise awareness of homelessness as well as funds for local charities. Senior students have also taken part in the national events in Edinburgh and Aberdeen.



This year had to be different. With restrictions stopping the communal sleep out, we decided to *go remote*, with students sleeping out in their own gardens and outdoor spaces. This also created the opportunity for small groups of friends to meet outside and share the experience whilst still meeting Government guidelines.

We are so impressed by the attitude, enthusiasm and commitment of everyone who took part. We had students from all age-groups taking part and we even had a concert by the MacDonald brothers streaming live on Facebook!



At the time of writing you had raised over £1000 for *Moray Women's Aid* as well as contributing groceries to *Moray Food Plus*. Thank you all so much!



## Speyside Parent Peer Support Group

Thank you to the parents who attended the first 'Wellbeing Walk' (despite the horrendous weather). Here are a few of the key ideas and discussion points from the walk:



- The parents created a group agreement covering areas such as confidentiality, respect, listening and the importance of supporting each other in a non-judgemental way.
- Discussions about the use of supportive and positive language to build confidence in others and possible future activities to support this.
- The current lack of social contact and the importance of feeling connected to others.
- Breaking down the stigma of feeling like "a bad parent" and "it is only happening to me".
- The parents were keen for further 'Wellbeing Walks' to take place (throughout the Speyside area).
- A Zoom meeting is to be arranged for January to establish the initial peer support group and capture further ideas.

We will be in touch, in January, with the parents/carers who indicated (via the recent survey) that they would/might be interested in being involved in a parent peer support group. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact the school ([admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk) or 01340 871522).



In the meantime, please be kind to yourself and remember that you are not on your own - reach out to friends and family when you need to!

## English Department

S2 English pupils really enjoyed a talk this term from our school librarian, Mrs Walker. She spoke about a number of books which are set in Scotland. Using a giant map, she was able to show the classes exactly where the book was set and gave a brief summary of the characters and plot. It was an interesting lesson – and for the class teachers too!



Some of our S1 pupils took part in a creative writing competition. The piece was called 'Trapped' and there were lots of exciting ideas for these 100 word short stories. Some of them will be published in a book of 'Trapped' stories from schools all over the country.



### Cycling Scotland Funding

We were really fortunate to receive some funding from Cycling Scotland recently to purchase some new bikes for use in school and after school. Look out for opportunities to use these brilliant new bikes in the new year!



### Extra-curricular clubs

We are desperate to get some clubs going again in the new year, and we will let you know as soon as we're able to do so. If Moray remains at Level 1 of the Coronavirus restrictions, and with the optimism around the vaccinations, we're really hopeful that we can offer a range of activities again before you know it.



### Higher Geographers explore Global Climate Change topic in different ways

*Climate Ready Classrooms* is a series of workshops delivered by *Keep Scotland Beautiful* and certificated by the *Carbon Literacy Project*. Throughout this term, Higher Geographers have been meeting with our tutor Josh, each Thursday via *Microsoft Teams*. Students have been engaging with the workshops and the follow-up tasks as an alternative way of completing their Global Climate Change topic in the Higher course.

The activities have been great and the students have all really benefited from this alternative approach. The format has also allowed students who have been self-isolating or unable to attend class, to join the workshops remotely, contribute to the discussions and complete their Carbon Literacy certification.

Linked to this, the Higher Geographers have also completed certification in the Circular Economy, designed and delivered online by *The Verdancy Group* (previously *WasteSwitch*). This alternative certification has been funded by *DYW Moray* and we would like to thank Sarah Baxter for her encouragement and support.

By exploring the *Global Climate Change* topic in these alternative ways, the Higher class have gained the understanding they need for their course, as well as examining this crucial topic as part of their lives, rather than being confined to classroom learning.





## S6 Events

We have had a very busy few weeks planning festive themed events leading up to our Christmas break. We are having an afternoon of entertainment on Thursday 17 December and we also have a virtual assembly and quiz planned for Friday 18 December. There will also be a non-uniform day with a festive theme for anyone who would like to participate on Friday 18 December.



We recently held a non-uniform day to raise money for BBC Children in Need and there was also a Lockdown recipe book produced by the Home Economics department. The total raised for both of these projects was 535.08.



Our reverse advent calendar was another huge success and we donated 21 boxes of food to Moray Food Plus.



Thank you to everyone in our school community who has helped to make the events a huge success.

## Virtual Christmas Concert

Happy Christmas, Hanukkah and everything in between!

On Wednesday 16 December 2020 we premiered our Virtual Christmas Concert on YouTube. If you missed it don't worry as you can still view it here <https://youtu.be/Cu0ZCGuaXUo>.

Log on to see our amazingly talented students and some celebrity friends in a festive party of love, laughter and light!

