



PATRICIA GOODBRAND

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Our Ref: PG/ZC

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope, as ever, you are all safe and well. I would again like to thank you all for your hard work with your young people to support their online learning.

Scottish Government Updates

The Scottish Government have announced that there is to be a return to school for senior phase young people to complete practical work that cannot be completed otherwise.

This will mean that some days BGE classes on line may be affected. Work will still be available but feedback may not be as immediate due to teachers working in school with senior phase pupils at these times.

Those young people who are required to attend will have received a groupcall message on Wednesday 17 February detailing when they should attend for the week beginning 22 February.

All young people involved in this will shortly receive a personalised timetable. A group call will be sent each Wednesday to confirm required attendance.

If your young person is required to attend please make every effort to collect self-testing kits, on a Thursday, if you have not already done so.

Hub young people already attending will continue.

School Safety

To ensure COVID safety the following systems are in place.

- 2 metre social distancing on buses.
- 2 metre social distancing in classes.
- 2 metre social distancing during social times.
- Face coverings to be worn at all times.
- Hand sanitising on entry and exit to building and classes and before and after eating.
- Please note the one way system is to be adhered to with the following updates:
 - All BGE pupils to enter by the main entrance and travel to Hub Room 17 via Games Hall and Canteen.
 - All Senior Phase pupils to enter by Technical doors and follow one way system to required room.
 - Exit of building is by nearest door to classroom.
- Social Areas:
 - BGE Hub – Auditorium
 - S4 – Auditorium
 - S5 – Social Area
 - S6 – Social Area
- Toilets/.



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- Toilets to be used in department young people are working in.
- Young people are not permitted to leave the school campus during break/lunch times. They will have the option of bringing a packed lunch or the canteen will be open with a reduced menu.

SQA

The current directive from SQA is to continue learning and teaching to support accreditation.

We are working with colleagues across Moray Council to continue to support young people at Speyside High School.

Message from Nikki Bond - Parent Council Chairperson

Hello to you all!

A group of us answered the call over Christmas to find out more about the workings of the parent council - and so here we are - your new committee up and (just about) running! Most of us are very new to this role but we are ready and willing to be actively involved, to share our thoughts and listen to yours.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2 March 7.00pm-9.00pm. You are very welcome to attend - it will be online - most probably Teams. If you would like to be sent an invite please send an email to lee@charlesworthinteriors.co.uk by Monday 22 February.

We will let you know of our plans and hopes in future newsletters but for now and the foreseeable, if you have any suggestions or thoughts concerning our school community please do not hesitate to contact us, your Parent Council co-chairs, Edie Horton or Nikki Bond, by email on ediewings@gmail.com or nbzebedee@gmail.com - we look forward to hearing from you.

For now, our warm wishes. Edie and Nikki

Mental Health and Wellbeing (Parents Evening Class)

This course is offered to parents and carers at Speyside High School who are interested in learning more about mental health and developing a deeper understanding on 'Understanding Mental Health Issues', 'Influences on Mental Health and Wellbeing' and 'Coping Strategies and Building Resilience'.

Half of mental health problems in adulthood begin before the age of 14 and by the time they are 16 roughly three children in every class will experience a mental health problem. When it comes to finding help for mental health only a quarter of young people know where to go. In addition, the stigma attached to mental health frequently can stop individuals from seeking help because they feel embarrassed or are fearful of being judged. This course aims to address gaps in knowledge and to improve understanding of mental health questions and how we can support the young people in our care.

The 8 week online course starts on Thursday 4 March 2021 (7.00pm-7.50pm each week). Please email Mr Naples-Campbell on gw16naplescambelljo@glow.sch.uk to reserve your place.

S2-S3 Course Choice/.



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S2-3 Course Choice

Information for S2 pupils will be issued on Friday 5 March. In the meantime you may wish to attend a virtual event being offered by Skills Development Scotland:

Helping Your Child With S2/3 Subject Choices - Support For Parents And Carers

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is offering parents and carers an online opportunity to find out more about how they can help their child make their S2/3 subject choices for the Senior Phase. Scotland's national skills agency has organised the virtual session on Thursday 25 February which will also give parents and carers information about accessing a wide range of SDS support.

Careers advisers Joan Duncan and Gemma Smith will be providing expert advice for parents and carers of young people in S2 and S3.

Joan said: "Thinking about what options to choose at school can be daunting for young people and their parents and carers. As well as this session, SDS also has a [Subject Choices Tool](#) on SDS's My World of Work website which helps pupils explore where options choices can take them.

"It gives young people and their parents and carers the opportunity to explore job profiles, industries, Foundation and Modern Apprenticeships, refine their search by what someone is most interested in and use the tool as many times as they like to find out more about different options. There are other tools to try and the more tools you try, the better career suggestions we can give."

This virtual event, which is from 6.30pm until 7.15pm, will also have a question and answer session. To take part please register [here](#).

Scottish Apprenticeship Week

S3, S4, S5 & S6 students are invited to a virtual event with 7 of our biggest clients who have a huge hiring presence in the Scottish region on Monday 1 March, 4.00pm – 6.00pm.

We have teamed up with EY, GSK, QA, HSBC, PwC, Capgemini & RAF all of which will be delivering a 15 minute workshop/session on who they are, what they do and career opportunities available. Each company will be joined by one of their very own apprentices who will share their career journey to date along with someone from the recruitment team to share information on the different opportunities/route paths post school.

There will be a big focus on Graduate Apprenticeships and Work Experience opportunities, many of which will be live and open for young people to apply to straight away!

Webinar Details/.



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Webinar Details:

- ❖ Monday 1 March, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- ❖ 8 different Apprentice highlight journeys and workshop sessions
- ❖ Open to all young people in S3, S4, S5 & S6
- ❖ Opportunity to ask questions and find out about other young people's career journeys
- ❖ Big focus on Graduate Apprenticeships and Summer Work Experience
- ❖ Learn about different types of apprenticeships, some myth busting and a few prizes along the way!

Application Link: <https://www.research.net/r/Scottish-NAW>

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand

Head Teacher



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