



PATRICIA GOODBRAND BSc(Hons), MEd

Head Teacher

Speyside High School Mary Avenue, Aberlour AB38 9QU

Tel 01340 871522

Email admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Website www.speysidehighschool.net



Our Ref: PG/CC

Date: 19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sorry we did not manage to get a newsletter to you last week, we felt you had probably had enough communication from us, and to be honest I did not have the capacity to complete one last week. We all have times when we can do no more.

However, normal service is resumed and I want to thank everyone for their understanding in terms of the arrangements we have had to make and the decisions we have had to take for the last two weeks of term.

We have had a really successful week for those young people who have been in school. I hope those of you who have S1 and S2 children are still receiving appropriate online input, but also hope you understand that while teachers are in school they are not able to be engaging online.

We have had a number of exciting developments taking place and successes I would like to share with you.

The latest Insight data that represents particular measurements of attainment for all secondary schools was updated in February. We are all very pleased to share that the results for Speyside High School are excellent and this is down to everyone's hard work as a team.

I have tried to share this information with as many parents as possible since we have had this data, and will continue to do this at any further online meetings we will have.

We are delighted to announce that one of our S2 pupils has been successful in gaining a place on The Young WEIR-WISE: Discovering Engineering programme at Strathclyde University, and one of our S5 pupils took part in the Gordonstoun Symposium.

Self-Testing

We aim to roll out self-testing kits to all S3 pupils next week, details issued yesterday. Further information concerning S1 and S2 testing will be shared as soon as possible.

Could I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already taken up the opportunity to be part of this, the more people involved the safer for everyone. Please also note that if you do get a positive result with the Lateral Flow Test you must book a PCR test.

Please also note that if consent has been given, this means you have consented to reporting results also.

Laptops

As we plan our phased return to school it is vital that laptops issued for the period of lockdown are returned. We would really appreciate if at all possible that laptops could be returned the week of Monday 22 March. We appreciate/.



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this may be difficult but if you feel you can manage for the last week without a laptop from school that would be appreciated. To allow the laptops back into general use they will need to be quarantined and reconfigured which takes some time. We are moving into Senior Phase formal assessments from Monday 19 April so will need as many laptops back in circulation by then.

SQA Assessments

As mentioned above we start our first round of formal assessments for Senior Phase pupils on Monday 19 April, for two weeks. We really appreciate how stressful a time this may be for young people and will endeavour to support them as well as possible at this time. Unfortunately due to the number of assessments that may be required it may be that some young people will have more than one assessment in a day during those weeks.

Scholar

Scholar has released a support video for learners. This new resource, "[Studying for SQA Qualifications Using SCHOLAR](#)", has been created to show learners how to use SCHOLAR in their studies as they work towards a National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher qualification. The video is suitable for learners with no prior experience of SCHOLAR, but may also be of benefit to students with summative assessments or exams approaching who may wish to use the interactive course materials and automatically marked, end of topic and end of unit assessments for consolidation and revision. The video is available from <http://bit.ly/StudyWithSCHOLAR>.

Speyside Parent Peer-Support Group

Come along to our Parent Peer Support Group. It is a great way to connect with other parents/carers in a relaxed and supportive setting. All P7 and SHS parents/carers welcome! Wednesday 24 March 7.30-8.30pm: <https://meet.google.com/tth-rusm-nud>. If you would like further information, or to be added to the distribution list for this group, please contact Miss Boyd (admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk or 01340 871522).

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
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