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Our Ref: PG/CC

Date: 21 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this finds you and your families safe and well. Numbers in Moray appear to be stabilising a little but it is still vital we all maintain our high COVID-19 standards.

Thank you to you all for supporting the school through another tricky time in terms of possible cases.

Staffing

Congratulations go to Mr Naples-Campbell who has been successful in being appointed as Depute Head Teacher to Glen Urquhart Secondary in Highland region. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him every success and thank him for all his very hard work at Speyside High School.

Further congratulations go to Carrie McWilliam who is currently our Newly Qualified Teacher at Speyside High School, to being appointed as permanent teacher of English.

Senior Phase

We recognise the stress and hard work that our young people have been putting in to the assessments they're currently undertaking.

Their teachers are working very hard to support them as best as possible through this time, and ensuring they are kept informed of current grades and how to improve on these through conversations and use of the pupil's evaluation booklet. This booklet was included in a previous letter for your reference – please discuss this with your young person.

You will have received today, along with this letter, notification of a tracking report. The attached 'Senior Phase Tracking Report May 2021' explains this tracking – please note this is not the final provisional grades.

I recognise the lateness of confirmation of this date, but the last day for those in the senior phase who are not returning will be Friday 28 May 2021. If young people are in a situation where they have not completed their assessments by then due to illness or very exceptional circumstances, we will use the time after this to complete any assessments needed – this will only affect a very small minority of young people.

New Timetable

We will start our new timetable from Tuesday 1 June, following the In-Service day on Monday 31 May. It is expected that in the time until the end of June young people will be taking part in induction activities and introductions to their new courses.

We hope to run a senior phase, whole school MHWB event on Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 June, leading to a qualification for all.

Car park safety

A gentle reminder and request regarding the front car park, I understand that it is not always possible to make a different arrangement but where possible it would be greatly appreciated if pickups of young people at the end of the day/.



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./the day could be arranged for out with the car park. The car park has recently become very busy and I am concerned for everyone's safety.

Please however, if you are using the car park be aware that although young people have been told not to walk through the car park and only use pavements, at times they forget this and so I ask that you all continue to pay great attention when using the car park at any time. Thank you for your understanding about this.

Developing the Young Work Force & Inter Disciplinary Learning

As we move into our new session, we are hoping to develop the above areas across the school. To support us in this I would like to develop a directory of parents who would be willing to provide any kind of input relating to their skills, qualities and experiences in their working lives present or past. This may be virtual input, our ICT gurus will help with that, or through an actual visit to classes to discuss something.

I know some of your young people may not be excited that you may be visiting the school in this way, but we can ensure we can manage this carefully.

I have asked the Parent Council to be part of this and so later this term, before the holidays, I will send out a more formal request for this help.

It would be great if we could incorporate this into lessons and experiences for young people to help them see even more the direct relevance of what they are learning in school to their futures.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

Speyside High School is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and the wider community. As part of this approach, we are delighted to announce the launch of our whole school, and pupil, Mental Health and Wellbeing policies. The policies, and associated documentation, can be found on the school website: <http://speysidehighschool.net/mental-health-and-wellbeing>.

In creating the policies, we aim to promote positive mental health and increase understanding and awareness of common mental health issues across the school community. If staff, parents and pupils are alert to the early signs of poor mental health then appropriate supports can be identified and put in place. There is a clear link between wellbeing and learning. If you are concerned about your child's mental health and wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact their Guidance teacher.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



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