



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: 5 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope as ever this letter finds you all well and settling back into the swing of the term. With the change in the hour last weekend it is important that everyone is very vigilant on the darker evenings. The mornings are slightly lighter for now but again with the onset of winter it important we are all keeping ourselves safe.

COVID-19

Can I please ask you to discuss the following with your young people at home?

Mitigations – masks, one way systems, designated social areas displayed around school and if not sure please ask, hand sanitising and LFD testing.

We have been advised that the number of people carrying out LFD testing in Moray has dropped slightly. Can I please encourage you to ensure you have a supply of LFD testing kits and that these are used regularly. We advise that testing is completed on a Sunday before coming to school on Monday and a Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning before coming to school on Wednesday.

In schools we are living under much greater restrictions than elsewhere in society and as a result it is really important we maintain our high COVID-19 standards to ensure we keep everyone in the community safe and well.

SQA and Prelims

We continue to monitor advice from the SQA regarding the May diet of exams. We are also awaiting details related to prelims and as ever, as soon as we have any further information we will share this with yourselves and your young people.

Tracking and Monitoring

You will all be aware that we produce what we call Tracking and Monitoring reports on a regular basis to keep you informed of your young person's progress.

I am aware that you may not know when these reports are due so included at the end of this Newsletter is a summary of these timings. Please be aware that as COVID-19 situations can change these dates may be subject to alteration.

Note that if there are changes in the required COVID-19 mitigations then full reports will be replaced with parents' evenings.

CyberFirst Girls Development Day

The girls were role playing as cyber security experts working for a fictitious company, Sirius Cyberworks. Disaster had struck and there had been a serious breach of the company network, with a new flagship app having been leaked. The girls worked through four different parts of the company, uncovering how the leak had happened whilst learning new cyber skills along the way.

This virtual/.



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This virtual event took place using MS Teams, with pupils working in teams with others from around the UK to solve problems to uncover the source of the leak. Using a virtual PC and network, on Day 1 they developed skills in Digital Forensics, learning how to find and capture evidence from a hard disk, and Cryptography, learning how codes can be hidden - and found - in image and audio files.

On Day 2 they used hacking tools to develop skills in Penetration Testing, discovering how to steal usernames and passwords from an insecure website and how the company's website was hacked to display a message on the home page. Finally, they worked collaboratively to put all their new skills into action to solve a team challenge, with two of our pupils in the winning team.

Overall, the girls enjoyed the event, finding it both challenging and exciting, and most are keen to take part in another event in future.

Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland Careers Adviser Kay Geldart has begun to meet with S3 pupils individually in school for short appointments relating to options choice and career management skills. The majority of these appointments will take place in December. If parents have questions relating to option choice and career planning or would like to arrange a telephone consultation please email kay.geldart@sds.co.uk or phone 07917 201018 (Mon→Wed).

Parent Council

The Parent Council met on Tuesday evening of this week, this was a very positive and supportive busy meeting. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in getting the Parent Council back up and running in such a positive manner.

The Parent Council has now completed the work to produce our sustainable shopping bags and business directories. These are now available to purchase directly from the Parent Council, please email to order: SHS_parent_council@outlook.com or Gammacks in Aberlour have a stock.

In school we are working on a system to be able to sell these from here that supports the safe running of the school – watch this space!

Vaping

Unfortunately we continue to have times when we have been made aware young people are vaping in the school building. This is not permissible and I thank you all for your support in ensuring that young people do not continue with this.

Tik Tok

The school has been made aware that there may be accounts set up including images of people who have not given permission to this. This appears to be an issue in a number of schools presently, if this is something that affects the Speyside High School community it may become a police matter. The situation is being monitored presently.

Continued over/.



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Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher

Tracking and Monitoring Timetable:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| S1 | |
| Fortnight beginning 13 September | Guidance phone calls |
| Monday 20 December | Tracking report |
| Monday 21 March | Tracking report |
| Monday 23 May | Full report |
| | |
| S2 | |
| Monday 22 November | Tracking report |
| Monday 28 February | Full report |
| Fortnight beginning 7 March | Guidance phone calls |
| Monday 13 June | Tracking report |
| | |
| S3 | |
| Monday 13 December | Full report |
| Fortnight beginning 10 January | Guidance phone calls |
| Monday 14 March | Tracking report |
| Monday 16 March | Tracking report |
| | |
| Senior Phase | |
| Monday 27 September | Tracking report with aspirational grades |
| Monday 29 November | Tracking report |
| Fortnight beginning 7 February | S4 Guidance phone calls |
| Tuesday 15 February | Full report |
| Fortnight beginning 21 February | S5 Guidance phone calls |
| Monday 28 March | Tracking report |



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