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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 03 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this finds you all well. At last we have made it to February and are definitely seeing a lengthening in the days.

Please remember we have a mid-term break next week from Friday 10 February to Monday 13 February inclusive, so there will be no newsletter.

SCQF

The SCQF award is something we have been working towards this session. This is awarded to schools who have met the criteria of informing their communities about the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

We are delighted to announce that due to the hard work of 3 young people and colleagues, Speyside High School has been given the Bronze Award to date. We will now work towards the Silver Award.

Prelims

I am pleased that the main diet of prelims are complete. Some young people will have prelims to catch up on due to school closure, transport or absences and these will be arranged with their teachers.

Well done to everyone for completing these and congratulations if your results have been as good as expected. If this is not the case now is the time to work hard to ensure the final exams are a success.

SQA Exams

The SQA have published an article for parents and carers of young people preparing for exams this year entitled "National Qualifications: Helping your child prepare for SQA exams in 2023". This can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). Important points to note are that the Appeals service will return to a model that is similar to what was in place prior to the Covid pandemic where any appeals will only involve a review of SQA marked work and not the submission of work done prior. For young people who are not able to sit exams on the day or circumstances cause them not to perform as well as they might, the Exceptional Exam Circumstances Consideration Services will be in place. In this case, school will submit evidence.

Active Citizenship at Speyside High

This week, Moray Council passed a motion declaring a *Nature Emergency*, this compliments the *Climate Emergency* that was declared in 2019. This motion was supported by a group of our own S3 students, with their comments being read out in Council Chambers. The students have been discussing these issues in Modern Studies, Geography, and as part of the *Cairngorms2030* consultation. It is amazing to see their learning and engagement translating into positive local action. We look forward to building on this Student Voice in the future.

Cairngorms/.



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- 2 -

Cairngorms 2030 at Speyside High

Tuesday 24 January was a busy day for junior classes in school, as we hosted the second *Cairngorms2030 Heritage Horizons* consultation event. Ben Sparham returned to school to speak with students from S1, S2 and S3 about the key issues they had previously identified and how to move these forward with meaningful actions. Issues included local transport, community building, equality, food & farming, and the climate crisis. Groups made use of *Learning for Sustainability* methodologies to explore challenges and desired outcomes as well as identifying issues for making real change.

A huge thank you to all the students who took part and engaged in such a mature and meaningful way. Staff also had a chance to meet with Ben to begin to explore ways that we can incorporate the *Cairngorms2030* initiatives into our curriculums and practice. We'll keep you posted as this long-term project continues.

In the meantime, you might like to see the press-release from Cairngorm National Park Authority:

<https://cairngorms.co.uk/school-pupils-have-their-say-in-shaping-a-more-sustainable-cairngorms/>

National Webinar in Gaelic for P7- S3

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is delivering a webinar on the career service and the benefits of studying Gaelic for future career opportunities. This webinar is aimed at Parents and Carers or P7 to S3 young people.

The webinar will be **delivered in Gaelic** and we will be providing a recording in Gaelic and English after the webinar to all who register, along with a post-event information guide.

The webinar is on Wednesday 8 February at 6.30pm until 7.15pm

Link: <https://Thecareerserviceandgaelliccareeropportunities.eventbrite.co.uk>

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
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