



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/MF

Date: 29 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this finds you all well and everyone remained safe during Storm Agnes, I believe some areas of Elgin lost power.

Industrial Action

Thank you for your patience and support during our 3 day pupil closure this week. I know that plenty of online work was provided through Satchel One over the closure.

Senior Phase Parent/Carer Evening

The senior phase parents evening scheduled for 26 September will now take place on Tuesday 24 October.

Appointments that were already made will stand and young people have some further time to make appointments in the next week.

Parent/Carer Evening Volunteers

I want to give a big thank you to all those young people who volunteer to man the front desk at parents/carers evening. The job they do is greatly appreciated. For some this can be quite daunting so I thank all parents/carers who have supported our young people to do this successfully.

MacMillan Bake Sale

A Bake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support took place today, 29 September 2023. Bakes were available for young people to purchase at school and we hope this event is a huge success.

Attendance

Post pandemic young people's attendance across schools has dropped. One of our priorities this year is to work with young people and families to improve this. We totally understand there are circumstances and times where young people's attendance at school is not possible and we are always here to support families through these times – please contact Principal Teachers of Guidance.

It is important however that out with these situations young people attend school as much as possible. A 90% attendance rate means that a young person is absent for 1 day every fortnight and this has an effect on their learning. I look forward to working together this year to find ways of improving your young person's attendance.

Sport Ambassadors

We are very proud of our SportScotland Young Ambassadors who represented Active Schools and Speyside earlier this week. They were at the Young Ambassadors Conference at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness, where they put plans together for supporting the delivery of PE and sport in the Speyside ASG. One young ambassador was also selected to be a part of the delivery team at this event, where they got to present alongside the special guest – Team GB Freestyle Skier, Chris McCormick! They will also go on to be a part of the delivery team at the Aberdeen event on Friday 29 September.

Fearless/.



**Healthy
Respectful
Responsible
Achieving
Ambitious
Dedicated**



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Fearless

Police Scotland North East are currently actively promoting the 'Silence Won't Stop the Violence' campaign from Fearless - the youth service provided by independent charity Crimestoppers. Fearless provides young people aged 11 – 18 years with key information about crime and gives them a safe place to speak up with information 100% anonymously online: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/give-information-anonymously> or by calling them on **0800 555 111**.

Equipping young people with knowledge of the unique service empowers them to make their lives and communities safer. It is a tangible, positive tool for education/youth professionals and parents/carers to share to help support young people to make positive choices as they grow into adulthood. Further information about Fearless can be found at : <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless> or via links on the Police Scotland North East Facebook page.

E-sgoil Study Support

Registration for Evening Study Support is now OPEN. Webinars will start in the week beginning 30 October 2023. E-sgoil offer fifty-one weekly Study Support webinars during term time, covering a wide range of subjects and levels. Study Support is for Senior Phase learners who are working towards National Qualifications.

The weekly webinar timetable is attached. To sign up young people should go to <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKbQ-E7bqOW1Imztqf1fg0TZURVBCVUk2M003NTIxQ0c3SDFIUzI0VjVINS4u>

Vaping & Smoking

We continue to work hard to ensure the Health & Safety of all young people and colleagues at Speyside High School. Please remember there is zero tolerance of smoking and vaping at Speyside High School. Please see attachment for more information.

Cost of the School Day

Given the continued challenges associated with the cost of living crisis, we are keen to ensure that financial poverty does not affect any young person's ability to participate as fully as possible in school life here. Each year, the school takes part in the Cost of the School day programme which gives families, teachers and young people a voice to highlight what is working well in school and what we can do to improve. We are keen to get more families' voices heard to ensure that we are supporting all of our community at this difficult time. This would likely involve two 30 minute maximum feedback sessions over the course of the year and could be done over the phone, via email or on paper. Your responses would remain completely anonymous and would help us greatly to know how to support your young person better. If you would be willing to be part of this group I would be grateful if you could let me know, either by phoning the school or via email helen.duffy@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Street Football

Please find attached information from Active Schools regarding Street Football on 13 October 2023.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher
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