



**PATRICIA GOODBRAND** BSc(Hons), MEd

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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 14 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I know we are not officially back to school as yet, but I wanted to be in touch before the new session starts. I hope you have all had a good summer and have been able to enjoy some rest and relaxation over the summer. All young people will return to school on Tuesday 15 August, with colleagues returning on Monday 14 August. I am very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school and to the new session and term ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some points as we return:

### SQA

We are pleased with our SQA results. Congratulations to all young people who successfully completed their SQA exams. Thank you to all Parents/Carers and colleagues who worked so hard to support our young people to do their best.

The Senior Leadership Team and the Guidance Team will be available to deal with any queries as we return. I know some families have been in touch already in regard to SQA results and procedures and actions are ongoing to support.

### SQA Appeals 2023

The purpose of Appeals 2023 is to provide learners with the opportunity to request a review of their SQA-marked assessment components. Appeals 2023 is different to last years' service — alternative assessment evidence will not be considered as part of any appeal for 2023. This year, learners can request a marking review of the materials that were submitted to SQA for marking if the result is unexpected and they believe that an error may have occurred with either the totalling of marks or the marking, and this has resulted in the wrong grade being awarded.

Appeals 2023 is free of charge and opened on Tuesday 8 August at 9 am for learners or their representatives to request a review directly to SQA, or through their school, college or training provider (centre). Appeals can be prioritised if the learner has a conditional place at university or college, or for training or employment that depends on their grade.

Grades can go up or stay the same or go down. Therefore, the learner's consent must be provided before any requests are submitted by a centre.

### Key Dates

- |   |                                                                        |              |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ | Learner Direct Service opens to learners                               | 8 August     |
| ❖ | Deadline for submitting priority appeals via Learner Direct            | 15 August    |
| ❖ | Deadline for priority appeals through school submission                | 21 August    |
| ❖ | Deadline for submitting non-priority appeals via Learner Direct        | 29 August    |
| ❖ | Deadline for submitting non-priority appeals through school submission | 1 September  |
| ❖ | SQA issues priority appeal results to schools                          | 4 September  |
| ❖ | SQA issues results for non-priority appeals                            | October      |
| ❖ | Replacement certificates issued                                        | mid-November |

Any/.



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Respectful  
Responsible  
Achieving  
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Any appeal submitted through learner direct will be approved by school. If we wish to submit an appeal on behalf of a young person we will seek their permission first.

Further information is available from <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html>

### Timetables

Please note that for period 1 on Tuesday 15 August, S1 should report to the Auditorium and S2-S6 should report to their UPS classes where they will be issued with their timetables. Please find information attached.

### School Uniform

At the start of the new term I would expect to see all young people in full school uniform as below:-

1. White shirt with school tie and black jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt; black jumper or hoodie with school logo  
OR
  2. Polo shirt **not a round neck t-shirt** with black jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt; black jumper or hoodie with school logo
- AND

Option 1 or 2 along with: black trousers **not joggers or leggings/skirt/shorts and black shoes preferably not trainers**

Please note that a **plain** (with no other logo) black jumper, sweatshirt or hoodie is also perfectly acceptable as uniform. A jumper or hoodie with the Speyside High School logo does not have to be worn. Any smart black trousers are acceptable, but joggers and sports leggings should not be worn unless for PE, and then they should be changed for uniform trousers.

If anyone needs support in providing uniform please contact the school. We have a number of ways of helping with this.

### Equipment

We understand that currently it can be difficult to provide all equipment that your young person may need for school every day.

To support this we have re-introduced our Pick up a Pencil (and other basic equipment) at the front door. This may help with ensuring your young person has pens, pencils, rulers etc for their day at school.

If you are having further difficulty in supplying equipment please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be able to help out.

### Toilets/.



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**Toilets and Social Areas**

These are no longer designated to a particular year group. Designation of toilets and social areas was a Covid mitigation which is currently not required. These areas are no longer designated to year groups. Young people should always use the toilets closest to the class or area they are in. This will be monitored with all young people being asked to sign out of class to use the toilets.

**Staffing**

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Miss Harley who has started with Speyside High School in the post of Principal Teacher of Guidance for Fiddich and Miss McMillan who is joining us as Teacher of Technical.

Please may I also take the opportunity to let you know that Mr Craven, Rinnes Guidance Teacher, is currently out of school. Young people should contact a Guidance Teacher as detailed below.

Tutor Group	Guidance Teacher
S1 & S2	Mrs A MacInness
S3 & S4	Mr E Picksley
S5 & S6 (Mon – Wed)	Mrs H Duffy
S5 & S6 (Thurs – Fri)	Mr M McWhirter

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

We are keen to get as many young people involved in extra-curricular activities as possible. A fair, introducing all our clubs, will take place the second week back and we look forward to seeing as many young people attend to sign up for all our exciting activities.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs P Goodbrand**  
 Head Teacher



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