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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 17 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The weather has very much turned colder, but those cold frosty days are much more preferable to the driech damp days we seem to be experiencing more and more!

### **In Service**

All colleagues took part in two days of In Service training, everyone worked hard on our school improvements over Monday and Tuesday.

We were honoured to have Bruce Robertson, Rector at Berwickshire High School present to us on learning and teaching on Tuesday. The response to his presentation was hugely positive and gave all colleagues lots of important information to take forward in all of our teaching.

### **Inter-house Shinty**

Congratulations to Fiddich who won our inaugural inter-house shinty competition this week! This was made possible thanks to the support of Bob from the Grantown shinty club and Alaina – the Grampian Development Officer – who have been in school working with our S1s and S2s for the last 4 weeks. We look forward to taking this activity into our curriculum and developing stronger links with the club. If anybody is interested in finding out more about joining Grantown Camanachd, please email me: [duncan.jagger@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.jagger@moray-edunet.gov.uk).

### **Children in Need**

Today was Children in Need day and a non-uniform day to wear yellow to mark this. Various activities are taking place to further support Children in Need i.e. bake sale, selling of wrist bands and interhouse spin bike competition – I am sorry to the house who has me for a stint!!

### **Anti-bullying Week**

Although a short week, we are recognising anti-bullying week in school. Today assemblies have taken place to mark this.

All colleagues, young people and parents are encouraged to complete the questionnaire to ensure we hear from everyone to deliver our anti-bullying policy. Survey link: <https://forms.gle/UHfawrEFZwhB96Wc8>

### **Readiness to Learn**

A gentle reminder that where possible young people should bring the following items to school to support their readiness to learn:

- A Schoolbag - Rucksacks are the most convenient bags, and the safest, for carrying equipment, jotters and text books, completed homework assignments, PE kit, etc.
- A pencil case with a range of writing tools. For example, a pencil and eraser, black or blue pen, pencil sharpener, ruler, coloured pencils or pens, etc. (please note that scissors should not be taken to school as these will be provided when required.)

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**Healthy  
Responsible  
Achieving  
Ambitious  
Dedicated**



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When a young person forgets to take a pencil/pen to class, one will always be provided for them. Unfortunately there has been a recent concern that when this is the case, some young people do not return the pen/pencil at the end of the class, break them or litter them round the school. With your support, we are hopeful that situations of this nature will decrease.

It is appreciated that during the current financial climate, purchasing these items can be challenging. If that is the case, please let us know so support can be provided.

### **Women's Football**

Huntly FC Women are starting a girls academy at U14 (2010/11) and U16 (2008/09) age groups and are currently recruiting girls who are keen to play football in what is becoming an ever more popular girls and women's game. All coaches are UEFA/SFA qualified and PVG certified. Please see attached poster for more information.

### **Keith Community Radio**

We are very proud to support one of our young people who will be broadcasting on Keith Community Radio on Monday 20 November 2023 at 6.45pm and again on Tuesday 21 November 2023. This young person has created a short programme as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

### **Parent Council**

There will be a Speyside High School Parent Council AGM on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7pm in the Library. The Council are desperate for new members due to recent changes in the group. At present if no-one joins the council they will no longer be able to operate. This would be unfortunate as we have a reasonable sized school roll. There is no obligation to undertake a role if you attend a meeting. All support is appreciated. Please see link and attached QR code for more information. (Parent Council)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKe2gvE4bPkdLhjZ648CdDLtUNkdWVFFUSkhDSjhFNTRGMEZBNEU2SE9NTC4u>

### **NSPCC Scotland**

As part of the 'Moray - Let's chat online safety' safety campaign, NSPCC Scotland are delivering FREE sessions for parents and carers via zoom covering what children do online, what the risks are and what you can do to help keep children safe online. Please refer to attached poster for more information

Yours faithfully

**Mrs P Goodbrand**  
**Head Teacher**  
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