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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 08 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all were able to stay safe during the very icy weather at the start of the week and that the very cold snap is passing.

S3 Parents Evening

Unfortunately due to the icy weather conditions, the S3 Parents evening that was planned for Tuesday 5 December had to be postponed. This has now been rescheduled to Thursday 11 January 2024. Arrangements will remain the same and all previous appointments made will carry forward where possible.

Staff

Mr Duncan Jagger, Principal Teacher of Physical Education and Home Economics, is leaving Speyside High School sometime in January to take up a new position with cycling UK. We thank him for the huge contribution to Speyside High School and wish him well in his new job.

Christmas Parties

These take place on Tuesday and we are looking forward to them. Please note that if a young person is off unwell on Tuesday they would not be expected to attend the Christmas party that day.

Christmas Concert

We are looking forward to the live Christmas Concert in school on 19 December 2023 at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £3 per Adult, £2 Concession and £8 Family. We look forward to seeing you all on 19 December at 7pm.

No Waste Wardrobe

The Speyside High School **No Waste Wardrobe** has launched, where young people and families can access high-quality uniform clothing items and sports clothing. Young people can make an appointment to access this resource during the school day with Sarah in the Inclusion Hub, or families can access it through the Community reception during the evening and on Saturdays.

Please consider donating any good quality school clothing which is no longer required which will help support reducing clothing waste in our school community.

Toilet Vandalism

Unfortunately we continue to experience vandalism, particularly in our boy's toilets. This is so disappointing and I know causes concerns for many of our younger students in relation to using the toilets. We are investigating ways of improving the safety without reducing the privacy in the boy's toilets.

One of our options is to remove the outer door of the whole toilet onto the corridor, but to redesign the cubicles to ensure complete privacy. We will be in touch further as we move forward with these plans.

Speyside/.



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Speyside Sleepout

On Friday 1 December, as temps dropped to -8 degrees, a group of students and staff from SHS took part in our 6th annual Sleepout.

The Sleepouts are all about raising awareness about the issue of homelessness in Scotland. Currently there are over 30,000 families in Scotland who are homeless, and nearly a thousand people are rough sleeping. We aim to raise awareness of the issue and encourage compassion and empathy in our school community, with the hope that we can build solidarity and work towards creating a Scotland where everyone can have a safe place to go home to.

31 pupils and 4 staff took part in the Sleepout this year. It was the coldest one that we have done so far! It is confronting to think that there are people going through this every night. We are currently still counting up how much we have raised through sponsorship and will be donating all proceeds to Moray Women's Aid.

As part of our fundraising for Moray Women's Aid, we also held a lunchtime concert on Thursday 30 November. There were amazing performances from Revision and the school Ceilidh Band plus our headline act "Boys Should Learn" – who were exceptional!

Higher Modern Studies Parliament Trip

The Higher Modern Studies Edinburgh trip took place on the 23 and 24 November. Pupils visited Parliament and were able to watch First Minister's Questions from front row seats. We were then met by Richard Lochhead who spoke about his role as an MSP.

We really enjoyed the opportunity to visit the city, having a good wander around the Christmas market, and a tour of Edinburgh University. It has been a few years since our last Edinburgh trip – so it was brilliant to be out and about, seeing some of the processes that we learn about in Higher Modern Studies in person.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Next Thursday, 14 December, is our Christmas Lunch Day and to fully celebrate this young people are also invited to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt. Young people will be asked on Monday morning if they wish to have a Christmas lunch.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



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