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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 22 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

This will be the last newsletter of 2023 and goodness what a year it has been!

I would like to thank all of you who have been so supportive of the school this year. I would also like to thank all colleagues for their huge amount of hard work and support throughout the year and all the young people for their hard work as well.

I hope you are all able to have a restful and pleasant festive break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024.

School Concert

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Concert and to all who attended to watch the concert on Tuesday evening. All performances were amazing and the work that went into producing such a great show must have been huge. A particular thanks to Miss Chapman for bringing it all together so successfully.

Prelims

A prelim schedule was issued to young people in S4, S5 and S6 this week and a copy can be downloaded from <http://speysidehighschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Prelims-January-2024-PUPILS.pdf>

Study leave will run from Monday 15 January to Friday 26 January. Outwith these times all young people should attend class except when they have a prelim.

Personalised timetables will be issued with exact start and finish times, rooms and seat numbers when we come back.

While Christmas is an important time to spend with friends and family as well as to have time to relax, young people must make sure they are prepared as well as they can be for these exams.

Cost of the School Day Parent/Carer Group Actions

Many thanks to those parents and carers who took part in our recent survey. Here is a summary of the responses:

You said: Uniform costs still make up a substantial part of the cost of the school day.

We did: We have revised the wording in the school prospectus to state that plain black footwear is preferred but not mandatory. This means that footwear can be multi use and a separate purchase of black footwear is not essential.

We have advertised in our newsletter a 'No Waste Wardrobe' uniform offer where young people can access quality new and used uniform and PE clothing.

You/.



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You said: Completing Educational Maintenance Allowance and Free School Meals applications was tricky.
We did: We have asked the Benefits Team from Moray Council and the Citizens Advice Bureau to come into school to help families complete the relevant forms. Further information on the dates for this will follow next term.

If any other parents/carers wish to join in with our Cost of the School Day voice team then please do pass your name onto Helen Duffy helen.duffy@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Cost of Living Crisis

We continue to be aware of financial difficulties faced by some families in our catchment which are even more acute during the Christmas period. If you require any support or have any financial concerns, please see the Worrying about Money leaflet attached which highlights a range of support services available in Moray.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher

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