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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 16 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this letter finds you well and that you had an enjoyable long weekend break without school.

Study Club

We provide study club every Tuesday and Wednesday evening from now until Easter holidays. This is to further support your young people to do their best in the final exam diet.

It is a large investment for the school in monetary terms which we are happy to do, however it is important that as many young people attend as possible.

A number of families will have received a specific invite for their young person to come to Study Club and it would be fantastic to see as many of these young people at Study Club as possible.

If there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact school. I have again attached the Study Club timetable.

Parents/Carers Evening

We held the first of our two Senior Phase Parent/Carer Evenings on Thursday evening. We are trying a new arrangement for the evening and thank everyone for their feedback about this.

Like Study Club it is important that as many parents/carers attend to allow partnership working to ensure the best outcome for all young people.

Toilets

We continue to work hard to maintain health and safety in our toilets. It continues to be a concern to us the number of particularly girls who choose to eat in the toilets. This is despite constant reminders of the health hazards related to this. I would thank you all where possible to have a conversation with your young people about this to ensure we keep all young people happy and healthy.

Uniform

Thank you to all young people who maintain our uniform standards. Below is a reminder of our School Uniform standards:-

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** sensible footwear **preferably plain black.**

Please/.



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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.

Attendance

Prior to Covid we rarely had an absence rate of over 10% per day. Unfortunately since Covid we rarely have a day of less than 10% absence.

We very much want to support all young people to be in school as much as possible and recognise times where this is not possible.

Particularly for Senior Phase pupils, any absences will have an effect on their attainment running up to final assessments.

Can I please ask that if there are any problems we are not aware of that is affecting your young person's attendance you contact us to help.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on 7 March. This is a charity event that has been held annually in the [United Kingdom](#) and [Ireland](#) on the first Thursday in March, since 1998.

On World Book Day, every young person in full-time education in the UK is provided with a £1 voucher to be spent on books. The vouchers can be spent at local bookshops, ASDA, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waterstones and WH Smith. These stores will have books that are priced at £1 and the voucher can be a straight swap. However, it is also a £1 voucher that can be taken off the price of other books too.

The English Department along with the School Library want to encourage all the young people at Speyside High School to spend their voucher. This is a chance to try a new fiction genre, catch up with an audio book or even take money off a revision book. However we also want to encourage our parents to get involved too. So many studies have shown the power of reading to children when they are younger and reading alongside them when they are older; not necessarily reading the same book, but showing them that reading for pleasure is a good thing.

Reading a range of texts will help at school. The Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (RUAE) part of the exam (that you may know better as interpretation or comprehension) relies on being able to read a text and understand what the author is meaning. This level of understanding comes with practise.

Reading is also one of the more amazing things we can do – as Carl Sagan said: “Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

£1 might not seem a huge amount, but it could be the start of a family journey!

Forsyth's/.



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Forsyth's Career Open Day

DYW Moray is hosting a Career Open Day for Forsyth's Group on 29 February 2024 in Rothes from 3:30pm-7:30pm. All ages welcome. For more information please see the following link <https://shorturl.at/lmquH>

Posts Available within Moray Council

The Catering department have 2 posts currently being advertised on my job Scotland. One is a post of Assistant Cook at Speyside High 28.75hr per week, term time only. If you are interested please click link to take you to the advert <https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/moray-council/jobs/assistant-cook-speyside-high-367333>

The second post is at Tomintoul Primary for a Catering Assistant 7.5hrs per week, term time only. If you are interested please click link to take you to the advert <https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/moray-council/jobs/catering-assistant-tomintoul-primary-367334>

Please be aware closing dates for both posts is 23 February 2024.

Parent/Carer Wellbeing Workshops

Please find below the dates for parents/carers for online support offered through Exchange Counselling:

19 February @ 12:30 - Self-Harm

<https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/self-harm-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents>

21 February @ 4:00pm - Stress

<https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/stress-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-10>

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand

Head Teacher

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