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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 23 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this letter finds you well, although the weather is turning colder again.

### Attendance

As I wrote last week, we continue to work hard to ensure school is a safe and interesting place for young people and to improve attendance.

Again this week we have had exceptionally high absence rates. On Monday 18% of the school were absent and Thursday 15% of school absent. Today we have 17% absences. We understand fully where some absences are totally unavoidable, however if there are other factors affecting your young person's attendance please do not hesitate to call us.

### School Improvement Model Visit

Various members of the Moray Council Quality Improvement Team, along with the Head Teacher from Keith Grammar School, will visit Speyside High School on Monday 26 February 2024. The visit will comprise of discussions and key documentation review, a range of focus groups, classroom observations and Senior Leadership Team 1:1 discussions with members of the reviewing team on remit/role and school priorities/next steps.

### BBC Planet Earth

A really exciting opportunity has come our way thanks to a school response to BBC Children in Need last year by one of our S6s. We have been selected as one of five schools across the UK to narrate an episode of BBC Planet Earth which will be released on BBC iPlayer to coincide with Earth Day in April. This is being done to promote the BBC's "A Voice for Nature" campaign. The BBC are coming up to Speyside next Tuesday 27 February and ten young people have been chosen to take part in the recording. We will let you know when it is released so that you can watch it if interested.

### Anti-Bullying Survey – Next Steps

Following the Anti Bullying survey carried out last year, pupils, parents/carers and staff suggested that an alternative method of communicating concerns could be helpful. With that in mind, the Speyside High Support QR has been launched in PSE classes this week with each young person receiving a flyer which includes the QR code as shown below. The QR code can also be accessed in various locations around the school including the Wellbeing Hub, toilets and corridors. The eform will allow young people to report their concerns so appropriate support can be offered to all involved. Please note that this service is for young people to report their concerns and parents/carers are requested to contact the young person's Guidance Teacher directly to discuss any concerns. Further announcements regarding next steps and the revised policy will be shared with you in due course.

## Speyside High Support



Worried about the way people treat you or others?  
Worried about telling someone about it?

Why not use the Speyside High Support QR code to report your concerns. Fill in the form and support will be explored and offered to everyone involved in a sensitive way.



S2/.



Healthy  
Respectful  
Responsible  
Achieving  
Ambitious  
Dedicated



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### **S2 Relationships Day – 7 March 8.45am-1.10pm.**

This is a day whereby all of our S2 young people will be taken off timetable for the morning to engage and participate in a number of sessions with external agencies and staff. Young people will be placed into small groups whereby they will attend workshops/sessions/presentations with agencies such as The Police, Moray Women's Aid, 39 Engineers and teaching staff. The focus for the morning is on mental health, developing positive relationships, controlling emotions and managing behaviours.

Each agency will have a 50 minute slot with a group of young people, the young people will rotate throughout the day to ensure they see each agency for a session. Following the morning events the Guidance staff will conclude the sessions with a reflective lesson where young people will have the chance to feedback, think and discuss how the morning went and the supportive messages shared.

### **S2 Charities**

Well done to everyone who worked hard in S2 UPS to delivery our most successful charities fair ever. Congratulations to the team who raised nearly £40 for their charity.

### **S1, 2, 3 – School Production**

The Performance Arts department are hoping to stage a production next term and rehearsals will be starting soon. If your young person is interesting in acting in he cast or helping backstage with lights, sound or costumes, please encourage them to a meeting in the Drama classroom on Wednesday 28 February at 1.30pm

### **Job Vacancies**

The Catering department has 1 new post currently being advertised on my job Scotland. This is a post at Rothes Primary for a Catering Assistant 15hrs per week, term time only. If you are interested please click link to take you to the advert. Please be aware closing date for the post is 1 March 2024.

<https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/moray-council/jobs/catering-assistant-rothes-primary-368584>

### **Immunisations**

Immunisation Nurses will be attending Speyside High School on Tuesday 27 February 2024 to administer the final scheduled routine vaccinations offered of the Scottish Immunisation schedule. These are a booster for protection against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and protection against Meningitis ACWY. Further information is available via the links below:

[Meningitis ACWY \(MenACWY\) vaccine | NHS inform](#)

[DTP vaccine - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

These vaccinations are offered to all school age children in S3 as part of the recommended Scottish Immunisation Schedule. Please ensure your young person has had something to eat for breakfast, wears a t-shirt as the vaccinator requires access to the top of the arm and brings a full water bottle to school as it is important to keep hydrated after the vaccination.

Yours faithfully

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



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