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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 26 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am delighted that we have been able to have a full week in school without any weather disruptions despite Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn.

Prelims

Unfortunately, as you will be aware due to snow closures, our prelim diet has been disrupted. We thank you and all the young people for their forbearance whilst these were reorganised.

The prelims will finish next week on the Wednesday morning. The young people have conducted themselves very well and thank you to all concerned for their patience as we have had to reschedule exams due to the disruptive weather last week. Those young people who have missed exams due to illness or other reasons should speak to their teachers as soon as possible to make arrangements to sit exams.

While there are still a few exams to complete next week this is the last day of study leave and we expect all young people at school on Monday 29 January in classes except when they have an exam.

Senior Phase Study Club

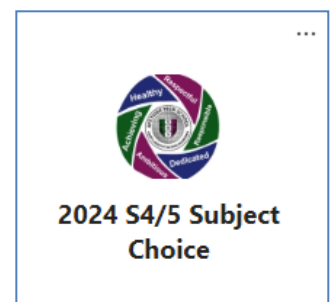
Study club will run on Tuesday and Wednesday after school from 3:45 to 4:45pm with buses leaving for the main centres at 4:50pm. This starts on Tuesday 6 February. The offer for this year can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Young people should sign up for the study session they want to do during Driving Attainment on Monday mornings and at this stage they must say whether they will need a bus and if so which one. Copies of the offer will be issued at the assembly on Thursday next week.

Subject Choice

Today is the deadline for S2s to complete subject choice forms. If a form has not been submitted for your young person then please can you ensure one is at the soonest opportunity and where there is an issue please contact your young person's Guidance teacher. The deadline for S3 is Friday 2 February.

S4 and S5s will be given subject choice information at the assembly on Thursday 1 February and there is a course choice and pathways information evening on Thursday 1 February from 6pm. This will take place through the **2024 S4/5 Subject Choice** team that can be accessed through Glow. Your young person will be added to this team during the early part of next week in time for Thursday. The team has all of the information required for subject choice including department and Moray College channels with course information.



Burns Supper

On Thursday we celebrated Burns Night with a school Burns Supper. S6 pupils were invited to attend and we were also joined by members of staff and the parents of some of our performers. We enjoyed poetry, speeches, song and highland dance performances and music from our school ceilidh band. Thanks go to Pamela Petrie and her school canteen colleagues for a fantastic meal and the pupils who helped them by waiting on tables.

Growing/.



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Growing Future Assets Competition

A team of senior students took part in this year's Growing Future Assets Competition; creating an investment pitch on Vestas Energy. The competition aims to support girls in investment management and enthuses them about rewarding careers in the finance industry which is predominantly male orientated. The team invested lots of hard work and time in creating their presentation. They did not make the finals this year however received positive feedback from the judging panel.

PISA - (The Programme for International Student Assessment)

Speyside High School was chosen to be part of Scotland's returns in the PISA statistics. We are proud to be able to contribute to this important activity that supports all of Scottish Education. Along with being part of the whole Scottish response, we also receive a school feedback. Please see below:-

Some information from PISA:-

Belonging at school – Out of a sample of 30 (15 year old pupils) a smaller number of Speyside High School young people feel left out of things, or feel lonely at school than the Scottish average. However, out of a sample of 33 young people at Speyside High School young people were more likely to feel that other students left them out of things on purpose and then made fun of them than the average Scottish statistics.

This is useful in helping us plan school improvement and to support our young people more effectively

Parent Council

Following the Parent Council AGM the following office bearers were appointed:

- Chair: Victoria Pickup
- Secretary: Charlotte Kirkbride/Julie Oyarzabal
- Treasurer: Eve Montgomerie/Rob Montgomerie

Should anyone wish to contact the Parent Council the email address is: SHS_parent_council@outlook.com

Scottish Apprenticeship Week

As part of Scottish Apprenticeship Week, DYW Moray, UHI Moray and other partners have organised a Moray Apprenticeship Jobs Fair on 7 March 2024, 4pm-6pm at the Mansefield Hotel, Elgin. This FREE apprenticeship jobs fair is open to all ages and will include a wide variety of employers across various industries who are all currently recruiting apprentices now and, in the future.

Please see further details, including the ticket link here <https://dywmoray.co.uk/news-events/moray-apprenticeship-jobs-fair-2024>.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand

Head Teacher

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