



PATRICIA GOODBRAND BSc(Hons), MEd

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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 19 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back – I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break, although the weather was not favourable! I am looking forward to working with you all this term.

Leavers

Best Wishes to all our leavers, we wish you every success in the future and thank you all for your contribution to Speyside High School in your time here.

SQA

Our SQA exams start on Monday 22 April. We wish all Senior Phase young people all the best in their upcoming exams and particular best wishes to all S6 and those in S4 and S5 who are moving onto their next exciting chapter. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is anything you or your young person needs to discuss or are worried about.

All Senior Phase young people have now been issued with a personalised timetable which gives exact times and places for their exams – it is important that this is checked regularly to be sure of dates and times of exams.

Study Leave

Study Leave for our Senior Phase young people will commence on Monday 22 April and will finish on Friday 24 May with all young people returning to school on Monday 27 May 2024.

Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to the 54 parents/carers who completed our recent online parental questionnaire. The results of this will be used to support improvements in the school.

Following these returns we are looking into how we can make our toilets more accessible for all young people. As previously stated we will be removing the main doors to each toilet, but we can only do this once the cubicles have been made more private.

Toilets

The tender for work to be done to allow us to remove the main doors of the toilets has been put out to quote again as unfortunately our last request received no quotes. We are also pursuing the installation of vaping monitors in the toilets – some of you may have read about this in the news in regard to the Royal High School in Edinburgh.

Canteen

The queues in the Canteen are very long at break time. To alleviate this can you please encourage your young person to pre-order via the Fusion App or make sure they have their Young Scots card ready to pay. If you require information regarding the Fusion App please contact the school office.

London/.



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-2-

London Marathon

Absolutely delighted to let everyone know that Melissa Camron, S6, is running the London Marathon on Sunday. She will be the second youngest person to do this. Melissa is running to raise funds for Anthony Nolan in memory of Melissa's aunt and if you would like to donate to this please click here https://www.justgiving.com/page/andy-melissa-1692140703769?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fandy-melissa-1692140703769&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

Speyside High School young people become voices for nature

An episode of Planet Earth III which young people from Speyside High School provided a voiceover for airs on Monday 22 April as part of Earth Day. Speyside High School was one of eight schools in the UK chosen to take part, thanks to the initiative of one of our head students, Leah McGillivray in S6, who responded to a call from the BBC about fundraising for last year's BBC Children in Need appeal. While all other responses were completed by teachers, Leah was the only young person to send in a submission. This caught the interest of the Planet Earth III project team and they approached the school to take part. Nine young people in S1 along with Leah took part in the voice over of the episode which can be found on BBC iPlayer from Monday.

Fire Alarms

Worryingly we had two incidents of false fire alarms being set off yesterday and one today. This is a very worrying and disappointing situation. As you will understand fire alarms, when false, cause massive disruption to the school. In addition they can cause considerable anxiety to any of our young people with Additional Support Needs.

Our CCTV system is being upgraded currently and I would ask for your support by discussing this with your young person. If false fire alarms occur during our SQA diet those individuals are in danger of exclusion.

IDL Week 2024

Between 20 and 24 May, all young people in S1-3 will be off timetable to take part in an exciting and innovative inter disciplinary learning week. The focus of this week is sustainability and there are four themes running: Robotics, Cairngorm 2030, Seagrass and Upcycling. Young people will be out and about in the wider community during this week, engaging with a range of partners to experience some real world learning. This includes trips to Spey Bay, Glenlivet and Tormore Estate, Waste Busters and University of Aberdeen medical robotics departments. Young people will bring together all of their learning for a showcase event on Friday 24 May. We would like to invite all parents/carers in to view the showcase between 12.30pm – 1pm. If you are able to attend, please do let Mrs Duffy know (helen.duffy@moray-edunet.gov.uk). We look forward to seeing you there.

Tea in the Park 2024 Volunteering

Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust has a potential volunteering opportunity for young people. Volunteers help to take orders, make sandwiches and clear tables at Tea in the Park in Glenlivet Hall, a volunteer-led community café and craft fair. The event will run from 4 August - 18 August and is on from 11am to 4pm. The day will be split up into two shifts. Volunteering hours can be allocated to your young person's Duke of Edinburgh or Saltire Awards.

Should your young person be interested in volunteering, please contact the school office prior to Friday 26 April 2024.

Jobs/.



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-3-

Jobs Fair

DYW Moray is hosting a Jobs Fair with over 60 employers on 29 May 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm at Elgin Town Hall. All ages are welcome to attend, for more information see the poster attached or use the link below:

<https://shorturl.at/dtPZ8>

Moray Let's Chat Online Safety – Parent/Carer Session

Moray's Child Protection Committee would like to invite all practitioners, staff and parents and carers to attend an Online Safety Parent and Carer session as part of our legacy to our Moray Let's Chat Online Safety Campaign that ran from February 2023 to February 2024.

The session will cover moving to secondary school and the increased risk of being exposed to harm online that this move is associated with. This session is primarily aimed at parents and carers with children aged 10 – 14 years old. However, we will cover the topics of Screen Time, Peer Pressure, Sexting, Cyberbullying and Sextortion so may prove useful to parents and carers with children outside of these age ranges. It may also be useful to staff working with children and young people.

The event will take place on Wednesday 29 May 2024 12 noon - 1pm.

To book a place and for more information please see the attached flyer (*Moving to Secondary School – Parent and Carer session Flyer*) or follow this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-parents-guide-to-moving-to-secondary-school-tickets-883204387097>

Please note this session will be held on Microsoft teams and the link to join the session will be emailed within 48 hours of the event.

Parent Council

Please find attached a copy of the recently revised Parent Council Constitution. Should you have any comments/objections to changes made please email shs_parent_council@outlook.com. If no comments/objections are received by next Friday then the Constitution will be finalised.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher

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SCHOOL CALENDAR – KEY DATES

APRIL		
Monday	22	Start of SQA Exams

MAY		
Monday	06	May Day Holiday
Wednesday	15	S1 Parents Appointments - Evening
Thursday	16	In Service Closure
Friday	17	In Service Closure
Monday	20	IDL Week
Friday	24	End of Study Leave
Monday	27	New Timetable
Wednesday	29	Last day of SQA Exams

JUNE		
Monday	03	Occasional Day Holiday
Monday	10	Stepping out at Speyside P7 Induction Day
Tuesday	11	Stepping out at Speyside P7 Induction Day
Thursday	13	Sport Day (TBC)
Tuesday	18	Achievement Ceremony
Tuesday	25	Summer Concert (TBC)
Friday	28	End of Summer Term



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