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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 03 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope, as ever, this newsletter finds you well and that the weather stays nice for our long weekend.

### SQA

The SQA diet of exams continues well. All young people in S1, S2 and S3 are being respectful of their senior colleagues sitting their exams.

### S3 Assessments

Well done to all S3 who conducted themselves excellently in their S3 assessment in English this week. This assessment is set up like an SQA exam to allow S3 to experience this before their prelims in S4.

### Vandalism in toilets

Sadly we continue to experience vandalism of our toilets, this is especially in the boys toilets in the English corridor nearest the library stairs. So many young people at Speyside High School treat the building and each other with great respect and it is so disappointing when a small minority spoil this for everyone. Work to install vape alarms will commence soon.

### Junior Rangers

Today sees the culmination of our annual Junior Ranger programme in partnership with Cairngorms National Park Authority. Twelve of our S2 students have had an amazing five days out of school experiencing different elements of rural life. We have helped maintain the Rothes Way, engaged with nature and green health, explored the Cabrach windfarm and estate, removed invasive species from Drummin Castle, gralloched a deer with Cairngorms Connect, and mountain-biked through Glenmore and Rothiemurchus to investigate visitor pressures and beaver reintroductions! It's been a busy week! Today, the students presented their experiences to colleagues, families, and guests. Thanks very much to all our partners for their ongoing commitment to this important part of *Learning for Sustainability* at Speyside High School.

### Outfit Moray Trip

A group of S1-3 young people set out this week on a day's outdoor learning adventure with Outfit Moray. The activity was designed to give young people the opportunity to develop their confidence and resilience within either a canoe down the river Spey or archery and bushcraft. Although absolutely exhausted after a long canoe into headwinds, they all had a wonderful time and spoke very positively about their experiences.

### National Crime Agency Update – 'Sextortion'

The National Crime Agency have been in touch with all schools this week regarding an increase in the reporting of children and young people, particularly teenage males, being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand after an adult offender has threatened to release nudes or semi-nudes of them. This is financially motivated sexual extortion, sometimes referred to as 'sextortion', and is a form of child sexual abuse. Please see the attached letter for parents and carers with advice on how to talk to your young person about financially motivated sexual extortion, and how to support them if they become a victim.

Parent/.



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Achieving  
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### Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on 8 May 2024 at 7pm in the Library (1<sup>st</sup> floor up first set of stairs entered via Community Centre entrance). All welcome.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs P Goodbrand**  
Head Teacher



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