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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 13 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The weather certainly is changeable, with a stunning day last Saturday to heavy rain throughout this week.

Attendance

We keep a close eye on school attendance - over the past two weeks our attendance figures have been dropping which is a worry.

We fully understand that young people get ill and need to be at home to recuperate. We also know that other factors can affect young people attending school. If there is anything that is worrying you or your young person about coming to school please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform

Thank you to all young people who are maintaining high standards in terms of school uniform. Following considerable consultation we have tried to make uniform as simple as possible.

School Uniform guidelines:-

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 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.

Please if you have any concerns about having enough uniform, just get in touch. We have an extensive range of items in our "No Waste Wardrobe" to give to young people.

Community boost

Well done and thank you to the boys who were extremely polite and helpful to an older member of the Aberlour community at the Co-Op recently.

The member of the community purposely stopped me to let me know how impressed they were with the boys attitude when they were in the Co-Op. Thank you and well done again – it is great to be good neighbours.

Moray/.



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Moray Parents Drug and Alcohol Awareness Group

The Moray Parents Drug and Alcohol Awareness Group is a new group set up by parents and supported by Arrows and Aberlour Youth Point. The group is for all parents who are concerned about drug and alcohol use amongst our young people. Be this current use or worries about exposure/future exposure, recognising the risks and general advice. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 September at The Bow café 12.30pm - 2pm. Please see the attached poster for details.

IDL week

As part of IDL week before the summer holidays our Cairngorm 2030 group worked with a local artist to create an image of the discussions had during their visit to Tormore distillery. We were very excited to receive the final version of the art delivered by the artist Claire Macdonald. It will be hung in the library and be used as part of learning and teaching within the school in future.

Cost of the School Day

Before the end of last term, we carried out a whole school audit which we are carrying out on an annual basis to help to ensure that poverty is not a barrier to learning and participation for any young person here at Speyside High School. S1-3 spent time in their UPS class with a variety of activities to consider the hidden costs of school and put forward suggestions as to how we could improve. S4-6 completed surveys in Driving Attainment. Consultation extended to parents, carers and staff. Having collated all responses and considered how we can best respond to these, the following actions are now taking place.

You said... you were unsure how to access funding for trips

We are advertising the form for the Banffshire Trust which can help provide funding for school trips and events. This will be advertised twice a year in future. If you need any help in completing this form please do speak to your young person's Guidance teacher.

You said.... You were unsure how to access support materials for learning

We have a supply of resources which can be given out to any young person who needs help. These include stationery kits (pens, pencils, pencil cases, rulers, rubbers, sharpeners) and revision kits (whiteboard and marker, flash cards, post it notes, writing pads, highlighters). If you require any support with this please do speak to your young person's Guidance teacher.

You said... uniform is still a considerable expense

We have subsidised school jumpers again this year. We are about to relaunch our No Waste Wardrobe, Speyside High School's sustainable clothing project, this term. Further details will follow about how the system will work.

Finally, we are aware that next term there are various Christmas events and parties coming up. We are looking at working with Moray School Bank to promote a preloved/Vinted style offer. If anyone has any unused or grown out of smart clothing such as dresses and shoes for girls and shirts, ties, suits and shoes for boys, both children's and adults sizes up to XL, we would be most grateful if you would consider donating it to us so that it can be offered to young people here. Any donations can be handed into the office for the attention of Mrs Duffy/Mr McWhirter.

Many thanks for your support in helping to ensure that poverty is not a barrier to education for any young person in the Speyside community.

School/.



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School Photographs

A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Thursday 19 September 2024**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

Wellbeing (Sponsored) Walk

We are looking forward to the whole school walk planned for next Friday, 20 September. At the moment we are still waiting on quite a number of consent forms to be returned. Unfortunately young people will not be able to participate if they have not returned their form.

We would also like to encourage young people to bring snacks and refreshments with them for the day. Items can still be purchased via the canteen but this must be done by the end of the day on Thursday 19 September as all young people participating will be out of school by morning interval. The arrangements for Friday lunch remain unchanged, ie online orders should be completed by 10.45am.

Youth Engagement Officer

This week we welcomed PC Stephanie Bayliss who is the Youth Engagement Officer for Moray from Police Scotland. PC Bayliss will be visiting the school throughout this session to get to know our young people at social times and through group work. PC Bayliss will also be offering information to sessions to parents/carers and this will be shared with you in due course.

Riverwoods Film Screening

Our partners at Cairngorm National Park Authority and Climate Action Moray are hosting a film screening of the excellent Riverwoods documentary. The showing is at the Fleming Hall in Aberlour at 7pm on Tuesday 24 September and is free to attend. The documentary highlights the importance of healthy rivers, including how to support key species such as salmon. Staff from the National Park will discuss work in the Spey catchment and there will also be displays of our learning experience in May, when a group of Speyside young people walked the River Spey from Ballindalloch to Aberlour, accompanied by a range of specialists. Details of the event and how to reserve a ticket are shown on the attached poster.

Invigilator recruitment 2024

We are currently recruiting invigilators for the 2024 exams. Invigilators play a crucial role in supporting the exam diet. Their role is to help maintain the quality of the external assessments of National Qualifications by ensuring they are conducted in accordance with SQA policy and procedure.

All invigilation activities are carried out under the direction of a chief invigilator. Full training is provided, and no prior experience is required. You will also be supported by your chief invigilator throughout.

To find out more about the invigilator role and submit your application, visit the SQA website.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Speyside High School on admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk or SQA directly at invigilation@sqa.org.uk.

Your/.



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Your Future Here- Careers in the Cairngorms

On Thursday a group of senior phase young people attended this event in Aviemore. They were able to talk to a large range of both large companies and individuals about jobs in and around the Cairngorm National Park as well as getting advice on CV writing and career pathways. Two of the group were interviewed for BBC TV programme Landward and we look forward to finding out when this will be broadcast.

Active Girls Day

On Thursday 3 October, Bronagh (S6), Colin (Active Schools) and the PE department are organising an Active Girls day in line with Scottish Woman & Girls in Sport Week. This will involve all Girls in S1 + S2, as well as Girls in S3 who have opted in to the day.

What's Cooking

S1:	Apple Crumble
S2:	Plum & Apple Cobbler
S3 Practical cookery:	Sausage Rolls
S5 Practical cookery:	Tuesday – Egg Custard Tarts Thursday – Smoked Fish & Potato Nests
S5 HFT:	Vegetable Stir Fry
Wider achievement:	Spaghetti Bolognese
Baking Club:	Brownies

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher

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