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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 27 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The weather is certainly turning far more wintery, although we were very lucky with the amazing weather we had for our walk last Friday.

Attendance

We keep a close eye on school attendance - over the past few 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.

Wellbeing (sponsored) walk

We all had a great day last Friday 20 September, where most of the school completed the 5 miles circuit through our beautiful catchment. Young people were a credit to the school. The litter team that followed the walk were practically redundant, so well done.

Lots of organisation goes into ensuring these activities run smoothly. Thank you to all colleagues for their work to organise the walk.

A special thanks has to go to Netherton Farm for once again supporting the walk by allowing us to walk through their farm – this is very much appreciated. A bonus for me was to be able to visit their Farm Shop which has excellent produce – well worth a visit.

Once again well done and thank you to everyone.

Macmillan Bake Sale

Our annual Macmillan Bake Sale was a huge success. Well done to the S6 girls who ran this and to the Home Economics department for their support. Over £330 was raised for Macmillan Cancer.

National 5 Scottish Studies

Well done to all the S4 young people who completed the mandatory part of their National 5 Scottish Studies course on Thursday. Young people either walked to the Craigellachie Bridge or took a short walk to the Old Station, Aberlour to learn about important local history. All who took part were a credit to themselves and the school.

Senior Phase Parents Evening

Thank you to all who were able to join us for Parents Evening over the past 2 weeks, where great partnership working between home and school was well demonstrated. At every Parents Evening we ask parents/carers to complete a questionnaire about how they feel their young person is getting on and for any suggestions to improve things.

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The results of this questionnaire state that 95% of parents/carers feel their child's learning is progressing well and 91% felt their child was encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability. The questionnaire also shows that a lower percentage, 72%, feel that school helps their child be more confident – this information will be used to look into how we can improve this.

We continue to evaluate the new set up for the parents evening. We are aware it can be noisy. We will take on board suggestions related to this about using the canteen to allow us to spread everyone out more.

Senior Football

The boy's team got off to a great start with a 4-2 win over Gordonstoun on Thursday 26 September. Well done boys and again all taking part were a credit to themselves and the school.

Active Girls Day

Next week marks Girls in Sport Week across Scotland. Speyside High will be raising awareness and celebrating this with a range of sports opportunities throughout the week with lunchtime activities such as Netball (Monday), Cheerleading and Football (Wednesday). On Thursday, Speyside High School will host Active Girls Day with opportunities for all S1-S2 Girls and S3 who have chosen to participate. An opportunity to enjoy sport, socialise and try something new!

Goodall Cup

Next week, we are hosting the first Inter-House sport event of the year, the annual Goodall cup (Football Tournament)

- S3 Tuesday 1 October
- S4 Wednesday 2 October
- S2 Thursday 3 October
- S1 Friday 4 October
- S5/6 Friday 4 October

Fusion App

With the local Co-Op being closed for up to 10 weeks, our Canteen has become considerably busier. To ease any congestion could we ask that as many families use the pre-order facility on the Fusion App. We recognise there can be some items missing on the app but we continue to work to improve this.

Moray Parent Project

Please find attached the Exchange Families Catalogue which provides details of Parent Workshops and ways to access one to one support regarding wellbeing concerns. Further information can also be found here: [Families | Exchange Counselling \(exchange-counselling.com\)](https://www.moray.gov.uk/families-exchange-counselling).

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



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