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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 25 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome back to everyone and I hope you all had a good October break. This weekend sees the clocks go back as we move into winter.

Autumn non-uniform day

On the last day of last term we held a non-uniform day. Young people and families were invited to donate items to Moray Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed and a very substantial donation to Moray Food Bank was made from Speyside High School.

S1 Drop-In Evening

Thank you to everyone who were able to attend the above. All feedback we received was positive and everyone here enjoyed meeting up with our S1's parents and carers.

Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM is being held Thursday 30 October at 7pm in the school Drama room. Further details are attached. All parents and carers of young people at Speyside High School are warmly invited.

Reading Schools

This year, we have started our journey towards becoming an accredited Reading School and we are looking for learners to become active and enthusiastic participants in growing our whole school reading culture. We are calling on all interested parties to make themselves known to Miss Quigley, Miss O'Hara, Mrs Archibald, Mrs Burns or Mr McWhirter as we have a number of opportunities coming up (with more to follow) that our learners can enjoy, no matter their interests:

- Book Club will have exclusive use of the library on Thursdays during lunch, where they will munch on biscuits, read and discuss popular teen fiction.
- Planning and designing themed library displays throughout the year.
- Library Assistant roles for auditing, buying and tidying stock.

If you would like to learn more about Reading Schools, please check out their [website](#).

Scottish Universities Evening for parents/carers and families – 30 October at 6pm

Please see the attached flyer for the above event. Representatives from each university will be on hand to talk about the benefits of university study and answer any questions you may have. We'll also be joined by current students who study with us. A joining link will be sent to those who have registered interest ahead of the start of the event.

The Scottish Universities Tour came to Speyside High School this term to present to S5 and S6 year groups. There is a recorded version of their presentation which can be accessed on You Tube [here](#).

Modern/.



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Modern Studies-Geography field trip

In the last week of term we undertook our first joint Modern Studies-Geography field trip to Edinburgh for Higher students. Making full use of their *Young Scot* cards, our students travelled by bus to Edinburgh. On the first evening we took the tram, had a *Turner Tour* around Leith to witness the gentrification and urban development, before checking in to the Hostel and making use of the City Centre entertainments. After an early breakfast, we challenged the students to see Edinburgh through a decolonial lens; critically questioning the monuments, statues, street names, and buildings that make up our capital. The view from Calton Hill gave us lots to think about regarding the interdisciplinary nature of Social Sciences. After a quick coffee stop, we made our way to the Scottish Parliament for First Minister's Questions. We witnessed a protest outside Parliament before taking our seat for the weekly session. It was interesting to see some of our MSPs behaving in ways that we would encourage in class debates! Richard Lochhead, the Moray MSP and long-term cabinet minister took time out of his day to speak to us all about the workings of Government and Parliament and to share his years of experience representing our constituency. On leaving Parliament, we completed our Old Town tour, before grabbing a couple of hours of retail and cultural opportunities prior to the bus home!

The trip was a fantastic experience and a great opportunity to bring elements of our Higher courses to life. Living in rural Scotland, creating chances for our senior students to experience our urban centres is so important for them, particularly as many of them are considering city universities after S6. It was a pleasure to be away with such a mature and responsive group of students. We look forward to building on this experience next year.

Pupil Pathway Information

Any information that is received regarding opportunities for our young people when they leave school is posted in the General channel in the Speyside Pupils Team that all young people have via Glow.

This week items posted are:

- SEN Career Opportunities
- UHI Newsletter
- Scottish Universities our 2024 Virtual Evening Event
- Nursing at the University of Glasgow

School Meals: Adapted Diet/Food Allergy

We are currently reviewing the information we hold for young people who have an allergy recorded on our computer system. This is primarily related to the School Meals Service and adapted diets and or/food allergies. Please contact the school should your young person have an allergy in order that a form can be completed and retained on record. Please do not hesitate to contact your young person's Guidance Teacher if you would like any further information.

Donations Please

Members of the No Waste Wardrobe group at Speyside High School are working hard to ensure that our school becomes more sustainable. With this in mind, please could you have a look at home to see if you have any Christmas jumpers, Christmas t-shirts or party clothes which you no longer need or have grown out of. Any donations need to be in good, clean condition and can be brought into the school office.

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Digital Open Day

UHI Moray are running a “We are Digital” Open day on Saturday 26 October from 10am until 2pm. This event is free and open to all. Please see attached poster for more information.

Cooper Park Junior Parkrun & Moray Active Schools Participation League Sign up and Information

Active Schools and Cooper Park junior parkrun are working together to introduce a new Participation league on the last Sunday of every month. If your young person participates in the Cooper Park junior parkrun on that day, they will receive 1 point for their school. Points will be accumulated until the end of May 2025.

How it works; on completion of the parkrun on the last Sunday of every month, the Active Schools team will check the Cooper Park junior parkrun results. All those who participated **and** have registered to the league will receive a point for their school. We are encouraging participation therefore finishing positions will not affect the amount of points received, the structure will always be 1 point per finisher. The points will keep building until the last Parkrun of the school year in May 2025.

To participate, your young person must be **4 – 14 years of age** and be registered with Parkrun (link below) and complete the **Cooper Park Junior Parkrun & Active Schools Participation League Sign up**. The parkrun link only needs to be completed once and that will be your young person set for life on the parkrun website. The Active Schools link must be completed once between 24 October and 25 May 2025. To ensure your young persons participation is recorded, your young person **MUST scan their parkrun barcode received directly from parkrun via email at the end of the run**.

Event information - **Cooper Park Junior Parkrun starts at 9.30am but please arrive at 9.15am for group warm up and briefing. The Run is 2 kilometres long.**

To Register;

Step 1 - Register for parkrun - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/?section=form&eventName=cooperpark-juniors&e=cooperpark-juniors> // Scan QR code to complete. If you have already registered, you can skip to step 2.
Then

Step 2 - Register for Cooper Park Junior Parkrun & Active Schools Participation League Sign up - <https://form.jotform.com/242743459867371> // Scan QR code to complete. For this you will need your 8 digit code received via email when registering for Parkrun.

Step 3 – You will also receive your Parkrun barcode directly from parkrun which must be scanned at the end of the run. Please ensure you have this barcode.

Step 4 – Arrive at Cooper Park on the last Sunday of the month and participate. You will need your parkrun barcode code to scan

Full information on **Cooper Park Junior Parkrun** can be found here - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/cooperpark-juniors/>

Any questions – please contact Craig Rowley at Craig.rowley@moray.gov.uk or Paul Rogan at Paul.Rogan@moray.gov.uk

What's/.



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What's cooking w/c 28 October 2024

S1:	Halloween muffins	(Box)
S2:	Veggie Burger	(Box)
S3 Practical cookery:	Veg Spring Rolls	(Box)
S5 Practical cookery:	Minestrone Soup & Herb Scones	(Flask &Box)
S3 HFT:	Thursday Dhal Curry	(Box)
	Friday Tuna Cous Cous Salad	(Box)
Wider achievement:	Chicken & Veg Pie	(Box)
Baking Club:	Spider NYC Cookies	(Box)

Parent Council

The Parent Council are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 2 November in Rothes Church Hall from 10.00am until 12.00pm and they would be delighted to see you there. They are also looking for volunteers to help with serving and also washing dishes. If any young person in S4, S5 or S6 is available to help please can you let the office know by lunchtime on Tuesday 29 October.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher

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