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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 15 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The weather continues to be reasonably mild, however there appears to be a change for colder weather coming in next week.

Social Areas

Following focus groups with young people it has been agreed that the Social Area will be for senior use at breaks and lunchtimes. The Auditorium will now be the Social Area for S1 – S3 young people.

Anti-bullying Week

This week has been national anti-bullying week. Anti-bullying continues to be, and always will be, a focus for Speyside High School. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns.

Anti-Bullying – SHS Support QR Code

Following the Anti Bullying survey carried out last year, pupils, parents/carers and staff suggested that an alternative method of communicating concerns could be helpful. With that in mind, the Speyside High Support QR code was launched in March 2024. The QR code can be accessed in various locations around the school including the Wellbeing Hub, toilets and corridors. The eform allows young people to report their concerns so appropriate support can be offered to all involved. Please note that this service is for young people to report their concerns and parents/carers are requested to contact the young person's Guidance Teacher directly to discuss any concerns.



No Phone Friday

On Friday 22 November, the Prefects and Senior Student Leadership Team will be inviting all of our young people to leave their phone in their bag at break-time. Whilst this isn't compulsory for our young people, as part of the opportunity to go phone free, there will be Social Dancing in the Games Hall, sports sessions outside, a big board-game session in the Auditorium and Drama activities in the drama room. These activities will all be phone free and if young people attend a session (and leave their phone away for the whole of break), they will receive a merit token to add to the House merit box.

A Streetcar Named Desire

Yesterday, a group of senior young people visited His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen to watch a performance of Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire, one of the main texts being studied by the Advanced Higher English class this year. This was a brilliant opportunity to see the play they are reading being brought to life on stage - an experience which truly enhances their learning and understanding of the text. Our theatre visit was a new experience for many young people who enjoyed the powerful production and revelled in the beauty of the theatre itself. As ever, the behaviour of our young people whilst out of school was exemplary and they were complimented by members of the public on their conduct in the theatre.

Staff/.



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Staff v Pupil Volleyball

In a hard fought match, the senior pupils came out on top winning 2-1 in games. Well done to everyone who took part.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who continues to work hard to ensure young people attend school as much as possible. Please remember that if you have any concerns about your young person attending to get in touch with the school.

In Service

All colleagues at Speyside High School took part in a packed two days of In Service on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Colleagues were privileged to receive an input from the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation on drug support. This was very interesting and supports us in his difficult area for a few young people.

Other training covered: Learning, Teaching & Assessment, Health & Wellbeing, Curriculum, Data Handling and Self Evaluation. Colleagues also had time in the departments to take forward departmental improvement priorities.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is the national career service, and they have careers advisers in every state secondary school in Scotland.

The SDS career service helps people develop their career management skills, and make confident decisions for their future.

Pupils can speak to their SDS careers adviser throughout the school year and will also be supported by them at key times such as starting S1, making option choices, and preparing for moving on from school. This service will be delivered through drop-ins, one-to-one appointments, and group learning sessions.

There is lots of useful career information and advice available at any time through Scotland's career website My World of Work <http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>. There is also a dedicated area for parents and carers <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents-carers> with information to help you have career conversations at home.

If you or your young person would like to make an appointment with your school careers adviser, please contact the school office for details.

Beyond school, SDS advisers are also available at one of SDS's network of centres or community venues across the country or via our helpline. To get support or arrange an appointment call the SDS freephone helpline on 0800 917 8000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

More information about SDS and their career service in schools is available at sds.co.uk

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/scotlands-careers-services/our-careers-service-in-schools/>.

Book/.



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Book Week Scotland 2024

To celebrate Book Week Scotland (running 18-24 November), the school Reading Group have proposed a short whole school reading session which will take place at the start of period 2 on Wednesday 20th November. Staff and young people will be reminded in advance to bring in a personal book from home to read if possible.

Speyside High School – Scholastic Book Fair

Our library will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair during Book Week Scotland this year, week beginning 18 November. There will be a fantastic range of books targeted for young people aged 11+ available for sale at a greatly reduced rate, please click [here](#) for a taste of what you can expect to find on offer. The fair will run during school library opening hours 18 - 25 November. During this time, young people will have the opportunity to browse and purchase at their own leisure during interval and lunch, and arrangements will be made, at staff discretion, for visits during class time.

Young people will be able to purchase from the fair with cash or through online vouchers, which can be purchased [here](#). Please note, the deadline for purchasing these vouchers is midnight, Sunday 17 November, and must be printed out so they can be exchanged at the fair. If you have any queries, please email Erin.Quigley@moray-edunet.gov.uk.

Exchange Counselling Service – Parent/Carer Workshop

Exchange Counselling will be delivering a workshop on Monday 18 November at 12:30 regarding Techniques for Managing Anxiety and Panic. Please click on the following link to book your place: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/a3-techniques-for-preventing-anxiety-and-panic-3>

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:

- In2MedSchool events
- Online Personal Statement workshop

What's cooking w/c 18 November 2024

S2F & 2L:	Focaccia	(Box)
2M2, 2M1, 2R:	Margarita Pizza	(Box)
S3 Practical Cookery:	Garlic Baguettes	(Box)
	Spaghetti Bolognese	(Box)
S5 Practical Cookery:	Beef Moussaka	(Box)
S5 HFT:	Banoffee Pie	(Box)
Wider Achievement:	Chicken & Veg Pie	(Box)
	French Apple Tart	(Box)

Yours faithfully

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