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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 29 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I hope that the snow of last week has settled and you are able to get about activities easier again.

School Closure

Thank you to all parents/carers who have signed up for the Moray Council alerts relating to school closures. If you have not already done this, please find below details of how to do so.

Parents/Carers can go to the Moray Council website and login to their account (or register for one if you do not already have one) to set up a notification for a school closure to automatically be sent to you by email.

To do this you need to go to <http://www.moray.gov.uk/> and login to your account at the myaccount tab. If you do not already have an account you can create one here too. You then need to select the 'subscribe to email alerts', 'Learning and Education' and 'Schools'. You can then pick the schools you wish to receive alerts for and then 'confirm subscription preferences'. You will now receive an email in connection with a school closure at any of the schools you have signed up for.

The decision to close the school is not an easy one, with many factors to take into consideration. With this in mind we try to make a decision in a timely manner to allow everyone to make appropriate arrangements.

Thank you also to all colleagues for posting work online – this can be accessed through Satchel One and Glow. If you do not have access to Satchel One please let the school office know.

Back to the Future Day

A number of S1 parents/carers joined us for a day at school on Wednesday 27 November 2024. The parents/carers had the opportunity to make banana muffins in Global Goals, participate in Science experiments as well as experience English, Maths and Spanish lessons, finishing their day in Technical making a bird feeder. The feedback received was incredibly positive with some suggestions around how we can widen parent/carer engagement in the future. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this day and make it such a success.

Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation – Drug & Alcohol Education Presentations

This week we welcomed the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation who delivered a Drug & Alcohol Education Presentation to S1-6 young people. The charity was formed by the parents of Daniel Spargo Mabbs following his death in 2014 having taken MDMA (Ecstasy). The presentation was informative, highlighting the risks of taking drugs and/or alcohol and steps to take to keep themselves and their friends safe. The presenters were very complimentary about the attentiveness and participation of all young people who attended.

Mock Interviews

Young people in S5 had mock interviews this week. We were very grateful to Walkers Shortbread, Springfield Properties, James Jones & Sons Ltd, Robertsons Construction and Parklands Care Homes for providing interviewers. Our guests all commented on how well our young people presented themselves.

Social/.



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-2-

Social Media

The school has a number of social media platforms where we share interesting information about the school. Our information is:-



www.speysidehighschool.net



@SpeysideRector



[Speyside High School | Aberlour](#)

Careers Fair - Tuesday 3 December

Young people in S2 to S6 will have the opportunity to attend our Careers Fair next Tuesday. Parents also have the opportunity to come along between 3.50pm and 4.30pm that afternoon. The following companies will be attending:-



Children in Need

On 15 November we held a number of activities to fundraise for Children in Need. Activities included a Pudsey themed bake off at baking club in the Home Economics Department on Wednesday, a chocolate raffle and guess the sweets in the jar. Congratulations to Mrs Burns (Maths & SFL) for winning with the closest guess.

We also held a non-uniform day with a Pudsey theme. In total we raised £362.24 for charity.

Anti-Bullying Policy Update

In line with the Scottish Governments recent update of the 'Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People' guidance, the Speyside High School Anti-Bullying Policy has been updated to reflect. The updated policy can be found here: <http://speysidehighschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AntiBullying-Policy-V2-Nov-24-Parents-Carers-.pdf>

Physical Education - Social Dance

We are midway through our Social Dance block and I felt it important to highlight why we teach this in our Physical Education curriculum.

Scottish Country Dancing is part of our national culture and one of the only aspects of the curriculum we teach that is so closely linked to our heritage. We see Social Dance as an incredibly important part of our school year and are passionate about developing the ethos behind Social Dance at Speyside HS especially with it being such an important life skill now and in the future.

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-3-

The main teaching points we have been focusing in our lessons is around the following key areas:

- * developing respect and responsibility among all young people
- * developing maturity when dancing with a range of partners and groups
- * working together to dance with partners and in set dances
- * develop self-confidence by dancing with other peers that they may not normally socialise with
- * creating an inclusive environment that supports all of our young people
- * enjoying the opportunity to share the experience of dancing in classes and our Christmas parties

Added to this, social dance is a fantastic way to develop fitness in an enjoyable and fun environment which has been clearly shown these past two weeks.

Over the past two weeks we have been so impressed with the effort levels and smiling faces from pupils in all of our classes. We cannot wait to see many of our pupils enjoying themselves at both the junior and senior parties in a couple of weeks' time.

On the last day of term we are also organising a whole school Ceilidh to celebrate the end of this year where we will be lucky enough to have our school pupil Ceilidh band playing. We hope to see most of our pupils, and staff, joining in and enjoying everyone's company.

No Waste Wardrobe

Speyside High is taking part in a 'Christmas Jumper and Party Wear Swap' through our No-Waste Wardrobe. This is in partnership with Moray School Bank. If you have any pre-loved, wearable items that could be donated for the festivities in school can you please drop them into the MSB/NWW donation bin in the social area or at the school office. The plan is to redistribute clothing from across Moray schools and thus have plenty of variety. In addition to sizes for high school pupils, Moray School Bank is also looking for smaller Christmas Jumpers and party items for primary schools.

Option choices – free webinar for parents and carers of S1 to S3 pupils, Thursday 5 December, 6.30 to 7.30pm

Skills Development Scotland careers advisers are hosting a free webinar for parents and carers of S1 to S3 pupils on Thursday 5 December, 6.30pm to 7.30pm to discuss option choices and the support and resources available from Skills Development Scotland to support young people and their parents and carers at this time. Register for the session here: <https://ow.ly/b3vO50T4RVV>

Speyside Parent Council

A copy of the Speyside High School Parent Council Minutes from 30 October 24 can be found on the Parent/Carer tab of the school website. The next general meeting will be on Thursday 30 January 2025 7pm in Speyside High School Library to which you are all warmly invited.

School Christmas Parties

Both the junior and the senior parties will take place on Tuesday 10 December. A DJ is booked for both parties, to play a mix of current music and the ceilidh dances young people are learning in PE. Snacks and juice will be served at the junior party and seniors will enjoy a buffet in the evening.

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-4-

The **junior party** will be in the afternoon, during periods 6 and 7. S1-S3 young people will have an early lunch at 12.45pm to allow them time to get changed and ready for their party at 2pm. Classrooms will be allocated for young people to get changed and to leave their bags/jackets during the party. Young people will return home wearing their party outfit.

The **senior party** will take place on the evening of Tuesday 10 December from 7pm until 10pm. Tickets for the senior party cost £4 and will be on sale from Wednesday 27 November until Thursday 5 December, at lunchtimes in the auditorium. Young people **must** have a ticket to attend the senior party. To help reduce the costs for young people, the school will not be providing a bus service to the party.

Families with young people receiving free school meals or experiencing financial difficulties at this time, should contact the school as the William Grant Foundation have provided funding to support young people and ensure that everyone is able to join in with school events such as these.

Shape the future of Moray Learning Estate

Please find attached details on sharing your views regarding providing a sustainable education service at Speyside High School.

What's cooking w/c 2 December 2024

S1:	Lentil Soup	(Flask)
S2:	Mini Christmas cakes	(Box)
S3 Practical Cookery:	Christmas Chocolate Log	(Box)
	Christmas Tree Cookies	(Box)
S5 Practical Cookery:	Beef Moussaka	(Box)
S3 HFT:	Vegetable Soup	(Flask)
Baking Club:	Crispy Christmas puddings	(Box)

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
 Head Teacher

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