



Pupil Equity Fund

- a guide for families

2024-25

“Every child should have the best possible start in life, no matter their background. Schools have a significant role to play in ensuring every child is given the right support to help them achieve their full potential”

Why have a Pupil Equity Fund?

Speyside High School receives approximately £17 000 per year currently to reduce the attainment gap within our school. The key issues which we aim to address are:

Mental and physical health and wellbeing

- *We want to ensure that young people's health and wellbeing is in the best possible place to deal with the natural ups and downs of life and that they know where to go to get help and are supported to do so.*

Improving young people's aspiration and confidence

- *We want all young people to develop their confidence, aspirations and awareness of the different opportunities that are available to them.*

Participation

- *We want to ensure that money never proves a barrier to participating fully in school life.*

Improving literacy and numeracy

- *We want all young people to get the support required to improve their literacy and numeracy skills across all their subjects*

Involvement in wider school activities

- *We want all young people to participate as fully as possible in the wider school life, including clubs and extra curricular activities*

Healthy nutrition to fuel learning

- *We want all young people to be fuelled for the school day and to ensure that no young person lacks focus on their learning due to hunger.*

What does this look like at Speyside High School?

Inclusion Support Officer

Our inclusion support officer Sarah Thornhill runs the Wellbeing Hub - a transitional space which allows young people to prioritise their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Hub which is located along the English corridor can be used by young people to self-regulate, to provide a safe space to work on a short term basis and as part of flexible learning timetable to support transition back into school.



< Sarah Thornhill

Mentoring

Each new S1 is offered a mentor at Speyside High School and this offer is targeted from S2 upwards. Within each mentor meeting, there is a chance to discuss with a teacher any concerns or issues. This is shared with the young person's Guidance teacher along with being sent home to parents / carers.

Breakfast club



Breakfast club is open to all young people every morning from 8.20-8.45am. Food offered includes toast and butter/jam, croissants, fruit and cereal bars. This is currently funded through the Co Op community partnership fund and our local church. This is organised by Mrs Duffy.

Mrs Duffy >



Wall of wonders



The wall of wonders sits just outside our breakfast club hatch and is open to all young people. It contains a variety of useful products to support health and wellbeing including, deodorant, toothpaste, soap and shampoo. It is completely free – all we ask is that young people only take what they need.

Equipment provision

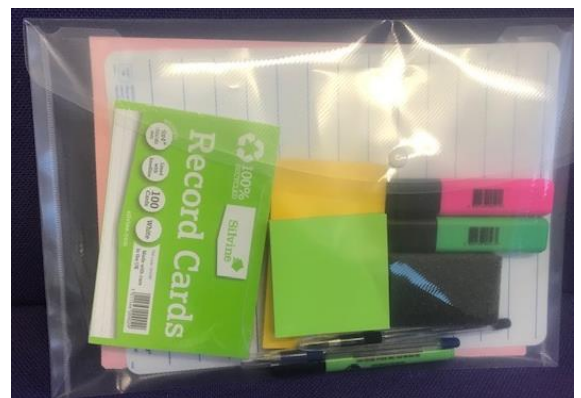
A bank of resources are available throughout the year for young people to request support with equipment. This can be done through their Guidance teacher.



As a result of feedback from p7s consulted, each young person in S1 has also been offered the contents of a satchel with a water bottle, pencil case, calculator. This is organised by Mr McWhirter.

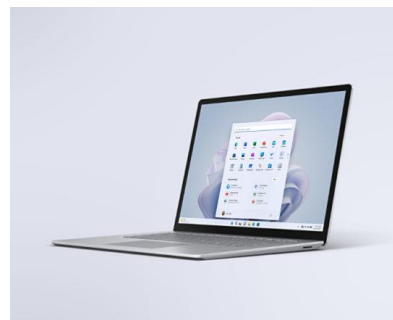
< Mr McWhirter

To support those in S4-6 sitting SQA exams, we provide revision support packs which include a whiteboard and marker, highlighters, post it notes and flash cards along with revision strategy reminders.



Digital Inclusion – Laptops for use at home

We have access to a bank of laptops which can be used to support home learning. These laptops are available on request and can be used for the time your young person is at Speyside High School. For young people who do not have internet access at home, we are able to provide a WiFi access point which runs on the Vodafone mobile network. If you would like to discuss your young person getting access to technology, please contact Mr McWhirter or your young person's guidance teacher.



Supported by Reboot, the Moray Council and William Grant Foundation



Support for Uniform Clothing – No Waste Wardrobe

We run a 'No Waste Wardrobe' to support young people to access uniform style clothing including branded school jumpers, polo shirts and other essential clothing items such as winter jackets, shoes and PE kit. This stock comes from new and used good quality clothes donated by the school community and also via a partnership with Moray School Bank. The wardrobe can be accessed during the school day via appointment with Sarah Thornhill in the hub or via selected S5/6s who wear a No Waste Wardrobe lanyard (illustrated in the photo above). We are currently working to trial a pop up shop at two of our primary schools within the catchment. It is also displayed at key events such as parents' evenings and left out along with festive jumpers and formal attire in the run up to Christmas.



Cost of living crisis – reducing food waste

In order to support those families struggling with the increase in the cost of food and to reduce wastage from our canteen, our canteen is now offering food at the end of the day that would otherwise be thrown away. This includes soups, sandwiches and certain main meals.



Sanitary products

In order to combat period poverty free sanitary products are available at all times at various locations across the school including female toilets, the hub and the wall of wonders.

Literacy / numeracy support

Additional support for young people with literacy and numeracy takes the form of either in class or out of class support. This may be short one-to-one sessions with Mrs Stewart or support for a group whilst still in class. For those not accessing mainstream education this may happen at an alternative location outside the school e.g. the local primary school or community library.

Mrs Stewart >



Community partnership project

Targeted young people within S1-3 are given the opportunity to take part in a literacy / numeracy outdoor learning project to enhance their sense of confidence, participation and self esteem as well as improve their literacy and numeracy. We work alongside Outfit Moray who offer a range of outdoor activities including zip lining, bush craft, archery, abseiling and orienteering. To increase family engagement, parents / carers are invited along to take part in the event and also to a presentation event where young people showcase their learning.



Monitoring progress

The progress of all young people within Pupil Equity Fund is recorded to ensure that we can intervene at an early stage if any issues arise. The information includes:

- Who their mentor is
- Literacy and numeracy progress
- Attendance
- Time out / behaviour transfers

Each time this information is collected, any concerns are discussed with the relevant teachers and any additional support is put in place.

Cost of the School Day

Every year Speyside High School takes part in the Cost of the School Day project. The aim of this project is to highlight and take action to break down any financial barriers to learning and ensure that every young person has an equal opportunity to become happy, healthy and high achieving at Speyside High School. You will be given the opportunity to share what is working well for you and highlight any concerns you have.



Sources of additional funding for families

School trips / activities

We are aware that paying for trips for young people can prove challenging to families. Teachers organising trips are made aware of sources of funding to try to reduce the overall costs to young people as much as possible. In addition to this, they will take into consideration any young person entitled to free school meals who is interested in attending the trip and discuss with the family / Guidance teacher any appropriate supports.

The Banffshire education trust provides funding for families to support their young people to take part in educational trips. Applications are considered on an individual basis and can fund part or even the whole cost of a trip. Applications can be made by a family using the travel grant application form found on the Moray Council website:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_43907.html

Clothing grants

Families on low incomes may be eligible to receive a school clothing grant award of £150. The award is given annually to assist with the cost of purchasing essential school clothing. The application form can be found on Moray Council's website:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55486.html

Free school meals

Families on low incomes may be eligible to receive free school meals. The daily allowance of £2.65 is available to spend at break time and lunchtime. The application form can be found on Moray Council's website:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55486.html

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

If your young person is aged 16-19 years and attending school or college, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance from an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 per week payable to eligible young people who stay on in full-time education after their 16th birthday or participate in an Activity Agreement. The application form can be found on Moray Council's website:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_40540.html

School leavers

Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) provide grants for full time courses at HNC, HND, degree or equivalent level. Courses below HNC may qualify for a College Bursary.

www.saas.gov.uk

Scholarship Search is database of awards available from academic institutions, commercial organisations, professional institutes and charitable trusts for those wishing to attend an undergraduate course at a UK-based educational establishment.

www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Learndirect provide advice on childcare and the availability of funding.

www.learndirect.com

Student Loans Company can help pay for university or college tuition fees and to help with living costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company>

A new tool has been launched to help guide you through the first steps to access money advice in Moray if you're worrying about money. Please visit the webpage below for more information:

<https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/moray>

We hope you find this document helpful. If you require any support in completing any of the forms above or wish to discuss any of the supports offered further, please speak to your young person's Guidance teacher in the first instance or email the school office using the email address below:

admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk



Helen Duffy – Depute Head Teacher