

Speyside High School



Easter Newsletter 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,



I really cannot believe we are at this time already. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work this term. This term is always very busy with prelims and SQA deadlines and three days of snow closures this year did not make this any easier.

Could I ask all young people who travel on buses to behave in an appropriate manner, my expectations are high and I expect excellent behaviour.

Nearly 75% of our young people travel by bus to school and the same values that apply in school should be displayed whilst travelling on the buses.

Please remember that any time you are travelling to and from school, or to an extra-curricular activity, that you are representing Speyside High School and should be demonstrating our values.

Please also note that the whole school community is being consulted on what they understand our values mean. I would be grateful if these could be returned to school by the end of April.

Mrs P Goodbrand

Healthy
Responsible
Dedicated
Ambitious
Respect
Achieving

S5 CHEMISTRY

A three higher student team of Zoe Jackson, Daniel Cotton and Thomas Cattanch attended The Royal Society of Chemistry Analytical Chemistry Competition at Robert Gordon University on Friday 9 March. Nine school teams from as far apart as Inverness to Dundee worked their way through 3 analytical experiments. A good day was had by all. Dr Kay at RGU said *"Daniel, Zoe and Thomas did really well, they were great ambassadors for your school"*.



(M Barnett)

SUMMER CONCERT

The music department will be holding a Summer Concert on Thursday 14 June in the Performance Area. The performance will start at 7pm and tickets will be available nearer the time from the School Office. Watch this space for further details.

(E Oates)



RAG BAG RECYCLING

Well done to all who recycled using the Ragbag bin. Since our last collection we have raised £182.40 by recycling 456kg. Since the Ragbag bin has been at Speyside High School we have raised a grand total of £906.80! Keep up the good work! (Office)



SWIMMING GALA

This term has been a busy one in terms of inter-house sports events at the school. The annual Swimming Gala took place on Tuesday 20 March. This event was organised and led by the Senior Leadership class. As always, this was a fantastic event which all pupils really enjoyed and performed highly. The final results are as follows:

(K Pirie)



MIKE LAING BADMINTON SHIELD

The draw for this tournament took place on Thursday 22 March, with Mr Cordiner drawing all the names out of the hat. Four knockout tournaments have been created for Junior and Senior boys and girls. The draw itself was streamed live via our department Twitter site (@Speysidepe), and can still be seen there, in case you missed it. The full draw, and all information and rules about the tournament can be seen at the Sports Hub in school.

(K Pirie)

SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SENATE: EVENTS GROUP

The group have helped with organising a number of events this year. First of all there was the Talent Show, many acts took part and the event was a great success. We hope to be able to hold similar events in the future. We then organised a Valentine's Concert which was very successful. The money raised, over £100, went towards Sports Relief.

After the Easter holidays we will start to get stuck into planning the school Sports Day which we are hoping to expand this year so that there will be more to enjoy for all.

(M Cluckie & S Bond)



THE GEOGRAPHY OF ANTARCTICA

You may remember from the Christmas Newsletter, that S3 Geographers had undertaken a range of Antarctica themed lessons. We had a conference call from British Antarctica Survey for Antarctica Day, researched elements of the continent and designed flags for the Earth's last great wilderness.

Since December we have had a number of exciting developments. Faye Iannetta's flag design was given to Edinburgh University's Dr Beth Christie who took it on the Homeward Bound 2018 Expedition. This ground-breaking leadership, strategic and science initiative for women journeyed to Antarctica in early 2018. Dr Christie is photographed displaying Faye's design at Horseshoe Island, on the west of the Antarctic Peninsula.

On the back of our Antarctica Day involvement, we also received a postcard from the BAS research station at Rothera.

We would like to say a huge thank you to BAS, Dr Christie and Rothes Primary for helping to give our learning an extra dimension. I think Antarctica will now be a permanent addition to our S3 curriculum.
(K Turner)



Dr Christie displays Faye's flag design at Horseshoe Island, Antarctica



Postcard from Rothera Research Base



S3 pupils visit to Rothes Primary

CAREER READY

Four S6 students, Amy Anderson, Matthew McGillivray, Jack Morrison and Katie Woodcock will travel down to Perth to attend the National Career Ready Graduation Ceremony in Perth next month.



This marks the end of their Career Ready experience which has seen them gain valuable work experience, confidence and widen their networks. Former pupil Emma Winchester will also attend the graduation to present certificates to the Moray Career Ready students.

These students along with the S5 students also on the programme presented to S4 parents and pupils on 21 March. Any S4 pupil can apply for this programme, if you would like to find out more please see Mr Picksley or Mrs Williamson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following companies who are currently providing mentors for our young people: Walkers Shortbread, McPhersons, Diageo, Moray Council, Johnston Carmichael and Forsyths.

Amy Anderson 6R "Career Ready is hands down an amazing opportunity. Not only does it prepare you for the workplace environment during a 4 week internship, but also one which is responsible for the growth of so many young people. The skills that I developed during the Career Ready programme worked hand in hand with the new ones that I gained. After preparing for my 4 week internship through numerous Masterclasses, my family and peers had noticed a change in my confidence even before I stepped foot into my internship. The progression of me as a person has been a beneficial and notable one. From shying away at opportunities and struggling to deal with heavy workloads, Career Ready has meant that I now have a great sense of belief in myself and the work that I produce and the ability to stand up and approach audiences of a mass number

with confidence to share my experience. A large part of the programme comes with mentoring. My mentor and I inevitably found the initial experience daunting, but since then, our relationship has grown to become one which will last beyond the programme. My mentor has been there for me throughout my senior years at school, offering exam advice and simply being there for me if needed. I really enjoyed my internship and the opportunities it has given me. My network has expanded greatly from my learned ability of forming new relationships with internship colleagues and the people that I have the pleasure to meet throughout the programme. Overall however, the growth in my confidence has led me to achieve great things and the skills that I have gained from the programme are ones which I will carry through to my years at University and work life.”
(E Picksley)



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH SPORT

Over the last term, our pupils have taken part in a wide variety of sporting opportunities. This has included: inter school basketball and badminton tournaments, as well as local cross country races to name only a few. PE staff would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the parents/carers that have supported young people in attending these events. This is particularly through providing transport to actually get pupils there! Next term we're looking forward to participating in the Moray Schools Cricket competitions in Elgin, and continuing with mountain biking club on Tuesday evenings alongside all of the regular clubs.

Everyone is reminded that all information regarding sporting opportunities can be found at the Sports Hub in school (located at the entrance to the PE department). Furthermore, PE staff would also like to celebrate the sporting successes of our pupils more. As a result, any information and photos about Speyside pupils taking part in sport outside of school can be emailed to speysidepe@moray-edunet.gov.uk. This email address should be up and running after the Easter holidays!
(K Pirie)



SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SENATE: HEALTH GROUP

The aim of the health group within Speyside High is to improve the overall health of the pupils and teachers which in turn will help to create a school which is healthy and high achieving.

In order to tackle this, the health group firstly examined the choices that people make when it came to lunch time. They found that those who go down the street were more likely to purchase and consume unhealthier foods than those who eat in the canteen. They found that those in younger years were more likely to partake in this than those in the senior years who were seen to be making healthier choices. So, to examine this more, a health survey was produced targeting the younger years. Questions that were asked included such things as what people had for lunch and how often they ate at the canteen. Actions are also being proposed to increase the availability of fruit in the canteen at lunch and break time, after feedback showed that the fruit choice could be widened and be of better quality.

The health group also chose to take action on the physical health of pupils at Speyside High School. Action towards this included opening up the bicycle shed for pupils and teachers to allow them to cycle to school which are proven to have health improvements both physically and mentally which in turn will help pupils with their studies.

We have also been having discussions about having more seating areas outside for pupils to use during break and lunch times. This should give pupils more opportunity to get fresh air and socialise.
(Amy Anderson)

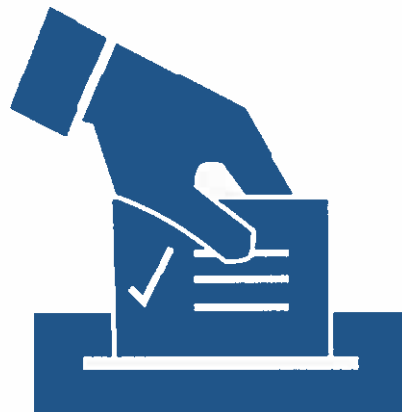


PROPOSAL FOR HEAD STUDENT ELECTION

The Pupil Senate has expressed interest in changing the role of Head Student to be democratically elected and allowing the pupils to have a say on who will represent them. Work is being carried out by the Senate to create a proposal on what form the election would take.

The proposed suggestion we are working on is to adopt the American Presidential System. This would involve a candidate selecting a running partner and campaigning around the school for the pupil's vote. If they were successful, the candidate would become Head Student and their running partner would be their Deputy. We would still like to give the teachers a say and so we would adopt the Electoral College which would be formed by the teachers. They would have 40% of the vote and the students 60%. We hope that this proposed system can give new opportunities to different people and increase the respect that students have for the role.

(Z Jackson)



SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SENATE: LEARNING & TEACHING GROUP

The learning and teaching group has been gathering information with the aim of improving pupils' voices in our teaching. We have been busy collecting the information we need to help influence decisions. For example, we have carried out a homework survey to gauge pupil's opinions on homework. We asked pupils if it would be better to put in place a policy where each subject would have a specific day for homework to be distributed, or to continue with our current flexible policy. We have also spoken to subject departments to give suggestions of what people want to know about.

Our group has spoken to PSE to discuss updating the course in regard to inclusion and diversity. In the future we would like to discuss adding in education about finance as it has come to our attention that many students leave school with a lack of basic knowledge on financial issues. We are aiming to see what lessons could be planned for these important life skills.

(P Fraser & Z Jackson)



FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELD'S TRIP

In May, 40 S1 to S3 students will travel to the First World War Battlefields of Belgium and France to honour the centenary of the final year of the war. The group will visit sites including Essex Farm Cemetery (where Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae penned his famous poem "In Flanders Fields"), Tyne Cot Cemetery, Newfoundland Park, Vimy Ridge and Thiepval. The group will also join hundreds of others who honour the war dead at the daily Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres – where pupils will lay a wreath on behalf of the Speyside High community. If anyone has family members who served in the First World War we would love to hear about it to help bring local relevance to the trip. If time allows we may be able to visit their place of rest to pay our respects. Please email the school with details.



MATHS DEPARTMENT

In the Maths department, S1 pupils took part in numeracy based challenges for Number Day in February and raised a sum of money for the NSPCC.



On 14 March we celebrated Pi day in the department. Pupils participated in different fun activities based on the number 3.14. We learned about Pi by making bracelets, designing posters, doing word searches, having quizzes and even singing a Pi song. At lunchtime there was a “Pi eating contest” where pupils have to recite Pi to as many decimal places as they can remember. Kyle Pegg managed an impressive 46 places and Esme Horsburgh amazed us all by remembering the first 142 digits of Pi. They were rewarded for their efforts with – of course – a delicious banoffee pie!
(F Robertson)



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

This year's Young Enterprise group, Spey-Cosy have had a successful trading year. With sales of over £1400 less all the expenses, they have made a profit of over £700. Following dividend returns the group will be donating the remaining profits to Clan House.

While no awards were granted at the Finals this year, our group demonstrated real professionalism and wider success throughout their business report and their final presentation.

Mrs McLauchlan is very proud of the group who really did go the extra mile in all weathers to maximise their sales!

Watch this space to find out how they did in their Strathclyde Business School YES exam.
(E McLauchlan)



STAFFING UPDATE

On behalf of colleagues and pupils I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mrs McLauchlan on her appointment to the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher with Keith Grammar School. Congratulations also to Mr Pirie, who was appointed to the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher, Mr Jagger who has been appointed as Acting Principal Teacher of Physical Education and Miss Wood on her appointment as Acting Principal Teacher of Home Economics.

I am pleased to advise you that Mr David Burns will join the Modern Languages Department on 30 April as Principal Teacher and Mrs Barnes will join the Home Economics Department at the start of next term in a part-time teacher position.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you and to pass on our best wishes to Mr Fernandes, School Librarian and Mrs Norrie, Home School Link Worker who sadly leave Speyside High at the end of this term.

(F Main)



Happy Easter
from all at
Speyside High School

