



# Speyside High School

Active Schools Annual Report 2014-15

# Speyside High School

Speyside High School is a six year co-educational secondary school of approximately 470 pupils, the sixth largest by roll of Moray's eight secondary schools, and serves the town of Aberlour and the extensive rural communities of Speyside. The school grounds and access to the integral community sports centre, swimming pool and all-weather pitch allow for a variety of sporting activities. Speyside's large rural catchment, the largest of any school in Great Britain, creates a number of challenges, namely, transport issues and access to fewer sporting facilities and sports clubs in the immediate area. This year new activities were added to broaden extracurricular provision and successful partnership work led to a new sports committee, funding and a prestigious Sportscotland School Sports Award.

## **Impact of Active Schools**

2014-15 was a successful year with over ten extra-curricular clubs on offer ranging from volleyball to climbing. This wide variety of activities led to a good level of participation: 100 pupils (21% of school roll) participating across the 202 activity sessions on offer.

Uptake of activities was across all year groups and by both boys and girls. Girls' football, netball and the continued success of volleyball amongst girls continued to play an important role in providing sport for girls. In addition, new athletics sessions and the introduction of climbing were both popular amongst girls leading to very high levels of overall female participation in activities: 70%. Boccia (Paralympics bowls) continued in Autumn term providing accessible and fun sporting opportunities for additional support needs pupils and competition at Active Schools Boccia Festivals. The school was strongly represented at Active Schools events throughout the year including the secondary schools cross country, orienteering, girls' football and basketball tournaments. The school also achieved success at the Moray swim trails and North of Scotland Schools Athletics Association events.



**Above:** Speyside HS joined other Moray athletes competing at the North of Scotland Schools Athletics Association Track & Field Championships at Queen's Park, Inverness.

Youth leadership programmes including Young Ambassadors, Lead2014 and the YDance (national youth dance agency) Active Girls programme all continued this year and helped form the new School Sports Committee. Pupils also gained inspiration from a series of Champions In Schools workshops looking at themes like 'success through effort' and 'understanding failure' hosted by Murray Strain, an international Orienteer and GB squad member. To finish off the year, Speyside High gained a Sportscotland School Sports Award (silver) in recognition of the school's commitment to continuous improvement and focus on ensuring quality physical education and school sport at the heart school planning, practice and ethos. It remains the only school in Moray to have gained the award.

### **Deliverers Network**

The success of activities in 2014-15 was again made possible by a highly valuable volunteer network. Speyside High staff and senior pupils led the majority of activities and played a key role in extra-curricular provision: 86% of sessions were delivered by volunteers. Senior pupils had an important role in activity delivery, in particular leading athletics and

***“Active Schools have had a massive impact on the learning and teaching of young people at Speyside High School. Working effectively in partnership has allowed us to achieve the School Sport ‘silver’ Award whilst also helping us to implement a big part the PE Department’s strategic vision. This relates to outdoor learning with Active Schools playing a key role in offering more mountain biking and climbing opportunities for our young people. Also, Active Schools have helped us to promote male and female engagement in physical activity through a variety of opportunities including YDance, Champions in Schools, Young Ambassadors and Fit For Girls.”***

*Kevin Pirie  
Principal Teacher PE  
Speyside High School*

badminton sessions. Volunteer input is recognised with great thanks and we provide support through help with administration, basic training such as first aid, child protection and access to sports-specific training and awards. The type and level of support varies greatly; examples include: organising Climbing Wall Award training which led to a new lunchtime climbing club; collaboration with the PE department in a successful Fit For Girls bid providing £1000 for new swimming equipment and multimedia improvements. Speyside HS pupils previously trained as UK Dance Leaders and continued to deliver dance sessions for P6/7 pupils at Rothies Primary School in 2014-15.

**Right:** Speyside HS 'Try Climbing' lunchtime club at Speyside Climbing Centre with instructor Tony Brown.



### **School to Club Links**

Although there are a limited number of sports clubs in the immediate area, we facilitated ten school-to-clubs links with clubs in the wider region, ranging from Elgin Eagles Basketball Club to Moravian Orienteers. These links strengthen provision and opportunities at the school and beyond. For example, a request for GB orienteer Murray Strain to deliver the Champions in Schools programme provided a great opportunity to highlight Moravian Orienteering Club, the Schools Orienteering League and the World Orienteering Championship 2015 taking place in Moray & Highland. A new link this year was made with Speyside Climbing Centre, working together to train, staff and run a free 'Try Climbing' lunchtime club that allowed over 30 pupils to try the sport. A number of these pupils went on to take 'Learn to Climb' lessons and now participate at weekly junior sessions. School-to-club links like these are a key area for us and help lead to increased numbers of pupils taking part in physical activity and sport out with the school day.

The attached monitoring report has been produced by Sportscotland on our behalf and contains the 'outputs' of our efforts to create more opportunities for children to get active in 2014-15. We hope this might be useful for inspections, for dissemination to parents, or simply for your own information. Please contact me directly if there is anything in the report you would like to discuss in detail, or if you need any more information.

Tim Walters  
Active Schools Coordinator (Secondary)  
Speyside HS, Buckie HS & Keith GS