

Budget

Next year Moray Council's anticipated revenue spending requirement is £15m more than our income. It is predicted that there will be just over £13m remaining in reserves as at the end of March 2018. The plan is to make savings of £7m and to take £8m from reserves to prop up the budget for one year. This will leave £5m in reserves which means there will be a reduced financial cushion available for unforeseen circumstances. Extensive savings are also required for 2019/20 and are likely to be in the order of an additional £16m. This is made up of the £8m used from reserves in 18/19 and an estimated additional £8m as a result of increased costs and reduced funding.

Savings will come from most areas across the Council. For Secondary schools the decision has been taken that the following would be put forward for consultation:

- Each secondary school would be allocated 0.5 full time equivalent Librarian instead of 1 full time equivalent.
- Smaller secondary schools would be allocated 2 Technicians instead of 3
- The Supervisory Technician role would no longer exist, thus taking away the payment for supervision of the Technicians in the school. Decisions would need to be taken as to how this is done in schools in future

Employees who are directly affected have already been briefed and have received formal confirmation of their position.

A meeting on 14th February will decide on the final 2018 - 19 budget based on feedback from the consultation process.

2018 – 19 Planning

As a school we have started our planning for next session:

- Our new Handbook has been completed. This is placed on the school website and issued to parents of all our current Primary 7 students.
- Subject choices have been made by S3 students going in to S4 next session. Information Evenings have taken place for all parents of S3, S4 and S5 students to support this process. S4 and S5 students will make their choices next month.
- Staffing analysis and timetabling are moving apace to ensure we can, as far as possible, allow the choices our young people make inform the decisions we make regarding the curriculum we offer.
- Liaison with our primary colleagues and Primary 7 young people has already started to make sure their transition is as smooth as possible.

Improvement Planning Up-date

- As a staff group we have continued to work on our moderation practices. Specific time has been set aside to allow subjects to meet in wider curricular areas. This has allowed sharing of standards expected so Levels of achievement are consistent across all subjects.
- We have also been looking at changes to our curriculum with the introduction of the 33 period week next session. Please see diagram below which shows our final structure for 2018 -19. In particular we are looking at more flexible pathways in the senior phase shown as DYW (Developing the Yong Workforce). Departments are finalizing their contributions to this and making sure student achievements are recognised through awards from SQA and other agencies.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
National/Higher/AH College Choice A					National/Higher/AH Choice B					National/Higher/AH Choice C					National/Higher/AH Choice D					National/Higher/AH Choice E					Work Placement			PE	DA	PSE						
																				DYW			Study													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
National/Higher College Choice A					National/Higher Choice B					National/Higher Choice C					National/Higher Choice D					National/Higher Choice E					Work Placement			PE	DA	PSE						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
Maths				English				College/National Choice 1				National Choice 2				National Choice 3				National Choice 4				DYW	PE	PE	DA	RME								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
English				Maths				His/Geo/Mod S				Bio/Che/Phy				Art/Dra/Mus				Com/Bus St/Tech				Choice 5				Choice 6				RME	PE	PSE	IPS	Mod Lang
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
English				Maths				RME	Social Subjects/Bus				Sciences				UPS	Art	Dr	Mu	D&T				Comp	HE	PE	PSE	Modern Languages							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
English				Maths				RME	Social Subjects/Bus				Sciences				Dr	Dr	Art	Mu	D&T				Comp/Bus	UPS	HE	PE	PSE	Modern Languages						

- We have delivered 'Nurturing Schools' training to many staff and reviewed this to improve it for our next group of staff in May. As a result of staff being trained at a national level we are also offering 'Restorative conversation' training this year. This all helps to support our on-going review of building positive relationships and ensuring a good ethos in the school. As a result of really good collegiate working we have a number of staff leading on changes to behaviour management and many volunteers across the school coming forward to strengthen the systems we have in place. This has been particularly welcome and the staff meeting at the beginning of the year was extremely positive. It is definitely an area which we would like to engage with parents more and would wish to suggest 'Promoting positive relationships: parental engagement' as a possible area for future development led by the Parent Council.

Preliminary Examinations

Senior students are currently sitting prelim examinations and have been issued with their exam timetables. Study support sessions will continue to be offered by staff either at lunchtimes or after school. An update of sessions is available on the school website. Updated information regarding progress will be issued to all parents in February as part of our move away from only one annual progress report for senior students.

Festive celebrations

We enjoyed several events in the run up to the Christmas holidays. Our Christmas market, junior and senior dances and Christmas Concert were all great opportunities to not only join in the festive spirit but also show the talents of our young people.

Staffing

Ailsa McDowell, Librarian retired after 22 years working in the school. We all wished Ailsa a happy and healthy retirement at a staff presentation on the last day of term.

Murdo Macleod was appointed Principal Teacher of History and Modern Studies at Milne's High School and we have appointed Tim Thomas to this post. Jan Maclean, teacher of Business Studies has taken up a new post at Alness Academy and has been replaced by Patricia Powell.