

# Speyside High School



# Summer Newsletter 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish all families and friends of Speyside High School a happy, relaxing and safe Summer Holiday. This session, 2018-19, has been very busy and very positive. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work over the session and I look forward to seeing you all again in August.



*Mrs P Goodbrand*

Period Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:35	1	1	1	1	1
9:35-10:25	2	2	2	2	2
10:25-10:40	Interval	Interval	Interval	Interval	Interval
10:40-11:30	3	3	3	3	3
11:30-12:20	4	4	4	4	4
12:20-13:10	5	5	5	5	5
13:10-14:00	Lunch (50mins)	Lunch (50mins)	Lunch (50mins)	Lunch (50mins)	Lunch (50mins)
14:00-14:50	6	6	6	6	
14:50-15:40	7	7	7	7	



## STAFFING UPDATE

On behalf of our school community I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our appreciation, best wishes and gratitude to Mr George Cordiner, Principal Teacher of Physics who retires at the end of this session and also to Mr Kevin Pirie, Acting Depute Head Teacher, Mr Allan McRitchie, Teacher of Physical Education and Mr Alex Dutoy, Science Technician, who also leave our school community this week.

I would also like to take the opportunity to pass on our congratulations to Mrs Laura Main and Mr Kevin Pirie who have both recently been appointed the permanent posts of Depute Head Teachers with Keith Grammar School. Congratulations also to the following members of staff on recent appointments Mrs Rebecca Dawson as permanent part-time Principal Teacher of Guidance post with Buckie High School; Mrs Harriet Johnston as Teacher of Biology with Elgin High School and Ms Donna Grant as Teacher of Technical Education with Elgin High School. Mrs Johnston and Ms Grant take up their new posts on Monday 2 September 2019.

We really do appreciate all the hard work and commitment each member of staff contributed to the school.

I would also like to thank Mrs Imogen Nairn, Mrs Louise MacDonald, Mrs Morag Duncan, Mrs Elaine Malcolm, Mrs Helen Watson, Mr Ewen Brindle, Mr Bill Malcom, Ms Anna Birch and Mrs Sheila Whyte who have supported the school throughout the year covering classes in Technical Education, Music, Mathematics and other subject areas.

I am pleased to let you know Mrs Helen Duffy has recently been appointed to the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher with Speyside High until November 2019. We have also recently appointed, Mr Marc McWhirter to as Principal Teacher of Computing and Technical Education, Mr Daniel Hogg as Principal Teacher of Chemistry and Physics, Mrs Jennifer Stewart as part-time Teacher of German, Miss Fiona MacPherson as part-time Teacher of Art and Design and Mrs Rachel Turner has been appointed to the post of part-time Science Technician.

Please can I also take the opportunity to advise you that Mrs Winwood-Young will take up the post of full-time Principal Teacher of Guidance for Livet House in August through until mid-November 2019.

Healthy  
Responsible  
Dedicated  
Ambitious  
Respect  
Achieving

## **SPEYSIDE ECO-FILLING STATION**

### **by The Eco-group**

Want to reduce your use of plastic? We have the solution. We, the Speyside Eco Group at Speyside High School, are providing a fill-up station of cleaning products. All you will have to do is bring your own container which you can reuse once it's empty. We are also offering a range of eco-products. To help plan which would be the best products to stock we would like parents and members of the Speyside community to complete the following survey: <https://bit.ly/2lolQs3>. We hope to open the shop after the summer holidays..., so watch this space for details.



## **NAMED PERSON**

As part of the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' approach each child or young person is allocated a Named Person. Although, most children will receive all the support they need from their own families and community, we have a legal obligation to make available an identified Named Person for every child and young person in our care. In Secondary, a member of the Guidance team is usually the Named Person. **During the holiday period the Named Person Service will be covered by the Local Authority centrally. The Duty Named Persons can be contacted through the general enquiries line on 01343 563374 or via the generic e-mail address [educationandsocialcare@moray.gov.uk](mailto:educationandsocialcare@moray.gov.uk).**

**As always if the Named Person is not available and there is a concern for a child, a call must be made to the Children and Families Team on 01343 554370 (08457 565656 out of office hours) and/or the Police on 101.**



## **NICOLA MORGAN AUTHOR VISIT—MARCH 2019**

The school Librarians in Moray won funding from the Scottish Library Information fund—SLIF—to take part in a Moray wide project to establish a cohort of Mental Health Ambassadors in each school as well as establish a Flourish area with information on mental health. This area is mainly in the Library/.

at Speyside but there is a large selection of leaflets in the foyer. There will also be a virtual toolbox with links to places for further information. This is the final part of our project but one of the main events was getting the internationally well-known author Nicola Morgan to speak to pupils in Moray.

Our group of 3rd year Mental Health Ambassadors from Speyside attended the Nicola Morgan author visit on 26 March 2019. Keith Grammar, Buckie High and Milnes Academy all attended this event. It was a really great way for the entire Moray Minds Mental Health Ambassadors to meet up and be part of such a great talk from a well-known author who has a huge knowledge and has written books that really do engage with young people. The pupils at Speyside really enjoyed listening to Nicola's ideas and top tips on stress and anxiety, feeling that they had been given more knowledge and most importantly strategies in which they could put in place if and when they ever felt they were under pressure dealing with mental health issues and illness. This also helped them become more confident in becoming Young Ambassadors to lead forward as YP at Speyside.

They were all given a Goodie bag with a Nicola Morgan book and lot's more!!



## SCHOLAR



This is a set of online study materials developed by Heriot Watt University that cover many of the Advanced Higher, Higher and National 5 courses on offer at Speyside High. All pupils registered for a Scholar course have received a generic username and password. We encourage all of our pupils to make use of this excellent resource and as parents and carers you will find out more at [www.scholar.hw.ac.uk](http://www.scholar.hw.ac.uk).

## TABLE TENNIS HOUSE COMPETITION

A large number of S1 and S2 pupils entered this Table Tennis House Competition. Rounds were played over two lunchtimes and the finals were held on the third lunchtime. There were great matches and many of them were close-run contests.

The semi-finals were hard fought and really exciting. It was great to see many participants and we are looking forward to doing it again next year! The winner of the S2 competition was Thomas Bremner and Archie Scott won the S1 competition.

Every player gained points for their House and the overall winner was Fiddich—by quite a way! Well done to all the pupils and staff who organised it and to all the pupils who took part. Thanks too to the 'crowd' who came to watch the Finals!



## SPEAKERS CLUB

The Speakers Club said farewell to the S6 pupils, some of whom had been coming to the Club for their six years in school. We wish them all the best in the future—and are pleased that there are younger members of the group to help the group continue and to take part in competitions.

The school/.



The school has entered a debating team into the North of Scotland School Competition and our first round of debates will be in September. There are three rounds and points are awarded at each round. Good luck to the SHS team!



On 26 June, three pupils from the Club are attending a Debating Workshop which is being held at Elgin High School and pupils from schools across Moray and Highland will be participating. This will be a fun day with games, debates—and an opportunity to meet pupils from other schools.

The Club is also looking forward to welcoming pupils from the new S1 in August. If you enjoy meeting new people and improving your communication skills then come along.

## **MATHEMATICS**

This has been another busy term in the Mathematics Department. While our senior students have been working hard towards their SQA exams our BGE students have been enjoying various achievements both nationally and locally.

In the UK Mathematics Trust Competition Bronze Certificates were awarded to: Brodie Bain, Abbie Ettles, Jennifer Fernie, Lauren Fotheringham, Islay Fraser, Lucy Grant, Harry Hay, Robbie Higham-Grams, Faye Iannetta, Erin James, Craig Milton, Anna Poppy, Phoebe Rees, Patrick Reid, Luca Wikberg-Gaine and Zara Wroe. Silver Certificates were awarded to: Benjamin Cameron, Noah Fettes, Nina Johnson, Martha Morton, Jack Quinn and Cailan White. Gold Certificates were awarded to Euan Morrice and Alex Fotheringham who also scored highly enough to be invited to enter the next round, the 'Kangaroo Competition'.



Another challenging venture has been 'Puzzle of the Week', <http://www.puzzleoftheweek.com/>. Students, staff and parents have been pitting their wits against others across the world to work out the solution to the weekly puzzle. Our best/.

Our best weekly ranking was '7th in the World'! Top scorers are Amy Victoria Addison, Aaron Cruickshank, Patrick Reid and Mairi Weir.



Every week S2 students enthusiastically take part in 'Numeracy Ninjas' where they compete against themselves and each other to gain a coloured Ninja belt. A 'Black Belt' is awarded for a perfect thirty out of thirty against the clock. A 'Grand Master' certificate is awarded for five consecutive black belts and these have been awarded to Alex Fotheringham, Arran Johnston and Cailan White.

All the maths teachers would like to thank their classes for their hard work over the session and are looking forward to welcoming them back in August.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We've started a new course with senior students: NPC Sport and Fitness. Students will learn about the biomechanics of movement, along with some human anatomy and physiology. The course is practical in nature with written tests towards the end of each module.

We're also running National 5 PE, National 5 Sport and Recreation, Higher PE and Advanced Higher PE. Some students in S4 will also have the chance to obtain the SQA Cycling Award through their core PE lessons.

In S3 our students have chosen from a range of options including Adventure and Leadership and the Champions League of Sport. The latter has already generated plenty of social media interest, and you can see more @speysidepe or with the hashtag #championsleagueofsport on Twitter.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Another busy term for our clubs, with attendance figures at their highest for some time. The basketball team continues to go from strength to strength under Mr Bell's guidance, and Freya Daggert (S4) has been expertly leading the netball squad. Freya and Lauren Fotheringham (S4) have recently been for some training to further develop their skills.



Clubs on offer from August will include: basketball, table tennis, netball, boys' football, girls' football, mountain biking, rugby, multi sports, badminton, parkour and boxing. There will be many more on offer as well—take the opportunity to get involved either at lunchtime or after school.

## REDUCING PLASTIC USE

The S2 Climate Action class have been surveying the recycling bins in the school. We have estimated that pupils at Speyside High School throw out around 195 plastic bottles of still water every week in the school—which comes to approximately 7,800 bottles of water every school year. This is just the water—we throw out approximately 730 other plastic bottles each week which comes to 29,200 over the course of a year. We calculated that this is about a tonne of preventable plastic waste. This is a figure we **can** reduce with the help of our fellow students and their families—therefore we are asking all pupils to **bring a full refillable water bottle to school** which they can refill during the school day and to think about their choices when buying drinks at lunchtime. Let's make Speyside single-use plastic free! (S2 Climate Action Class).



## SCHOOLS TRACK AND FIELDS

We had teams representing the school in both the North Schools and Scottish Schools athletics championships. Our teams may have been small but they won a fair share/.

/of the medals!

In Inverness Katie Walker won a silver medal with a big PB (18.96m) in the discus, Jacob Currie smashed his time from last year to get bronze in 200m with 28.02s, Georgie Newlands won gold in Javelin (25.83m) and bronze in Shot Putt (8.40 PB) and Mairi Weir won two golds and a silver.

Down at Grangemouth, against the cream of young Scottish talent, Kyle Wilkinson narrowly missed out on bronze in the long jump, Georgie threw a massive PB (32.23m) for 5th place in Javelin and Mairi came away with two bronze medals for her hurdling.



### **BATTLEFIELD'S TRIP 2020**

Following our hugely successful trip to the World War battlefields in 2018, we are excited to be offering this trip again in May 2020. The trip will be open to new S2 and S3 pupils and the new S1 pupils joining us in August. The trip is a 6 day trip—visiting the WW1 Battlefields of Belgium (Ypres) and France (Somme). We will also get a chance to experience the culture of Bruges and enjoy a fun day at Disneyland Paris. The price is currently expected to be £560—including coach and ferry travel, accommodation, all meals (except lunch at Disney) and all activities. Information and consent forms will be handed out to interested students when we come back in August, with £50 deposits expected to be collected at the start of September. The remainder of the balance will need to be paid by 20 February 2019 (details to follow). Please note that pupils will need to have their own passport for the trip. It is likely to be a popular trip so places will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Watch out in school for further information after the summer.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM COLLECTION

Anyone that has ordered school uniform should collect this between Tuesday 13 August and Friday 16 August from the school which will be open from 8.30am to 4.00pm.



## LOST PROPERTY

All lost property that is currently at school will be out in the Auditorium from Tuesday 13 August until Friday 16 August to enable all parents/carers to check that there is nothing belonging to their child when to come into collect school uniform. After this date anything that has not been collected will be donated to the Moray School Bank.



## ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE DAYS 2019-20

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that there are to be two additional in-service days next session, these are on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 September.



## SQA EXAM RESULTS

Your Scottish Qualification Certificate will arrive by first class post on Tuesday 6 August 2019. If you activated your MySQA account and took National 4, National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher qualifications, your results will be sent by e-mail and/or text on Tuesday 6 August from 8am. If you require help regarding your certificates you can contact the SQA Candidate Advice Line on 0345 2791000 or [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk). The SQA can also be contact via Facebook and Twitter.



## SPEYSIDE PUPILS SCOOP UK TECHNOLOGY AWARD



Two pupils from Speyside High School in Aberlour have beaten off competition from thousands of other secondary school pupils to win a UK-wide competition to develop an app.

S4 pupils Phoebe Rees and Isla Horsburgh developed an app which can detect cleft lip and palettes in unborn babies by using artificial intelligence to scan ultrasound scans. They came up with the idea after Phoebe's sister was born with a congenital abnormality.

The girls' app, called 'Ultra IR', scooped first prize for the best 'Emerging Technology' at the Apps for Good awards in London, which attracted 26,000 entries from all over the UK.

*Fourteen year old Phoebe said, "My sister Megan was the inspiration behind our app. Ultra IR could have prevented some of the health issues that our family had to overcome. I still can't believe that we won".*

*Isla, aged 15 said, "We came up with the idea after listening to classmates. They were a great inspiration. The experience of the Apps for Good competition was fulfilling and enjoyable. We would like to thank SPEY for mentoring us on our presentation skills".*

*Their computing teacher, Marc McWhirter, who also won the Apps for Good award for "Educator of the Year" said, "I really enjoyed helping Isla and Phoebe to develop their idea into a working prototype which could have a massive impact on the world, working alongside my colleague Fiona Padbury who was completing her teacher training at Speyside High. We are immensely proud of their hard work, effort and ambition and they are incredible role models for young women looking to enter a STEM career".*

The team were flown to London for the competition where they had to deliver a seven minute pitch to a panel of 'dragons' from the technology and banking industries. The prototype app they created uses image recognition to detect facial clefts in ultrasound scans and was trained using images of foeti with no visible problems and images of foeti and facial clefts.

In order to/.



In order to prepare for the finals, they were mentored by Katie Beazley and Emma Nicolson from Aberlour-based SPEY Media Ltd and Richard Lewis from software and digital specialists EPAM.

*SPEY General Manager Emma Nicolson said, “We could see the girls had a really great concept and it was an honour to help them present their idea in the best possible way. It’s very encouraging to see so much local talent and we hope this app can be developed further to help identify facial clefts at an early stage”.*

*Councillor Sonya Warren, Chair of Moray Council’s Children & Young People’s Services Committee, is thrilled for Isla and Phoebe and said, “To be chosen from a competitive field of 26,000 entrants is a remarkable achievement. I’m delighted their innovation is being celebrated in a competition which has singled out what could be a truly life-changing app”.*

*Patricia Goodbrand, Head Teacher of Speyside High school said, “We are all delighted that the Apps for Good Team from Speyside has been so successful. The girls and their teacher, Mr McWhirter have worked very hard towards this competition and their success is very much deserved”.*



## SQA EXAMS

Exams this year ran from the end of April and throughout May. Our invigilators reported an excellent standard of attitude and conduct throughout these times from all students involved and the younger students who conducted themselves well to ensure that exams were not disrupted.



We are very grateful to our team of invigilators, led by Mr Chris Burns for ensuring exams ran smoothly and students were well supported.

Please be aware that deadlines for Marking Review Requests are very tight this year with priority requests having to be submitted prior to the end of the summer holidays. Further details were issued in a letter sent home, if you have not received a copy of this letter please contact the school.

## SHIELING PROJECT

A group of S1 and S2 pupils from Speyside and Elgin High schools spent 4 days at the Shielling Project near Struy from the 12-15 May. They took part in activities including basket weaving, planting crops and tending to animals. Pupils were encouraged to think about life on a shieling in the past and compare this with how we live now and how we could live more sustainably in the future. Thanks go to Mrs Scott for organising the trip and to the staff at the Shielling Project.



## RAGBAG

Well done to all who recycled using the Rag Bag bin. Since our last collection we have raised £91.20. Since the Rag Bag bin has been at Speyside High School we have raised a grand total of £1489.20!



## SCHOOL BUSES

After the summer Speyside High School will no longer be able to offer one off bus passes for any reason (home with friends, part-time job, after school club). Requests for a privilege pass should be directly to Moray Councils Public Transport Unit. A separate letter has been issued regarding this, if you have not received this please contact the school office who will arrange for a copy to be issued.



**Have a Fantastic Summer**  
**from all at**  
**Speyside High School**

