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| school crest happy  | **Speyside High School** Image result for welcome**Autumn Term Newsletter** | Image result for welcome back to school |
| I hope that your son or daughter has had a very happy start to their school year at Speyside High School. The new First Year are very enthusiastic and are enjoying the pattern of the secondary school day and have made an excellent start at Speyside High. They have all been exceptionally smart.If you are the parent of a First Year pupil, or one of our newly enrolled pupils in another year group, I would like to welcome you to what I hope you will find to be a happy, healthy and high achieving partnership for you and your son or daughter. Our new First Year intake number is 78 and we warmly welcome every one of them.A large number of students have returned for a Fifth and Sixth year, agreeing ambitious and challenging programmes of study which will add to their qualifications for future study and employment. Young people in Second, Third and Fourth year have a very busy year ahead and we look forward to working together to achieve well for all of them.We have a strong set of values that we all work hard to maintain at Speyside High School, these are; Healthy, Respectful, Responsible, Achieving, Ambitious and Dedicated and our motto is Happy, Healthy and High Achieving.Please do not hesitate to contact me at Speyside High if there is anything you would like to discuss further.Mrs P Goodbrand |
| **KEY DATES**Image result for key datesI wanted to let you know some key dates for the 2019/2020 school session. Our school calendar, which provides other important information is available on the school’s website and is regularly updated.

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| **Autumn Term:** | Tuesday 20 August to Friday 11 October 2019 |
| **Autumn Holiday:** | Monday 14 October to Friday 25 October 2019 |
| **Winter Term:** | Monday 28 October to Friday 20 December 2019 |
| **Christmas Holiday:** | Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January 2020 |
| **Spring Term:** | Monday 6 January to Friday 27 March 2020 |
| **Spring Holiday:** | Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April 2020 |
| **Summer Term:** | Monday 13 April to Thursday 2 July 2020 |
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| **Mid Term, In-Service and Other Closures** |
| **In- Service Closures:** | **2019**: Monday 16 September, Tuesday 17 September,  Monday 11 November, Tuesday 12 November**2020**: Thursday 14 May, Friday 15 May |
| **Mid Term Holiday:** | Friday 7 and Monday 10 February 2020 |
| **May Day Holiday:** | To be confirmed |
| **Occasional Day:** | Monday 1 June 2020 |
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| Image result for parent council**PARENT COUNCIL** On Thursday 19 September the Parent Council will be holding a Coffee Evening between 4.30 and 7.00pm. The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place during the same evening and will be held in the Locality Base at Speyside High starting at 7.15pm. All welcome.  |

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| **SCHOOL TRIPS**I also wanted to take the opportunity to let you know about the Banffshire Educational Trust. The Trust can provide a Grant towards the cost of a school trip that your child may wish to participate in. The current upper threshold for household earnings is £34,000. Further details are available from the following website:http://interchange.moray.gov.uk/int_images/image_108868.png<http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_43907.html> and the link is also available from the school’s website. Please note that the closing date for requests is **30 September 2019.** | **EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES**Image result for EMAParents and guardians of senior students are advised that application forms for Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) are available from the school office.  Students with a date of birth between 1 March 2000 and 30 September 2003 may be eligible for an EMA from August 2019 and students born between 1 October 2003 and 29 February 2004 may be eligible from January 2020.  EMAs are based on household income and further details of the thresholds, application deadlines and how to apply are available from the school office or the Moray Council’s website: [www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk) |
| **HEAD LICE**Welcome to the new school term.  As the children are back together in the classroom and in the playground, it is time to start checking your child for head lice on a regular basis.Within most schools at any one time, there will be a small number of children infected with head lice.  Infection levels remain fairly constant, but if you could inspect your child’s hair at least once a week throughout the school year, not only would we be very grateful, but also the spread of infection would be minimised.If you suspect your child has head lice, please report any instances to the school.  Detection and effective treatment of any head lice outbreaks is key to reducing the problem.Treating head lice is not difficult.  For further advice, consult your pharmacist or doctor or local health visitor.  If you have access to the Internet, you can obtain more information from <http://www.nhsinform.scot/illness-and-conditions/skin-hair-and-nails/head-lice-and-nits>  |
| **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**Image result for camera clipartThe school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 5 September** to take individual photos and family groups. Pupils are expected to be wearing school uniform. All pupils in school on this date will get an individual photograph taken. If you wish a family group photo to be taken please complete the enclosed form and arrange for it to be returned to the school office by Monday 2 September. | **EXAM SUCCESS**Image result for congratulationsCongratulations to those pupils who performed particularly well in the SQA exams this year. In particular, S4 Pupils Brodie Bain (5 As at National 5 and 1 A at Higher), Carys Brown (6 As at National 5), Faye Iannetta (4 As at National 5 and 2 Higher awards), S5 Pupils Samuel Jackson and Nicholas Paganopoulos gained 5 As at Higher and S6 Pupils Peter Fraser (2 As at Advanced Higher and 2 As at Higher) and Zoe Jackson (3 As at Higher and 1 A at Advanced Higher). |
| **HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES**Our canteen supervisor, Mrs Amanda Stuart, has asked me to pass on the following message:Image result for healthy eating“We are trying to encourage the children to have a healthy lunch and not spend their allowance on just sweets and crisps. If you are able to top up your child’s card online then you have control over how healthy their lunches are; how much is spent in school and if appropriate give an allowance for down the street.” | **FOOD ALLERGIES**Image result for food allergiesIf your son or daughter has been diagnosed as suffering from severe food allergies (anaphylaxis) or mild to moderate food allergies I would ask that you contact the school office as soon as possible. This will allow us to put appropriate paperwork in place. The Catering Service will, as a matter of course, avoid using obvious sources of nuts, however, there can be no absolute guarantee of traces of nuts not being present in the foodstuffs. Equally, there may be other food or drink (such as milk) used by the Catering Service that could trigger an anaphylaxis shock and parents should ensure that details of their child’s allergy are passed to the school.  |
| **SCHOOL WEBSITE**We now have a new school website and web address, [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net) .  Many thanks to Alexander Dutoy, who worked as a technician last year, for creating this before he left us. We would be grateful to receive any feedback regarding the website and its content. |
| **BUSES**Image result for school busMay I remind you to ensure that all pupils are carrying their bus passes.  Pupils who have lost their pass can buy a replacement from the school office.  Pupils without the correct bus pass could be denied access to their bus. The school is now unable to grant privilege passes for buses. Pupils may only travel on the bus they have a pass for. Pupils who live out of zone or where there is a wish for a pupil to travel on a bus other than the one for which they have been granted a pass can gain a pass by arrangement with the Public Transport Unit at The Moray Council.**ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSES ON FRIDAYS**Please note that buses leave the school at 1:30pm on a Friday. Pupils can pre order a lunch from the canteen either before school or at interval and this can be eaten in the canteen before pupils get on the bus.**BUS SAFETY**Please encourage your child to use their seatbelt on the school bus and to remain seated at all times while the bus is moving.  All buses are fitted with seatbelts for your child’s safety and should be used.  Faulty seatbelts should be reported to the driver and/or Mr Picksley.  |
| **PUPIL ABSENCES**I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about our current procedure for pupil absence.**If you know in advance your child will be off school you must:*** Send an email (pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk) providing full details of the reason for absence.

or* Write a note to the school. Your son/daughter should hand this note to the office in the morning.

**If your child is going to be absent from school at short notice, perhaps due to illness you must:*** Send an email (pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk) providing full details of the reason for absence.

or* Telephone the school information line (0870 054999, PIN 031070 and select Option 2) with full details of your child’s absence and details of who is making the call, e.g. Mrs Brown, Matthew Brown’s mother. We would ask that if you wish to do this then telephone calls should be made by 8.30am. Please note that calls to this number are charged at 5p per minute and may be higher if you are calling from a mobile telephone.

or* Write an absence note for your child to hand in to the office upon their return to school.

If your child is absent we will confirm this via our computerised messaging system. Please do not feel you have to respond to this message unless you were of the understanding that your child should be in school.Image result for sick clipartIf you think that your son or daughter’s absence will be long term we ask that you telephone the school to speak to their Guidance Teacher.If your son or daughter is absent due to a significant event such as a death in the family, again please speak to their Guidance Teacher.  |
| **PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS:**There are several Parental Information Evenings planned for this Session. Dates for your diary are:S1: Thursday 19 September; Thursday 21 May S2: Thursday 28 NovemberS3: Tuesday 1 October S4-S6: Wednesday 13 November, Tuesday 4 February; Wednesday 12 FebruaryTimings are between 4.30 and 7.00pm. Further details about making appointments, etc will be issued nearer the time. |
| **CONTACT WITH SCHOOL**As a matter of routine when we issue a whole school letter a copy will be emailed home. Paper copies of letters will still be available and will be taken home by pupils as normal. Copies of recent letters are available on the school’s website, [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net).Any larger documents, eg the end of term newsletters will only be sent home via email and a copy will also be available on the school website. Please do not hestiate to contact the school office if you would like a paper copy of the newsletters.The email address of a student’s main contact will automatically be added to the email group, therefore please could I ask for your help and get in touch with the school office if:* you are not the main contact for your child and wish to be included in the group
* you do not wish to be included in an email group

Good communication and partnership between school and parents is vital to the effectiveness of education for young people. We do our best to provide you with relevant information through letters, regular meetings, progress checks and telephone calls.Please do not hestitate to contact the school regarding any concerns or information which will help us ensure the best service for your son or daughter. The school office will be open from 8.00am to 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00am to 2.45pm on a Friday .Guidance Teachers are the first point of contact for the young person, their parents/carers and the professionals who work with the child. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the relevant Guidance Teacher in the first instance. The Guidance staff can be contacted by phoning 01340 871522 or by sending an email:

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| **Fiddich** | Fiddich.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk |
| **Livet** | Livet.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk |
| **Rinnes** | Rinnes.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk |

Alternatively, you can send a letter or e-mail to the school marked for the attention of the particular Guidance Teacher and all information received will be passed onto them. Image result for contact clipartThe school email address is admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.ukThe website address is [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net)The school Twitter account is @speysiderector and we are also on Facebook.Please do not hesitate to contact me personally if you have any positive feedback, particular concerns, query or complaint about any aspect of your child’s life in school.  |
| **GUITAR LESSONS**As you may already be aware the school offers guitar lessons with Mr Henderson on a Monday. Please contact the school if you would like further details about this or pupils can ask staff in the Performing Arts Department. If your child no longer wishes to participate with guitar lessons please can we ask you to pop in a letter to the school confirming this.  |

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|  | **PATRICIA GOODBRAND*****Head Teacher*****Speyside High School** **Mary Avenue, Aberlour AB38 9QU****Tel 01340 871522****Email** **admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk****Website** [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net) | http://interchange.moray.gov.uk/int_images/image_108868.png |

**Speyside High School**

**Photographs, Thursday 5 September 2019**

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| **Family Group Photos** |
| Name: |  | Year & House: |  |
| Name: |  | Year & House: |  |
| Name: |  | Year & House: |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent Signature: |  | Date: |  |
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Please return to the school office by **Monday 2 September**. Thank you.