



Speyside High School Autumn Term Newsletter



A very warm welcome back to everyone after a considerable length of time for everyone. I sincerely hope your family and friends are keeping well.

We are delighted to be back in the building and finding our new way to work safely in light of COVID 19.

I thank you for your patience as we set up new systems to ensure rigorous COVID safety.

I hope that your son or daughter has had a very happy start to their school year at Speyside High School.

Our new First Year intake number is 82 and we warmly welcome every one of them. They are very enthusiastic and are enjoying the pattern of the secondary school day. They have all been exceptionally smart and have made an excellent start at Speyside High.

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.

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

I wanted to let you know some key dates for the 2020/2021 school session. Our school calendar, which provides other important information is available on the school's website and is regularly updated.



Autumn Term:Wednesday 12 August Friday 9 October 2020Autumn Holiday:Monday 12 October to Friday 23 October 2020Winter Term:Monday 26 October to Friday 18 December 2020Christmas Holiday:Monday 21 December to Monday 4 January 2021Spring Term:Tuesday 5 January to Friday 26 March 2021Spring Holiday:Monday 29 March to Friday 9 April 2021Summer Term:Monday 12 April to Friday 25 June 2020

Mid Term, In-Service and Other Closures

In- Service Closures: 2020: Monday 16 November

2021: Thursday 13 May, Friday 14 May

Mid Term Holiday: Friday 5 and Monday 8 February 2021

May Day Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021 Occasional Day: Monday 7 June 2021

FOOD ALLERGIES

If 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.

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

Parents 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 2001 and 30 September 2004 may be eligible for an EMA from August 2020 and students born between 1 October 2004 and 28 February 2005 may be eligible from January 2021. 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

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 3 September** to take photographs for S1 Pupils only. Unfortunately, at this time, we are only able accommodate photographs for S1 pupils and arrangements will be made for another date later in this school session for photographs of pupils in S2 to S6 to be taken.

PARENT COUNCIL

Thank you to the parent council who were so supportive during lockdown. It was great to meet with you all via google meet in June. As we go forward arrangements regarding Parent Council will be shared.

EXAM SUCCESS

As I am sure you are aware from the media, Senior Pupils gained SQA qualifications which were awarded according to teacher estimates. Those pupils who performed well had worked hard and ensured they had consistently demonstrated their ability across the school year.

Particular congratulations

to S4 pupils Lauren Fotheringham, Isla Horsburgh, and Jacob Currie who all achieved 7 As at N5 and particular well done to Euan Morrice who achieved 6 As at Nat 5 as well as an A for Higher Music. In S6, Sam Jackson achieved 4 As at Advanced Higher.

In the uncertain times that we live in, while the SQA is committed to running exams as normal this year, pupils have been advised to make sure that they are working hard to ensure their teachers have all the evidence they need should we be in a similar position next year.

BUSES

May 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 to <u>pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk</u> providing full details of the reason for absence

or

• Write a note to the school which your child should hand into the school office. However, at this moment in time we would strongly recommend an email message (please email address above) or a telephone call to the school office (01340 871522).

If your child is going to be absent from school at short notice, perhaps due to illness you must:

 Send an email to <u>pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk</u> 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. However, at this
moment in time we would strongly recommend an email message (please email address above) or a telephone
call to the school office (01340 871522).

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.

If 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.

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

PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS:

Due to the current situation these are suspended. When we have further information we will be in touch.

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.

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:

Fiddich.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk

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.

The school email address is admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk
The website address is 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.

