



## 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.

I hope that all pupils have had a very happy start to their school year at Speyside High School.

We continue to work as we did before the summer with COVID systems in place. These may change in the weeks to come but for the time being physical distancing between learners and staff must remain, as must the wearing of masks in school and on buses and our one way system remains in place. Pupils have to go outside, except in severe weather at break and lunchtimes so please ensure they come with appropriate jackets, etc for the weather.

Our new First Year intake number is 76 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 pupil in First Year, 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 young person.

A large number of pupils 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.

This will also be a very busy year for pupils in Second, Third and Fourth year and we look forward to working together to achieve the best 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.

### KEY DATES

I wanted to let you know some key dates for the 2021-2022 school session. Our school calendar, which provides other important information is available on the school's website and is regularly updated.



<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Tuesday 17 August Friday 8 October 2021
<b>Autumn Holiday:</b>	Monday 11 October to Friday 22 October 2021
<b>Winter Term:</b>	Monday 25 October to Thursday 23 December 2021
<b>Christmas Holiday:</b>	Friday 24 December to Friday 7 January 2022
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 10 January to Friday 1 April 2022
<b>Spring Holiday:</b>	Monday 4 April to Friday 15 April 2022
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Monday 18 April to Friday 1 July 2022

### Mid Term, In-Service and Other Closures

<b>In- Service Closures:</b>	<b>2021:</b> Monday 15 November, Tuesday 16 November
	<b>2022:</b> Thursday 12 May, Friday 13 May
<b>Mid Term Holiday:</b>	Friday 11 and Monday 14 February 2022
<b>May Day Holiday:</b>	Monday 2 May 2022
<b>Occasional Day:</b>	Monday 6 June 2022

### ADAPTED DIETS & FOOD ALLERGIES

We are aware that a number of our young people are affected by this issue. To ensure that they are catered for by our school meals service, we have sent an 'Adapted Diets & Food Allergies' form along with this newsletter. If your young person has been diagnosed as suffering from severe food allergies (anaphylaxis) or mild to moderate food allergies I would ask that you complete the attached form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

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 2002 and 30 September 2005 may be eligible for an EMA from August 2021 and students born between 1 October 2005 and 28 February 2006 may be eligible from January 2022. 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)



### EXAM SUCCESS

Despite all of the challenges our young people had to face last year we are particularly proud of the achievements of our pupils in gaining their SQA qualifications.

In S4, the following pupils achieved 7As at National 5: Islay Fraser, Arran Johnston, Anna Poppy, Robbie Higham-Grams, Alexander Fotheringham, Cailan White, Patrick Reid, Isabella Marshall and Esme Horsburgh while Ailsa MacLeod gained 6 As at National 5 as well as an A at Higher.

In S5 Lauren Fotheringham achieved 6 As at Higher and Jacob Currie and Sandy Bond achieved 5 As at Higher. More of our pupils in S6 gained an Advanced Higher award than ever before.

This year brings further uncertainty but it is hoped that an exam diet will take place in May. However with the experience of the last two years, we are confident that our learners will achieve no matter what the year brings.



### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 9 September** and further details of the arrangements will be sent home very soon.



### PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS:

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

### 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 at a cost of £10.00 from <https://secure.moray.gov.uk/eshop/product.php?productid=1658>. 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 young person 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 their 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 young person will be off school you must:**

- Send an email to [pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk) providing full details of the reason for absence.
- or
- Write a note to the school which they 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).
- or
- Send a message via the online Parentsportal. Further details about this can be found using the Moray Council Website: [www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal](http://www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal)

### **If your young person is going to be absent from school at short notice, perhaps due to illness you must:**

- Send an email to [pupilabsence.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto: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 the absence and details of who is making the call, e.g. Mrs Brown, Matthew Brown's parent. 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 young person 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 young person 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 they should be in school.

If you think that your young person's absence will be long term we ask that you telephone the school to speak to their Guidance Teacher.



If your young person is absent due to a significant event such as a death in the family, again please speak to their Guidance Teacher.

## HEAD LICE

As young people are back together in the classroom and in the playground, it is time to start checking them for head lice on a regular basis.

Within most schools at any one time, there will be a small number of young people infected with head lice. Infection levels remain fairly constant, but if you could inspect their 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 they have 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>

## CONTACT WITH SCHOOL

As a matter of routine when we issue a whole school letter a copy will be emailed home and copies of recent letters are available on the school's website, [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net).

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you would like a paper copy of any communication sent home.

The email address of a pupil'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 young person 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/carers 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 hesitate to contact the school regarding any concerns or information which will help us ensure the best service for your young person. 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 them. If you have any concerns about your young person, 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** [Fiddich.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:Fiddich.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

**Livet** [Livet.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:Livet.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

**Rinnes** [Rinnes.guidance@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin.speysidehigh@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

The website address is [www.speysidehighschool.net](http://www.speysidehighschool.net)

The school Twitter account is @speysidirector 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 young person's life in school.

