



Speyside High School Autumn Term Newsletter

A very warm welcome back to everyone after the break for Summer. I hope you all managed to have time with family and friends to enjoy the good weather.

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

We warmly welcome 77 young people into first year. They have all been exceptionally smart and have made an excellent start at Speyside High School, clearly enjoying their first taste of the secondary school curriculum.

I would like to welcome all parents and carers to what I hope is a happy, healthy and high achieving partnership for you and your young person and ourselves. A particular warm welcome to parents and carers of our new S1 and any newly enrolled young people.

This will also be a very busy and exciting year for all young people who have returned and we look forward to working together to achieve their best.

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 to be Happy, Healthy and High Achieving.

Patricia Goodbrand
Head Teacher

KEY DATES

I wanted to let you know some key dates for the 2022-2023 school session. Our school calendar, which provides other important information is available on the school's website and is regularly updated.



Autumn Term:	Tuesday 16 August to Friday 7 October 2022
Autumn Holiday:	Monday 10 October to Friday 21 October 2022
Winter Term:	Monday 24 October to Thursday 22 December 2022
Christmas Holiday:	Friday 23 December to Friday 6 January 2023
Spring Term:	Monday 9 January to Friday 31 March 2023
Spring Holiday:	Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2023
Summer Term:	Monday 17 April to Friday 30 June 2023

Mid Term, In-Service and Other Closures

In- Service Closures:	2022: Monday 14 November, Tuesday 15 November
	2023: Thursday 1 May, Friday 12 May
Mid Term Holiday:	Friday 10 and Monday 13 February 2023
May Day Holiday:	Monday 1 May 2023
Occasional Day:	Monday 5 June 2023

PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENINGS:

After the success of an in-person parental evening we are delighted to return to a full programme of these throughout the session for all year groups. The dates for this term are:

First Year:	Wednesday 14 September
Senior Phase (S4/5/6):	Thursday 22 September
	Tuesday 27 September

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 8**

September to take school photographs of young people in First, Third and Sixth Year. Further details of the arrangements will be sent home very soon.



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 2003 and 30 September 2006 may be eligible for an EMA from August 2022 and students born between 1 October 2006 and 28 February 2007 may be eligible from January 2023. 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



EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to our young people both in how well they coped with their first exam diet in three years and in the results they have gained.

We are very pleased overall with the set of results for our young people and those who have performed exceptionally well.



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&cat=&bestseller=Y>. 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.

DISRUPTION TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Please note that any disruption to school bus services will be posted to <https://secure.moray.gov.uk/mcalerts/portal/servicestatus.aspx> and you can arrange to get email alerts for any Speyside transport disruption via the website: http://interchange.moray.gov.uk/int_standard/Page_123753.html.

LITTER

We are very proud to be part of the Speyside Community within Aberlour and enjoy excellent community relationships. These relationships are important as they lead to great working relationships with offers of exciting opportunities for young people from the wider community. To maintain these positive relationships it is important that we are good neighbours and one of the most important ways of being a good neighbour is to respect our environment and ensure that all litter and rubbish is disposed of responsibly. I thank you for your support in discussing this with your young person so we can maintain these positive relationships.



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.

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

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

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.

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 young person's life in school.

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>.