



Dear Parents/Carers

### **Head Teacher's Newsletter**

As ever the pace of life at the school is very swift and the October break already seems a significant while ago. Already letters confirming arrangements for adverse weather etc. are ready for distribution next week.

Mention of October is however a reminder of two significant events that took place during the holiday: the trip to the United States and a town-twinning event with Bagnères-de-Bigorre in France. With regard to the USA trip, many thanks to Mr Shepherd and his staff team for providing all the students that went with a whole range of great experiences and memories. The emerging collation of photos is testament to all concerned having an unforgettable trip.

Meanwhile, in France, Mr Prosser and 3H2 pupil Josh MacRae represented the Inverurie community and the school at the ceremony confirming the twinning of Inverurie with its partner French community. Well done and thank you to them – and a special note of congratulations to Josh for receiving the French town's highest award, the Medal of Honour.

The school's prime focus is of course on the on-going learning and teaching and seeking to ensure levels of attainment are as high as possible. With regard to this the school received officers from Aberdeenshire Council last week to review the school's performance. This was a helpful event at which both the staff's commitment to young people and steps to raise attainment further were confirmed.

Further to the school's commitment to continuous improvement, our Parent Council have been involved in discussions regarding the priority areas for this session. A summary document outlining this can be found on the Parent Council section of the school website.

Meanwhile a wide range of positive activities continue to be organised by colleagues and of note recently they have included:-

**Remembrance Assemblies** – very poignant presentations through song, sounding of the last post, poppies and photographs were held last week. Thanks to all students and staff for their contributions.

**Orchestra** – preparations are well underway for the forthcoming Christmas Concert.

**Football** – great performances and commitment by both boys and girls teams.

**Rock Challenge** – rehearsals are now well underway towards the teams' presentation to be performed at the AECC.

**Charity Fund Raising** – events have included a dress down day, various Halloween-themed activities and most recently a "shoe-box" appeal to collect items for poverty-affected families

elsewhere in Europe. Additionally, as supported by House Captains speaking at Assemblies the project to sponsor the education of five Rwandan children is gaining great support.

Two other notable events saw young people's efforts appropriately recognised. Firstly the school's S6 Accounting and Business Team won through to the UK final after being the winners of the North of Scotland Competition. They now will participate in the final in Birmingham next year.

Also at the Thainstone House Hotel on 10 November 2016 two students of the school received Aberdeenshire Council Youth Volunteer Awards. Despite facing very impressive competition, Callum Malley 4S1 and Aidan Galashan 2S2 won their categories for their outstanding efforts regarding their voluntary work to support others. Such commitment and service epitomise the very best qualities in young people. Well done to both.

Last week additionally saw an Open Engagement event regarding the building of the new Inverurie Community Campus. A large turn-out of parents, pupils and other members of the community confirmed the level of interest in this exciting project due to be completed in 2020.

Finally, to confirm to you that the appointment of the new Head Teacher for the Academy is expected to be confirmed following interviews on 16 November 2016. This will be a positive and significant step in creating the stability and direction that the school needs and Aberdeenshire Council will advise further on this as soon as they are able.

Thank you as ever for your interest in and support for the school.

Yours faithfully

Ian Parkin

**Acting Head Teacher**