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Ref: **MK/SS**

9 February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

People and Values

I am delighted to have started in my post as Head Teacher at Inverurie Academy. As I have begun to get to know more about the school community, I have seen a huge number of positive aspects to the school; the great attitude shown by students, the range of subjects available at National 4, 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the dedication of the staff team, and the wealth of opportunities to extend the curriculum through wider activities.

People

There is a great deal of truth in the description of a school as the sum total of the people who live, work and learn in that place. My commitment as Head Teacher is to ensure that Inverurie Academy is a school where people are valued. This means that we will place great store by ensuring we do everything we can to ensure that every student identifies their chosen positive destination after school and then is given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. I will also work to ensure that we are a community where staff are valued and enjoy coming to work.

During the course of this next term, we will be welcoming new staff to Inverurie Academy. Mr David Duthie will join the Technical & Vocational Education Faculty, Ms Heike Walkey will join the Modern Languages Faculty, Mr Brian Duncan and Ms Lara Carnegie will join the Science Faculty, and Mr Scott Neish will join the Creative Arts Faculty. We are also delighted to have appointed Mr Craig Paterson as Acting Depute Head Teacher (0.5 FTE) to join the Senior Leadership Team, with Mr Julian Shepherd taking up the job-share role as Acting PT Faculty (0.5 FTE), Humanities. This means that the Year Head responsibilities will be as follows:-

S1 – Ms Lynch

S3 – Mr Paterson

S5 – Mr Hamilton

S2 – Mr Hamilton

S4 – Mr O'Connor

S6 – Mrs Fraser

The best day-to-day contact remains with the Principal Teachers of Guidance.

Core Values

I was delighted to find that one of the priorities identified at the beginning of this session was to work on a new set of values for Inverurie Academy. Work has already begun on this area. School Captains are leading the project and are in the process of:-

- Conducting a series of 'Values' workshops with students, P7 pupils, staff and the Parent Council.
- Devising and sending out an online survey for all students, parents, staff and partners to vote on the values that should describe the key features of Inverurie Academy.

- Collating the survey material and proposing the new Core Values for Inverurie Academy.

This will be a real legacy for our School Captains to leave. However, this is only the beginning. Creating a set of aspirational words is a worthwhile project, but we need to ensure that these Core Values have an impact on all aspects of school life. The desire is that within a short time, all parts of the community will begin to be able to evidence the following:-

Our Core Values are at the heart of our school. They define who we are, how we learn and achieve, what we believe in and what we stand for. These values guide how we act and how we expect to be treated (adapted from Core Values, Wood Group).

Please do look out for further communication on how you can participate in the online survey on the new Inverurie Academy Core Values.

I look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is stylized, starting with a small 'h' shape, followed by a large, sweeping 'M' that ends in a long horizontal stroke.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher