

**INVERURIE**  
**ACADEMY**



# **Term 1 Newsletter**

## **2017-2018**

## **Welcome – Head Teacher’s Reflections**

Welcome to the October edition of the Inverurie Academy Newsletter for 2017-18.

A huge amount of activity and industry has been packed into our first eight weeks of this new session; students settling in to Broad General Education lessons in S1 – S3, senior students making progress in certificate classes on their journey to success in national qualifications, wider curricular groups and clubs resuming activities in Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise, Rock Challenge, Orchestra and Football to name but a few.

Perhaps the most effective way to demonstrate the level of activity is to give you an insight into just one recent week – 2 – 6 October 2017...

### **Social Media Event** – Monday, 2 October 2017 – 6.30 pm

Continuing our programme of Community Learning, around 40 parents attended a workshop run by *Girling Hughes* on Online Presence and Social Media. This was a hard-hitting event and yet those who attended left with a series of practical steps to protect their own online data and ways to support young people with their own online presence.

### **Quality Improvement Visit** – Tuesday, 3 October 2017 – Thursday, 5 October 2017

On Tuesday, Inverurie Academy hosted a team of five Aberdeenshire colleagues to support the school in carrying out a Quality Improvement Visit. This visit consisted of classroom observations, discussions with the extended leadership of the school and also meeting with groups of students, parents, staff and support staff. At the end of the visit, Mrs Cruickshanks (Quality Improvement Officer) explained that she felt that there was a really positive atmosphere within the school and that Inverurie Academy was on a real journey of improvement. We are really grateful for the advice and feedback received from this team.

### **Tree of Knowledge & Callum Smith** – Wednesday 4 & Thursday, 5 October 2017

*Tree of Knowledge* are regular visitors to Inverurie Academy, providing stimulating workshops to students to support them in achieving their potential. During this part of the session, S5 and S6 students were the recipients of this support.

On Wednesday, S5 students were joined by former Inverurie Academy student Callum Smith. Callum has competed at the 2011 and 2013 World Championships and made his Olympic debut in Sochi in 2014. Callum spoke with groups of students about the importance of aiming high, planning and preparation.



### **Twinning Visit – Thursday, 5 October 2017**

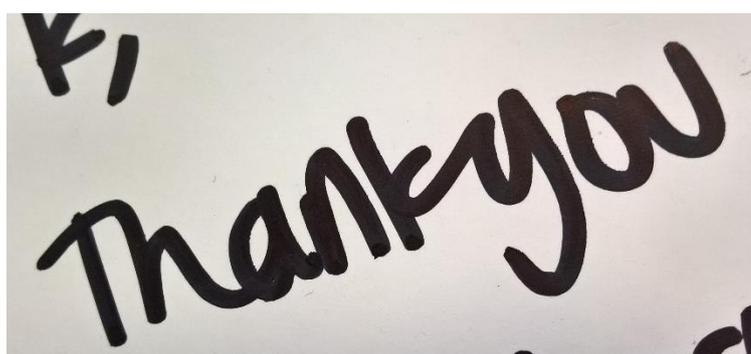
Inverurie Academy is twinned with French town Bagnères-de-Bigorre. On Thursday, 5 October 2017, a group of 35 French students from Bagnères visited Inverurie Academy to continue the contact that has been made by letter and email. They were given a musical welcome with a mixture of bagpipes and pupils from Chapel of Garioch who played La Marseillaise on the recorder. Mr Prosser then organised a series of activities for our French visitors and students currently studying languages at Inverurie Academy.

Later in the evening a Ceilidh was organised at the Kintore Arms Hotel in Inverurie where French and Scottish students learned and danced the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant and Orcadian Strip the Willow, all supported by the 'calling' of Mr Duncan Massie, the organisation of Mrs Olefine Richardson and our very own *Celtacad* musicians.



### **Tapadh Leat – Wednesday 4 Thursday 5 & Friday 6 October 2017**

Our Tapadh Leat group reminded us again of the importance of being a school who show our thanks by encouraging students and staff to say thank you to particular people through the sending of Tapadh Leat cards and these were distributed on Friday.



I wish you all a restful and enjoyable October break and I look forward to the next term as we continue to see our values of ambition, inclusion, integrity and respect outworked in our learning and community.

**Mr M Jones**  
**Head Teacher**

## **Tree of Knowledge**

Ian from 'Tree of Knowledge' came to the school last week to work with S5 and S6 pupils on motivation to achieve. The session with S5 was about 'opportunities and challenges' of decision-making. We did a task which involved everyone in the group trying to get through a hoop in the quickest time. Everyone had to get involved and work as a team to find a way to be the quickest. We learned about how giving things a go and working together can help you achieve your goals.

Callum Smith (a former pupil of Inverurie Academy) who is now an Olympic skier also came to speak at the start of the sessions about following your dreams and making sure you continue to do your sport, or whatever you enjoy, while studying for exams. He encouraged us to focus on school work but to still make time to do the things we enjoy to help motivate us.

## **Connor Walton - 5D1**



## **Aberdeenshire Pupil Participation Forum**

The Aberdeenshire Youth Volunteer Awards are a set of awards organised by the Pupil Participation Forum to recognise the contribution young people make to their schools and communities through volunteering. This year, the awards ceremony will take place at Thainstone House Hotel on 24 November 2017.

The PPF - a group made up of pupils from all seventeen secondary schools in Aberdeenshire - first started the awards last year. Over 80 individuals were nominated and of the seven winners, 2 were from Inverurie Academy. This year it is hoped that with an increase in the number of categories from 6 to 8, there will be even more nominees from Inverurie Academy.

If you know a young person who makes a difference through their volunteering, or to find out more about the awards on offer, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3PTDKXW> and fill out the nomination form. Furthermore, you can keep up-to-date by following the Facebook page, "Aberdeenshire Youth Volunteering Awards 2017".

The deadline for nominations is 8 November 2017.

**Connor McKay - 6C**

**Jared White - 6S**

**Katherine Atkinson - 4D1**

**Aberdeenshire Pupil Participation Forum Reps**

**Inverurie St Andrew's Church 175th Anniversary Scarecrow Weekend  
29 - 10 October 2017**

Three S4 pupils (Kirsty Bowie 4H2, Rebecca Alexander 4H2 and Stephanie McIntosh 4S2) that attend Art Club at lunchtime made 2 scarecrows to add to this event. They represented Inverurie students and were life sized. They were displayed in school before they were collected from the school and put on display around Inverurie.



**Mrs O Richardson  
Creative Arts Faculty Head**

## **Twinning Event – Thursday, 5 October 2017**

Celtacad hosted a Ceilidh in the Kintore Arms Hotel on Thursday, 5 October 2017. This was for the French students who came to Inverurie as part of the Twinning Exchange with Bagneres-de-Bigorre - the town in France. A great time was had by all.



**Mrs O Richardson**  
**Creative Arts Faculty Head**

## **Haddo Arts Festival 2017**

*(A Song for Haddo with songs from "Friday Afternoons" by Benjamin Britten)*

Presented by Pupils from Aberdeenshire in association with McOpera Outreach (Music Co-operative Scotland) and Snape Maltings.

Inverurie Academy students took part in the string ensemble on 11 and 12 October 2017. Wednesday evening was a rehearsal working through the repertoire with string specialists, led by Katie Hull, focusing on elements of technique, bowing and ensemble playing. On Thursday, 12 October 2017 at Haddo the students had a further string rehearsal with conductor Moira Morrison, before being joined by the 120 primary age singers in the full rehearsal in the afternoon.

Professional players played alongside the students throughout the whole day as a side-by-side experience.

The final performance was at 6.00 pm on 12 October 2017. The performance took place on the stage at Haddo House Hall before an audience comprising school staff, education and council officials, parents, relatives and members of the public.

The pupils involved were:-

Kiara Mowat - S3, Grade 5 Viola  
Rebecca Alexander - S4, Grade 5 Viola  
Ryan Garrett - S6, Grade 5 Violin  
Megan Stewart - S6, Grade 5 Violin  
Eryn Duffus - S6, Grade 5 Violin.



**Mrs O Richardson**  
**Creative Arts Faculty Head**

## **Creative Arts Annual Christmas Concert**

The Creative Arts Committee would like to invite you to Inverurie Academy's Annual Christmas Concert and it will be held in the Academy Assembly Hall on Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at 7.00 pm. The concert is an annual event and is a great chance to see the pupils perform in the various extra-curricular groups we have in school.

Tickets are priced at £6.00 per adult and £4.00 concession. They are on sale from Monday, 4 December 2017. They can be purchased from the Creative Arts Box Office in the school (from 1.00 - 1.20 pm daily), or from Strachan's Newsagents. Cheques should be made payable to Inverurie Academy. PLEASE DO NOT HAND IN CASH etc. to reception, registration or any other staff. You can only get tickets at the above place/time.

Pupils and staff from the academy will be taking part in the concert and lucky programmes will be on sale on the night. The winner of the 'Lucky' Programme will receive a special prize! Refreshments and mince pies are included in the price of the ticket.

**Mrs O Richardson**  
**Creative Arts Faculty Head**

## **Adverse Weather**

As we prepare for the winter term and potentially adverse weather that may bring disruption to the school day – we would like to remind you of the various options for finding out whether or not the school is open or closed in such circumstances.

- 1. The Telephone Information Line** number is **0370 054 4999**. You will be asked for the school PIN number. It is **021060**. Once the PIN number is entered, simply follow the instructions (you need a push pad telephone to do so). During bad weather information will be updated each evening at about 6.00pm, or as appropriate.
- 2. The Website** is <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-closures/>. The website is easy to use and the information will be updated at regular intervals as appropriate.
- 3. Local Radio Stations** will announce closures. The website is linked to local radio stations and when the school updates a message on the site it is automatically e-mailed to them.

## **Health and Safety Reminder**

Despite previous reminders we are unfortunately still experiencing pupils being dropped off within the school grounds. If you are bringing pupils to school by car you must not bring your car into school either at the Jackson Street entrance or at the West Church entrance. Pupils can be safely dropped off at either the Swimming Pool Car Park or in the Square beside Boots the Chemist. Both of these locations allow pedestrian access to school.

**Marion Morrell**  
**Support Services Co-ordinator**

### **Dates For Your Diary**

Monday, 30 October 2017	Start of Term 2
Thursday, 2 November 2017	S2 Parents Evening
Monday, 13 November 2017	In-Service Day
Tuesday, 14 November 2017	In-Service Day
Tuesday, 5 December 2017	S4 Parents Evening
Wednesday, 13 December 2017	S5/6 Parents Evening
Tuesday, 19 December 2017	Creative Arts Christmas Concert

### **Christmas Holidays**

**Monday, 25 December 2017 - Friday, 5 January 2018 (Inclusive)**

### **School Resumes**

**Monday, 8 January 2018**

**HAPPY**  
**HOLIDAYS**

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