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Dear Parent/Carer

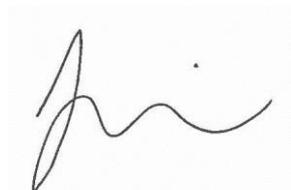
Acting Rector's Weekly Update 11-12-15

I take this opportunity to reflect on a very positive first week in post. Staff, parents and pupils have made me feel very welcome and I have been impressed by how positively teachers talk about pupil conduct and their potential for learning. Particular highlights have been Chloe's work on catalysts; David's presence at Parents' Evening; Finlay's indoor bowling skills; Saul's HMT experience and Ben's entrepreneurial selling style. To all of these pupils, well done for making a positive impression.

Sadly, what has been an excellent week has been overshadowed by recent coverage regarding knife incidents in a number of schools. I would echo these messages that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure we educate young people as to the dangers of carrying knives. Next week, in conjunction with the Police, I will carry out assemblies to ensure lessons are learned and the reputation of Inverurie Academy remains strong. I fully appreciate that this news will have caused some anxiety amongst the parent body, staff and pupils alike. I can confirm that the Senior Leadership Team, supported by Guidance Teachers, followed protocol in relation to an incident at Inverurie to ensure safety was not compromised. In these situations, and for good reason, our education service, along with key partners decide on the best way to respond. I would ask for parents' trust at this time when I say that the school has done and is doing everything in their power to keep people safe.

Moving forward, I am confident we will all reflect on recent events and confirm the school will support parents and pupils accordingly. Personally, I look forward to the challenge of continuing to improve experiences and outcomes for the young people of Inverurie and its neighbouring community. I hope you all have a nice weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr Graeme Cowie
Acting Rector