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Dear Parent/Carer

Acting Rector's Weekly Update 15-1-16

Firstly, I would like to wish all our parents/carers and partner organisations many happy returns for 2016. It has been a difficult start to the term but for those families most affected by the flooding, it has been quite devastating. I also take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to all volunteers from the local community who provided some comfort for so many after the unprecedented amount of rainfall, and for the generous donations that came in when they were needed most. Our thoughts and best wishes remain with all those affected.

In school, it has been business as usual as our seniors prepare and revise for the assessment period. In assemblies last week, I touched on whole school attainment with S3 and S4. There is no doubting the academic potential of our pupils but the message was very much that "being good can often get in the way of being excellent". Our immediate challenge is to raise aspirations and work to be the best we can. Complementing this, our House Captains delivered messages this week about how to cope with exam stress and maximise study time. A definite strength of Inverurie Academy is the quality that our senior students add to assemblies. I would like to reassure parents/carers and students that these assessments are an opportunity to find out how you are progressing and receive feedback from teachers on how to improve. To all students taking assessments, the very best of luck.

As always, Friday is a good time to reflect on the highlights of the week: When taking a Science class on sustainability, I was impressed with Cole's "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" advice to peers. On a similar note, after an announcement in the pupil bulletin, I was pleased to see that litter in the town centre was exceptionally good. Supporting this, staff in many of the shops commented on the politeness of their school customers. Finally, back in school, one conversation with a teacher summed up perfectly the potential in Inverurie Academy. When talking about attainment, Mr Anderson made it clear that his Higher Modern Studies class is the best he's had in any school.

Next week, I have organised a series of parents' evenings where I will share some of my thoughts and hear from yourselves about Inverurie Academy. With assessments being in the hall, I would appreciate returning the slip so I can plan a suitable venue. I hope you all have a nice weekend and look forward to meeting some of you next week.

Yours faithfully

Mr Graeme Cowie, Acting Rector

Maria walker, Director of Education, Learning & Leisure