

# The Academy Star



## 'Tis The Season To Be Jolly



### **Inverurie Academy prepares to open its doors for Christmas Concert**

Christmas is often looked upon as a time for reflection. It is the final celebration until the year draws to a close, and we naturally find ourselves looking back at how the year has progressed. Music has always played a large role throughout the Christmas celebration, with people singing carols for centuries. The music brings

joy to the season of darkness and cold, and our school is no exception.

The Inverurie Academy Annual Christmas concert takes place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Assembly Hall from 7:30 pm. It is a showcase by the Creative Arts faculty and is a display of all of the music groups that take place throughout the year. This is a great chance to see the music groups in action, whether you have a relation in one

of the groups; are interested in joining one or if you just want to see the concert which has a reputation for being very entertaining. As well as a showcase by the individual groups, carols will be played along with a group of singers and one soloist from S1 or S2. Auditions for the soloists are carried out by the Music Department and there is fierce competition.

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# Aye Aye, Captains!



**School Captains, Archie Whyte and Caitlin Vogt**

Having trouble finding your way around? Don't know what to do at lunch? Need some advice? Who's gonna call?! SCHOOL CAPTAINS! Here at Inverurie Academy, Archie Whyte and Caitlin Vogt, our School Captains, are here to help. Caitlin and Archie wanted to become school captains to give something back to the school. They also said it is a good experience and it would show potential employers that they are responsible and can be trusted.

A school captain's duties involve preparing and delivering assemblies; leading

school tours for visitors and prospective or new staff and organising the prefects and the other activities. However, one of the most important responsibilities of the school captains is that they are the main link between the senior teachers and pupils.

When you reach S6, you will be able to sign up and become a school captain but how do you achieve this? You first need to go to peer support training to get an application form. Then you have to go to an interview in a group and they ask you about what experience you have that is relevant to being

a school captain.

Caitlin and Archie gave us some exclusive advice for S5 pupils thinking of applying next year.

"Just be yourself and don't pretend to be someone you're not. Make your application strong because they only want people who are up for the job. Don't assume you need top grades to become a school captain but they do need to see you'll stick in and do everything that you are asked."

If you are successful, you will need to attend meetings with Mrs Fraser every week. There are also school council meetings you would need to attend but they're only every 3 to 4 weeks.

One thing Archie and Caitlin want to change about pupils' behaviour is that they should show more respect to other pupils and staff and have a stronger sense of pride in our school.

**By Ben Sharp, S1**

# Meet the Master

**Our reporters, Benjamin Sharp and Mikey Smith, seized the opportunity to interview Mr Parkin while he was working as Acting Rector at the Academy.**

**Interviewer:** *How do you feel about taking on the role of acting rector?*

**Mr Parkin:** Being the acting rector of any school is a big privilege. It's a hard job too and a fantastically important one. I'm conscious that my spell here has not been for that long a duration, but it's been great.

**Interviewer:** *What's your history in education?*

**Mr Parkin:** Well, I've been teaching for 39 years, and started in Birmingham. One

of the schools I taught at was quite tough but I learned a lot. Then I moved to Scotland as a Principal Teacher of History in Mearns Academy. Later on I was assistant head teacher at Harlaw Academy and then for some reason Mearns had me back! I was head teacher there for 8 years and then I've had a support role across Aberdeenshire. The thing about being a head teacher is it's always a surprise. It was never a career plan and my relationship with my head teacher wasn't very good. So you never know what opportunities will come your way.

**Interviewer:** *What has been your most positive*

*impression of Inverurie Academy so far?*

**Mr Parkin:** Well, in any school, I think it's the people. Young people and my colleagues have been great. Of course there are some things in the school that we need to look at and improve but colleagues are great here and pupils are very fortunate as we have a dedicated team of staff. But when anyone teaches it's the fascinating and interesting things that happen that's always reassuring and that reminds us why we do this job.

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## Our Team's Top 5!

### Top 5 Christmas Movies

1. Home Alone
2. Nightmare Before Christmas
3. It's The Season to be Jolly
4. The Polar Express
5. The Snowman



### Top 5 Christmas Sweets

1. Chocolate Orange
2. Snow Bites
3. Santa Babies
4. Christmas Wine Gums
5. Lindt bear



# 'Tis The Season To Be Jolly



**Continued from page one** Highland Dancers will also be performing and 'lucky' programmes will be sold on the night. These programmes, as well as containing information about the show, also enter you into a raffle to win a special prize! Drinks will be provided and festive mince pies will also be on offer.

Tickets are priced at £6 for an adult ticket and £4 for a concession ticket (child). Tickets will be on sale from the 12<sup>th</sup> December at the School Library, the Creative Arts Box Office and Strachan's newsagents. The

Box Office will open from 1:00 to 1:20 pm daily.

For more information, please see either your instrument instructor or the music teachers - Ms Hart and Miss Vickers.

I look forward to seeing you at the concert and hope that the concert is entertaining and perhaps inspires you to join one of the music groups that plays a part in the concert. If you are interested in joining any of the music groups, here is a list of the groups that the school has to offer:

- School Orchestra (Mrs Hart-Baker, Mrs Tierney, Ms Cook)
- Celtacad (Mrs Tierney (Strings Instructor)
- Brass (Ensemble Ms Cook (Brass Instructor)
- Concert Band (Mrs Terry (Woodwind Instructor)
- Singers and Senior Singer (Miss Vickers)

**By Cameron Beattie, S3**

## School Groups and Clubs

### Stem Club

Stem club is a new group for those interested in Science. It is on a Tuesday lunchtime and it is led by two S6 pupils. It is a friendly club and they are happy to welcome new members.

### Banter Club

Come along to banter club on a Tuesday lunchtime. You get to do anything you want: hangout with your friends or just go along to make new one. Go to Mrs Toet's room.

### Creative Writing

This is a new group and we would really like to see new members joining us for next term. So if you want to come, go to Mr Joy's Room (RM19) on a Wednesday Lunch Time from 12:40.

# Meet the Master

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**Interviewer:** *What do you think about the new campus and what can pupils do to help?*

**Mr Parkin:** The definition of a school is always going to be more than bricks and mortar: it's the people in it. But the new campus will be fantastic and it will be a great place to learn. From the plans I've seen already, there are some great things in place. I would expect that there will be pupil consultation on furnishing, social areas, art and design around the campus and hopefully use of outdoor space to support learning and other activities. As I said though, however positive the plans for the school are, the overriding definition of a school will always remain the people in it.

**Interviewer:** *How do you prepare for assemblies?*

**Mr Parkin:** Well I plan ahead. In the time span I've been here, I did have a schedule of assemblies and key messages that I

wanted to speak on. But the best assemblies are the ones done by pupils themselves. Obviously I'd look to reinforce messages and values that I believe in. So I use values as touchstones and then fit it in to where we are in the school calendar. I try to reflect on how young people can support the school and develop themselves in meeting their goals.

**Interviewer:** *How do you get everyone to listen to you during assemblies?*

**Mr Parkin:** I'm pleasantly surprised that you are suggesting that they do! No, really pupils here have been very courteous and it is very well supported by colleagues. It is still the case after a lot of years that, like most people who speak in public, it is quite a nerve-racking thing. You still need to prepare and be aware of what you think people will be interested in hearing. You need to find a balance between celebrating the positives and addressing any

issues as well.

**Interviewer:** *Finally, what qualities do you think our new head teacher should have?*

**Mr Parkin:** The first priority is having good relationships with people, to value them and respect them and that obviously includes young people, colleagues and parents alike. That for me is at the top of the list. They need a commitment to remember that this job is about young people. Team work: it's important to remember that as head teacher, you do not run the school; you have to support other people to work in a common direction. This is a great place to become head teacher. We have the campus building going on and I've mentioned the fantastic quality of teaching staff. Wow! What a great school to take over.

***On behalf of all of the pupils and staff at Inverurie Academy, we would like to thank Mr Parkin for all that he did during his time here.***



# Academy Sports



Throughout the school there are many extra curricular activities, whether it's creative writing club, football or big questions. And this year there has been huge success and popularity with the school's many sporting teams. For example, our teams (both junior and

senior) for the NASSA badminton tournament in Old Meldrum beat Ellon in the finals, bringing home two victories.

As well as this, the senior football team played Banchory drawing 3-3, with Craig Scott scoring one and Morgan Cook scoring the other

two. They also played Banff where they won 6-2 with Cameron McCarthur, Harrison Hinks, Adam Smith, Ali Naysmith and Craig Scott all contributing to the fabulous victory.

**By Luke Wraight, S1**

## Under 13s Football Triumph

This year's group of first years have had a fantastic effort level during their games and have won 3 of their games. Unfortunately there were fiercely contested battles against Fraserburgh, Aberdeen Grammar, Ellon and Peterhead. Their perseverance is to be commended and they continue giving it their best every game, no matter the result.

Their most memorable performance was their first game against Mintlaw which they won 9-6, showing all of the team's talent and bond. In this fixture the man of

the match was our own player Connor Copland, scoring an impressive 4 goals. As well as Connor, Kyle Duncan and Greg Masson also created an excellent impression with their coaches by scoring the first goals of the season.

In their second game against Banff they showed even more eagerness and capability, winning 11-0! This game was a huge confidence lifter because they had a tight win last time. Among the people who contributed to this victory were Connor Copland, Greg Masson

and Steven Strachan. The man of the match was Mathew Begg who often plays in defence.

This fantastic team is run by some very dedicated managers giving up time to train and develop these boys' talent: Mr McGinnes and Mr Dair!

This team is clearly very enthusiastic and talented and they should continue working hard because if they try hard enough they will soon be winning all their games.

**By Luke Wraight, S1**