

# New Businesses Thrive



A new business that has opened recently in Inverurie is Greggs, the baker. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2017, Greggs officially opened its doors to Inverurie's inhabitants. The new shop is located on Market Place in what used to be the Scottish Hydro Electric Store. This shop has been vacant since March 2016, so this is a welcome new addition to the high street.

This new shop has been attracting quite a lot of our pupils going to get lunch each day. From succulent sausage rolls, to oozing doughnuts,

they have a wide selection on offer. They seem to be getting ample business with other people outside school time.



In addition to Greggs, we have been fortunate enough to receive a brand new trampoline park; this is located in

a warehouse previously owned by Anderson's. This trampoline park, called Skyline, opened during the summer holidays. Skyline is a hit with kids and the adults also love it due to the sky fit classes they offer.

They do a lot of different activities like the 7-9 disco night, themed nights, toddler sessions, sensory ses-

sions and the sky fit classes already mentioned. Normal 'free jump' sessions cost £8 but it is compulsory that you wear special jump socks that cost £2. So in total it's about £10 pounds for half an hour but you can get longer time jumping if you book online then pay for longer when you get there.

Hopefully these business stick around and become bigger and more popular in the future to come.

**By Ben Sharp, S2**

# DofE Pupils Strive for Success



Many of Inverurie Academy's students have been taking part in expeditions in order to achieve their bronze, silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Duke of Edinburgh is actually a registered charity that has been operating for over seven decades. It is the world's leading youth achievement award and millions of young people have worked hard to achieve their respected awards over its history.

In a world where students are increasingly on their phones or living in a virtual world on social media, Duke of Edin

burgh offers a "technology detox" by encouraging young people to experience the outdoors and develop valuable skills. As part of the award, students are expected to undertake three different disciplines, ranging from physical, skill and volunteering.

The Academy Star interviewed one of the current participants, Ben Tribe who is in S5. He explained that the Duke Of Edinburgh awards can be started from the age of 14 and that in addition to the three disciplines, you also go on an expedition for increasing lengths of time with

each award level.

Ben felt he had developed a number of different skills doing the award including improved communication, map reading, first aid, preparation skills, physical fitness and team working.

For part of the Silver Award he has been volunteering at "The Fly Cup" and recently finished a 3 day expedition.



We would also like to say thanks to Miss Bradley for all of her hard work; for everything she has put into the Duke of Edinburgh and we wish her well in her new school.

**By Zoe MacKenzie, S1**

# The Riddle

***New member to the team, Ife Akiode has written her very own short story and Hannah Reid has produced a piece of art work to accompany it (see p.9). We hope you enjoy their work!***

It was the 31st of October. Jaiden and her friend Elliot were at school. Jaiden was a tall girl with long brown hair packed neatly into a bun. She wore black glasses and was the smartest girl in their year.

'Shall we meet up about 6? At the haunted mansion?' Elliot asked. Elliot was a small, cheerful, boy with curly blonde hair.

'I don't know It might be out of bounds.' Jaiden was smart but she was also as scared as a mouse.

'Come on, I just want to look inside it,' Elliot pleaded.

'Fine,' Jaiden muttered, trying not to show her fear.

'I'm going in my usual pumpkin costume,' Elliot grinned.

This was a big round pumpkin

which stopped him from walking and made him fall on his face. Jaiden sighed.

Later, Jaiden met Elliot at the abandoned mansion. She was wearing white clothes; she was supposed to be a ghost. It was very dark and quiet. She looked up. The street lights weren't on. The only light was from the full moon that created a silver shadow around the houses and trees. The houses were empty and dark. Jaiden had never been there before. She started to panic. Her heart racing. Her footsteps echoed. She felt like she was being watched. Then she heard rustling in a nearby bush. She sprinted up the hill. To the mansion. Not looking back. 'Hello!' Elliot shouted., grinning. He was standing in the garden of the mansion, in his pumpkin costume. Most of the mansion's windows were smashed. There were a lot of scary stories about that place.

'While I was waiting, I came up with a joke,' Elliot said,

'What is a pumpkin's favourite sport?'

'Elliot, come on let's go'. Jaiden looked very worried. She pulled Elliot out of the garden towards the gate. 'What's wrong?' he asked. Jaiden didn't answer. She didn't trust the mansion. She felt like someone was watching them. She grabbed the gate and tried to push it open. It didn't move. Elliot screamed. Jaiden turned around and what she saw made her scream as well.

There was a girl, hovering in the air, her face was full of anger. Her hair, which was extremely long, was blood red with some purple and orange. She wore a long black cloak. But the scariest thing about her was her pink glowing eyes staring at them with anger.

'How dare you trespass in my home!', she screamed. Her voice echoed. Elliot shivered. 'I'm going to make you pay!'

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# Trick or Treat?

Halloween is thought to have originated from the ancient Celtic festival Samhain. This was a festival that marked the end of summer and the start of the dark and cold winter. On this day people believed the boundaries between the living and the dead blurred, allowing spirits to come and damage crops and cause trouble. As well as this, people believed that this time of year made it easier for druids, Celtic priests, to make predictions of the future. To recognise this day,



people dressed up in intimidating costumes, typically made of animal heads and skin; then druids lit huge bonfires. People then burned crops; made animal sacrifices

then attempted to predict other's fortunes

Romans later conquered most of the Celtic territory which meant the Samhain tradition was combined with the two Roman festivals. The festivals both took place in late October: the first was named Feralia and they would honour the passing of the dead. The second was named Pomona where they would honour the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol for this goddess is an apple which could explain the tradition of apple bobbing.

May 13<sup>th</sup> 609 A.D was then declared the new day to honour all Christian martyrs by Pope Boniface 4<sup>th</sup>. Later Pope Gregory 3<sup>rd</sup> moved this to November 1<sup>st</sup> and changed it to honour all saints and martyrs. The holiday was known as All Saint's Day and the day before it was known as All Hallows Eve, later known as Halloween.

This holiday has now evolved, over the course of many years, to a day where children go around their neighbourhood asking for sweets or money, sometimes even participating in activi-



ties such as apple bobbing. With such a history how do you plan to spend your Halloween?

**By Luke Wraight, 2S2**

# Haunted Halloween



## WORD SEARCH

N O X W V D H D V O K R W Q X H V L U Y  
 B R O Q I Y A X R K U L T X L D Z T Q T  
 T T X O Y R L Z Z A U B I R W L L U J Q  
 X L M L J N L B O W Y S P R L S P U Y V  
 T B C R V O O V C O I E Y T W Y V H H B  
 N F S J D A W I P M I A V U B Q M T F H  
 G M O A U U E W T D P J I A R M F N I B  
 E B X C S A E U V P D T H P R N W I U G  
 B X N T L E N I L Z L J P E C G E D A P  
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 A A L A V G S P F O X E C D S I A I S O  
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 F K A I Y P R W V A O W F M N U D C E B  
 R U T T H S L M C W E O P I O C E X E H  
 C H O C O L A T E D N E A W S K N T T Q  
 S T S O H G V R C N U H F G B N G T S L  
 E F I P C L X Z X O M F L F Q Z D J G P  
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APPLES	HALLOWEEN
CHOCOLATE	SAMHAIN
GHOSTS	SWEETS
GRAVEYARD	TOFEEAPPLES

# Getting Extra-curricular



This year on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of September our school hosted one of many annual activity fairs. Throughout the afternoon, pupils across the school were given the opportunity to view the different types of cross-curricular clubs available to them.



On offer this year we had Duke of Edinburgh which is available to S3s and over (see p5 for details); Rights respecting schools, a new club

that will soon be established in the school, Philosophy group who discuss answers of the unknown; Tapadh Leat who enjoy expressing gratitude in creative ways, film club who enjoy a film each Thursday lunch; fit for girls who encourage girls to exercise in a fun way; concert band who rehearse for the Christmas and summer concerts; STEM club who explore different science related topics and last but not least, The Academy Star who work together each term to produce a newspaper informing you of local and school events. There are also lots of opportunities to get involved with

sporting and musical clubs, such as badminton, football and basketball as well as the very popular stall on the day, the percussion group!



P.E teacher Mr McFie organises the activities fair and this year's was again a great success. Without the combined efforts of staff and pupils, there would not be clubs at all so we owe a lot to all teachers involved in giving up their lunchtimes and preparing clubs for us pupils to enjoy.



By Luke Wraight, S2

# S6 Biologists Visit Bennachie



*S6 pupils from the trip*

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Advanced Higher Biology pupils were at Bennachie where they enhanced their knowledge of Biology and got a feel for what they are to complete during the course. They will be doing a project later in the year which makes up 30% of their exam grade. We interviewed one of the Advanced Higher pupils, Clare Abel, who told us exactly what happened on the trip and what she gained from it.

First of all, she mentioned how helpful and knowledgeable the guide lady, Alison, was. Then she began to tell

us what they did and learnt from the trip. Overnight the guide lady, Alison, set several small animal traps and several insect pitfall traps where they

found two mice and plenty insects. After examining these, they then set off to a pond and used nets to fish out insects then put them in a tray full of water to examine their features. Throughout this activity they found animals such as newts and pond skaters.

Shortly after, they had a look at the anatomy of stuffed badgers, owls and squirrels. This was great because it allowed them to look at the different body parts of the animals and understand them more than they would have done by reading the textbook. Afterwards they found more about how an animal will regurgitate the

fur and bones of what it has eaten in the form of pellets. They then were told how you can rebuild a rodent, such as a mouse, by taking the bird's pellets and extracting the bones and fur.

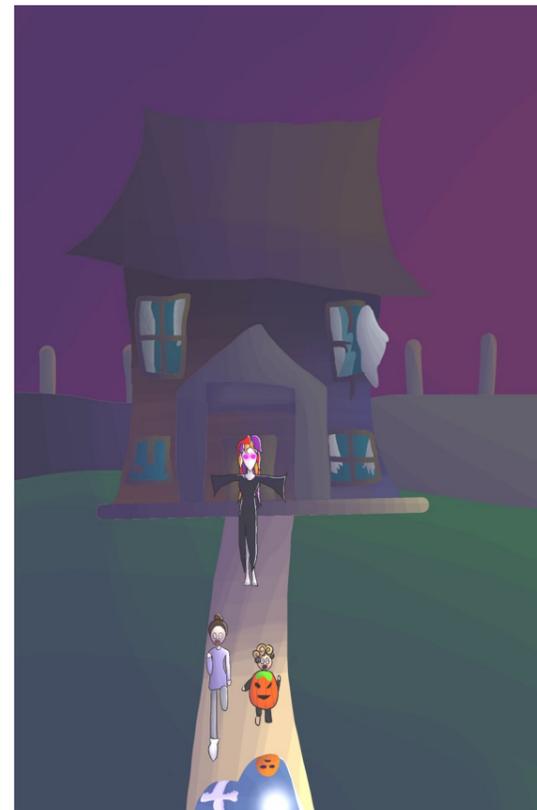
Clare told us that this trip was very worthwhile and gave her a much better understanding of her course and was much better than just reading the things she learned in a textbook. The only issue she had with the trip was the rain! It sounds to us at The Academy Star that it was a fantastic trip and the Advanced Higher pupils gained very much from it.



*Pond Skater*

**By Luke Wraight, 2S2**

# The Riddle Continued



Jaiden and Elliot felt themselves ascend. Jaiden realised that the girl was a witch. She chanted strange words and then fell to the ground. Jaiden felt different. She was transparent and felt like she was floating. She looked at herself in a puddle. She was a ghost! She looked at Elliot. He was no longer a human. He was an actual pumpkin. They both screamed in shock. The witch had turned them into their costumes!

Elliot gasped, 'Is this

permanent?'

'Yes,' the witch smirked. 'Every year a bunch of teens come and mess up my home. No one respects me or my property!'

Elliot sobbed 'I don't want to be a talking pumpkin forever!'

'W-we're sorry for not respecting your property,' Jaiden stammered.

'I accept your apology

but, if you want to be turned back, you must find the magic Halloween candy before midnight,' the witch cackled.

'But how do we find it?'

'I'll give you a clue; it's on an object in that garden.' The witch pointed behind them. 'I'll give you a riddle that tells which object it is; it's impossible though! When I'm young I'm tall, when I'm short I'm old, while with life I glow. Wind is my foe. What am I?'

And the witch disappeared.

Jaiden spent six hours looking around the garden, which was full of rubbish, for the answer but Elliot just cried.

'Stop crying,' Jaiden snapped. 'We have ten minutes left, get up and help!'

'But I don't have arms!'

'Hey, look at this nice candle,' Elliot said five minutes later.

Then Jaiden realised the answer was a candle!

'That's the Halloween candy!'

However, when she tried to take it out a voice from the candle said, 'What is a pumpkin's favourite sport?'

Jaiden was confused but Elliot beamed 'I know the answer: Squash!'

The candy fell out of the candle and they ran back to the mansion. They knocked on the door and a bony hand reached out and grabbed the candy out of their hands. They turned back into their normal selves.

After that, they never trespassed again.

# The Generation Game

In the month which celebrates the first anniversary of the twinning union between Inverurie and Bagnères-de-Bigorre, France, I am mindful of the important role young people play in society as a whole.

I was privileged to be in Bagnères to witness the signing of the Charter of Friendship and to deliver a speech, in French, about what I, as a young person, could envisage the union developing into. For my efforts, I was presented with the town's Medal of Honour, making me one of only two young people in history to receive the accolade. As Inverurie prepares to welcome a group of school pupils from Bagnères, it strikes me that young people will play an integral role in the success of this union, and in the future of this country in general. Not only is it up to the coming generations to continue the legacy of the twinning project, but also to offer a unique contribution to Scotland. 2018 is the Scottish Government's Year of Young People when the next generation shall take centre stage to showcase all that they have to offer. More on this to follow.

A contribution to society. 'So what?' many would argue. Enshrined in the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), all young people, regardless of their country of birth, have the right to an opinion and to have that opinion taken into consideration in all matters affecting the individual. But what does that mean for Scotland? At present, the UNCRC is not included in Scots Law. The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) wishes to start a discussion on whether this needs to change.

*"The UNCRC should be fully incorporated into Scots Law, and the rights of children and young people should be protected and promoted."*

76% of young people agree with this view and the subject of young people's rights was adopted (at the National Sitting in June) as the SYP's National Campaign for the coming year. More information on the campaign itself and how you can get involved will be released very soon. This campaign is the ideal opportunity for decision-makers to open the doors of meaningful dialogue to young people. Yet the very definition of 'dialogue' dictates that this must be a two-way discussion. In order to create a more inclusive society where the views of young people – the views of the next generation – are not for-

gotten, there is a simple message: it starts with you.

In October, the SYP shall assemble in the Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh. (My fellow 'political junkies' and I are still somewhere in the stratosphere at the prospect.) We, the democratically-elected voice of young people, shall sit where our decision-makers craft the law of the land. We are there to speak on your behalf. I will be carrying out consultation work to ensure that I can speak and vote according to the views of my constituents. If there is something that you, my constituents, wish to raise with me, please do not hesitate to do so. For updates on my work on your behalf, please have a look at my social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and feel free to get in touch through those channels, if not through an impromptu chat in a corridor.

In the meantime, I hope that you have a relaxing October holiday.

**By Josh MacRae, S4, MSYP and columnist to The Academy Star**

# S1 Pupils Settle in to Academy Life



From left to right, Erin, Lilly and Kaden

As I am sure you will all remember, coming up to the academy can be a daunting prospect. Sam and Blair, two S5 pupils, caught up with some S1 pupils to find out how they've been adjusting to Academy life. We asked Erin Minty, Lilly Currie and Kaden Tavendale on topics such as their first impressions of the school; their favourite places and teachers; their preferred places to go for lunch; opinions on the school uniform and extra-curricular clubs.

Their first impressions of Inverurie Academy were mostly positive, with the group saying that they really liked secondary compared to primary school – particularly preferring the fact

they moved from class to class because they like being able to stretch their legs between periods. However, they found that their backs got sore with carrying their bags - mixed with carrying a jacket and also that it was quite

easy to get lost. Kaden told us that he got lost five times upon starting the Academy!

All three agreed that having more subjects was very interesting and gave them more areas to study than primary school. Sometimes the little things were the best too, with the wide array of buttons on a scientific calculator giving some entertainment. One said their favourite class was English with Mr Duncan (which I'm sure he'll be glad to hear!)

We asked Kaden, Lilly and Erin about their favourite places to go at lunch and break. It was clear that Greggs, Subway and McLeish's were favourites, while the library seemed to be

another place that they enjoy.

The recommendations we received from them on uniform changes was that a lighter blue would look nice. It'll also please them to know that the uniform will be changing when the school moves to the new development.

On the topics of clubs, there was a lot of enthusiasm. They attend clubs such as ROV club and the badminton club, among others. They had conflicting opinions on whether there are just enough or not enough clubs but they recommended a large poster or display to inform pupils of the clubs they can attend. In addition to this, they felt that more after-school clubs would be nice as they find that they do not have enough time at lunch to get lunch and go to the club.

The S1s seem to be settling in well and are integrating into the school nicely. Thank you to Kaden, Lilly and Erin for helping us get an insight into settling into life at Inverurie Academy!

**By Blair Center & Sam Weston, S5**

# Pupils Excel in Photography Competition

This year at the Academy Star we ran a school photography competition; it was incredibly successful and had a great number of entries. This competition was a great way to kick start the year. We had great difficulty choosing the winners because every picture was extremely detailed and had been captured at a very high standard. After a long discussion, we came to a decision: George Teasdale in first, Ewan Skinner in second and Eamon Kearns in third. Congratulations to our three worthy winners and we would also like to thank all the competitors who submitted an entry.



**1st Place,  
George Teasdale 2S2**

We thought this picture deserved first because it captures an image which can be missed in the blink of an eye and has great character to it.

# A View to Remember!



**2nd Place,  
Ewan Skinner 2B2**

We thought this picture deserved third because it displays a fantastic sight which is one of a kind and is a wonderful view. The sky really adds to the atmosphere of the photograph.

We thought this picture deserved second place because it shows something truly unique and requires a good eye to capture. We particularly liked the composition of the picture and how the cows are framed with the water.



**3rd Place,  
Eamon Kearns 2B2**

Thank you to everyone who entered. Here are some other highly commended entries.

