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Dear Parent / Carer

Inverurie Academy and the 'Big Conversation' (please see Aberdeenshire Council Letter on Page 2)

In previous years, we have gathered the views of parents in two main ways:-

- Through discussions with the Parent Council, and
- Through requesting that parents complete a paper survey at the end of every Parent Evening

The intention is that this will be changed so that every other year, instead of gathering the views of parents through survey, we will engage with parents, students and staff in a series of Focus Groups meeting to review progress against our new Core Values of *Ambition, Inclusion, Integrity and Respect*.

Our plan is that these Focus Groups will usually take place in January and February (2018). However, as part of our contribution to the **Big Conversation** across Aberdeenshire, we will launch two Parent Focus Groups in September considering progress against our Core Value of *Inclusion*. These will last only half an hour and will pose two simple questions:

- What are we doing well at Inverurie Academy that includes parents, students and the community?
- What more could we be doing on inclusion at Inverurie Academy?

At the end of these two focus groups, parents will be asked to complete a simple online survey that will contribute towards the Aberdeenshire **Big Conversation**.

The date and times for these Focus Groups together with an Eventbrite sign-up link have been provided below. If you are unable to sign-up using the link, please do contact the school and ask to speak to me in the first instance.

Big Conversation – Parent Group 1	Wednesday 6 th September 2017 4 – 4.30 pm Meeting Room, Inverurie Academy	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/big-conversation-parent-group-1-tickets-35548213664
Big Conversation – Parent Group 2	Wednesday 6 th September 2017 5.30 – 6pm Meeting Room, Inverurie Academy	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/big-conversation-parent-group-2-tickets-35548273844

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Our Ref MW/CR
Your Ref

Please ask for Caran Richardson
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13 June 2017

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Dear Parent or Guardian

Introducing the 'Big Conversation'

As we approach the summer, many parents and children are thinking about the changes ahead – perhaps a new class or even a new school. This is also the time when we reflect over the past year and celebrate together the achievements of our children and young people.

It is a privilege to work in schools and in the wider Education and Children's Services and we want to develop the relationship we have with you, both as individuals and through organisations and groups, such as Parent Councils. We view our relationship with you as an important partnership. However as with any partnership, we can make it better and help the understanding in the roles we all play in giving children and young people the best possible education.

To do this, over the next few weeks and into next term, I have asked your head teacher to discuss with you what you feel makes a good partnership. We would hope that the output from these conversations would be the development of a document which would illustrate how we work together for our children, schools and communities.

Your head teacher will arrange a series of meetings which fit into your school's normal arrangements and we want to have this "Big Conversation" to continue until late September. In addition to schools' conversations, we will organise some family days at different venues over the summer to talk to you more about this topic.

Giving our Aberdeenshire children the very best start in life is our mutual aim. Meantime, I wish you and your family a very happy summer.

Yours sincerely

Maria Walker
Director of Education & Children's Services