



# Term 4 Newsletter 2016-2017

## Introduction

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Inverurie Academy Newsletter.

I don't know about you but when I look back at things I tend either to remember particular songs to associate with something or significant 'still-frames' stick in my mind. I would like to share just a few of the 'still-frames' that have been particularly memorable in what has been a busy but very successful term.

### Core Values



In the short time between the end of the Easter Holidays and the beginning of examinations, our School Captains worked hard to bring together the 500 survey returns and consider these against both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also the heritage of the School Motto and Crest. I have a vivid memory of watching and listening to Caitlin, Archie, Elizabeth and Lewis debating the merits of including the Core Value of **integrity** – an incredible privilege to be a fly on the wall!

They have left a real legacy for Inverurie Academy. In the last month, we have teamed with the Inverurie BID organisation through the Inverurie Business Association to work on representing the Core Values in a contemporary way.

### Young Enterprise

On 27<sup>th</sup> April, it was a source of pride to attend the Grampian Young Enterprise Finals at RGU. Three of the six finalists were from Inverurie Academy and each distinctive entry showed creativity and flair. I remember descending the steps to the marketplace in the break between presentations and not knowing where to visit first! **Amygdala** and **Scent in the City** presented magnificently (with Archie Whyte winning **Managing Director of the Year**), and **SEED** came through to win the overall competition to then represent Inverurie Academy at the National Finals. There they won an innovation award with their social enterprise.



## Sports Day 2017



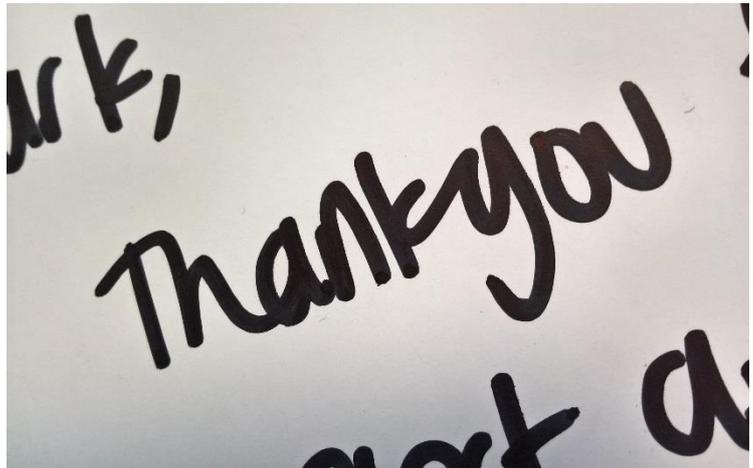
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May saw Inverurie Academy hold the annual Sports Day for S1-S3. Nothing encapsulated the House Competition as well as the Tug'o'War with Mr Hamilton presiding over a well organised trial of strength and teamwork. Selbie eventually prevailed as the most successful House across the various events during the day. However, the overall impression was of a well-

organised celebration of achievement and sporting participation.

## Thank you

My final 'still-frame' relates to the fantastic Gratitude Week run by the Tapadh Leat Team and Miss Gollop. This was an opportunity for members of the school community to thank and value others.

This leads me to thank all parents, staff and students for the fantastic welcome I have received at Inverurie Academy. I have found a school with strength and heart - I am incredibly proud to be Head Teacher of this great school!



## **Parent Council**

The end of another school year already! The Parent Council has had a busy year and if you'd like to have a read through the topics discussed at the meetings, why not have a look at the Parent Council Minutes on the school's website. We would love to welcome you along to the next Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in the School's Meeting Room. The programme for next year's meetings has already been set and they are listed on the Parent Council Home Page . All parents/carers with pupils at the Academy can attend. Come along to find out what's happening in school and share your views and ideas.

Let us know your thoughts/comments/views by dropping us a line at [inverurieacademypc@gmail.com](mailto:inverurieacademypc@gmail.com).

Enjoy the summer holidays!

Mr M Jones  
Head Teacher

## SQA Examination Results

This year's SQA examination results will be sent to your son/daughter on Tuesday 8th August. These results will arrive by first class post, and by text or e-mail after 8am if your son/daughter has registered for this service through My SQA.

In 2014, SQA introduced a Post-Results Service which replaced the appeals process, and as the new qualifications are rolled out, I want to take this opportunity to remind you how this procedure works.

➤ **The Post-Results Service** may be used by schools where a pupil's grade is significantly different from that expected. Based on the evidence the school holds about the pupil's performance throughout the course, a school may request a clerical check and/or an SQA marking review. **The pupil must, however, give permission for this in writing.**

- A clerical check is a check that all questions have been marked and all marks totalled correctly
- A marking review is where an SQA senior examiner will review the marks awarded to each question to ensure that the original marking is in line with national standards: the work will not be re-marked.

Please note:

- the decision to ask for a marking review rests solely with the school
- as a result of a clerical check and/or marking review, the pupil's grade may stay the same or be amended up **or** down.

It is important that parents/carers understand that the school will not be able to submit alternative evidence, like course work or prelim examination evidence, to support its request for a review. Decisions about the grade awarded will be made solely on the pupil's performance in the SQA examination. NB - The SQA have stringent checks of each markers' work to ensure that final results are as accurate as possible

Should you have any questions about your son's/daughter's results, when they arrive in August, you should contact myself in the first instance. I will be in school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August between 8am and 4pm for this purpose. If the school decides to make a Results Service request for your son/daughter, I will advise you as to the steps that need to be taken.

If your son/daughter requires a Priority Marking Review (i.e. they have not obtained the grade required for a conditional university or college offer and need an urgent marking review) **please contact me on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August** as these need to be sent in to SQA by 18<sup>th</sup> August (i.e. before the school returns for the In-service day on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August).

Should your son/ daughter wish to change/re-sit a subject due to results of performance in their SQA examinations, please telephone the school office in the first instance to have this request recorded. Your son/daughter should then make an appointment with their Principal Teacher of Guidance on their return to school to discuss this further.

Pauline Fraser  
Depute Rector / SQA Coordinator

### **Show My Homework/ Google Classroom**

Due to the ongoing issues with the accuracy of the data required to run Show My Homework, we have made a decision to stop using this website/app. However, we have recently seen the potential of Google Classroom as a learning and teaching tool, and the possibilities for using it as a tool for setting, reviewing and informing parents/carers of homework tasks. Three teachers have been trialling the various tools in Google Classroom this term and will be planning a roll-out of the training for staff across the school next session. Further information will be issued to parents/carers once the system is up and running. Meanwhile, please continue to refer to your child's planner for information regarding homework tasks set.

### **SCHOLAR**

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Andy Smith from SCHOLAR came to do training with new S4 and S5 pupils who are undertaking any of the courses listed below to show them the excellent SCHOLAR online resource which pupils can use to support their learning. The system has tutorials, videos, revision notes, practice assessments, revision games and lots of other tools to support learning. Some staff in school use the resources as part of their classwork, some use it to set homework tasks, and others refer pupils to use it for their own revision. Staff can also monitor pupil progress and practice assessment results via the system. New S6 pupils attended training last year and can still continue to use the system with their username/password set up last year.

### **Courses**

*National 5 – English, Maths, ESOL, French or German*

*Higher – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Maths, English, French or German.*

*Advanced Higher – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Accounting, Business Management, Maths, English, French or German.*

Further information for parents/carers is on the school website (under the 'Curriculum – Study Skills' tab).

### **S6 Prom/ Safe Drive Stay Alive**

Parents/Carers of pupils who attended S6 Prom will already be aware that the pupils agreed to allow some filming to take place on the night to support a very worthwhile cause – the re-filming of ‘Safe Drive Stay Alive’ which is an annual event S5 pupils go to in Aberdeen to promote safe driving, and being a passenger when young drivers are at the wheel. The company are making the film about S6 pupils in a car accident on the night of their Prom and have been in contact to ask for any S6 pupils who have just left, or new S6 pupils with an interest in Drama, to get in touch with them re being ‘extras’ in the film sections with the main characters. Anyone interested should email [info@tvpstudios.tv](mailto:info@tvpstudios.tv) or call 01224 633503 and speak to Ricky Wood. The filming is likely to start week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> July and they’d really appreciate the continued support of Inverurie Academy pupils to complete the process before the event in November 2017.

## Driving Ambition

Last week all S6 students attended the Driving Ambition road safety course, which was held around the school campus. The course consisted of many activities. We watched a video involving three girls in a car; the passengers were drinking and the driver was distracted by her mobile phone, which caused a car crash. It showed the families which were affected and how many lives were ruined due to a moment of stupidity. It was a daunting video which had a huge impact on why we should be responsible whilst driving.

There were also four other activities that we participated in. One was 'How to be a better driver'. This involved looking at the characteristics of being a better driver and also the areas out with our control that can endanger us when driving. We then had the rescue service show us how to perform CPR on an adult dummy and also on a baby one, and taught us how the two are different.

We also got shown how to be wary and save money when buying a car and were shown the advantages and disadvantages of using different types of car sales options. We were also taken out to a car and shown how to inspect it. Finally, we did a simulation which involved wearing 'beer goggles' which made it more difficult to stay balanced and even the easiest of things such as walking in a straight line was difficult. We then did a speed reaction test that compared reacting on the brakes to a child walking onto the road while just driving normally without any distractions, and then being distracted by either your phone or your friends.

The students of Inverurie Academy would like to say a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who delivered the Driving Ambition programme, and for highlighting the responsibility of driving safety and the respect that you have to show to other drivers.

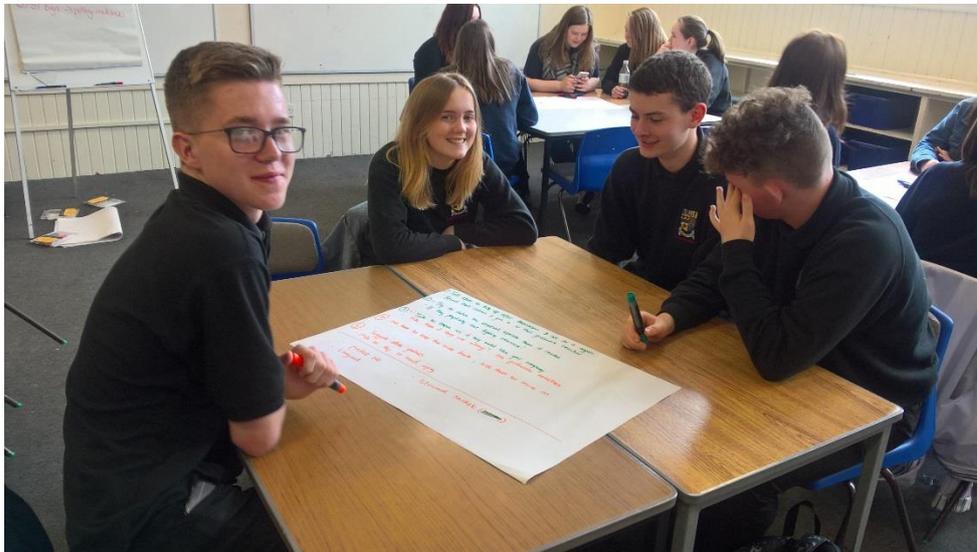


## Prefect Training

During our 2017 exam leave, many of the new fifth and sixth year students attended the Prefect Training course. Led by Mrs Fraser, we were taught how to handle several issues that we may come across as Prefects. One activity involved us working as a team to find solutions to difficult situations that occur within the school. An example of this was how to encourage pupils in a positive way to keep the school clean and tidy at break and lunchtime.

All those who participated in the training agreed that it was a hugely important process to go through in order to fulfil our roles adequately. We feel that we have learned many new skills such as communication and teamwork, as well as learning how to handle new situations. We all felt that it was a very worthwhile experience.

School Captains – Beth Thom and Jared White



## **An Introduction to the new School Captains**

After a competitive period of applications and interviews, we are delighted to have been appointed the new School Captains for the 2017/18 academic session. Firstly, we want to thank the previous School Captains for all their work, in particular, in steering the creation of the new core values of the school. This session, we will work to uphold these values – of respect, ambition, integrity and inclusion - and make them an everyday part of school life. We feel that these values can act as a gateway to improving the school ethos; an ethos of kindness, acceptance, and success.

To do this, we aim to form a close working relationship with the Senior Leadership Team, guidance staff and our peers in S6. Of course, our priority must be all the pupils of Inverurie Academy. Therefore, in the coming weeks we will introduce ourselves at assemblies and Parent Council meetings. As School Captains, we will also chair and minute the School Council meetings supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure we encourage pupil involvement at all levels in the school.

We are excited about the introduction of a new school uniform and planning for this is well underway. There will be opportunities for pupils to get involved in the design process and we hope that this will encourage pupils to embrace the new uniform as their own. This process will precede the opening of a new Inverurie Academy in 2020. While we will not attend the new school, we are enthusiastic about the future of Inverurie Academy in a building fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Jones and Mrs Fraser for appointing us and giving us the opportunity to give something back to the school over the coming year, and we look forward to the challenge ahead. We would lastly like to wish all staff, pupils and parents/carers a lovely summer holiday.

### **The School Captains**

Jared White – School Captain

Beth Thom – School Captain

Connor McKay – Vice Captain

Hope Christie – Vice Captain

## **S6 Peer Support Training**

During study leave this year, the majority of S6 pupils took part in a Peer Support training day ran by Mrs Fraser and Miss Walker. The aim of the day was to provide S6 pupils with information that would help them when they began to undertake roles such as helping in S1/2 classes and being buddies to the new S1. The day involved many group activities aimed at improving communication and emphasising the importance of empathy.

For example, we were asked to draw a person and think of situations that may make them feel uncomfortable and situations that would make them feel at ease. The message here was that different people feel different things differently – it is therefore essential that Peer Supporters appreciate that scenarios some pupils may relish in can leave others isolated or intimidated. We also looked at how feelings, such as ‘anger’, ‘sadness’, ‘joy’ or ‘euphoria’ can form a spectrum from strongly positive feelings, to weakly positive, neutral and then weakly/strongly negative. We examined how an understanding of open and closed questions strengthens communication. That is, certain questions tend to elicit one-word answers, whereas a slight alteration in wording can encourage people to be much more in-depth.

While the benefits of the Peer Support training day are not immediately seen, it will prove its worth again and again as S6 pupils begin to take on a multitude of roles. Acting as buddies to the new S1, helping pupils with their reading skills in the library, and helping out at St Andrews’ School to name but a few.

Connor McKay and Hope Christie  
Vice Captains



## **Active Schools- End of Term Report**

Active Schools have had a busy school year with the following areas of work standing out:

### **Fit for Girls**

Fit For Girls continues to be a huge success and we now have 35 girls from S1-S6 and the programme continues to secure strong coverage on social media. £150 funding for 17-18 was secured from the Run Balmoral bursary fund. Olivia Cox S6 presented a successful funding bid to the Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group to secure £300 funds to allow cycling in Term 4. Combined with the earlier award of £150 from the Run Balmoral Bursary the girls have secured almost 50% of the yearly running cost for the programme. Term 4 has seen the girls taking part in fitness sessions, table tennis and the aforementioned cycling sessions with planning work already underway for the new school year.

### **Leaders in Sport**

Active Schools in conjunction with the PE Department have developed a Sports Leadership programme called "Inverurie Leaders in Sport". Derived from the successful Aberdeenshire Leaders programme the aim is to recruit pupils from S4-S6 to form a leadership group that will assist with the extra-curricular programme, liaise with the Sports Captains and Young Ambassadors and form a vital link to the Inverurie Community Sports Hub.

The Inverurie Leaders in Sport group are now in place and consist of Megan Brown S5, Amy Norval S5, Saphia Wallek S5, Layth Abozaed S5, Abdal Alhalbe S5 and Mohamad Shahoud S6. Olivia Cox S6 and Katrina Hamilton S6 have both left the programme at the end of S6 but both made a huge contribution to the initial success of Leaders in Sport, having volunteered substantially with the Fit For Girls group. Initial meetings have focused on obtaining PVGs before the pupils start their volunteering, signing up to the Saltire Award scheme and the autumn will see the group establish its community link to the Inverurie Community Sports Hub. Recruitment for several more Leaders in Sport will take place in Term 4 16-17 and early in Term 1 17-18.

### **Transition +**

Transition + is a new project being introduced in Summer 2017 to Inverurie Academy by Active Schools. The transition phase between Primary and Secondary education is identified as a vitally important time in the life of a young person. Transition + aims to provide an additional opportunity for new S1 pupils to meet and engage with each other following the formal curricular transition phase in Term 4 16-17.

Scheduled to run on 14th, 15th , 16th August 2017 at Inverurie Academy, the three days will feature a wide range of activities including Basketball, Table Tennis, Skipping, Community Learning and Development inputs, Climbing Wall, Zorbing, Drumming, Athletics, Multisports and a cinema session.

Open to all of the 155 pupils who will be joining S1 at Inverurie Academy on 22nd August this programme ensures that children from Inverurie and its respective feeder primary schools have the opportunity to meet their future peers and give that many will be from smaller rural schools this is an invaluable opportunity to meet new classmates in an informal and fun setting.

### **Mountain Biking**

Term 4 saw the introduction of Mountain Biking to the extra-curricular programme and it has proved extremely popular with the eight places being booked up very quickly. Led by parent volunteers and qualified British Cycling coaches Alex Doig and Neil Stables the sessions are held at the Bennachie Centre and will continue in Term 1.

Malcolm Grant

Active Schools Lead Coordinator- Central Aberdeenshire & Inverurie Academy

## **Pupil Health**

Please do keep us up to date with any changes to existing conditions, or new conditions that your son or daughter are diagnosed with as the session goes on. This can be done in writing, via email or via telephoning the relevant Principal Teacher of Guidance.

If any pupil begins to feel unwell during the school day, they must report to reception where they will be seen by an appropriate member of staff. If pupils are too unwell to remain in school, parents/carers will be contacted and must make arrangements for their son/daughter to be collected from school. Pupils will not be released to travel home unaccompanied if they feel unwell, but will be released to the care of a parent/carer or emergency contact (by negotiation). If first aid advice suggests that more urgent treatment is required, please be assured that we will contact the Health Centre or Ambulance Service as appropriate.

If your son or daughter has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay away from school until they are 48 hours symptom free. This prevents the spread of gastrointestinal illness across the school, and is in accordance with current NHS Advice. If your son or daughter returns to school before they have been symptom free for 48 hours, they will not be permitted in classes and you will be asked to collect them as a matter of urgency.

## **School Uniform Recycling**

If you have items of school uniform for which you have no further need, and if they remain in good condition, we would be grateful if you would consider donating these to school. Our Guidance team have a small supply of good quality and clean uniform items, and issue these through the session to those who need them. We would be grateful for your donations, and are happy to help if it is not possible for you to provide uniform supplies yourself.

Please contact the relevant Principal Teacher of Guidance or Ms Lynch in the first instance.

In addition, some families may qualify for clothing grants and/or free school meals. Details of these schemes can be found on the websites below:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/schoolclothing-grants/>

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/free-school-meals/>

### **Public Use of Playing Fields**

I am sure we all welcome the lighter nights and warmer air that come at this time of year. We are more than happy for young people and their families to use the playing fields at the front of the school when these are available.

In recent months we have had increasing difficulties with dog fouling on our grounds. If you are a dog owner and choose to use the school premises as part of your walks, please be vigilant to them and please pick up any dog waste behind you. Our pupils use the grounds as part of learning and during social times, and dog waste is causing real problems. It's unpleasant when one shoe brings it into the house, and we have approximately 1800 shoes visiting every day...

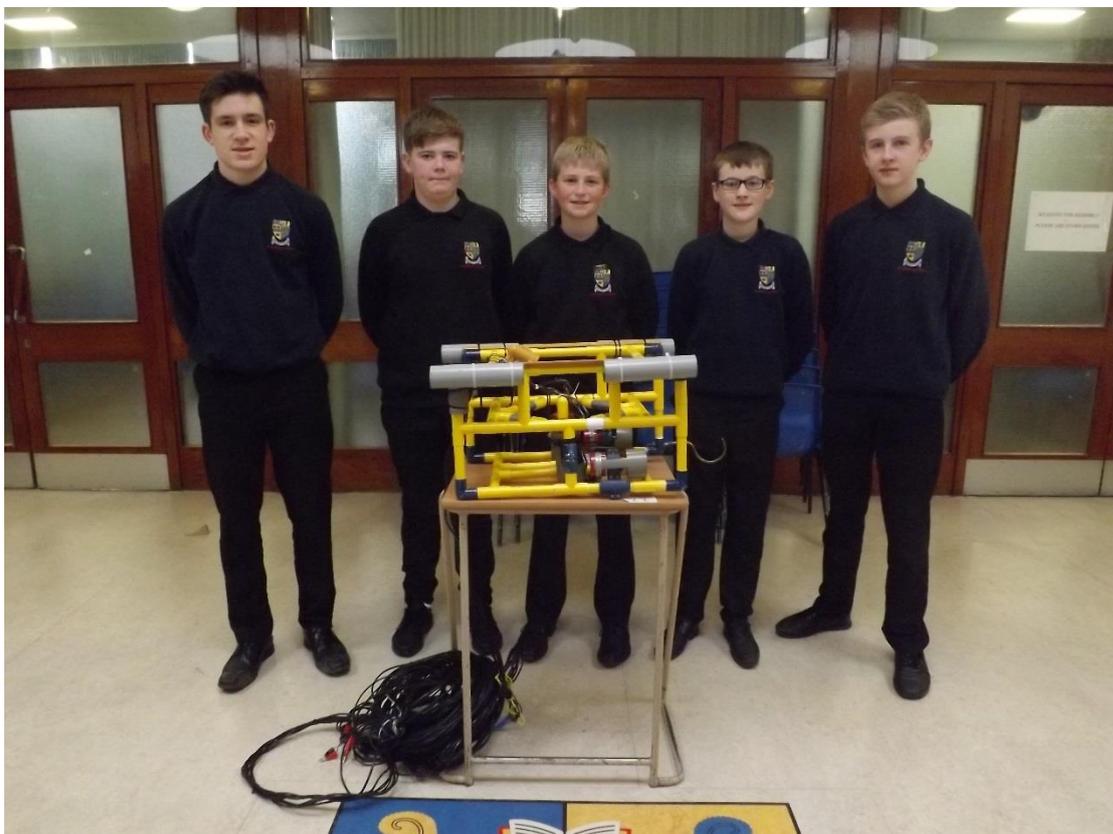
Your support in encouraging other community members to help us out is appreciated.



## ROV

In the recent MATE (ROV) competition held at Robert Gordon University the Inverurie team headed by Benjamin Tribe & Shaun McCabe ably assisted by Lewis Scott, Daniel Stewart & Bruce Geddes had problems with their ROV on arrival at the RGU. After securing some replacement parts the boys reconstructed the camera unit successfully. The teamwork that the boys showed at the start of competition impressed the judges so much the boys won the teamwork of the year award.

Mr McGinnes  
Technical Vocation Education





33 pupils from the current S2 achieved their Discovery John Muir Award this term.

What is the JMA? The JM award focuses on recognising and promoting our wild environment.

To achieve the award the pupils spent the equivalent of 4 days producing a portfolio of work which included:-

A facebook timeline for John Muir born Dunbar Scotland

A Wild area presentation



Bug, Lichen & Tree surveys some contributing to national surveys



Produced a corridor display



Made a bug hotel and wildlife area



## **School Dress Code/Uniform - School Year 2017/18**

As you know, next year will be an historic year for uniform at Inverurie Academy. Over the course of the year the Uniform Group will carry out a very exciting project which will result in a new uniform for the Academy. The group will be meeting regularly after the summer and will be based in room 51/52 in the Creative arts faculty. If you have an opinion about what the new uniform should look like or are interested in fashion, business, marketing or events management as a career then this would be a great opportunity to build your CV. Hope to see you all there.

In order to help prepare the school for the new Uniform there will be some changes to the school dress code starting after the summer.

### **S5/S6**

We offered senior pupils the opportunity to lead the way towards the new uniform by wearing a shirt and tie after summer. In April this year senior pupils voted on this idea in assemblies.

Of 195 pupils polled:

Yes – 143 (73%)

No – 52 (27%)

Therefore after the summer the Dress code for S5/6 Pupils at Inverurie Academy will be:

- White dress shirt and navy blue school tie.
- Black trousers/Skirt
- Black footwear
- As the weather becomes colder a plain black v neck sweater or black cardigan would be acceptable uniform

### **S4**

S4 pupils were also given a vote regarding the adoption of shirts and ties as the dress code for S4.

Of 142 pupils polled:

No = 73 (51%)

Yes = 69 (49%)

Therefore the S4 dress code will remain the same after the summer. However, large numbers of S4 pupils have been asking if they can wear a shirt and tie should they wish to. We are happy to respect the wishes of any S4 pupil who would like to be associated with the senior school by wearing a shirt and tie after the summer. If any S4 pupil wishes to collect a free school tie they should see me in my office at any time.

After the summer the Dress code for S4 Pupils at Inverurie Academy will be:

- Top half = school jumpers or Polos.
- As an alternative any pupil who wishes to identify with the senior school may wear a white dress shirt and school tie
- Bottom half = Black trousers or skirt
- Black footwear

### **S1/S3**

School uniform remains the same as 2016/17

- Top half = School jumpers or Polos
- Bottom half = Black trousers or skirt
- Black footwear

### **Jumpers and Jackets**

After the summer holidays non-school jumpers/hoodies and jackets will not be allowed in Inverurie Academy. They must be removed at the door and either put away in school bags or carried. There are two reasons for this:

- 1) Non-school jumpers and hoodies are not part of the school uniform. A jumper option is provided in in S1-4 and senior pupils may wear a black v-neck jumper or a cardigan. There is no need for an additional non-school jumper to be worn.
- 2) For security reasons, staff at Inverurie must be quickly able to identify any person who should not be in the building. This becomes extremely difficult if pupils are commonly wearing non-school jumpers or hoodies.

If you have any questions regarding uniform please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.

Yours sincerely  
Craig Paterson  
Depute Rector

## Dates For Your Diary

WEEK 1	<b>Term 1</b>	
21.08.17	Monday	INSERVICE DAY
22.08.17	Tuesday	Students Return
WEEK 2	Profiling Introduction to S1-S3 Students via PSE - 28 08.17 to 01.09.17	
WEEK 3	House Assembly Week (Captain & Prefect Introductions), House Council Meeting Week, Start of Work Experience Week (S4-S6)	
07.09.17	Thursday	Royal Navy - S4 Experience
WEEK 4		
12.09.17	Tuesday	(Lunchtime) School Council Meeting Parent Council Meeting I - <i>AGM / Attainment</i> (18.30 - 20.30)
13.09.17	Wednesday	Planned Fire Drill
14.09.17	Thursday	S4-S6 Annual Data Check Forms Home S3 Geography Field Trip (Upper Don Valley)
15.09.17	Friday	Extra-Curricular Clubs Fair
WEEK 5	S4/S6 Mentoring Week 1	
20.09.17	Wednesday	Photographer - S1, S3, S4 Higher Geography Field Trip (Collieston / Balmedie / Aberdeen)
21.09.17	Thursday	AH Biology Students Trip Bennachie
WEEK 6		
27.09.17	Wednesday	Higher Education Convention (Evening) <i>Provisional</i>
28.09.17	Thursday	S1-S3 Annual Data Check Forms Home S3 Geography Field Trip (Lower Don Valley)
WEEK 7	House Assembly Week, House Council Meeting Week	
04.10.17	Wednesday	Tree of Knowledge (S5)
05.10.17	Thursday	Tree of Knowledge (S6)
06.10.17	Friday	S3 Tracking Reports Issued to Parents
WEEK 8		
13.10.17	Friday	End of term
		<b>Term 2 Commences Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>

HAVE A

