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Ref: **MJ/SS**

1 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

A Curriculum Model for Ambition and Inclusion

At Inverurie Academy, we are determined to create a curricular experience for students that is ambitious, inclusive, and also reflects our local context. Based on this simple rationale, we have been working with groups of stakeholders from all parts of the school community to create a new curriculum model. Over the past two months, we have met with:-

- Focus Groups of Students from S1 – S6
- Parent Council
- Staff Team and Quality Improvement Project Group
- Staff Extended Leadership Team
- Head Teachers from Cluster Primary Schools
- Local Business Representatives

All of these groups have responded positively to our plans and I am now in a position to confirm that we will be moving to our new curriculum model and the transition process will start in January 2018.

Engagement Events



There are two key Parent Information Evening dates that will provide an opportunity for you to hear fully about the detail and implications of this new curriculum:-

- 29 January 2018 (18.30) S3 into the Senior Phase
- 6 February 2018 (18.30) S2 into S3

(Although both evenings have a particular year-group focus, any parent is more than welcome to attend.)

Key Features of our Curriculum Model

The new curriculum model has the following key features:-

-  S1 and S2 students will experience coverage across all curricular areas in the Broad General Education by the end of S2. During this time, S1 and S2 students will continue to experience learning across all curricular areas.
-  At the end of S2, students will choose seven subjects (English, Maths and five additional subjects). They would continue to experience core provision of PE, RMPS and PSHE.

- During June to December in S3, students will experience a skills-based course that will be the culmination of the Broad General Education and provide the necessary skills as students enter the Senior Phase.
- S3 students will have an opportunity to develop their 'S3 Profile' during this June to December phase. As a result of this opportunity to review their progress and consider how their skills link into their future career plans, there may be a small number of students who wish to amend their course choice before starting National Qualifications. They will be given the opportunity to do so during November and December of S3.
- In January of S3, students will start their National Qualifications in the seven subjects that were chosen at the end of S2.
- During S4, there may be an opportunity for some students to replace one of their subject columns with a work experience placement for the full session. Other students, for whom English and Maths are a challenge, will be guided towards an option to experience additional time in these subjects at the expense of a seventh subject.

When will this happen?

Having decided that this new curriculum model represents the right next step for Inverurie Academy, we are looking to introduce the following changes during this academic year:-

- Current S2 students, instead of the existing personalisation process, will choose seven subjects (including English and Maths) when they make their choices by 23 March 2018.
- For current S3, class teachers will begin teaching more explicitly to the National Courses between January and May. S3 students will then make seven rather than six choices by 28 February 2018 (a group of students may choose work experience and/or literacy and numeracy support instead of certain courses).

Next Steps

I would encourage you to take the opportunity to join us for one of the two information evenings in January and February 2018. If you have questions that arise before these information evening events, I have identified two optional Parent Drop-In sessions where you are most welcome to sign-up and come in to school to meet with senior staff.

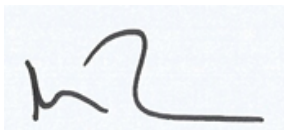
Parent Drop-In Event 1 – Thursday, 7 December 2017 - 16.00 – 17.00

<http://bit.ly/ParentDropIn1>

Parent Drop-In Event 2 – Thursday, 14 December 2017 - 16.00 – 17.00

<http://bit.ly/ParentDropIn2>

Yours faithfully



Mr M Jones
Head Teacher