**INVERURIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

**AGM 2020**

**Parent Council Report**

I’d like to thank the members of the Parent Council, the Academy’s Senior Leadership Team, the representatives of the Pupil Council, the local Councillors and all of our guests and members of the local community for your positive contributions to our Committee Meetings during the last year and for supporting our Quiz!

Some of our significant highlights have been:

* Continuing to share items of interest with parents/carers through our regular updates on Facebook - [Parent Forum Inverurie Academy](https://www.facebook.com/Parent-Forum-Inverurie-Academy-202246186630027/) and Twitter - [@InveruriePF](https://twitter.com/InveruriePF). Parents/carers can also contact the Parent Council at [inverurieacademypc@gmail.com](mailto:inverurieacademypc@gmail.com) to share their views and they can catch up with everything discussed at Parent Council meetings by reading our - [Minutes](http://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/minutes-notices/) – on the Parent Council’s section of the Academy’s website.
* Working with Mr Jones to agree a programme of [topics](http://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-council-information/) for his presentation at each Committee Meeting that will interest all parents/carers.
* Holding an amazingly successful fundraising Quiz Evening where we raised the fabulous total of £2,000 thanks to the generosity of parents, teachers and members of the community. This has been used to purchase a defibrillator for the benefit of all users of Inverurie Community Campus.
* Actively participating in the recruitment panels for Deputy Teachers throughout the year.
* Contributing our views on the priorities for the Academy’s Improvement Plan through the Core Values Survey.
* Representing parents/carers through discussions with the Managing Inspector as part of the Inspection process.
* Attending the P7 Induction Events and Parents Evenings throughout the year to chat to parents/carers about the Parent Council activities and encouraging them to become involved.
* Supporting the school’s online learning practices during lockdown, through feedback and discussion, and actively contributing views on the proposals for returning to school as the restrictions changed.
* Influencing a change to the Uniform Expectations for the length of school skirts on when students move to Inverurie Community Campus following concerns expressed by parents/carers.
* Discussed queries received from parents/carers regarding the impact of COVID-19 with Mr Jones and shared his responses on the Parent Council [section](http://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/minutes-notices/) of the Academy’s website.
* Successfully continuing to hold our planned programme of Parent Council meetings online.

We also welcomed members of the Senior Leadership Team along to our meetings and shared our views on a range of topics –

* Shona Lees from [MCR Pathways Aberdeenshire](https://mcrpathways.org/aberdeenshire/) and Ms Lynch who outlined the positive benefits students and Mentors gain from participating in the Motivation, Commitment and Resilience (MCR) Relationship Mentoring Programme. We supported this opportunity by publicising the Programme on Facebook and Twitter to encourage parents/carers to consider volunteering to become a Mentor.
* Mr Paterson who discussed the proposed changes to the Tracking and Reporting process, the options to change the format of Parents Evenings and the timing of January prelims.
* Mr Anderson who explained how parents/carers were going to be involved in the development of a refreshed Equalities Policy.
* Mr Anderson who shared the final details of the floor plans, teaching spaces and artwork commissioned for the new school building along with the access plans for community groups and provided additional information in answer to queries raised.

Looking forward to the current school year, the Parent Council are already planning to:

* Liaise with the Garioch Partnership to determine if we are eligible to apply for funding/grants to support the Academy.
* Actively engage in the consultation to review the Equalities Policy.
* Link up with the Catalyst Vineyard Church Inverurie to support their Preloved Uniforms initiative and seek to involve the Academy’s Eco Group.
* Continue our active involvement in the Inspection process.

Parent Council committee meetings are informal and a great opportunity to share your views with other parents, senior members of the teaching team, students and our local Councillors. The [dates](http://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-council-information/) for this year’s meetings are already posted on the website, so why not come along to the next one? Your Parent Council is looking forward to welcoming you!

**Elizabeth Watt**

September 2020