

Inverurie Academy

Summer Newsletter 2015

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2014-15 which reflects once more some of the amazing activities our pupils are involved in – and just how much of a credit they are to us, their school and to you, their parents/carers.

It's been an incredible term in many ways – with many highs and many challenges! Exam season has come and gone once more and we wait to see the results of all the hard work of pupils, along with the first class support offered by their teachers, reflected in the results in August. We have celebrated many successes this term from our long anticipated Music tour to Italy through to our own prizegiving ceremony. Pupil participation in national and local competitions of all sorts has been high and all have done very well indeed – some of whom have written about their experiences here. Pupils continue to work hard, and in most cases not only meet our expectations for behaviour and commitment –but exceed them. We have faced an unwanted challenge of our Management Information System failing at a critical point in moving timetables and we have been working with the national company to track down why we had such data losses. However, the patience and understanding of pupils, staff and parents effected by this was much appreciated and the national support team are working hard to identify why we were one of six schools across Scotland effected in this way. It seems our traditional motto continues to be upheld in the present day – the Sprit within sustains!

We close the term by bidding farewell to some staff here at the Academy who are heading to pastures new of all sorts. We say goodbye and thanks to Ms Burns in Technical who is re-locating as is Mr Rae in Humanities. Miss Dods in English and Ms McDougall in Business are also moving on to pastures new. Mrs McQuaker in Drama has moved to a new post as we mentioned at the summer concert, as has Miss Wilson in Home Economics. Miss Conn has finished her year here in Music as has Ms MacDougall in Business and IT. Mrs Cochrane has also decided not to return here after her maternity leave. We wish Mr Allardyce well who has been with us a short time in PE and will be moving to a permanent position. Lastly Miss Menzies who joined us as Depute at the start of this session will be moving to Turriff as the new Rector of the Academy there. We wish all our colleagues moving on happiness and success.

We also have a number of staff who have reached that time when a new adventure in life beckons after many years of fabulous service to both this school and to Education. Mrs McBoyle in Business and IT, Mr Hayes in Maths, our Admin Assistant Mrs Skinner and the mighty trio from Support for Learners Faculty Mrs Hayes , Mrs Ives and Mrs Morrice. All of these staff have made wonderful contributions to the lives and education of the children here in the Academy for many years and we wish them well in their long and happy retirement from the profession.

Lastly, as the sun begins to shine on us for what I hope is a decent long spell of proper summer weather may I wish you and your family the best of summer breaks and time to spend with families, friends and loved ones in the coming weeks.

Linda Evans
Rector

ART TRIP TO LEITH HALL

Leith Hall Garden and Estate has long been an inspiration for artists from all walks of life. Most recently, it has inspired the Higher and Advanced Higher Art class of Inverurie Academy, who visited it on a school trip on Wednesday the 24th of June. This was the second year in a row the senior art pupils visited the estate, and it definitely didn't disappoint!

On the day of the trip, we left school first thing in the morning and arrived by bus at Leith Hall, where our tour guides were waiting. Then we received an in-depth tour of the house, visiting all the different areas and learning about the many items of furniture, photographs and works of art on display. We also got to know the fascinating history of the house, which even included reports of ghosts haunting the building!

After the tour, we went out to the beautiful surrounding gardens, which contained a vast array of trees, bushes and flowers. Whilst outside, we stopped by the Moongate, which was a rare and striking Chinese design, and also the recently rebuilt Rock Garden, which was originally designed in the 1900s and had been reconstructed using photographs. Then we visited the pond and the old church yard, taking photos along the way.

The trip turned out to be a great success, providing a huge amount of inspiration for the visiting art pupils and being a fun and informative day out!

.....**Jessica Smith S5**



THE BLYTHEWOOD PROJECT

A small group of us volunteered to become part of the Blythewood project which involved monthly visits to the Blythewood Care Home to speak with some of the residents and become a friendly face as they prepared to move to their new facility 'Bennachie View', on the other side of Inverurie. We went with our teachers, Mrs Campbell and Miss Conn after school on Tuesdays and we were asked to do this project because some of the residents had lived at Blythewood for a very long time and it is difficult for them to leave their usual surroundings and routines.

We shared stories about school, holidays and festivals and it was interesting to hear how things have changed. We brought some of our electronic games and I also brought a toy which squirted water at an unsuspecting Mrs Campbell much to everyone's delight. Miss Conn always brought her fiddle and the residents loved to sing along. We also did some work with the artist-in-residence who was preparing a time capsule which will be buried in the new facility and opened in 100 years' time.

We made very good relationships with a lot of the residents, they were always on the lookout for us on the days they knew we were coming and they always gave us a very warm welcome.

I personally got to know a lady called Mrs Edith Sinclair very well. Later on I was talking to my dad about Edith and it turned out that my dad was best friends with her son at primary school.

I am looking forward to meeting the residents again, once they have moved into Bennachie View.

I found this project very interesting and it has taught me a lot of very valuable lessons.

Holly Stuart (S1)

Business\School Links

Would your company or organisation be interested in developing business\curricular links with Inverurie Academy? If so please contact Mr Maciver, our Faculty Head of Technical and Vocational Skills by email on iain.maciver@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**Mr Maciver**

COMPUTERS AND COMPUTING ARE THE FUTURE!

Starting in a PC lab near you early in the new term – The Computing Society. Open to S3 to S6, we will be focusing on creating inventive solutions to interesting problems. Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and computers pretending to be humans are all topics on our agenda. All that is missing is you! See Mrs Ogston or Mr Blackburn early in the new school year if you are interested; there are limited places in the society, so registering early is a must!.....**Mr Blackburn**

INVERURIE ACADEMY NEW SCHOOL CAPTAINS - WELCOME

This article is to introduce ourselves as the new team of School Captains and Vice Captains for this new school year. For this session, Greg Taylor and Rhianne Ross will be serving as the School Captains, with David Thomson and Sarah Angus fulfilling the positions of Vice Captains. We all feel very privileged and honoured to have been selected for the roles, and we collectively look forward to representing the school and facing the tasks ahead as a team.

The School Captains for the previous session helped to enhance the school environment and set a very high standard, which we hope to match and aim to exceed. Our roles within the school include chairing School Council meetings, representing the school at a variety of events, attending other meetings such as the Parent Council meetings and helping to organise Prefects for events such as Parents' Evenings and the Careers Evenings. The forthcoming year is one of excitement and opportunity for both ourselves and our fellow students, and we believe we are prepared and passionate about these challenges and hope to make the most of our final year at the school.

With thanks from the new School Captain Team: **Greg Taylor, Rhianne Ross, David Thomson and Sarah Angus**

DRIVING AMBITION

On Monday 22nd June and Tuesday 23rd June all S6 pupils took part in an exciting and informative day of various activities and presentations given by Driving Ambition. Throughout the day Driving Ambition highlighted the message about how important it is to stay safe behind the wheel, which is very important to the S6 pupils as many of them are currently learning to drive or will be in the near future.

The day started with a video in the assembly hall of a girl using her mobile phone whilst driving which resulted in a serious collision, killing four people. This showed the S6 pupils how serious the consequences can be if you are not fully focused while driving, which helped lead on to the other activities which took place throughout the day.

One of the activities was using goggles which distorted our vision, as if we were drunk, and testing our reaction time. This activity was to raise awareness as to how difficult it is to carry out simple every day activities whilst under the influence of alcohol. Other activities included an hour long session with a medical student teaching basic first aid skills such as CPR, which might come in useful if you were to ever come across someone who had been involved in a crash on the road. S6 pupils also learned about the skills needed in order to be a good driver and were given a presentation about important factors to look out for when buying a car.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and took away some very important messages, ranging from how to be safe on the road to basic first aid skills and, hopefully, when more S6 pupils can drive, they will be more aware of safety and be incredibly careful on the roads after receiving important information from Driving Ambition.....**School Captains**

MY GOLF THIS PAST YEAR.

About this time last year I started to take my golf to the next level. In August 2014 I went down to Linlithgow where I was going for trials to get into the Scottish Academy. About 2 months after this I got my letter with my results. I was so excited to see if I had got in, so when I opened it, it only took 2 seconds before I saw I was accepted. I am now representing the Scottish Golf Academy every time I play. So far this season I have played in a few Scottish events which gave me a bit more experience in bigger competitions. Recently I was away representing Inverurie Academy at the Scottish Schools Golf Championships hosted at Murrayshall Golf Club. I played to a good level but I did leave shots out there on the golf course. Anyway the winner played very well to shoot a total of 2 under par. My aim for golf is to become more competitive with the winners and win an event at that calibre. I can only get to this by playing in medals at Inch and Meldrum House and by putting hard work and determination into getting the best from me. My 2 recent medal scores have been 75 and 68 (1 under par). At the end of the year I want to be selected for the Scottish team to play England. This would be a great end to my year.

Cammy McArthur S5



INVERURIE ACADEMY SUMMER CONCERT

This year, the pupils who partake in the extracurricular musical groups in school were given the amazing opportunity to perform their summer concert – which is usually performed in the school hall – in the Inverurie Town Hall. This included groups such as Concert Band; Orchestra; Singers; Italy Choir; Brass Ensemble; Celtacad; Chromatics; Highland Dancers and pipes and drums.

After hours upon hours of time dedicated to rehearsals and perfecting the outstanding performances put in by both the musicians and the teachers finally, we arrived at the Town Hall on the morning of the 20th of May. Everyone was jittery with excitement with the prospect of performing in a new and exciting environment (however, I'm sure that the realisation that we were also missing a day of school to do something we all immensely enjoyed also added to our level of excitement). Throughout the day we practised each section, tying up any loose ends so that we could so we could perfect it for the upcoming performance.

As the night drew near, both nerves and anticipation filled us as we awaited to enter the hall. Once in (at least for myself) all of my nerves seemed to vanish and I felt elated preparing to perform as it truly felt like all of our hard work had paid off. The concert went fantastically; all the musicians played extraordinarily; the highland dancers danced angelically; the singers sang beautifully; and the audience was filled with incredibly supportive friends, family and teachers. Which when it all came together, made for a truly fantastic evening.

Overall I am certain that the concert was a great success and was an opportunity that was appreciated by all of the talented individuals involved. It really prepared those of us headed off to Italy for what lied ahead and was a great send off. Of course, we could not have done any of this without the outstanding work of the dedicated teachers that often goes unnoticed. The degree of work they put in is overwhelming but it really pays off when you see treasured evenings such as these go so seamlessly. So I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, for making that night one to remember and for the incredible opportunities given to us that do not go unnoticed... Now who's excited for the Christmas concert!.....**Caitlin O Shaughnessy S5**



ITALY 2015 MUSICIANS PERFORM THAINSTONE HOUSE HOTEL

On the 31st May Inverurie Academy had the great privilege of performing at Thainstone house hotel. The purpose of the performance was to have a final farewell concert before heading out to Italy with the Italy performers. Friends and Family were invited and I think it's fair to say we were all over whelmed by the turn out of supporters.

It was important for us to make this final concert a casual event in order to make our audience feel as comfortable as possible. We achieved this by showing off to our supporters with an afternoon of great music and cream teas which were very kindly provided by Thainstone house hotel. It's fair to say the whole event was a great success, thanks to the music from the Concert Band, Celtecad, the a cappella group, pipes and drums and the Italy choir. But of course, none of this would have been possible without our amazing conductors.

For months on end all of the performers were desperate to find out what colours the hoodies were going to be. And finally we found out at the last parents evening held in the school canteen. They were a bright blue, and of course we got the opportunity to model them at Thainstone to show friends and family how nice they looked. This made the last concert that little bit more special, knowing that the next time we would be wearing these hoodies would be in Italy, while playing to a completely different audience. It was all very exciting and overwhelming.

It's important to thank Thainstone for helping us out along the way because without their help, making this Italy trip possible would have proven to be a lot harder. Everyone thought Italy was amazing, and it will be an experience that will never be forgotten.

Rebecca Fyfe S6



MUSIC TOUR 2015, LAKE GARDA ITALY

From the 8th to the 12th of June, 47 of Inverurie Academy's finest musicians had the experience of a lifetime, travelling to Italy alongside their peers and having the opportunity to perform to live audiences of locals and tourists. The whole tour was very action packed, with little time to spare. On day one, we were given a few hours to relax by the pool before setting off to Verona to visit Juliette's balcony and the famous Verona Arena. The group played two concerts on day one dressed in polo shirts donated to us by our sponsors Clan Cool, the first in a retirement home and the second in a holiday camp, the atmosphere in both was fantastic and our efforts were greatly appreciated by the audiences. Even the rain didn't stop people coming out of their caravans to view the performance. On Wednesday we spent the morning into the early afternoon in Gardaland, Italy's largest theme park, this was a great experience for everyone (even those who didn't do the rollercoaster's). We performed our third and final concert on second day wearing our Crerar polo shirts, this was held in the square in the town of Lazise.

The reception we received here was by far the best of the three concerts. It was a very emotional night as it was the last time the sixth year pupils would play in a school concert. Thursday was our last day before travelling home, we spent the day in Venice. On arriving in Venice, we went to see St. Mark's square, where we saw the church in which the famous composer Antonio Vivaldi played. In Venice we were rewarded for all of our hard work whilst fundraising and preparing for the trip, we were taken for lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe and then we went on a gondola tour of the beautiful city of Venice. The group left Venice around 5pm and got served an evening meal at the hotel before playing a few games of 'deluxe' bingo, and receiving awards and certificates for our achievements whilst on the trip, these achievements were for things such as 'The towel ate my swimsuit' and 'Fanfare King and Queen'. Time was also taken at this point to say goodbye to the sixth years that won't be rejoining us after summer and to wish them well for the future. Returning to home on the Friday evening, everyone involved needed a well-deserved rest, before returning to school the following Monday. I am sure that everyone enjoyed the trip as much as I did, and would like to join me in thanking everyone involved for making such a fabulous experience possible.

Jordan Ramsay S6



MESSAGE FROM THE PARENT/COUNCIL

Inverurie Academy Parents Council are looking forward to a busy school year ahead and playing its part in the consultation about the proposed new school, it is looking for parents/carers to get actively involved in what will be one of the biggest issues facing Garioch school children. The next PC meeting is set for 7pm on Wednesday 2nd September in Meeting Room – at the academy.

Mr N Skene, Parent Council

A UNIFORM TO BE PROUD OF

We believe that our students identify with the Academy by being proud to wear our school uniform. We welcome the support of parents and carers to ensure that our students have a smart appearance within the Academy and when they are out and about in the community. We are very pleased to report that our students are wearing uniform each day – we do check during registration and throughout the day and as students enter the hall for their morning assembly each week. Please consult the school website

<http://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk> – Parents Area tab – General Information – Uniform, for a full description of the uniform. We have noticed a small number of students not wearing school uniform footwear. Footwear should be plain black this includes shoes, trainers or boots, exceptions will be made in very inclement weather. Blazers (optional for S4-6 students) were introduced to the uniform as a result of our regular review. Inverurie Academy Crests can be sewn on to a black blazer of choice for those who wish to wear one. These will be available for purchase from the school office next term.

Ms L Evans, Rector

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Following on from Branching Out's previous achievements, Top Glass was this year's group of 'budding entrepreneurs that were striving for successes. Having signed up to Young Enterprise at the start of the year completely unaware of the commitment that was required, the company members were pushed to their limits in order to achieve what they have done. In addition to the intensity of producing and selling the popular 'serving plate', Top Glass had to focus on the preparation of a Trade Stand, Business Report, Presentation and Interviews for both the Grampian and National Young Enterprise finals; all of which contributed to the company being awarded several prizes. As the Managing Director of the company, I was tasked with various duties ranging from solving HR issues to actually getting my hands dirty to create products. However, our tenacity and perseverance paid off as we were credited with the following awards: Best Trade Stand, QTS Innovation Award, 2nd Best Presentation and 2nd Best Managing Director of the Year.

After reflecting on the experience, each company member is able to identify what they have learned from Young Enterprise. Personally, my involvement has opened up a range of possibilities and allowed me to connect with real business people, giving me a “new-found” confidence. An example of this would be the Elevator Challenge which I took part in recently, allowing me to meet a large number of entrepreneurs and business-minded young people. Nevertheless, our success would be non-existent if it wasn’t for the hugely appreciated help and support of Evelyn Morrice- our business advisor- and Mrs Taylor- our Link Teacher. Acting as parental figures throughout the process, the two offered their time, skills and experience to each of the companies of which we are whole-heartedly thankful for.

Michael Watson S6



Dates for Diary

Mon 17 Aug	In - Service
Tues 18 Aug	Pupils - Term 1
Fri 21 Aug	Edinburgh Fringe Trip
Mon 31 Aug	Start of Work Experience Week S4-S6
Tues 01 Sept	University of Aberdeen Open Day
Wed 09 Sept	Geography Fieldtrip 1 (S3)
Thur 17 Sept	School Photographer (S1/S3/S4) Higher Geography Field trip(S5/S6)
Fri 18 Sept	Drama Theatre Workshop/Performance (from 10.30-Dundee)
Wed 23 Sept	Castle Fraser Music Evening 7.30pm
Mon 28 Sept	Geography Fieldtrip 2 (S3)
Tues 29 Sept	S4/S5/S6 Interim Reports issued
Wed 07 Oct	The Robert Gordon University Open day. AH History tutorial PM (Aberdeen University) S6 pupils

OCTOBER HOLIDAYS : Monday 12 October - Friday 24 October

