

Dear Parent/Carer

September 2021 Update

As we reach nearly a month back in school, I am keen to ensure you have an update on some important areas of school life. Please find below a contents table to help you to access the information you need quickly.

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COVID-19

As a school, we continue to have in place all of the usual mitigations that would have been evident towards the end of 2020-21: face coverings; a one-way system; regular hand-gel stations and well-ventilated spaces throughout the Campus. The infection rates in Scotland have increased considerably over the last month and I wanted to highlight to you the importance of LFD testing for young people and staff as part of our 'early warning system' at the Academy. Not only is it important that testing takes place, but it is also important that we record the results of the tests to ensure that the Scottish Government and NHS have a good understanding of the big picture. At a Parent Council in June, parents and carers highlighted the importance of not having a Head Teacher who nags – so this is less of a nag, and more of a continued encouragement!! ... and a further encouragement that if your young person needs to have a PCR test, please let us know and update us with the result when it is available!

S1 Students at Lunchtime


Our advice and encouragement for all young people is that our Campus offers great access for seating, for eating and for supervision at breaks and lunches. However, a section of our school community do like to go into Inverurie to get lunch and we understand this. From Monday 13th September, our S1's will now be permitted to do this.

It would be great if you could remind all students, and particularly S1's, that hot fast-food is not permitted back into the Campus and should be consumed where it is purchased. Please also remind young people in your family that when they access shops in the local community, they have an opportunity to demonstrate respect and reflect well on their families and their school.

Strengthening Families

COVID-19 has placed additional strain on families and relationships over the past two years and I suspect we have all seen this to a degree in our own settings. Recently I met with colleagues from Community Learning & Development who are keen to support the Inverurie Cluster to run a *Strengthening Families* programme to help us ensure that we continue to keep our family relationships healthy. This is aimed towards families with students in P6-S2 and offers input

both to parents/carers and to young people. The programme will run after the October Holidays on a series of four or five week-day evenings. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact your House Head / Guidance Teacher in the first instance.



INVERURIE CLUSTER

About the course...
 A programme to encourage and facilitate better family communication and relationships.
 Based on showing love while setting limits, focusing on using clear boundaries and fair consequences.
 Aimed at families where there are the beginnings of strains on relationships between adults and young people in the family.
 4-week course that all family members are encouraged to attend.
To run after the October Holidays 2021

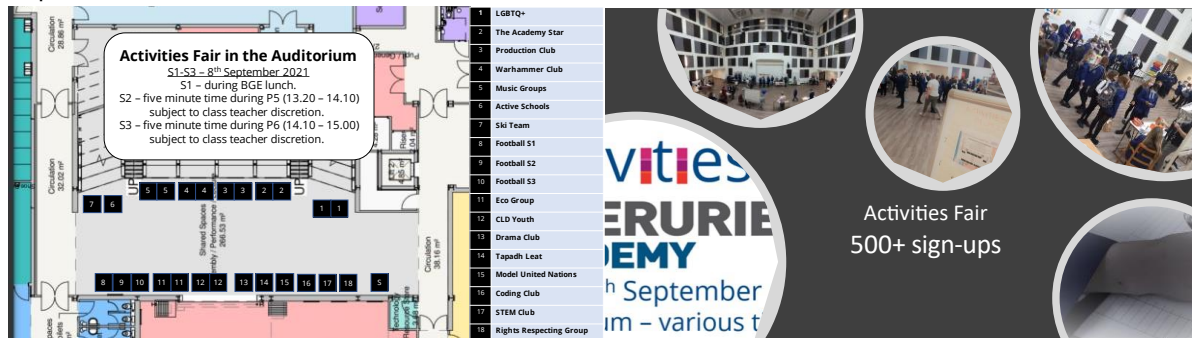
Community Learning and Development
 Changing Lives Strengthening Communities

Aberdeenshire Council
 Education and Children's Services
 Community Learning and Development

Interested? Speak to your School / Guidance Teacher for further information...

BGE Activities Fair

Inverurie Academy has been well known for running large numbers of activities and groups for students. However, extra-curricular activity ceased almost completely in session 2020-21 and we all suffered as a result. As part of our cautious return to normalisation, an Activities Fair was held for S1-S3 over the course of Wednesday 8th September, with over 20 different groups publicised. We had well over 500 sign-ups during the day and the plan will now be to introduce activities during the course of this term. A similar event for S4-S6 is planned for Wednesday 15th September.



Activities Fair in the Auditorium
 S1-S3 - 8th September 2021
 S1 - during BGE lunch
 S2 - five minute time during P5 (13.20 - 14.10) subject to class teacher discretion.
 S3 - five minute time during P6 (14.10 - 15.00) subject to class teacher discretion.

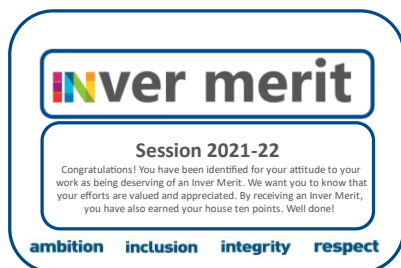
- 1 LGBTQ+
- 2 The Academy Star
- 3 Production Club
- 4 Warhammer Club
- 5 Music Groups
- 6 Active Schools
- 7 Ski Team
- 8 Football S1
- 9 Football S2
- 10 Football S3
- 11 Eco Group
- 12 CLD Youth
- 13 Drama Club
- 14 Tapadh Leat
- 15 Model United Nations
- 16 Coding Club
- 17 STEM Club
- 18 Rights Respecting Group

Activities Fair
 500+ sign-ups

8th September
 various t

Inver Merit Awards

You may have noticed that we have Merit Weeks at regular intervals in the school calendar (found [here](#)). Our first Merit Week resulted in **233** students being recognised for an Inver Merit across our six year-groups. Well done to those who received a merit this time round and an encouragement to those who didn't to get one the next time round!



inver merit

Session 2021-22

Congratulations! You have been identified for your attitude to your work as being deserving of an Inver Merit. We want you to know that your efforts are valued and appreciated. By receiving an Inver Merit, you have also earned your house ten points. Well done!

ambition inclusion integrity respect

**INVERURIE COMMUNITY CAMPUS
Phase 2 & 3 Construction Phase Update – 09.09.21**

As you are aware, completion of the final phases of the Inverurie Community Campus project have been delayed, initially due to the impact of the Covid shutdown and subsequently due to the discovery and removal of additional asbestos within the former Academy, Community Centre and Swimming Pool buildings. This has delayed the demolition of the buildings, and in turn the formation of the remaining car parking, bus park, all-weather sports facilities, and landscaping.

The revised programme milestone below, including completion of final parking and external sports facilities, were provided by DBFMCo and shared with project stakeholders in June.

ACTIVITY	Completion
Phase 2	
Demolition:	
Area 1 – Swimming Pool & Community Centre	July '21
Area 2 – West Section of Academy	August '21
Area 3 – East Section of Academy	February '22
Area 4 – Games Halls & Non-Linked Accommodation	October '21
Campus Bus Park & Car Park Extension	November '21
Phase 3	
All Weather Pitches	March '22
Amphitheatre & Victoria Park Area Landscaping	April '22
Alterations to Victoria Car Park	December '21

Asbestos removal is on-going within areas still to be demolished and we have requested and await an updated programme from DBFMCo, which once received will inform a further update to all project stakeholders.

It is however positive to see visible demolition, which has allowed the contractor to widen the Campus access and improve general visibility in this area.

During these final phases of construction, the Campus will continue to operate without its full car parking allocation, until the new bus park and final car parking spaces are completed within the Campus site, and the final spaces are formed within the Victoria Park car park, following removal of the temporary bus park. The current on-site campus parking is supplemented by spaces in the Victoria Park car park, along with additional free parking available at Gordon House, on Blackhall Road, a short 10-minute walk away.

The project team appreciate the patience and understanding of Campus users while the final phases of the project are completed.

John Macleod
Project Manager – Property & Facilities Management

Flu Vaccinations - Delay to w/c 4th October 2021

We would like to update you that our allocated student Flu Vaccination dates have been rescheduled to now take place week commencing 4th October.

We are awaiting further information regarding dates for specific year groups from the NHS Vaccination Team. All consent forms returned to us have been passed on to the Vaccination Team for their scheduling.