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October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

It is hard to believe that I am once again writing an end of term update to you all. This term, like so many others, has passed so quickly.

Looking back to August I am delighted to inform you that our SQA Results 2022 were once again a success with improvements in all the main categories. Congratulations must go to our students along with a huge thank you to you for your continued support to ensure that our young people have the best possible opportunities to be successful. I would also like to thank the school staff for everything they did to ensure that the return to formal examinations was a successful one. The task now as a school community is to continue to improve year on year. We have upgraded our Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting system this year along with introducing a new Attainment Action Plan system (AAP), which will allow staff to send out individual attainment plans to specific S4, S5 and S6 students who may not be achieving their target grade in their Tracking Report. Work on reviewing our Junior Phase curriculum will also begin this session.

We were delighted to welcome back Mrs Stephanie Hutcheson to our Modern Languages faculty in September. Also starting with us this term has been Mrs Catherine Smart who has joined the Maths Faculty and Mrs Katie Meldrum who has joined the English faculty. I am sure you all want to share with me in welcoming Mrs Hutcheson, Mrs Smart and Mrs Meldrum to Inverurie Academy. Mrs Rebeca Lopez has been appointed to the new post of Principal Teacher of Pupils Development, a new and exciting post for the school and will start her new post on our return from the October break. I am also pleased to inform you that Mr Struan Gardner has been appointed Depute Head Teacher. Mr Gardner will be joining the Senior Leadership Team from the November In-Service Days. Mr Gardner is currently a Depute Head Teacher at Alford Academy and will become Year Head for S1. Mrs O'Connor will be going on Maternity Leave soon and Mrs Milne (4 days a week) and Miss Taylor (1 day a week) have been appointed Acting DHTs to cover Mrs O'Connor's leave. Mrs Milne and Miss Taylor will take over Year Head of S2.

We say goodbye and wish future success to Mr Duncan Barclay who is leaving us to take up a permanent Principal Teacher of Guidance role in an Aberdeenshire school. Mr Barclay has been at Inverurie for 4 years as a Physics Teacher and then Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance for Crichton House.

Once again, we have had so many pupils excel in various activities: congratulations to Oscar Chirside (S4) who was recently recognised as the best junior open water swimmer for 2022 at the Scottish Swimming awards dinner.

Well done also to:

Jessica Christie (S3) has been selected for the North of Scotland Under 15 Football Squad. Dionne Rae (S6) who finished runner up at the recent Granite City Championship (Highland Dancing).

All our road relay teams who competed extremely well to win the overall NASSA Road Race Championship.

Our talented musicians, Tia Morrison (S5), Alice Coutts (S3), Erin Hulme (S5), Kirsty Maclachlan (S5), Natasha Drysdale (S5) and Catriona Harthill (S3) who took part in the Song for Haddo Evening in partnership with members of the Orchestra of Scottish Opera. Our Ski Team consisting of Charlie Lumsden (S2), Archie Geddes (S2), Blair Lindsay (S2), Hannah Girdwood (S2), Eilidh Swanston (S2), Ben Girdwood (S2), Euan Bruce (S2) and Archie Helme (S2) who won silver and bronze in the SSSA Autumn Dual Slalom.

Congratulations must go to our Inverurie Staff Team, #inverbeasties who successfully completed the Banchory Beast Race and raised £2,225 for CLAN.



On Friday 30th September we were delighted to celebrate the "Time for Me" programme with some of our students doing an incredible job sharing their experiences with Gillian Martin MSP, SAMH staff and the generous funders The Cooperative. Later that morning members of our charities committee presented SAMH with a cheque raised from our summer dress down day.

Pre-order your lunch via the Fusion Mobile App

Our pupils can order lunch straight from a mobile phone and simply pick it up from a designated collection point at lunchtime. Pupils should only be using this method to pre-order lunch. Please note that the Fusion Mobile App works alongside the normal service and all academies will also be providing counter service as normal. The mobile App is not a replacement service.

On-boarding codes to access the Fusion App are sent to pupils when starting at the Academy or can be obtained by e-mailing ECSImpactPayQueries@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Parents Portal

In support of Aberdeenshire Council's ambition to offer more digital services to its residents, Aberdeenshire primary and secondary schools are rolling out a new national online service called **parentsportal.scot**. This is designed to replace the paper 'schoolbag run', giving a child's registered main contact access to a range of school-related online services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At the heart of the system, is a secure account through **mygov.scot**, which is referred to as 'My Account' or 'MyAberdeenshire' account. 'MyAberdeenshire' is already used to allow parents/carers to make online payments for school meals or receive notifications if a school closes unexpectedly. **Parentsportal.scot** and 'MyAberdeenshire'/**mygov.scot** will work together, making this a convenient one-stop-shop, to access all Aberdeenshire digital services.

Initially, **parentsportal.scot** will introduce basic information about our school and will allow a child's main contact to:-

- make a link to your child(ren)
- complete the annual data check process electronically
- update your own as well as your child(ren)'s details at any time
- access online school meal payments (iPayImpact)

Please note that as Pupil Progress Reports will be sent out using Parent Portal, it is crucial that you sign up, if you have not already done so.

How do I sign up? - If you already have a **myAberdeenshire** account to pay for school meals through (iPayImpact), you can sign up with **parentsportal.scot** at <https://parentsportal.scot/home/> You **do not need** to set up a new **mygov.scot** account; the same access details can be used.

If you do not have a **myAberdeenshire** account or are looking for more information and videos on how to access to **parentsportal.scot**, please go to <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

As we slowly return to the new normal, I am pleased to be able to share with you our current extra curricular timetable:

AGE GROUP	CLUB/GROUP		DAY	TIME	LOCATION
All	Brass Group		Monday	12.50 – 13.20	F23
All	Celtacad		Monday	12.45 – 13.20	F24
All	Eco Committee		Monday	Lunchtime	S19
All	Tapadh Leat		Monday	Lunchtime	S18
All	Production Club		Monday	15.00 – 16.00	G08
All	Script Writing		Monday	Google Classroom	Code:67qntkt
S1 – S3	Junior Book Group		Monday	Lunchtime	Library
S4 – S6	Netball		Monday	After School	Games Hall
All	Film Club		Tuesday	Lunchtime	S12
All	Guitar & Ukulele Group		Tuesday	12.45 – 13.20	S24
All	Rights Respecting School Group		Tuesday	Lunchtime	S22
All	Drama Club		Tuesday	15.00 – 16.00	G07
All	Dungeons & Dragons Warhammer-Painting/Modelling		Tuesday	After School	F39
All	Rugby Training		Tuesday	15.10 – 16.15	Astro Turf
All	Code Club		Wednesday	Lunchtime	F31
S1 – S3	Volleyball		Wednesday	12.40 – 13.10	Sports Hall
S4 – S6	Senior Book Group		Wednesday	Lunchtime	Library
All	Concert Band		Thursday	12.45 – 13.20	F24
All	Lego Club		Thursday	Lunchtime	F31
All	The Academy Star		Thursday	Lunchtime	S06
S1 – S3	Badminton		Thursday	12.45 – 13.15	Sports Hall
S1 – S3	Science Club		Thursday - Starts 29/09 Fortnightly	Lunchtime	S33
S1 – S3	Netball		Thursday	After School	Sports Hall
All	Board Games		Friday 23.09/7.10/ 4.11/18.11.22	Lunchtime	Library
All	Craft Club		Friday 30.9/14.10/ 11.11.22	Lunchtime	Library
All	Dungeons & Dragons Warhammer Painting/Modelling		Friday	Lunchtime	F39
All	LGBTQ+ Group		Friday	Lunchtime	S11/S12
All	Percussion Ensemble		Friday	Lunchtime	F24
All	STEM Club		Friday	Lunchtime	G02

This year, the Charities Committee has teamed up with the Inverurie Rotary Club to help collect items for their annual "Christmas Shoebox Scheme". The scheme has been running for many years and provides household items and toys for people in Eastern Europe who would otherwise go without.

We would like to kindly ask for your support and donations to help us fill our school's shoeboxes for those in need. Those receiving boxes are split into four different categories and we would like to be able to fill boxes for each. Each register class will be able to choose who they are creating a box for and will be given a shoebox to fill between the class.

Donations can be handed in to register teachers and will be filled after the holidays. The latest date for handing in items is Friday 11th November so that we have time to collate the boxes before they are collected and delivered. Below is a list of suggested items but any donation, big or small, is more than appreciated. Thank you for helping us support this fantastic initiative. We look forward to seeing the finished boxes!

Suggested items:

Child boxes (boys and girls) - small fluffy toys, dolls, action figures, complete puzzles, play-doh or plasticine, balls, toy cars, pencils, crayons, pens, colouring books, pencil cases, stickers, yo-yos, notepads and other similar items.

Young people (under 18) - Hats, scarves, gloves, writing equipment, football memorabilia, playing cards, games, toothbrushes, toothpaste, jewellery, make-up, roll-on deodorants, hairbrushes, mirrors and similar items suitable for this age group.

Senior citizens and families - Hats, scarves, gloves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, wrapped soap, face/body creams, cosmetic items, bandages, sewing kits, writing equipment, sponges or scourers, tealights, candles and similar items.

Baby (up to 1 year) - Baby wipes, cotton buds, baby oil, baby shampoo, talcum powder, baby bonnets, booties, mittens, plastic rattles, small soft toys, baby blankets and other items that would be helpful for a new mother.

Donations do not necessarily have to be on the list as it is only a rough guide, however we ask that you avoid food and drink items, flammable liquids (such as aerosol spray deodorants), living material (such as seeds) or items such as washing up liquid that often leak when laid flat in the boxes.

Some key dates next term:

Monday 31 st October	Start of Term
Wednesday 7 th November	S5/6 Virtual Parents Evening
Thursday 17 th November	INSET Days
Friday 18 th November	INSET Days
Monday 21 st Nov – Friday 2 nd Dec	S4 Assessments Period
Thursday 24 th November	Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 30 th November	Deadline for UCAS applications
Thursday 13 th December	Christmas Concert (more details will follow)

Thursday 15th December

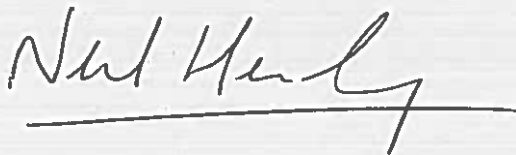
S4 Virtual Parents Evening

Friday 23rd December

End of Term

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a relaxing October break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Hendry", written over a solid horizontal line.

Neil Hendry
Head Teacher