

INVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 2 Newsletter

2018-2019

Head Teacher's Reflections

Welcome to the December 2018 edition of the Inverurie Academy Newsletter.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to celebrate just a few of the many activities of groups and individuals connected with the school and also to provide you with information relating to important future events in the life of the school. We are immensely proud of the students of Inverurie Academy and we are sure that you are too.

You only have to spend a short time with the people who study and work at Inverurie Academy to discover that a newsletter simply can't contain all of the updates you might be interested in from a term. On the day of writing this introduction, the Daily Bulletin (these can be viewed online via our website www.inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk) contained; information about Assemblies from our student Human Rights Team, Career Appointments for our S2, information about Banter, Coding, Tapadh Leat, Maths Homework and Scholar Revision Clubs, information about Rock Challenge, a House Chess Competition, the forthcoming Talent Show and Christmas Concert, and a Year of Young People Survey to encourage students to get involved and let their voice be heard – all in just one day. You can see our difficulty with capturing 40 days of this type of activity in one newsletter!

So, we have been working hard to give you a range of ways you can keep up with the latest successes at Inverurie Academy through our social media outlets. Please see just a few of the Twitter and Facebook Accounts that are available to you.

Twitter	
@InverurieAcad	Main School Twitter Feed
@InverurieHT	Head Teacher Twitter News
@InveruriePF	Inverurie Academy Parent Forum Twitter Feed
@InverAcadRRSG	Student Led Rights Respecting School Group for Inverurie Academy
@InverurieEng	English Faculty at Inverurie Academy
@Invercreative	Creative Arts Faculty at Inverurie Academy
@inverbusinessit	Business & IT Faculty at Inverurie Academy
@InverurieRocks	Rock Challenge at Inverurie Academy
@InverurieStem	STEM Club for Inverurie Academy
@InverurieWA	Wider Achievement at Inverurie Academy
Facebook	
Official Page of the Inverurie Academy Health and Wellbeing Community	
Official Page for Inverurie Academy Parents and Community	
<i>Look out for a new Inverurie Academy Facebook Page coming early in 2019!</i>	

Whatever your plans are for this festive period, I wish you all the very best!

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Assessment Period (14 January 2019 – 1 February 2019)

The National Qualification Assessment Period (formerly known as 'Prelim' examinations) for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels will take place over three weeks from week commencing 14 January 2019. Pupils have been issued a timetable and instructions for this period of time. Your son/daughter has been asked to ensure they share these with you at home. Copies will also be available on the school website if they have not as yet done so!

We run this period of assessments as close to the final SQA examination procedures as possible to give pupils an experience of these prior to the examination diet in May. Therefore, many of the expectations will remain the same. For example:-

- It is the responsibility of pupils to bring the necessary equipment eg pens, pencils, rulers, calculators etc for each examination. Some spare stationery items will be available only for emergencies. Pupils should be sure to bring only what is permissible for each exam, and to carry them without a pencil case.
- **Mobile phones, iPods, smartwatches or any similar small electronic devices are strictly forbidden in the assessment room.** NB Pupils found with any of the above items in an exam venue in May are likely to have their qualifications withheld by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
- It is vitally important that pupils arrive in school in good time before the start of an assessment. A minimum of 10 minutes before the start time of the assessment is recommended to give time to double check the room venue, etc. Pupils waiting for an assessment should gather at the S5 Study Room (opposite Barra Base) from where they will be registered and called forward to the hall, or other room, by a member of the SLT or Invigilator.

These assessments will allow your son/daughter to gain experience of the 'style' of examination period which will take place in May 2019 and will allow teachers to assess their progress to-date. In addition, they will help to create evidence should your son/daughter be unable to sit an exam in the May examination period. However, they will not form the basis of an 'appeal' in August as, in 2014, the SQA introduced two Results Services which replaced the appeals process, and I would like to take this opportunity to inform/remind you how these new procedures work.

- **The Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service** will operate throughout the May examination period. If a pupil is unable to sit an exam, for very good reason, such as a family bereavement or serious illness, or if performance in an exam is badly affected by circumstances such as these, parents should contact the school immediately. Where exceptional circumstances have affected a pupil, the school will then put the pupil forward for Exceptional Circumstances Consideration. In such cases, the school will forward alternative evidence – such as samples of the pupil's work and/or 'prelim' assessment paper(s) – to the SQA, to support the request for a qualification to be awarded. The award granted, however, may not be the same as that estimated by the school.

- **The Post-Results Service** may be used by schools where a pupil's grade is significantly different from that expected. Based on the evidence the school holds about the pupil's performance throughout the course, a school may request a clerical check and/or an SQA marking review. **The pupil must, however, give permission for this in writing.**

- A clerical check is a check that all questions have been marked and all marks totalled correctly.
- A marking review is where an SQA senior examiner will review the marks awarded to each question to ensure that the original marking is in line with national standards: the work will not be re-marked.

Please note:-

- the decision to ask for a marking review rests solely with the school.
- as a result of a clerical check and/or marking review, the pupil's grade may stay the same or be amended up **or** down.

It is important that parents/carers understand that the school will not be able to submit alternative evidence, like course work or prelim examination evidence, to support its request for a review. Decisions about the grade awarded will be made solely on the pupil's performance in the SQA examination.

The SQA has recognised that the Post-Results Service is a significant departure from previous practice and so have put in place stringent checks of each markers' work to ensure that final results are as accurate as possible.

It would be very helpful if you could discuss information contained in this communication with your son/daughter.

Finally, on behalf of Inverurie Academy staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in the Assessment Period in January.

Dr A Drysdale
Depute Head Teacher/SQA Co-ordinator

Inverurie Community Campus - New Build Update

Those of you who have visited the school recently will have noticed significant progress towards the completion of the new campus. The shape and form of the building is now very apparent, and the addition of the external cladding has provided a much clearer impression of what our finished build will look like. From a personal perspective, I have found myself surprised by the sheer size of the campus and the recent aerial photographs shared by The Robertson Group give an accurate indication of its scale.



Throughout the construction The Robertson Group have worked very closely with us to minimise disruption to the normal activities of the school. They have also worked hard to help provide our students with avenues to extend their learning. The Robertson Group clearly understand that a project of this nature facilitates many opportunities for enrichment and development which extend well beyond “bricks and mortar” and their commitment to engaging with our young people has been evident from the outset.

Since the commencement of the project Robertson have facilitated several events, projects and competitions which have allowed the students at Inverurie to develop key knowledge and skills while also providing them with a sense of ownership of what will become their new school. These activities have included:-

- A timetabled Trade Route course focusing upon development of employability skills which has included regular “hands-on” experience. This course has been delivered by the Robertson Group in partnership with the school.
- A Student Art Competition – the winning submissions will be used to decorate the site hoarding.
- Collaboration with the schools Media Studies group to provide filming and recording of the progress of the project.
- Input by Robertson Staff into the teaching programmes in several curricular areas.
- Involvement of Robertson staff in the school’s senior mentoring programme.
- Regular input with a group of S2 Students “The Robertson Reporters” which has included site visits and updates on the progress of the build.

Mr A Johnston
Depute Head Teacher

Talented Pupils Showcase Work

In November, for the second year running, the school held an Art Exhibition which displayed S4-S6 pupils' work. The Exhibition promoted the effort pupils put in to their national qualifications and the beauty of art. By hosting this evening, it gives pupils a bit of preparation for the creative world of work - where work is always being showcased and examined. Showcasing work also gives parents/carers a chance to view their child's work.

Each pupil had an expressive and design portfolio, which each had 3 A2 pieces of work. On top of this, the Advanced Higher pupils each had 18 A1 sheets which were all displayed.

After organising the art work, the Creative Industries class was tasked with a mini project where they had to organise the event - this involved promoting the evening, room planning and providing refreshments. The effort that goes into this event is extraordinary.

Luke Wright - S3



Unicef Rights Respecting School - Inverurie Academy Moves Towards Silver Award

During the week beginning 10 December 2018 the Inverurie Academy Rights Respecting Schools steering group had exciting things in store to help Inverurie Academy achieve the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award, highlighting that we are a school which is aware of our rights. 10 December 2018 - Human Rights Day - also marks 60 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted.

Last year Inverurie Academy was awarded the Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award, showing our commitment to human rights and the global goals. Activities for the Bronze Award included S1 Modern Studies lessons and a questionnaire to pupils to gauge awareness of their rights. Since then, posters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Global Goals have been put up around the school.

Shayne Omale, who runs the Inverurie Academy Rights Respecting Schools group Twitter account, has been working hard to ensure that the word is spread about the group's work.

We look forward to seeing all the hard work pay off and we hope it helps to raise awareness of our human rights and the Global Goals.

Blair Center and Sam Weston - S6



Scotland Developing the Young Workforce – New Build Project

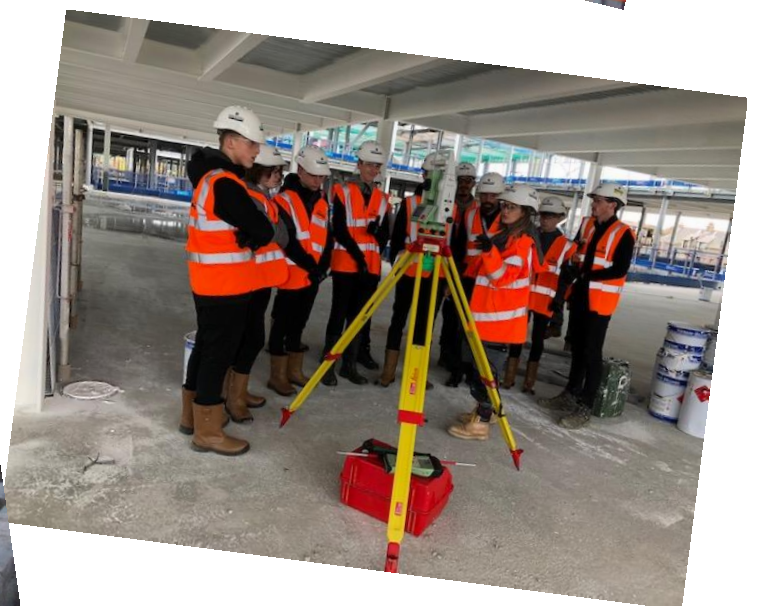
A group of our S4 and S5 students who expressed an interest in the construction industry have been actively involved in our new build project with constructors Robertson Group.

The students are helping to design and build a small hexagonal pod in the new school grounds. They have used recycled materials to learn joinery and decorating whilst producing the panels of the pod. They have worked on-site helping to excavate and lay the foundation concrete before learning brick laying skills by building the foundation walls.

Students have also been given the opportunity to participate in team building exercises and have produced their own Curriculum Vitae.

The new course is part of Scotland Developing the Young Workforce initiative and the work with Robertson Group aims to offer students a greater chance of obtaining a modern apprenticeship or employment.

Mr R Wynne
Teacher of T&VE



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has been running since February and has steadily grown in numbers. We have a number of students who attend regularly and some who pop in as and when they feel like it. All are welcome, and there is no charge to attend.

Breakfast Club meets each morning in the Hub from 8.15 am and is staffed by a team of volunteer staff from across the school. Students and staff who attend start the day with a warming cuppa, some nutritious food and a good blether. It is a really good, fun way to start the day!



Mr McGinnes, Dale, Ella, Kyle & Mrs Farquhar caught during a funny moment at Breakfast Club!

We are very grateful to the Aberdeenshire North Foodbank who have donated supplies of cereal etc to support us from the time we opened. Our 'out and about' group visit weekly to top up the supplies on a regular basis and to ensure that we always have some tasty cereal for those who want this. We are also supported by the Inverurie Tesco Store through the FareShare FoodCloud donation system. Each week we are well looked after with fresh fruit and tasty bakery items provided. We are very grateful!

If your son/daughter would like to attend the Breakfast Club, they are very welcome to join us at any time. They can just pop along when they feel ready, or they can approach Mrs McFarland or Miss Littlejohn in ASL, or any of the Guidance Team to chat it through first of all. If you have ideas of other organisations that could support us as our numbers continue to grow, please contact Ms Lynch via reception.



Foodbank Collection

As you will be aware, a small group of students recently organised a collection of food products for our local Foodbank. We were overwhelmed by the response and would like to thank all those of you who were able to participate.

Some classes managed to collect an exceptional amount of food, and particular recognition goes to 1C1 (donating an amazing 131 items between them), 2S2 (donating a fantastic total of 72 items in total) and 3C2 (who managed a wonderful total of 66 items donated). Across all classes, just over 1200 individual items were donated, all of which were passed to the Foodbank by our 'out and about' group on Friday, 7 December 2018. Well done to the team who made the delivery – they worked hard!

The students who organised this donation were keen to encourage participation by as many people as possible but recognised that not all students and families can take part. They decided to allocate house points to recognise contributions as follows:-

Class Donation	Points Awarded
1 – 4 items	1 point per class
5 – 10 items	5 points per class
11 or more items	10 points per class
Largest donation	100 points
2 nd largest donation	50 points
3 rd largest donation	25 points

After a lot of counting, recounting and amendments made for items which were donated separately, the organising group are pleased to announce that the overall house points awarded are as follows:-

	House	House Points Awarded
1st Place	Crichie	206
2nd Place	Selbie	151
3rd Place	Barra	90
4th Place	Harlaw	81
5th Place	Davah	70

A big congratulations to the team who organised this event and thanks to all who were able to participate. We hope to run collections in support of the Foodbank again in future and look forward to thinking of other ways in which we can involve our students in supporting their community.

Shayne & Logan
who helped
Miss Littlejohn
to organise the
donations



Junior Singers

The Junior Singers were recently invited to perform for a Grampian Opportunities coffee morning and are due to return alongside the Brass Group for a further concert.

On Saturday, 1 December 2018, the Junior Singers took part in a Massed Children's Choir Christmas Big Sing outside the Town Hall. They sang 8 songs alongside almost 250 pupils from the local Primary Schools as well as their own solo song.

Mrs S Purvis
Teacher of Music



Inverurie Day Centre

On the morning of Tuesday, 11 December 2018, the Junior Singers, Ukulele Collective and Orchestra welcomed members of the Inverurie Day Centre in to school. They were treated to a short Christmas Concert which was then followed by refreshments served by pupils.

Mrs S Purvis
Teacher of Music



Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert took place on Tuesday, 11 December 2018 in the Academy Hall. There were performances from the Percussion Ensemble, Orchestra, Junior Singers, Celtacad, Ukulele Collective, Brass Group, Concert Band and the Drama Group.

Pupils from Chapel of Garioch School joined in for a few of the pieces along with several members of staff.

Hannah Reid performed a trumpet solo while Misha Buchan and Caitlin McGladrigan sang a vocal duet.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and feedback from the audience was extremely positive and encouraging for all involved.

Mrs S Purvis
Teacher of Music



House Chess Championships - #inverchessmageddon



The Inverurie House Chess Championships in December have been a further way for us to encourage House Activities and students participating in events around the school. I was delighted that the following students signed up to participate: Georgia Douglas, Andrew Penny, Layton Burr, Robert Satchwell, Luca Stewart, Owen Donnelly, Matthew Smith, Grant Redhead, Emma Wilson, June Munez, Daniel Kearns, Murray Liddell, Blair Center and Thomas Redshaw.

Over the course of Monday 10th – Thursday 13th December a series of matches were played. Every participant won ten house points with semi-finalists earning fifty, second place one hundred and the winner two hundred and fifty points. Luca and Thomas reached the semi-finals with Blair and June contesting the final with June emerging as the victor.

Thanks to Sam Weston, Dr Teismann and Mr Paterson for supporting this great event.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher



Parent Council Update

We would like to invite you along to a Quiz Evening next term. We are still planning the event so look out for details about the date and venue on the Parent Forum Inverurie Academy Facebook page - why not follow us on Twitter at @InveruriePF.

If you would like to come along to our next Committee Meeting, put a date in your diary for Thursday, 7 February 2018 and you can catch up on what we have been discussing at our meetings. The dates and Head Teacher topic for our programme of Committee Meetings have been set for the year and all parents/carers are welcome to come along. These meetings are great opportunities for parents, pupils, teaching staff and local Councillors to share their views and ideas to develop the policies, procedures and general experience of being at our school for the benefit of pupils and their families.

This is an exciting time for the Academy. Look out for updates on the Parent Forum Inverurie Academy Facebook page and let us know your thoughts/comments/views by dropping us a line at inverurieacademypc@gmail.com.

Festive Greetings.

Inverurie Academy Parent Council

Inverurie Pupils Assist with Highlighting Leadership within Mental Health and Wellbeing

Four senior pupils from Inverurie Academy have played a key role in the creation of a new media clip that aims to highlight the importance of “Leadership” within Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Kristofer Rossvoll-Booth, Samantha Weston, Holly Stuart and Ben Forsyth, who are currently studying Higher/Advanced Higher Drama, were recently filmed alongside representatives from Police Scotland and NHS Grampian, where they delivered key messages relating to “Leadership”. The media clip, which also features keynote comments from Aberdeenshire Council, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian and the Third Sector, has been jointly developed by Active Schools Aberdeenshire and Police Scotland, as part of the overall action plan created by the Aberdeenshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group.

Scheduled to go live in early 2019, the clip is designed to stimulate discussion around “Leadership” within the subject of Mental Health and Wellbeing, and also aims to act as a tool to raise awareness across Aberdeenshire of one of the most topical and important subjects that impact on young people, their parents and the wider community. The benefits for the four pupils has gone beyond simply being part of the filming, as they have been able to see first-hand the process of converting the footage into the finished product by spending time with Aberdeenshire Council’s Media Unit, under the expert tutelage of Paul Barron, Media Producer. Paul showed the pupils the various techniques, processes and tools that create the visual images that go on to show the best of Aberdeenshire Council and with all four pupils planning careers related to drama/media it has been a fantastic addition to their wider achievement aims during this school year.

Malcolm Grant

Active Schools Lead Co-ordinator - Central Aberdeenshire & Inverurie Academy
CPD Lead for Active Schools



I Can Lead

A fantastic two days for our five "I Can Lead" pupils who along with 28 pupils from Westhill Academy, Meldrum Academy, The Gordon Schools, Kemnay Academy and Alford Academy have completed the initial part of their qualification.

Natasha Masson S3, Annalie Davidson S2, Shayne Omale S2, Kieran Macdonald S3 and Neil Johnston S4 completed workshops relating to leadership, session planning and delivery, officiating and organisational skills. All five will have gained new skills and confidence that they can now take back to Inverurie Academy and utilise as they volunteer at extra-curricular clubs and for some in their own community clubs.

A short video of the two-day programme, hosted by Active Schools at Kemnay Academy, can be found at:-

<https://www.facebook.com/ActiveSchoolsAberdeenshireCentral/>

Malcolm Grant

Active Schools Lead Co-ordinator - Central Aberdeenshire & Inverurie Academy
CPD Lead for Active Schools



Knitting Club

Knitting Club continues to meet weekly with a committed membership of young knitters and staff. Since the October holidays, we have focused on knitting small decorations for the Christmas tree in the school library where our group meets every Thursday lunchtime. Pictured is the Elf Esme knitted and the parcels knitted by Lara and Miranda.

Lorna Reid
Library Assistant



Adult Learning - Community Learning and Development Service



Can We Help?

The Central Aberdeenshire Community Learning and Development Team can provide adults and young people (over the age of 16) with a wide range of learning opportunities:-

- Improving Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Supporting Improved Employability
- Developing Knowledge, Skills, Confidence and Resilience
- Supporting Participation in Local Communities
- Supporting Parents to Achieve the Best Outcomes for their Children
- Supporting Achievement of Accredited Learning eg SQA Qualifications

We provide English for Speakers of other languages at the Garioch Community Education Centre during the day and at night. Our ESOL classes are SQA approved and can result in national qualifications. We offer help with Communication (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening), Numeracy, ITC, Working with Others, Problem Solving and Employability all of which can be accredited for a qualification if **you** wish. We work as part of Aberdeenshire Council and our services are **free** to all residents of Aberdeenshire. We offer small group learning opportunities and one-to-one with staff and volunteers in confidence.

Can we help you?

If so, please get in touch:-

Contact
Telephone
Email

Steven MacLennan
01467 539553
steven.maclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

www.mcrpathways.org



Build links with local community • **Give something back** • **Help us reach more young people**

We are delighted to introduce the MCR Pathways programme to Inverurie Academy, which will add to the range of supports we can offer to young people who need them. We know that our young people have amazing talents, but some need a bit of help to discover their potential.

The MCR approach aims to nurture and develop young people's skills and capabilities and guide them through education and on to employment and fulfilling lives. We are seeking the support of parents and carers who would be willing to support this by becoming a Mentor. If you could spare around one hour most weeks and would be keen to support a student through a mentoring approach, please consider joining us.

Shona Lees, our MCR Pathways Co-ordinator will be running regular information sessions in the new term where anyone interested can find out more. If you would be keen to register your interest in advance, please email shona.lees@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone Shona via the School Office. Please do encourage friends, family and colleagues to consider joining this programme too. You can't underestimate how big a difference your support can make to the life of a young person. Look out for our **#GiveAnHour** campaign in January on social media.



@InverurieAcad
@mcrpathways

SCHOOL CALENDAR
~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

Friday, 25 January 2019	S1 Tracking Report to Parents
Monday, 4 February 2019	S2 Parents' Evening (4.30 pm – 7.00 pm)
Tuesday, 5 February 2019	P7 Parent Information Evening (6.30 pm – 7.15 pm)
Thursday, 7 February 2019	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 pm – 8.30 pm)
Friday, 8 February 2019	Occasional Day – Holiday
Monday, 11 February 2019	School Holiday
Tuesday, 12 February 2019	In-Service Day – No School for Pupils
Wednesday, 13 February 2019	In-Service Day – No School for Pupils
Wednesday, 20 February 2019	Senior Phase Information Evening (6.30 pm – 7.15 pm)
Thursday, 21 February 2019	Careers Evening (Primary – 6.45 pm – 7.30 pm) (Secondary – 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm)
Friday, 8 March 2019	Step Up For Enterprise – P7 Transition Event
Tuesday, 5 March 2019	S4/5/6 Full Report to Parents S3 Parents' Evening (4.30 pm – 7.00 pm)
Friday, 15 March 2019	S6 Prom
Friday, 22 March 2019	Spring Concert – Full Technical Rehearsal
Monday, 25 March 2019	Spring Concert – Full Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday, 26 March 2019	Spring Concert (7.00 pm – 9.00 pm)

SESSION 2018-2019

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 2018

Monday, 24 December 2018 – Friday, 4 January 2019 (Inclusive)

Friday, 8 February 2019 – Public Holiday – No School

Monday, 11 February 2019 – Public Holiday – No School

Tuesday, 12 February 2019 – In-Service Day – No Pupils in School

Wednesday, 13 February 2019 – In-Service Day – No Pupils in School

EASTER HOLIDAY 2019

Monday, 1 April 2019 – Friday, 12 April 2019 (Inclusive)

Friday, 19 April 2019 – Easter Friday – No School

Monday, 6 May 2019 – May Day Holiday – No School

Monday, 3 June 2019 – Local Holiday – No School

SUMMER HOLIDAY 2019

Monday, 8 July 2019 – Friday, 16 August 2019 (Inclusive)

