

INVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 2 Newsletter

2019-2020

Head Teacher's Reflections – Winter Message:

It gives me great pleasure to write a short welcome to our Christmas 2019 Newsletter. As is always the case, I have a sense of pride in the great stories that you will find in this publication, yet also a sadness that this only represents a fraction of the great work from staff and students that goes on at Inverurie Academy. There is a reflection also that we stand at the threshold of a year where we will move from our existing history-infused building to the exciting new Inverurie Community Campus.

There are a number of events planned for early in the new year to mark our move and I have highlighted three below for your information.

Whatever your plans are for the festive period, I wish you rest and relaxation with a busy and exciting 2020 ahead!

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Inverurie Academy Tartan

A group of students have been using their skills in creativity to design an Inverurie Academy Tartan. We have partnered with local business *Kilts Wi Hae* to have ties and scarves in this new tartan woven. These will be available for purchase at our celebration events (see below).



Tours of the old Inverurie Academy

The school community has worked together to create an opportunity for a series of guided tours of the existing building for former staff and students who wish to see their old school one last time (scheduled for Saturday 8th February 2020). We have been surprised and delighted at the response to this offer, with over 575 spaces being taken up on these tours. All of these spaces have now been allocated however we are looking to open up another afternoon of tours with further information to follow.

S5/6 Assessment Period (8th – 17th January 2020)

The S5/6 Higher/Advanced Higher (some N5) National Qualification Assessment Period (formerly known as 'Prelim' examinations) will take place 8th – 17th January. Pupils have been issued with 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 are also available on the school website if they do not do so! The same advice will apply, previously shared at the end of last term for the N5 Assessment Period (20th – 29th November).

We run this period of assessments under conditions as like the final SQA (Scottish Qualification Authority) examination procedures as possible to give pupils an experience of these prior to the examination diet in April/May/June 2020. Therefore, many of the expectations will remain the same. For example:

- It is the responsibility of pupils to bring the necessary equipment e.g. 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.** N.B. Pupils found with any of the above items in an exam venue in the main exam diet are likely to have their qualifications withheld by the SQA.
- Pupils should report to the SQA noticeboard at the Barra base area, a minimum of 15 minutes before the start time of the assessment 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. If a pupil is in a timetabled class, they will be released 15 minutes before the exam start time. If the exam overlaps part of break or lunch they can be released for the time they miss – up to 15 minutes (break) or 30 minutes (lunch) to allow them this period of rest time.

These assessments will allow your son/daughter to gain experience of the 'style' of examination period which will take place in April/May/June 2020 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 main 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 April/May/June 2020 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 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 assessment 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 forthcoming Assessment Period and hope they can make use of some of the holiday period for revision purposes.

Dr Alison Drysdale
Depute Head Teacher/SQA Coordinator

Leaders In Sport

A busy Term 2 for our "Leaders In Sport" supported by I&K Motors Ltd, as we saw four of our pupils start their volunteering journey in sport and we also saw some new additions join up so that they are ready to start volunteering in early 2020.

Andrew started as a volunteer at cluster tennis where he is supporting the delivery of the sessions and is being mentored by our long-time coach Graeme Donald. Andrew is also our new Pupil Tennis Ambassador and over the next few years will link the school pupil body to the forthcoming developments of the indoor tennis facilities Garioch Sports Centre. Freya's volunteering journey starts where one of her participation experiences started as we welcome her to work alongside Alannah as our "Fit For Girls" volunteers. Freya is a great example of a pupil who participated in her early years as an academy pupil and now returns as a volunteer who is well placed to support and guide her younger peers.

Valerie is a talented table tennis player and has already started her coaching career with the support of Aberdeen and District Table Tennis Association. She now brings that knowledge to Girl's Table Tennis, where she is supporting our coach Marie Kindberg.

And finally, another participant turned volunteer as Zack has started to support John and Matthew from Inverurie Hockey Club at cluster hockey each Tuesday and along with his fellow "Leaders In Sport" he will begin his associated journey with the Saltire Awards. Zack's new role comes at an exciting time as we await the arrival of the new outdoor facilities in 2021 that will see outdoor Hockey training return to Inverurie.



Pictures- Andrew with Graeme Donald, Freya with Bill Conn from Garioch Indoor Bowling Centre at this terms opening "Fit For Girls" session, Valerie with Marie Kindberg and Zack with Matthew Gray of Inverurie Hockey Club

Sports Noticeboards

A freshen up of the Sports noticeboards this term by our Sport Scotland Young Ambassadors Luke and Erin, just the start of some exciting new developments around how we manage the noticeboards ahead of the move to the new Community Campus next year!



Malcolm Grant
Active Schools Lead Coordinator- Central Aberdeenshire & Inverurie Academy

Football

All football teams have continued their campaigns this term, with the U14 boys team remaining undefeated. The U16 boys also had a run of a couple of games in the U16 Scottish Cup but unfortunately were eventually knocked out by Portobello High School.

Most exciting of all was the launch of our new senior kits! Both the Senior Boys and Senior Girls received brand new kits from Inverurie Smile Care. We are extremely grateful for their continued support and sponsorship for all the school football teams.



NASA Events

There were also several NASSA events this term. First there was the badminton tournament hosted by Meldrum Academy and which the Inverurie team came 4th overall. Special mention to the S3/4 team who finished 2nd in their category!

Also last week was the NASSA swimming gala, hosted by Peterhead Academy. Again the swimmers did the school proud and we were several individual and team medals! Another special mention to the S1 Girls team – Tessa Boyd, Yasmeen Zarouali, Charlotte Wraight and Kristina Misovicova who won both the 4x25m Freestyle Relay AND the 4x25m Medley Relay! Also well done to S2 Boys – Isaac Chirnside, Layton Burr, Dylan Smart and Kyle Mitchell who won their 4x25m Medley Relay and came 2nd in the Freestyle Relay!



Finally, 1.7 had a very special visitor this term... Eilish McColgan came to visit the school and our pupils were able to ask some really interesting questions and get involved with a speed training session, with some coaching tips from Eilish. Pupils were also able to see a couple of Eilish's medals and her running spikes. Thank you to Eilish for meeting with the pupils and we wish you the best of luck in Tokyo!

Keep in touch with the latest football, NASSA and PE news on Twitter - @InverurieSport



Academy Newspaper

“Incredible conviction”, “True talent”, “Truly some of the best work I have ever seen,” those are just some of the things said to describe Inverurie Academy’s YPI Final on Tuesday the 17th of December 2019.

On Tuesday the 17th of December Inverurie Academy’s S3s braced for what could easily be the most inspiring thing they have ever done. YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative) set the aspiring S3s a challenge to research a social issue of their choosing and find a local charity that resonates with their social issue and win a possible £3000 for their charity in the final.

Apex Grampian, Grampian Opportunities, Samaritans, Mental Health Aberdeen, Kayleigh's Wee Stars, Home Start and Penumbra were chosen and the groups to represent them from Inverurie had braced the floor ready to make their passionate case to the judges and the audience.

7 charities and one prize. Which group would win that £3000? Which group would make an even greater difference with the prize fund? After 20 minutes of careful deliberation from our judges and just over 1 hour of passionate persuasion by all the finalist groups, Apex Grampian triumphed and won the case for their charity also winning £3000 to help massively benefit offenders, especially young people, build the necessary skills to change behaviour and lead fulfilling lives.

Apex Grampian was represented by Chloe Barber, Lennon Thomson, Shayne Omale, George Walker and Erin Minty.

Shayne Omale, one of the project managers said “A massive thank you to all judges, teachers, parents/carers, charities and teams who devoted their countless efforts to YPI. Apex Grampian won and we know the incredible this difference this will make to all looking for Apex’s support.



Breakfast Club – New Freezer!

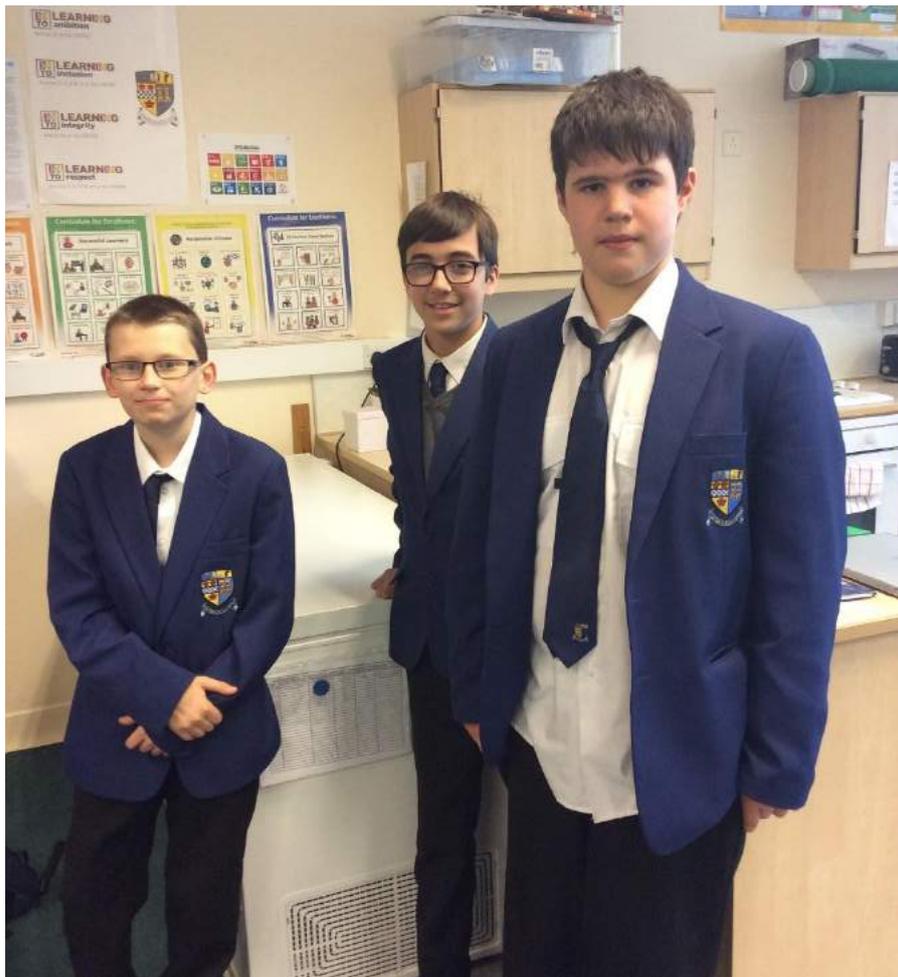
Our breakfast club has been running since January 2018, and is growing ever more popular.

There are a small group of regular attenders, and a large group of occasional visitors – but all are welcome! Breakfast club runs from 8.15am – 8.35am every morning.

We are supported to provide this service by a team of staff volunteers, who prepare and serve food which is donated through the Tesco and the FareShare food partnership. We are always grateful for the donations that are handed in by parents/carers, local councillors, local businesses, members of staff. Thank you all!

Earlier this year, the Rotary Club of Inverurie heard from Ms Lynch, Councillor Neil Baillie and Councillor Judy Whyte about some of the work that the school and other groups are involved in to ensure that young people have access to enough food. The Rotary Club have generously funded a new fridge which is making a significant difference to our breakfast club – we can now store food in it, for use on weeks when supplies are less readily available, and for young people to take home if they need this. Thanks very much to our local Rotarians – your support has made a huge difference already!

(Alex, Kyle and Alex with our new freezer!)



Support Over the Festive Period

We are lucky to live and work in such a supportive community. A number of local community groups have been working together to create opportunities for families and young people to come together over the festive season. Please do sign up if you're interested, or encourage others to do so. There are three opportunities already planned, all details are below.



The Christmas Café at the Kitchen
Friday 20th December
10am–12pm

Please come along and enjoy a cup of Tea or Coffee and some festive treats and a chat!

We have surplus food items available for you to help yourself to.

All welcome.

Wyness Hall
Jackson Street
Inverurie
Tel: 07729 297892



The Free Festive Family Kitchen & Quiz
Saturday 28th December
11pm – 2pm

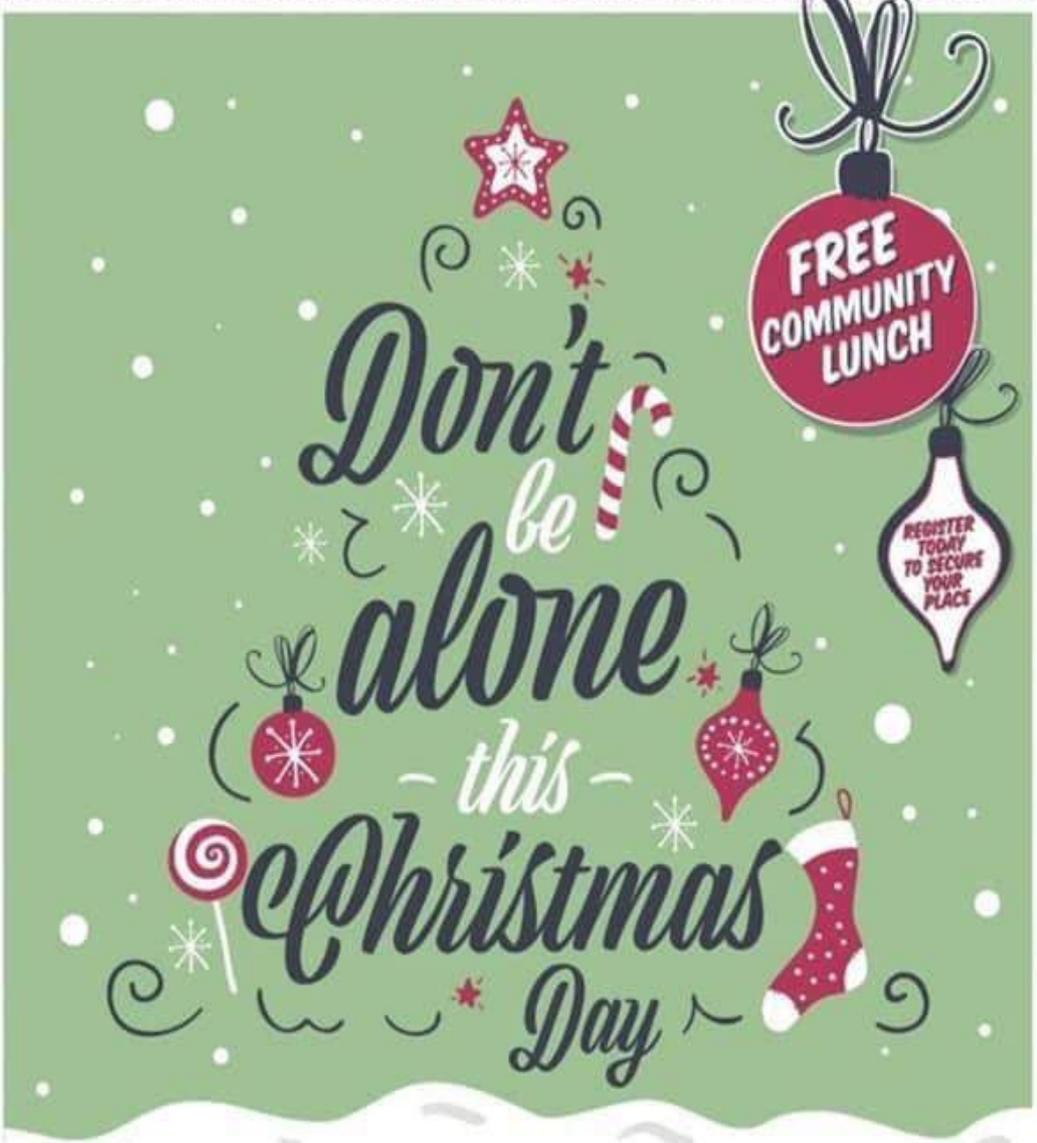
- If you are in need of a break from TV repeats, Monopoly, Christmas leftovers and Computer games?
- Looking to get out of the house for a few hours?
- Feed up with all the festive cooking?

Yes, to the above? Then bring all the family & come join us at the Garioch Community Kitchen for lunch. The kids can learn how to make their own lunch, followed by a Family Prize Quiz.

For the entire family, all ages welcome
To book please contact Sarah by 24th Dec:
gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 07729297892



Wyness Hall, Jackson Street, Inverurie, AB51 3QB
Registered Scottish Charity no. SCO46110



Don't
be
alone
- this -
Christmas
Day

FREE
COMMUNITY
LUNCH

REGISTER
TODAY
TO SECURE
YOUR
PLACE

Love of
Garioch

25TH DECEMBER 2019
Inverurie Town Hall
FROM 12.30PM TO 3.30PM

We'll celebrate together, have Christmas dinner with all the trimmings (vegetarian option available) and enjoy some good company. There will be entertainment, games and a small gift for everyone.

Sadly, not all of us are fortunate to have family and friends around us Christmas, or it may be that you can't afford the cost of it all for one reason or another? Whatever the reason, young or elderly, a family or single, it's not a time to be alone...

SO, why not join us for lunch.

Book your place - Register Today
CALL 07546 721975 OR EMAIL:
loveofgarioch@gmail.com

Leadership Opportunity for S5/6 Students

Our S5/6 students were treated to a presentation by Joe McDowall of the Inverurie Rotary Group on an opportunity to gain some bespoke leadership experience next year. RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) are offering two fully funded places (worth around £600) for students from Inverurie Academy. These will take place in Abernethy during the summer holidays. Girls attending will do so between 4th and 11th July, and boys from 11th – 18th July. This week long residential experience will provide a mixture of physical activity, team building and personal development opportunities. Students who have attended in the past have found it very worthwhile, and we are keen to ensure that all those who may be interested have the chance to apply. Interviews for those interested in participation will take place in the new term.

Application forms for those interested are available from Dr Drysdale or Ms Lynch.

Knitting Club Update – Mrs Reid and Mrs Ogston

A dedicated group of S1 pupils have been attending Knitting Club regularly every Thursday lunchtime in the school library. They are making good progress with their first project, a pouch for headphones. We loved seeing Kristina's finished project being put to good use. She has now progressed to knitting a cotton cloth to clean device screens. Returning older pupils and some teachers also pop along to knit with us and everyone is welcome next term to relax and learn a new lifelong skill.



Creative Arts Folio Exhibition

As part of our Pilot Parent / Carer Learning & Teaching Evening on 28th November, the Creative Arts Faculty held a display of the Artwork from student folios from 2018-19. The skill and talent on display was inspiring as was the accompanying piano playing from Andrew Cunningham. Here are just a few pictures from the display.



Parent Council Update

A date for your diary - Friday 28th February - our next general knowledge quiz at the Kintore Arms Hotel! We raised an amazing £922 last year, which we donated to the Academy to support the provision of mental health care for students. This year our fundraising goal is to provide a defibrillator for the Community Campus. If anyone would like to donate a prize for our raffle, just take it along to the school office. More information to follow early in January!



We would like to know what you would like the Parent Council to do for you. So why not get in touch on inverurieacademypc@gmail.com or have a look at our [Facebook page](#) or follow us on Twitter at [@InveruriePF](#). It would be even better if you were able to come along to our next Committee Meeting on Tuesday 28th January. The [programme](#) for our meetings is posted on our section of the website where you can also see what we've been [discussing](#) so far this year. All parents/carers are welcome to come along to our informal get togethers where parents, senior pupils, teaching staff and Councillors share their views to develop policies, procedures and the general experience of being at our school for the benefit of students. We look forward to welcoming you along.



From your Parent Council!

Responsible Senior Students and a Responsive Parent Council!

Selection for our current fantastic group of Captains and Prefects took place in June 2019. As part of this process, students were given a group task to outline what they would do if they had £500 to spend on improving the school. The feedback from this group was that they would like our staff to be supported in understanding mental health amongst students even better. This led to Inverurie Academy inviting *The Spark* to deliver training on Tuesday 20th August to the entire staff team.

The Parent Council were so impressed with the responsibility shown by the Senior Students that they decided to fund this staff training. Mrs Elizabeth Watt presented the cheque to one of our School Captains Josh MacRae on the evening of 28th November.

Mr Jones
Head Teacher



Pilot Parent / Carer Learning & Teaching Evening

On Thursday 28th November, parents and carers were invited to Inverurie Academy to participate in an evening of learning from volunteer members of staff. This evening was organised by our Learning & Teaching Project Group and designed to support our aspiration that *all learners are actively engaged and learning at an ambitious pace* and we support parents and carers in engaging in the learning of young people. Participants created their own timetable from a variety of subjects; Creative Arts, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Serif Draw, English (Close Reading and Media), Rights Respecting School, SHARE, The Spark, Modern Languages and Maths.



Calling all Parents / Carers!
If you are keen to have a taster of what Learning & Teaching is like, come along to our pilot L&T evening on Thursday 28th November. You can use the links below to sign up to the classes you are interested in.

#inver = a + a + a

An Inverurie Academy lesson is where all learners are actively engaged and learning at an ambitious pace.

LEARNING
ambition inclusion integrity respect

Thursday 28th November 2019



Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Venue	Assembly Hall	Science Lab 7	Science Lab 9	Science Lab 11	Room 15	Room 19	Library	Room 8	Room 9	MCR Room	Room 4	Room 49
Title	Creative Arts Folio Exhibition	Biology: An introduction to anatomy	Chemistry: An introduction to chemical reactions	Physics: An introduction to dynamics and space	Introduction to Serif Draw	English Close Reading Conundrums	English and Media Course Information	Rights Respecting School	SHARE	How to talk so your teen will listen/how to listen so your teen will talk	Languages Faculty	Mathematics: Loops and Murder Mystery
6.30	http://bit.ly/AL11630_6	http://bit.ly/AL14630_1	http://bit.ly/AL17630_3	http://bit.ly/AL110630_1	http://bit.ly/AL113630_1	http://bit.ly/AL116630_2	http://bit.ly/AL1119630_4	http://bit.ly/AL122630_1	http://bit.ly/AL125630_0	http://bit.ly/AL128630_3	http://bit.ly/AL131630_3	http://bit.ly/AL134630_3
7.00	http://bit.ly/AL12700_0	http://bit.ly/AL15700_0	http://bit.ly/AL18700_1	http://bit.ly/AL111700_6	http://bit.ly/AL114700_0	http://bit.ly/AL117200_5	http://bit.ly/AL120700_2	http://bit.ly/AL123700_0	http://bit.ly/AL126700_2	http://bit.ly/AL129700_5	http://bit.ly/AL132700_2	http://bit.ly/AL135700_1
7.30	http://bit.ly/AL13730_1	http://bit.ly/AL16730_0	http://bit.ly/AL19730_0	http://bit.ly/AL1126730_1	http://bit.ly/AL115730_0	http://bit.ly/AL118730_1	http://bit.ly/AL121730_0	http://bit.ly/AL124730_0	http://bit.ly/AL127730_2	http://bit.ly/AL130730_6	http://bit.ly/AL133730_3	http://bit.ly/AL136730_8

Activity	Title	Detail
1	Creative Arts Folio Exhibition	The Art and Design, Drama and Music pupils at Inverurie Academy worked extremely hard to complete their examination courses in June of this year. They gain exceptional results for all their hard work. On exhibition there will be all the work from all the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Art and Design pupils. Also, examples of Drama work and Music students playing excerpts from their exam performances.
2	Biology: An introduction to anatomy	Explore the structure of the heart and lungs and observe or even try your hand at some simple dissection. Practise making slides of plant and animal cells and identify some key structures using a microscope.
3	Chemistry: An introduction to chemical reactions	Carry out some simple experiments to demonstrate how substances change when chemical reactions take place and learn how this relates to the world around us.
4	Physics: An introduction to dynamics and space	How do speed cameras work out how fast a vehicle is travelling? Find out how we can demonstrate this in the lab. Discover how we are furthering our understanding of space Physics.
5	Introduction to Serif Draw	Come along to the TVE Faculty and create a cartoon fish using basic shapes in the Serif Draw software.
6	English Close Reading Conundrums	Does the mysterious 'close reading paper' give your child sleepless nights? Do you feel powerless to help? Come along to the English Departments myth-busting session and we will give you the skills to help your child prepare to answer in their own words, identify techniques and analyse connotations.
7	English and Media Course Information	Mrs Elnik will be in the library to offer you a chance to ask questions about the range of qualifications and courses offered by the English faculty. There will also be a range of texts and resources available to see what type of topics your child will potentially be studying over their years at Inverurie Academy.
8	Rights Respecting School	The student-led Rights Respecting School (RRS) project group has been working hard over the past couple of years to help Inverurie Academy achieve 'Bronze' and hopefully soon 'Silver' accreditation with UNICEF. So far, the group has run lessons, year group activities, assemblies, and delivered input to the Parent Forum. Moving our project forward, we now invite you to get involved with our school's curriculum. The RRS session will offer attendees the chance to review real curricular resources from selected subjects and provide feedback on how they could be developed. The objective is for attendees to gain a ground-level perspective of what young people learn at the chalk face.
9	SHARE	Respect, effective communication, and being aware are so important in safely managing relationships. Come along and experience some of the learning that young people take part in. Don't be shy...
10	How to talk so your teen will listen/how to listen so your teen will talk	Change isn't easy, and the years when your child is becoming an adult won't be a stress-free time for either of you. There are bound to be ups and downs, but there's a lot you can do to help build and maintain positive relationships. This quick 20-minute workshop will look at some of the listening and communication techniques that can support all of us and improve our resilience.
11	Languages Faculty	Vocabulary learning and memorizing text is an integral part of language learning. Much can be done to help your child master these skills and the faculty will show you techniques and interactive activities you can use at home to support your child with their language learning.
12	Mathematics: Loops and Murder Mystery	Come along and participate in some maths activities. Loops (solving questions which lead to the next card. Solve that and continue the process to finish a loop) and Murder Mystery (solve problems to find out 'Whodunnit')

We were delighted to see just under 200 sign-ups for the evening and received fantastic feedback from the parents and carers who attended. Amongst these was an email where the parent remarked that it was *pleasing and reassuring ... to meet such passionate, caring teachers*.



Given the success of this event, it is very likely that we will run an evening like this again in the future. Thank you for your support!

Dr Drysdale
Depute Head Teacher

SCHOOL CALENDAR
~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

Monday, 6 January 2020	Term Begins
Wednesday, 8 January 2020	Higher / Advanced Higher Estimates Begin
Friday, 17 January 2020	Higher / Advanced Higher Estimates End
Monday, 27 January 2020	S2 Parent Evening (4.30 pm – 7.00 pm)
Tuesday, 28 January 2020	Parent Council Meeting 3 (6.30 pm – 8.30 pm)
Thursday, 6 February 2020	Careers Evening
Wednesday, 12 February 2020	S4/5/6 Full Report to Parents/Carers
Thursday, 13 February 2020	Occasional Day Holiday
Friday, 14 February 2020	Occasional Day Holiday
Monday, 17 February 2020	Mid-Term Holiday
Tuesday, 18 February 2020	In-Service Day – No Pupils
Wednesday, 19 February 2020	In-Service Day – No Pupils
Thursday, 20 February 2020	Curriculum Information Evening S2 into S3 (6.00 pm – 6.30 pm) S3/4/5 (7.00 pm – 7.45 pm)
Tuesday, 10 March 2020	S3 Parent Evening (4.30 pm – 7.00 pm)
Wednesday, 18 March 2020	P7 Parent Information Evening 1 (6.30 pm – 7.15 pm)
Thursday, 26 March 2020	Parent Council Meeting 4 (6.30 pm – 8.30 pm)
Tuesday, 31 March 2020	Term Ends
Wednesday, 1 April 2020	New Build Moving Day 1
Thursday, 2 April 2020	New Build Moving Day 2
Friday, 3 April 2020	New Build Moving Day 3

SESSION 2019-2020

Term 3

- Monday, 6 January 2020 Start of Term 3
- Thursday, 13 February 2020 Holiday
- Friday, 14 February 2020 Holiday
- Monday, 17 February 2020 Mid-term Holiday
- Tuesday, 18 February 2020 In-service Day
- Wednesday, 19 February 2020 In-service Day
- Tuesday, 31 March 2020 End of Term 3
- Wednesday, 1 April 2020 to Monday, 20 April 2020 Easter Holiday
(Inclusive)

Term 4

- Monday, 20 April 2020 New Build Moving Day 4
- Tuesday, 21 April 2020 Term Begins – New Community Campus
- Friday, 8 May 2020 May Day Holiday
- Monday, 1 June 2020 Holiday
- Friday, 3 July 2020 End of Term 4
- Monday, 6 July to Friday, 14 August 2020 Summer Holiday
(Inclusive)

