

INVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 4 Newsletter

2018-2019

Head Teacher's Reflections

Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of the Inverurie Academy Newsletter. Looking back on past summer editions, I notice that I have used #hashtags to highlight particular milestones and events over the session and so I will continue that tradition for 2019!

#proud

As in every year, there has been a great deal to be proud of during 2018-19.

It is right to start with the incremental and often un-heralded little pieces of success that each and every member of our community have been involved in; the small 'eureka' moments in Maths, the learning of new skills in Woodwork, the personal best in athletics, the getting to grips with a new way to deliver learning for a teacher, the positive relationship established between a student and a Pupil Support Assistant. Each of these plays a cumulative part in the continued improvement that we see at Inverurie Academy. Getting a little specific for a short while, I have been proud of some key groups this year. The attainment of the S4 cohort in 2017-18 resulted in a 14% increase in passes at National 5, an almost unprecedented increase across Aberdeenshire. I have been proud of the whole student group for the way they have embraced our new and distinctive School Uniform, and also the Student Uniform Group for their hard work in making this happen. The Tapadh Leat Group have given me pride as they have spread gratitude across the school and shared their good ideas with the rest of Aberdeenshire Council. Our Senior Boys Football Team and Junior Girls Football Team saw great success, both winning the North of Scotland Trophy among other awards. The efforts of the various Duke of Edinburgh Teams have also showed that we are encouraging the growth of resilient students, and this gives me pride.

I know that you share my sense of pride in our community of students and are excited to see what they can achieve in 2019-20.

#goodbye & #welcome

During this term, we say goodbye to a number of members of staff who move on to pastures new. Mrs Weir (PT Faculty Business & IT), Mrs Reid (PSA) and Mrs Fitzmaurice (PSA) will retire during this term and we also say goodbye to Mr Rutkowski (B&IT), Mrs Howie (SFL), Mr Sutherland (PE), Mrs Turnbull (Humanities) and Mr Johnston (Acting DHT).

At the same time, we are also delighted to welcome a number of members of staff to Inverurie Academy. Mr Hume (B&IT), Mrs Sweeny (HWB), Mrs Anderson and Mr Fuller (Humanities), Miss Mucke (Modern Languages) and Mrs Dair (Science) will join the team. Congratulations also to Mrs Farquhar to takes over as PT Guidance and Head of Harlaw House, and Mrs Taylor who joins Mrs May as Head of Selbie House.

#rest&relaxation

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community, students, parents/carers and staff a restful and relaxing summer so that we are ready to face an exciting 2019-20.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher



School Captain Team 2019-2020

This year, 100 people have chosen to stay on for S6. Due to this large year group, six School Captains have been appointed instead of the usual four. Your School Captain Team this year is made up of - Josh MacRae and Stephanie McIntosh (Captains), Saul Farrell, Louise Ross, Shannon Ferries and Neil Banks (Vice Captains).

We have now been carrying out our roles for around 3 weeks having gone through a rigorous selection process.

After returning from study leave, we were given an 'S6 Induction' - a new activity at Inverurie Academy. It consisted of talks about our core values (Ambition, Inclusion, Integrity and Respect) and also hearing

stories from Mr Jones, Mr Johnston and Mr Anderson about their setbacks in life and how they overcame them. The main idea was that there is no wrong path to follow and that success can be realised in many walks of life.

There was also a talk from Dr Drysdale explaining ways in which we could get the most out of our final year at school, by taking up senior positions or community volunteering, for example. We also saw videos from last year's Captains giving their advice for S6.

Later in the day, we undertook a workshop run by Yvonne Gilfillan, Managing Director of Infinite Fusion. This workshop involved a problem-solving task: trying to build a model made of balloons, paper plates and cups that would hold as many bottles of water as possible. This task was watched closely by Yvonne, her team and many members of staff. They looked for good leadership and teamwork skills, which helped to kickstart the selection process for senior positions.

In the afternoon, we undertook workshops hosted by Yvonne and other guests: Spencer O'Grady (former School Captain), Findlay Anderson (BHGE Group), Iain Chirnside (Steer Energy) and Dave McCulloch (Aberdeenshire Council - previous Head of Security for Commonwealth Games). These were hands-on workshops teaching us about the six key skills for learning, life and work. The guests spoke about how they overcame challenges and gave us activities to complete, making us work together to solve problems.

The following morning, everyone who applied for a senior position undertook a selection of activities. These included scenario questions and group talks on the following questions: 'What makes a good lesson in Inverurie Academy?' and 'If you had £500 to spend within the school, how would you spend it?' These were then followed by 'speed dating' style interviews. Those taking part included teaching and non-teaching staff, business partners and last year's Captains: Kirsty Hay, Brodie Wylie, Benjamin Tribe and Ben Cunningham. During the speed dating, we were asked many questions, such as what we do in our spare time and who our role models are. That afternoon, all selected Captains were informed of their success.

We are all very excited for what this year holds for us as School Captains, and we have many ideas we wish to take forward. We are looking forward to helping the school to get ready for its transition to the new Inverurie Community Campus and are very hopeful for the future of the Academy.

We would like to thank all those involved in the selection process for appointing us - this allows us to give back to the school and bring forward our ideas which will hopefully be long-lasting. We are determined to leave behind a great legacy.

Lastly, we wish all Staff, Pupils, Parents and Carers a wonderful Summer Holiday!

The School Captain Team



SQA Examination Results

This year's SQA examination results will be sent to your son/daughter on Tuesday, 6 August 2019. These results will arrive by first class post and by text or e-mail after 8 am if your son/daughter has registered for this service through My SQA (deadline for sign-up is 16 July 2019 www.mysqa.org). In 2014, SQA introduced a Post-Results Service which replaced the appeals process, and as the new qualifications are rolled out, I want to take this opportunity to remind you how this procedure works.

The Post-Results Service may be used by schools where the grade a student achieves is significantly different from that expected. Based on the evidence the school holds about student performance throughout the course, a school may request a clerical check and/or an SQA marking review. **The student 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 remarked.

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 student'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 student's performance in the SQA examination. NB - The SQA have stringent checks of each markers' work to ensure that results are as accurate as possible.

Should you have any questions about your son's/daughter's results, when they arrive in August, you should contact myself in the first instance. **I will be in school on Tuesday, 6 August 2019 between 10 am and 3 pm for this purpose.** If the school decides to make a Results Service request for your son/daughter, I will advise you as to the steps that need to be taken.

If your son/daughter requires a Priority Marking Review (ie they have not obtained the grade required for a conditional university or college offer and need an urgent marking review) please contact me on Tuesday, 6 August 2019 as these need to be sent to SQA by Friday, 16 August 2019 (ie the week before school returns for In-Service Days on Monday, 19 August 2019).

Should your son/daughter wish to change/resit a subject due to their SQA results, please telephone the school office in the first instance to have this request recorded (the office will be staffed Monday, 12 August 2019 – Thursday, 15 August 2019; until then requests can be made by email/voicemail). Your son/daughter should then make an appointment with their Guidance Teacher on their return to school to discuss this further.

Dr A Drysdale

Depute Head Teacher/SQA Co-ordinator

inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01467 621655

Charities Committee and Inspire

The Charities Committee have raised money for several charities over the 2018-19 session, including the Grampian Child Bereavement Network and Breast Cancer Now. Recently, Emma Wilson and Katherine Atkinson who are the chairs of the 2019-20 committee visited Inspire Soaps in Inverurie to pass on a cheque for £770.32 which was raised from the Easter 'Purple for a Pound' Dress Down Day and the selling of Valentines Roses and Chocolates. Chris Simpson, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, has said that the users of Inspire will use this money to create new storage space in their Inverurie base for the natural soaps and handcrafted gifts they make and sell as part of their day service, as well as using it for a fun activity which the Charities Committee will also be invited to as well.



(Emma and Katherine alongside service users at Inspire and Chris Simpson)

The new Charities Committee has recently been appointed. Given that many applications had personal links to charities including Inverurie's Friends of Charlie House branch, the Archie Foundation, Inspire, Clan and Diabetes UK, we are looking forward to seeing which charities and activities we will support with a varied programme of events throughout the 2019/20 session.

Mrs J Jones

Teacher of History / Charities Committee

Inverurie Academy School Football

All of our teams and players have played fantastic football throughout the year and represented Inverurie Academy so well in many different competitions. To keep up-to-date with school football throughout the year, keep an eye on our Twitter Page (@InverurieSport). Youth Football Scotland (@yfst) also provide fantastic coverage of cup matches, including clips of goals and interviews with our winning teams. We are already looking forward to another successful year in 2019/20!

Senior Boys

The Senior Boys football team have enjoyed a very successful season – winning three trophies and just missing out on topping the league by one game.

A squad of 18 players started off the campaign and all have played a part in the successes. Trophies won this season:-

- North of Scotland Cup – Won 3-1 against Mintlaw Academy in the Final
- Aberdeenshire Cup – Won 3-2 against Mintlaw Academy in the Final
- North East of Scotland Cup – Won 4-3 against Cults Academy (after being 3-0 down at half time!)



Senior Boys on their way to Stornoway for a cup match.

North East of Scotland Cup Winners



Aberdeenshire Cup Winners



Mr Milne and Jamie "B" Brailsford – Senior Boys Manager and Captain

Junior Girls

The Junior Girls team recently won the North of Scotland Cup, beating Alford Academy in the final. This is the second year in a row that the Junior Girls have won this trophy.

The Junior Girls also came second in the Scottish National Finals of the Concept 7s Tournament, which was played at Toryglen in May. This a brilliant achievement – well done girls.



North of Scotland Cup Winners!

Senior Girls

The Senior Girls team were involved in a very close Aberdeenshire Cup Final against Banff Academy. Banff have been very strong over the past few years but Inverurie are narrowing the gap and it will not be long until we are back on top! This final was played in the heaviest rain shower of June and unfortunately, we lost 4-2. The Senior Girls also shared the league title with Alford Academy.

Inverurie Academy Sports Day

For the first time ever, we held our Sports Day in June at Aberdeen Sports Village. This was a fantastic event, with over 200 pupils taking part in a range of events. After a very competitive day, with an incredibly tight finish, the house totals were:-

5 th Place	-	Davah	(416 points)
4 th Place	-	Harlaw	(419 points)
3 rd Place	-	Crichie	(489 points)
2 nd Place	-	Selbie	(541 points)
1 st place	-	Barra	(546 points)

There were also two new school records set during the day – Alex Curry threw 14.43m in the Discus and Holly Grant jumped 1.35m in the High Jump. Well done girls as these records are not easy to break – we still have school records standing from 1972!



S1-S3 Boys 800m Race gets underway



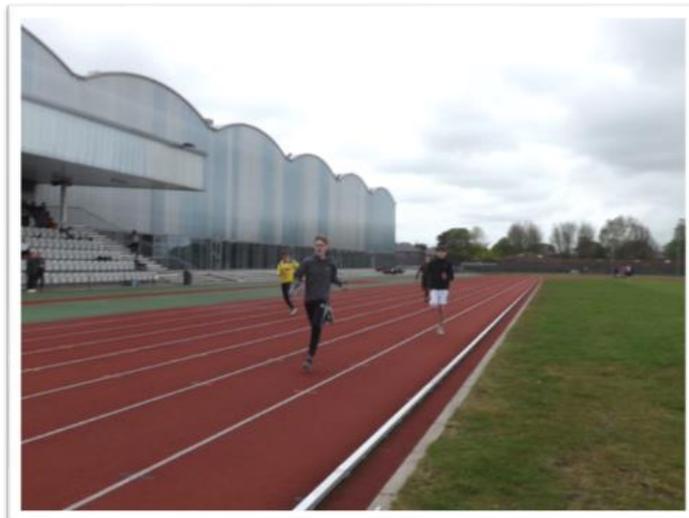
George Teasdale wins the Shot Putt for S3 Boys



Kai McLennan wins the High Jump for S2 Boys



Mya Christie wins the S3 Girls 100m



Calum Winchester wins the S2 Boys 100m

Inverurie Academy – NASSA Events

Throughout the year, pupils compete against other schools in a range of sport events in 'NASSA' (North Aberdeenshire Schools Sports Association). This year, we had pupils take part in the swimming gala, cross country, tennis, golf, netball, badminton, basketball and athletics. These pupils competed well against strong competition from other Aberdeenshire schools and they were a credit to Inverurie.

To keep up-to-date with NASSA events throughout the year, keep an eye out on our Twitter Page (@InverurieSport).



Andrew, Rebecca, Hannah and Mikey representing Inverurie at NASSA tennis



Beautiful day out at Ellon McDonald Golf Course for Drew McArthur and James Gibson at the NASSA Golf Event

The blue riband event of the NASSA sports calendar is the athletics event, which took place at Aberdeen Sports Village on 18 June 2019. There were 9 schools competing at this event in over 10 different events. Our 55 top athletes, from a range of year groups put in a great effort throughout the day. A special mention has to go to the Intermediate team (S3) who won their category. Other special mentions go to:-

George Teasdale – 1st in Intermediate Boys 100m and 1st in Intermediate Boys Shot Putt

Oisin Collinson – 1st in Novice Boys 100m

Erin Fraser – 2nd in Senior Girls 100m and 2nd in Senior Girls High Jump

Connor Killoh – 2nd in Senior Boys 1500m

Amira Cheyne – 2nd in Intermediate Girls 400m

Shay Hatch – 2nd in Intermediate Boys 400m

Dougal Whyte – 2nd in Senior Boys Shot Putt

Also, both the Intermediate Boys and Girls Relay Teams came 2nd in their races.



Inverurie Academy waiting for NASSA athletics to start



George and Mya collecting the NASSA Intermediate Trophy

Eco Committee

The new Eco Committee have been busy after being asked to help the Community Council get ready for the Scotland in Bloom Competition next month. Members of the Committee have been out on 11th and 17th June 2019 helping to plant flowers in the tiered planters in and around Inverurie town centre. The planters are located outside Gibbs, beside the Town Hall, next to Specsavers and outside the Clydesdale Bank. They are now looking summery and colourful.

The next part of the project will be a litter pick next week to ensure Inverurie is looking at its best before the Scotland in Bloom judges arrive. This has been a great opportunity for the Eco Committee to get involved with the wider community and hopefully there will be many more.

The next steps for the Eco Committee are updating the information board (the group have some great ideas already!) and working towards achieving Green Flag status for Inverurie Academy making us an Eco Friendly School.

By Kyle McIntosh (S2)



Inverurie Heritage

As part of the 'Inverurie in Bloom' project, we were approached to create a video about the Pictish Horse Motif on the hangers for the hanging baskets around the town. Interested pupils from the new S2, S4 and S6 went to the Garioch Heritage Centre to see what we could find out to help with our research for the project. We met Jack Hendry – a 94-year-old local man, who has a fascinating amount of knowledge on Inverurie's history that he shared with the pupils. The rest of our time there was then spent browsing the archives – some of them so old that we had to use gloves while handling them. There was not much about the Pictish Stones at the Bass, but the pupils found plenty of interesting facts and photos about Inverurie's more recent history. The video will be completed next week and will be shown by the Community Council to the Inverurie in Bloom judges in August when they visit.

By Alfie Ingram (S6)



Knitting Club – Knitting the Elements

This term Knitting Club members and school staff have been taking part in a collaborative project to help knit the periodic table. To celebrate 150 years since its creation, the Chemistry Department at Aberdeen University decided to embark on a project involving community groups to knit squares to represent each element and have created a large blanket which will be sold in aid of Cyrenians, the Aberdeen charity for the homeless. They hope to make two more blankets and Inverurie Academy Knitting Club will have a number of squares to donate to this project by the end of term.

Lorna Reid
Library Assistant



Leaders In Sport

The final session of Active Schools Transition Junior Programme for new Primary 1 pupils was also significant for Inverurie Academy as our "Leaders In Sport" Programme said farewell to one of our longest serving volunteers as Melissa Jack heads off to college after the summer. Melissa was recruited as an Active Schools Volunteer not long after she started at the Academy and assisted her mum Vanessa to deliver skipping sessions in the Inverurie Network during 2013/2014. The next few years saw Melissa volunteering and she was one of our first Leaders in Sport.

With perfect timing the last few weeks of term saw her achieve the top level "Ascent" qualification from the Saltire Awards and she was presented with her "Leaders in Sport" certificate and her "Year of Young People" award from Cara Hay, Depute Head Teacher at Strathburn Primary School, who recalled teaching Melissa when she was in Primary 4 at Kellands School, so all-in-all a pretty good way to round off Transition Junior and Melissa's volunteering journey at Inverurie Academy.

The Leaders in Sport Programme continues to go from strength to strength with the support of I & K Motors and 2019-2020 is already looking like another promising year with a number of new Leaders joining to support Hockey, Yoga, Fit For Girls and Tennis. Term 4 saw the group providing assistance to Transition Junior, the Active Schools XC Races at Bennachie, Tawse Tyres Basketball Festival and their regular weekly volunteering at after school and community clubs.

Malcolm Grant

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



Parent Council Update

The end of another school year already and it has been a busy one for your Parent Council! We have held a series of successful Parent Council meetings and have had the opportunity to contribute our views/thoughts/suggestions on key topics that feature in the Academy's Improvement Plan:-

- prioritising activities that promote Parental Involvement and Engagement;
- providing comment on the proposed options for changing the Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting process;
- providing opinion for inclusion in the update of the Equalities Policy;
- sharing our views on the purpose of homework and suggesting ideas to improve the effectiveness of Parents Evenings.

If you would like to come along to our next Committee Meeting, put a date in your diary for **Thursday, 12 September 2019**. All parents/carers are very 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.

We also held a really successful fundraising event as our Quiz Evening and raised an amazing total of £922. We donated the whole sum to the Academy to enable students to continue to receive the support of the ACIS Mental Health Counsellor.

Look out for updates on *Parent Forum Inverurie Academy Facebook Page* and why not follow us on Twitter at *@InveruriePF*. You can also share your thoughts/comments/views by dropping us a line at *inverurieacademypc@gmail.com*.

Thanks to everyone for all you have done to support your Parent Council this year and we look forward to welcoming you along to our next meeting in September.

Inverurie Academy Parent Council

SESSION 2019-2020

Term 1

- Monday, 19 August 2019 In-service Day
- Tuesday, 20 August 2019 In-service Day
- Wednesday, 21 August 2019 Start of Term 1
- Thursday, 10 October 2019 End of Term 1
- Friday, 11 October 2019 In-service Day
- Monday, 14 to Friday, 25 October 2019 (*Inclusive*) October Holiday

Term 2

- Monday, 28 October 2019 Start of Term 2
- Monday, 18 November 2019 In-service Day
- Tuesday, 19 November 2019 In-service Day
- Friday, 20 December 2019 End of Term 2
- Monday, 23 December 2019 to Friday, 3 January 2020 (*Inclusive*) Christmas Holiday

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
- Friday, 3 April 2020 End of Term 3
- Monday, 6 to Friday, 17 April 2020 (*Inclusive*) Easter Holiday

Term 4

- Monday, 20 April 2020 Start of Term 4
- 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 (*Inclusive*) Summer Holiday

