

NVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 3 Newsletter 2017-2018

Head Teacher's Reflections

Thank you for taking an interest in Inverurie Academy through reading the School Newsletter for Spring 2018!

Inverurie Community Campus - Preparatory Work Begins!

It is incredible to see the progress that has taken place in the initial phase of preparatory work for the new Inverurie Community Campus since January.



On Monday, 19 March 2018, Inverurie Academy hosted a Community Engagement Evening from the Robertson Group who are contracted to construct our new building. This was a great opportunity to see again the designs and plans for a state of the art learning environment and set of community facilities. However, this also emphasised to me that, despite all of this excitement around our new building, the most important asset we have at Inverurie Academy is our people. I have noted below just a few ways in which our students have demonstrated our Core Values over this past term.

ambition inclusion integrity respect

Ambition

Students across Inverurie Academy continue to show ambition in a variety of contexts, both in and out of the classroom. This year, we have introduced a programme of Mentoring to all of our S4 students. This has involved volunteer members of staff meeting throughout the year with students to discuss academic progress and support students in making improvements. We have welcomed a team of industry and community partners to carry out a similar role for our S6 students, providing them with an additional link to the world beyond school.

We are in the later stages of courses as thoughts for all at Inverurie Academy begin to turn towards examinations during May and June. We wish our ambitious students every success in their studies and look forward to welcoming many of them back for 2018-19.

Inclusion

There are a huge range of wider activities that students participate in at lunchtimes and after school. Just one of these is the commitment that a large group of students and staff have to Rock Challenge, a friendly performing arts competition based on an anti-drug or crime prevention theme. Students from all across the school community rehearsed throughout the session for the performance night on Saturday, 24 March 2018 at the AECC.

The night was an incredible success. The Inverurie Academy Team placed 3rd overall and also picked up awards for: Excellence for Video Performance, Excellence for Performance Skill, Excellence for Choreography, Excellence for Costuming Character and finally Excellence for Entertainment. Over and above all of this success was the feedback we received on the conduct and attitude of our team. Students were respectful and enthusiastic in their support for other schools and demonstrated a real understanding of the principles behind the competition. We are so proud!

A few photographs have been included in a gallery at the end of the Newsletter.



Integrity

During the course of the year, Inverurie Academy regularly raises funds for good causes. On 14 December 2018, the House and School Captains held a Spinathon where each participant would ride 100 miles to raise funds for the children we support as a school in Rwanda. This event was a fantastic success the Captains deserve a great deal of credit for their commitment to this cause.



Respect

The Amnesty International Group at Inverurie Academy hold regular debates at lunchtime. This term the group have held debates on *'The UK is a Sexist Society'* and *'A Second Referendum on Scottish Independence'*. With attendances at debates averaging fifty or more students, this has been a great opportunity to demonstrate the principles of respect and discourse.



We continue to be immensely proud of our students as they demonstrate our Core Values in class and through participating in wider experiences.

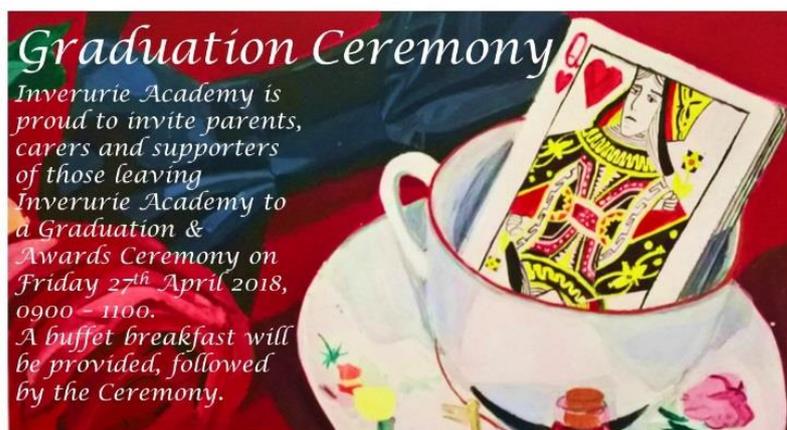
I wish you a great holiday break and look forward to welcoming our students back on 16 April 2018.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Graduation Ceremony – 27 April 2018

At Inverurie Academy, we are keen to provide as many opportunities as possible to celebrate the success of all of our students.

On Friday, 27 April 2018 an additional event will be added to the Inverurie Academy Calendar in the form of our Graduation Ceremony. All those students in S4 and S5 who are planning to leave in 2018 will join with our S6 students for a celebration of the end of a journey and recognition of their efforts.



RSVP via Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/IAGraduation2018>

From 9.00 am – 09.30 am, students, parents, carers and supporters will be invited to join us for a Breakfast Buffet where there will be a chance to have informal photographs taken and also for S6 students to collect their Year Books. From 9.30 am – 11.00 am there will be a ceremony which will have the following features:-

INVERURIE **ACADEMY 2017-18**

Graduation Ceremony Programme

0900	<i>Breakfast Buffet & Stalls</i>
0930	<i>Welcome from the School Captains</i>
0935	<i>Video Montage</i>
0940	<i>Presentation of Graduation Certificates</i>
1000	<i>Performance from Ryan Garrett</i>
1005	<i>Presentation of Awards & Trophies</i>
1025	<i>Rock Challenge Video</i>
1035	<i>Review of the Year</i>
1040	<i>Former Student Farewell</i>
1045	<i>Closing Remarks</i>
1050	<i>End</i>

We look forward to welcoming parents, carers, supporters and of course students to this event and would like to thank you for your continued support of the school.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Hairspray Trip to Edinburgh

On Wednesday, 14 March 2018 42 pupils from S2 to S6 and three members of staff (Mrs Richardson, Mr Campbell and Miss Stewart) went on a trip to Edinburgh to see the musical Hairspray. The day was full of fun activities such as a Drama Workshop, Edinburgh Dungeons and then the musical Hairspray in the Edinburgh Playhouse in the evening.

Hairspray is an American musical with music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, based on the 1988 John Waters film Hairspray. The songs include 1960s style dance music and "downtown" rhythm and blues. In 1962 Baltimore, Maryland, plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance program based on the real-life Buddy Deane Show. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colourful array of characters, leading to social change as Tracy campaigns for the show's integration.

The incredible show is home to the famous songs such as 'I Can Hear the Bells' and 'You Can't Stop the Beat'. The pupils at Inverurie Academy were blasting the tunes down Princes Street and London Road. The pupils learnt about the importance of being an audience member and participating in the Drama Workshop they learnt about characterisation, themes and issues within the show and were able to see how these were brought to life by the extraordinary cast of Hairspray.

They also had the opportunity to be part of interactive theatre by attending the Edinburgh Dungeons and learnt about the grave robbers Burke and Hare, the surgeon Dr Knox and the flesh eating cannibal Sawney Bean. With every turn, there were ghosts, ghouls and the plague! The pupils and staff did not get home until 2 am on Thursday morning but it was all worth it as the experience the pupils had was immense and will be used to support the learning in the classroom.

Miss C Stewart
Teacher of Drama



Knitting Club

Enthusiastic knitters Mrs Ogston from B & IT and Mrs Reid from the Library, were keen to pass on their skills and teach knitting to staff and pupils at Inverurie Academy so we started a Knitting Club last November. To-date, fourteen people have learned to knit at the weekly group sessions in the Library which are friendly and fun.

The first project our knitters tackled was a small garter stitch pouch and here are some of the finished items. We are delighted that Mr Jones, our Head Teacher, has been able to join us, giving us the additional challenge of teaching him to knit left handed. Luckily, Zoe Barnett in S3 is also left handed and was able to help Mr Jones with his needles!

After finishing the wee pouch, our knitters embarked on their second project to learn purl stitch and make a cotton cloth for cleaning electronic device screens.

Mrs L Reid Librarian



What's the Rural Skills Course All About?

I was the lucky Pupil Support Assistant who was asked to escort four S4 pupils and one S3 pupil from Inverurie and five S4 pupils from Oldmeldrum Academy on the above Course over five Tuesdays during November and December last year.

As a relatively new member of the Academy Staff Team and being keen to experience new things, I immediately agreed to it without asking many questions. I knew that the Course would be outdoors, would involve some dry-stone dyking and was organised by The Scottish Traditional Skills Training Centre.

For the first day of the Course the weather forecast was persistent rain and unfortunately for us it turned out to be 100% accurate.

I had packed two bags with all types of clothing and footwear so I was reasonably confident that I would survive the day. I hoped the pupils due to be on the Course had done likewise. As luck would have it, the subject for the day was Survival Skills in the picturesque grounds of Haddo House. We were taught how to build basic shelters using only tarpaulins and paracord, followed by how to light a fire using only fire-sticks and the natural materials at hand, so despite the adverse weather most of the participants managed to stay reasonably dry and warm(ish), by gathering around several very small fires under tarpaulins.



The second day of the Course focused on Historic Building Conservation and Maintenance, with Haddo House itself providing the location for several very informative discussions. The topics covered included roofing materials, types of guttering, types of stonework, different materials for pointing joints, water management and the drainage of same. The highlight of the day was, however, a relaxed, private Guided Tour of Haddo House from the National Trust for Scotland Caretaker.

Day 3 and Day 4 saw a change of location as we visited the Moray Firth coastal town of Portsoy to learn the basics of dry-stone dyking. During the 2 days, we were taught about the history and theory behind these dykes, the terms for their various component parts, saw a few demonstrations of the various techniques and then spent some time digging up large stones from a collapsed dyke, which we then placed into the new wall, only to have to replace some of them if they were not quite in the right place and only when we got the okay from the Instructor, were we permitted to fill in the centre of the dyke with 'heart-stones' (small stones). Some of the pupils took to this 'manual labour' much better than others and it was a real test of their spatial awareness and dynamic risk assessment processes.



Sadly I missed the final week of the Course when the group visited Mackie's Farm at Rothienorman to see how diversification was helping their family business thrive - wind power generation and of course, the production of fine quality foodstuffs such as Ice-cream and crisps, which those in attendance were 'forced' to sample, re-sample and then carry out one final tasting just to be sure that the taste was indeed top-notch.

Escorting the pupils on this course proved to be very enjoyable and educational. The majority of the pupils stuck with the course despite the weather, each of them learning different things about occupations they may not have ever considered before. They also learned week after week that there is no such thing as bad weather whilst working outdoors, just the wrong choice of clothing!

Mr C Reid
PSA

Inverurie Academy Senior Pupils Lead the Way in Sports Leadership

The dictionary definition of a pathfinder is “a person who goes ahead and discovers or shows others a path or way” and that definition fits very well with the journey taken by the eight pupils from Inverurie Academy who have recently completed a Sports Leadership Course that has involved volunteering within the school, qualification as coaches in a number of sports and providing assistance at community events.

The “Leaders in Sport” programme started in 2016-2017 when it was created by Active Schools and the Physical Education Department to provide a sports leadership opportunity and to assist with a growing relationship between the school and the Garioch Community Sports Hub. The initial intake of six pupils grew to over eleven during this past school year and with the support of I & K Motors of Inverurie who provided distinctive hooded tops for the pupils, the Leaders in Group have amassed a total of 130 hours of volunteering and training since June 2017. This has ensured that many of the extra-curricular activities that both Secondary and Primary pupils enjoy every week in the Inverurie network have gone ahead with Basketball, Football, Fit For Girls, Badminton being some of the sports to benefit from the pupils involvement.

More recently, three of the Leaders assisted at the Junior Run at Run Garioch by providing marshalling support, which further cemented the link to the local community that this programme and more widely Inverurie Academy has established. This is reflected in the fact that some of the group have already volunteered extensively within local clubs outwith school already and along with the hours gained through “Leaders in Sport” they will now go on to claim additional recognition from the Saltire Awards programme.

The following pupils were presented with certificates to mark their involvement with Leaders in Sport and some received their certificates from Mr Bill Duncan of I&K Motors at the recent Senior Assembly.

“Effort Level”	Layth Abo Zaed Abdalmataleb Alhalabe	S6 S6
“Leaders in Sport Completion Certificate”	Amy Norval Megan Brown Chris Lamont Katie Grant Chloe Hay Finlay Ross Saphia Wallek	S6 S6 S6 S6 S6 S6 S6



Sportscotland School Sport Award

Term 3 saw the first meeting of the new School Sport Committee which has been formed ahead of our pending application for the Sportscotland School Sport Award. We are delighted to announce that our initial application has qualified us to apply for the Gold Level Award, which would be a prestigious achievement and a great reflection on the Academy's approach to PE, school sport, leadership, health and wellbeing and our extensive links to the Inverurie Community.

The Committee, made up of our Leaders In Sport pupils, "I Can Lead Pupils" and Young Ambassadors, came together with Active Schools, our parent representative Alison King and Club/Coach representative Kenny Gibb to complete some of the initial work around the pupils views on the nine areas that the Academy will be assessed on. The committee will meet again in Term 4 to refine the work done today and prepare the final pupil statements ahead of the full submission of evidence in June.

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/schools/school-sport-award/>

Mr M Grant

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



Inverurie Academy Bake-Off

We had several willing participants ready to get their cakes judged by Miss Reynolds. All their cakes looked lovely and smelt it too but when it came down to them getting judged, it was all about the taste, texture and presentation! Each cake got a score out of thirty (ten for each of the three categories).

It was really close when it came down to it, with two points between first and second place but Daniel Roberts-Haritonov and Kieran Laird ended up coming out on top with a fabulous bake which was very well decorated!

What was so impressive about Daniel and Kieran's efforts was the imagination that went in to their Easter themed cake design. As well as that, all elements of their cake decoration were made by hand, even the little rocks and animals were all made one-by-one!

Mrs Reynolds thought that their cake had a very nice texture and a nice chocolate flavour that was not too over-powering.

Coming in second place was Pippa Hall who came two points behind the boys with 24/30. Her cake was a 2-layer vanilla sponge which was well baked with a light texture and nice buttercream icing.

Emma Leith came joint third with Shelby Benzie.

The winners were awarded 250 house points, 100 house points for the runner up and 10 house points for participation. Well done to everyone who entered.

Ben Sharp, S2



Winning Entry by Daniel Roberts-Haritonov and Kieran Laird - S1



Lepra Dance Workshops

On Wednesday, 14 March 2018, S1 and S2 classes took part in hip hop dance sessions for Lepra.

Previously, Trish Pakenham had come into school to talk about the charity Lepra, which provides cures and medicine for those living with leprosy in underdeveloped countries. She challenged pupils to raise £25 as that is what it costs to provide a cure. Pupils then returned their envelopes and took part in dance workshops with Oksana on the morning of Wednesday, 14 March 2018. Most pupils really enjoyed the chance to get out of the classroom and on their feet. Collectively the 2 year groups raised £760, with 9 pupils raising over £25.

Mrs J Jones
Teacher of History / Charities Committee



Dates For Your Diary

Thursday, 19 April 2018	Creative Arts Showcase – 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Tuesday, 24 April 2018	Parent Council Meeting – Improvement Planning 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Friday, 27 April 2018	Leavers Ceremony – 9.00am – 11.00 am
Monday, 30 April 2018	Start of SQA Exams
Friday, 25 May 2018	S1 Full Reports Issued
Monday, 28 May 2018	Sports Day (S1 – S3)
Wednesday, 30 May 2018	Sports Day (S1 – S3) - <i>Backup!</i>
Monday, 4 June 2018	New S5/6 Induction Week New Timetable Begins
Wednesday, 6 June 2018	Parent Council – New School - 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Thursday, 14 June 2018	Awards Evening – 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Wednesday, 20 June 2018	School Show/Production – Performance 1 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Thursday, 28 June 2018	School Show/Production – Performance 2 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Tuesday, 26 June 2018	P7 Transition Day 1
Wednesday, 27 June 2018	P7 Transition Day 2
Thursday, 28 June 2018	P7 Transition Day 3 P7 Parent Information Evening II - 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
Friday, 6 July 2018	Last Day of Term

PLANNING AHEAD!

Summer Holidays

Monday, 9 July 2018 - Friday, 17 August 2018 (Inclusive)

Monday, 20 August 2018 - In-Service Day

Session 2018 - 2019 Resumes for Pupils

Tuesday, 21 August 2018

Rock Challenge Gallery









