

INVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 3 Newsletter

2018-2019

Head Teacher's Reflections

Thank you for taking an interest in Inverurie Academy through reading the School Newsletter for Spring 2019!

Looking back, a great deal has changed visually in the space of a year!



Ground was just being broken in March 2018 for the new Inverurie Community Campus. Contrasted with this, in the last fortnight, students were able to stand (one year later) on the roof of the new building as it reaches the half-way point.



In March 2018, we were planning towards the introduction of the new Inverurie Academy School Uniform. This is now embedded and a proud part of our school identity.



We have also now just marked one of the leaver events with the S6 School Prom. The Class of 2019 had a fantastic evening at Pittodrie House Hotel on Friday, 15 March 2019.

We are also working hard to support less visible but perhaps more important changes at Inverurie Academy. Our curriculum continues to evolve as we seek to make sure that young people have an experience that encourages ambition whilst also ensuring that all young people have a chance to achieve:-

- Our current S4 are coming towards the end of a year where many are sitting seven national qualifications rather than six in previous years.
- Our options for 2019-20 now include at least a dozen new National Progression Awards, Skills For Work Courses and Foundation Apprenticeships. These courses will allow students to find new areas of interest and achieve with new courses where the course award is based on continuous assessment rather than final examination. These new courses are in addition to rather than replacing the existing suite of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses we offer.

We greatly appreciate the support of our parents, carers and the wider community as we continue to find ways to be ambitious for the young people of this great school. We wish our students the very best as they start to prepare for examinations in May.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Graduation Ceremony - 23 April 2019

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

On Tuesday, 23 April 2019 we will be running the annual Graduation Ceremony for all S4, S5 and S6 students who are planning to leave us in 2019. This will be a celebration of the end of a journey and recognition for all for their efforts.



From 9.00 am – 9.30 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 2018-19

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>Musical Performance</i>
1005	<i>Presentation of Awards & Trophies</i>
1025	<i>Review of the Year</i>
1030	<i>Former Student Farewell</i>
1035	<i>Musical Performance</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

Step Up With Enterprise

On 8 March 2019 Inverurie Academy hosted the annual 'Step Up With Enterprise' event. P7 Students from all of our Cluster Primary Schools attended and worked in teams to complete an enterprise challenge which involved manufacturing, buying and selling. It was a fantastic, frenetic, high energy event with the winning team being 'The Loch Ness Monsters'. A great time was had by all and we were very proud to see our P7 pupils begin the journey towards becoming S1 students at Inverurie Academy.

Mr C Paterson
Depute Head Teacher



Gordon Art Competition

Congratulations to the Pupils in 1st and 3rd year who obtained awards and prizes in the Gordon Art Competition at the Garioch Heritage Centre on 14 March 2019. It was great to see how many talented pupils we have at the Academy winning a total of 9 prizes out of 15 from competitors from various schools across Aberdeenshire. The overall winner Tia Morrison from 1st year has won an afternoon working with the artist Jane McMillan.

Don't worry if you missed the exhibition as the work will be shown in the Acorn Centre during the month of August.

Mrs M Nicoll
Art & Design Teacher



Technologies: Roman Onager Project

Our S2 Technologies students have been manufacturing and testing model Onagers. First recorded in 353 AD, the Onager was a stone-throwing catapult used by the Romans to besiege forts and settlements to devastating effect whilst conquering their eastern empire.

Our students have demonstrated considerable skill and proficiency to measure, mark out, cut, shape and join fifteen different components in order to build a functioning model Onager. The vertical stays to guide the firing arm were originally rope, but we produced them using laser cutting technology to give the models greater firing accuracy. However, we still used string to provide the energy to power the firing arm!

Once completed students were given a choice of coloured die and/or varnish to finish their model Onager."

Technologies Team



Wider Achievement Practical Electronics

A newly introduced initiative, the Wider Achievement Practical Electronics Course, is part of Scotland's developing 'Young Workforce' initiative. Using mainly recycled materials, students were tasked with designing and manufacturing a fully functional docking station, powered by both rechargeable battery and mains electricity.

Students learnt about electronic theory by using recycled electronic components to produce the amplifier's printed circuit board; this was used to amplify a range of input signals including Bluetooth. Students learnt a range of practical skills in manufacturing the housing for the docking station. The housing was made out of solid oak off-cuts kindly donated to Inverurie Academy by Scotframe. Students tested their products using a range of personal devices such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops etc.

Technologies Team



Tapadh Leat Surprise the Senior Leadership Team

Of the seventy or so wider curricular activities that take place during the course of a typical school week, there are few that have such a wonderful purpose as the Tapadh Leat Group.

This group seek ways to say 'Thank You' and recognise others with kindness. This takes the form of a week where Tapadh Leat cards are sent to students, staff and community members across the school every term and also this group recognises particular groups with a particular 'Thank You'.

Tapadh Leat has surprised the constructors of our new school Robertson Group recently and this week it was the turn of the Senior Leadership Team of the school. We were all so touched to be recognised in this way and I have passed on the ideas and purpose of this group to the Leaders of Aberdeenshire Council as an example to follow. Thank you Tapadh Leat Group – you do a wonderful thing!

Mr Jones
Head Teacher



World Book Day Events in the Library

Book Title Competition and Book Tree

This year for World Book Day on 7 March 2019, we decided to have a competition which would involve everyone in school. Members of staff kindly agreed to stick labels with book titles to their name badges. Pupils were given quiz sheets and asked to find as many titles as possible on World Book Day. There was a definite buzz around school as pupils were seen rushing around trying to get the most titles.

We are delighted to announce that the winner was Noah Sime - 2H1 - who collected a grand total of 51 titles. Well done Noah!

Noah received a book and a football poster as his prize.

We ran a second activity in the library and asked pupils and staff to write the title of their favourite book on a leaf to hang on our Book Tree. This proved very popular and sparked discussions about well-loved books, as well as suggesting new titles for avid readers to try. The book tree's leaves will be on display outside the library for the rest of this school year and we welcome new contributions!

Library Assistants



School Football

S1 Football

Throughout the school year there has been an eagerness shown by the pupils, due to the regular high number of boys attending weekly training sessions. We had a slow start to the year, however, the boys did not give up and showed determination and ambition which resulted in a very positive second half to the season. They performed well in the Scottish Plate where they beat Harris Academy from Dundee on penalties which was an enthralling end to the game. The following round, the boys put in a good display against Preston Lodge from East Lothian, however, that was the end of the cup run! Recently the squad competed in the CONCEPT 7-a-side Tournament where we fielded two teams and both teams performed very well with one team qualifying to go to the next qualification stage. Highlight of the season would be the result against Harris Academy or the performance and attitude shown in the league fixture against Kemnay Academy where Inverurie scored with the last kick of the game to win and it was the first time Kemnay had been beaten this year!

Attached is a photo of the S1 Boys' Team and also the 7-a-side team who qualified for the CONCEPT 7s.



S3 Football

The S3 boys team have had a fairly positive season – including a close match against the staff team. They have now reached the semi-final of the North of Scotland Cup.

Attached is a photo of the S3 Boys' Team.



Senior Boys Football Report

The senior boys' team have so far had a very successful season to-date. They have reached the final of the Aberdeenshire Cup by beating Mearns Academy 7-3. We have two more semi-finals to play so are hopeful of reaching two more finals.

In terms of the league we are undefeated having played 3 won 3. They beat Alford 5-0, Mearns 7-3 (double header) and Fraserburgh 9-1. They are scheduled to play Meldrum Academy on Monday and then Ellon Academy on Monday, 22 April 2019 away.

We have the semi-final of the NE of Scotland Cup today against Banchory and then travel to Stornoway in the first week back after the holidays to play Nicholson in the semi-final of the North of Scotland Cup.

Attached is a photo of the Senior Boys' Team.



Junior Girls

Recent results have seen the Junior Girls progress to the semi-final of the Aberdeenshire Cup with a 7-3 victory against Peterhead Academy and they have also reached the North of Scotland Final with a 9-4 win over the Nicolson Institute. The Junior Girls also qualified top of their group for the North Region CONCEPT 7s Tournament which was held at Garioch Sports Centre last week.

Attached is a photo of the 7-a-side girls' team.



Senior Girls

Recent results have seen the Senior Girls progress to the final of the Aberdeenshire Cup with a 5-3 victory against Alford and also have reached the North of Scotland Semi- Final with a 9-1 win over Mintlaw Academy.

Mr Sutherland, Mr Dair, Mr Milne and Mr Watkinson

Leaders In Sport 2018-2019

The final senior assembly of Term 3 was a special one as we presented our departing "Leaders In Sport" with their Certificates of Achievement.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Bill Duncan, Director at I&K Motors Inverurie I&K Motors Ltd who presented certificates to Ritchie Laverty, Julie Binnie, Hannah Moir and Brodie Wylie, all S6.

Active Schools would like to wish all four pupils all the success possible, as they near the end of their time at Inverurie Academy and move onto new experiences and careers. All four have been a pleasure to work with, exhibiting enthusiasm, commitment, flexibility and are exemplars for young people volunteering in their school and local community.

Missing from the presentation was Melissa Jack S5, who has also completed her time with "Leaders In Sport" but we will follow up with a special presentation after Easter. Melissa has been volunteering with Active Schools and the wider Inverurie Community since she was in S2.

Malcolm Grant

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



Left-Right - Ritchie Laverty, Julie Binnie, Mr Bill Duncan (I&K Motors), Brodie Wylie and Hannah Moir

I Can Lead

A special presentation at the March S3 Assembly saw Ryan Miller and Steven Strachan completing the "I Can Lead" Sports Leadership Programme which is provided by Active Schools Aberdeenshire.

Both boys are also part of the "Leaders In Sport" Programme at Inverurie Academy, supported by I&K Motors Ltd, and have made significant contributions to extra-curricular Basketball at Inverurie Academy and also within the Inverurie Primary Network, by coaching at our cluster sessions and holiday programmes.

Their dedication to volunteering has ensured that many pupils, of all ages, have been able to enjoy taking part in physical activity and all the wide-ranging benefits that brings, not only to the individual pupil but to their families, their school and the wider Inverurie community.

Ryan and Steven are both well on the way to achieving the "Ascent" level within the Saltire Awards having reached 100 hours of volunteering and are also due to be helping with Run Garioch 2019, Transition + 2019 in August as well as undertaking their first formal Basketball Coaching qualifications during the next school year.

Well done to both, Active Schools and Inverurie Academy are delighted to see your progression and development and look forward to supporting you as your coaching and volunteering journey continues!

Malcolm Grant

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



Left-Right - Ryan Miller, Mr Mark Jones (Head Teacher at Inverurie Academy), Steven Strachan

Leaders in Sport 2019-2020

The Leaders In Sport Programme welcomed three more aspiring pupils as Kieran MacDonald and Neil Johnston join the Basketball set up, under the mentorship of coach Kenny Gibb, whilst Natasha Masson has been working at a community level with Garioch Gymnastics Club coaching the young gymnasts within the club.

Malcolm Grant

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



Neil with Kenny Gibb



Kieran with Ritchie Laverty - S6 Leader In Sport

Fit For Girls

The second last week of term saw our final Fit For Girls session before Easter and it was a really special one, supported by Inverurie Youth Sports Foundation we welcomed former pupil and Commonwealth and Olympic swimmer Hannah Miley.

Hannah presented her own workshop that focused on dealing with success, disappointment, expectations and discussing many of the factors that relate to girls participating in sport.

In addition, the workshop allowed the girls to live through that famous Glasgow 2014 gold medal winning swim with Hannah explaining, as they watched a rerun of the race, the emotions of the race combined with the sheer determination and hard work that it took to secure that title. The workshop finished off with some team building and problem solving exercises led by Hannah.

Huge thanks to Hannah and Inverurie Youth Sports Foundation for providing the girls with this experience and we wish her all the best as she completes her recovery from a recent injury and sets her sights on securing another Olympic spot at next year's Tokyo 2020 Summer Games.

Malcolm Grant

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



Knitting Club

This term we have been knitting kittens! This cute project has taught new techniques including mattress stitch for neat sewing up and knitting an i-cord for the tail. Staff members who attend regularly are able to inspire and encourage our new knitters too by sharing finished items and continuing long term projects. We welcome new knitters to join us any Thursday lunchtime.

Lorna Reid
Library Assistant



Parent Council Quiz Evening – Fundraiser for Mental Health Wellbeing Counselling

Teams of parents and their friends along with members of the teaching staff joined together to raise funds to support the provision of Mental Health Wellbeing Counselling for Academy students by taking part in a Quiz Evening at the Kintore Arms Hotel on Friday, 22 March 2019. Nineteen teams competed against one another to determine which one had the widest range of general knowledge. Our Quizmaster tested our knowledge over 10 rounds on topics such as geography, history, TV and film, sport, current affairs, music and dingbats! There was quite a bit of healthy competition between the teams and a lot of excited chatter in the hall with some rounds suiting some teams more than others!

The winning team were called “Bazinga Hof”.

The winners of the “Wooden Spoon” were called “Hoof Hearted”.

It was fantastic to see everyone enjoying the evening and supporting our aim to raise money towards the provision of Mental Health Counselling at the Academy. It is now readily accepted that good mental health is as vital to wellbeing as good physical health and statistics suggest that one in every three people in Scotland need help as a result of poor mental health. Everyone needs help at some time and accepting help is part of life and is a healthy and positive thing. The Parent Council arranged this fundraising event as we appreciate the positive impact the provision of the ACIS Mental Health Counsellor has already had for students and we want to do what we can to ensure this service is continued.

This essential Counselling support is not funded by the Council budget and so relies on alternative sources of funding to provide this service. The Parent Council has already donated £1,000 to support the provision of mental health wellbeing counselling and due to the success of our Quiz Evening we are delighted to be able to donate a further £922 towards this very worthy cause. We will present a cheque for this amount to Mr Jones at the next Parent Council Meeting on 16 April 2019.

Thank you to everyone who contributed donations for our raffle and to all those who gave their time and invested their energy into ensuring our Quiz Evening was such a success!

Inverurie Academy Parent Council



SCHOOL CALENDAR
~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

Tuesday, 16 April 2019	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 pm – 8.30 pm)
Friday, 19 April 2019	Easter Friday – No School
Tuesday, 23 April 2019	Graduation Ceremony (9 am – 11 am)
Wednesday, 24 April 2019	First Day of SQA Study Leave
Thursday, 25 April 2019	Start of SQA Exams
Monday, 6 May 2019	May Day Holiday – No School
Friday, 10 May 2019	S3 Tracking Report to Parents/Carers
Wednesday, 22 May 2019	S1 Full Report to Parents/Carers
Friday, 31 May 2019	Last Day of SQA Study Leave
Monday, 3 June 2019	Local Holiday – No School
Tuesday, 4 June 2019	New Timetable Commences
Wednesday, 5 June 2019	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 pm – 8.30 pm)
Thursday, 13 June 2019	Awards Evening
Monday, 24 June 2019 <i>TO</i> Friday, 28 June 2019 (Inclusive)	P7 Transition Week
Thursday, 27 June 2019	P7 Parent Information Evening (6.30 pm – 7.30 pm)

SESSION 2018-2019
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)