

INVERURIE
ACADEMY



Term 1 Newsletter

2018-2019

Head Teacher's Reflections

Welcome to the October edition of the Inverurie Academy Newsletter for 2018-19.

INVERURIE ACADEMY moving year...

All the evidence points towards 2018-19 being 'moving year' for Inverurie Academy. There are a number of exciting reasons for this...

Inverurie Community Campus

The 'skeleton' of the Inverurie Community Campus has now very much become part of visual life for us. We continue to work closely with Robertson Group and will continue to do so during the next eighteen months prior to moving into our new building. We have already engaged with Robertson Group in a number of ways, including Robertson Reporter opportunities where groups of students have been given a reporting role on the build and have opportunities for site visits to help them with this.



Our new School Uniform

We are proud to have a new visual identity in relation to the new school uniform. All year groups now have a uniform that is distinctive and allows us to demonstrate our association with Inverurie Academy. We have a student-led Uniform Group with a focus on achievement; refreshing our football teams and thinking about how we can demonstrate achievement as part of the uniform.



Curriculum Changes & Improvements in Attainment

At Inverurie Academy, we are clear that we want to have an ambitious and inclusive curriculum that takes account of our local context. We have moved to a new curriculum structure and the intention is that this allows us to focus on the core elements of ambition and inclusion amongst students. We have been focusing on raising attainment and we have seen good signs of this, most particularly in S4 where Inverurie Academy students saw a 13% increase against some key benchmarks. This is a significant change and is down to the hard work of our students and staff in looking to ensure we encourage all to achieve their full potential.

S4 Students Achieving 5 or More Course Awards at National 5	
Average N5 Presentations Per Student	4.7
Percentage Students Achieving 5 at National 5	52%

New Staff Welcomed to Inverurie Academy

Moving year also means that our school roll is increasing with this increase set to continue in the foreseeable future. As a result, we have been delighted to welcome a number of new staff to Inverurie Academy. We are very fortunate to have recruited such high-calibre teachers!

Support at Inverurie Academy

Finally, as we encourage ambition across the school, we also look to offer a wider range of support to students. In August, we started our partnership with MCR Pathways to target groups and individual young people to ensure that all have a chance to meet their potential. Also in August, we have continued to extend our Mentoring Programme to include all S4 students (mentored by volunteer members of staff), and all S5 and S6 students who are mentored by partners from industry and the community. Finally, after the October holidays, we will be welcoming a counsellor from Mental Health Aberdeen who will work with students two days per week.



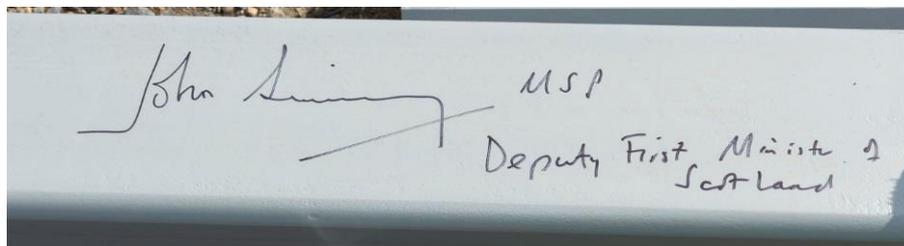
I hope you are able to share in many of the aspects of moving year at Inverurie Academy and I look forward to meeting you at one of our events.

Mr M Jones
Head Teacher

Topping Out Ceremony - 29 August 2018

On 29 August 2018, Deputy First Minister Mr John Swinney visited Inverurie Academy to participate in a Topping Out Ceremony, marking the end of the construction of the steel frame at the new Inverurie Community Campus. Mr Swinney spoke about the opportunities for inclusion within the new campus and giving students fantastic facilities in which to showcase their ambition.

Mr Swinney spoke with students from St Andrew's School and also Kirsty and Shayne from Inverurie Academy.



Mathematics (In Different Languages)

To celebrate the amazing diversity of languages that our pupils speak at Inverurie Academy we asked pupils to write (and decorate, if they wished) the word 'Mathematics' in all the different languages they speak. Their work is now proudly displayed in the Maths Faculty. Try to decide what the languages are! There are 17 different languages in total.

Please get in touch if a language you speak is not included and we will be pleased to add it to our display.

Ms Massie
Maths Teacher



Upcoming Drama Trip

On Thursday, 8 November 2018 the Higher and Advanced Higher Drama Class are going to see the National Theatre's production of Macbeth by William Shakespeare. The story is based on the ruined aftermath of a bloody civil war. Ruthlessly fighting to survive, the Macbeths are thrust towards the crown by forces of elemental darkness.

This new production propels Shakespeare's classic tragedy into a post-apocalyptic world of anarchy and uncertainty.

The pupils are excited to see the modern twist that the National Theatre have created and will be going to a matinée showing.

Watch out for the review in the next Newsletter.

Miss C Stewart
Drama Teacher

Knitting Club

A small but enthusiastic group of keen knitters regularly attend Friday lunchtime's Knitting Club in the Library.

Before the summer break we were discussing group knitting initiatives like the Peterhead Poppy Project. It is the brainchild of one lady, Nancy Duncan, who intends to create an outdoor installation of 10,000 knitted poppies reminiscent of the Tower of London artwork. It will be installed outside the Baptist Church in King Street, Peterhead, to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Over the summer Mrs Reid knitted some poppies for the project and was delighted when Emma in S3 returned to school with six she'd made. Look out in the press from the end of this month as there are sure to be photos of this special commemoration.



Four new S1 pupils joined the Knitting Club in August and have made excellent progress on their first knitted project, the pebble pouch. Esme, in 1D2, could already knit and has progressed to finish her second project, the screen cleaning cloth pictured above. We are pleased that some teachers have also joined us and rekindled their interest in this relaxing creative pursuit.

Mrs Reid and Mrs Ogston

Active Schools - Health and Wellbeing Input

Term 1 saw S5 pupils taking part in their first PSE day in its new format of workshops and inputs. The focus was Health and Wellbeing and after planning between Guidance Staff, Active Schools and Assistant Health Improvement Officer, Alana Davidson, pupils were given an informative and topical presentation by Alana.

The workshop highlighted the various sugar levels in popular drinks and their varying impact on dental health and obesity. The photo below demonstrates the impact on an egg shell after only 7 hours of being placed in each of the drinks, demonstrating the similar effect on teeth.

As part of the overall focus of "Preparation for Life" the workshop received very favourable feedback from the pupils with similar sessions planned during the school year for S6 pupils along with more focused work with one of the PE linked wider achievement groups during Terms 2 and 3.

Malcolm Grant

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



Transition

Active Schools Transition + 2018 took place in the last week of the summer holidays and saw 75 tired new S1 pupils heading home after three brilliant days. The initial feedback from pupils and parents showed that they really enjoyed their time at Transition + and felt a lot more confident and less anxious ahead of entering S1 the following week. Judo, Hockey, Athletics, Arts/Crafts and Teambuilding, Dance Fitness, Multisports, Table Tennis and a visit to the new Inverurie Community Campus ensured a busy few days. In addition, Nom Wright was on hand from Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental Health Department to provide inputs on litter, food and waste recycling and to obtain the pupils views on litter management at the new campus.

Numbers wise:-

- 300 bottles of water consumed.
- 80 Nectarines, 15kg of bananas, over 100 apples eaten by the 76 pupils.

[Once again Tesco Inverurie provided fantastic support with the above donation along with the final afternoon's entertainment with Peter Rabbit!]

- Active Schools recorded over 25,000 steps keeping an eye on everything assisted by our "Leaders In Sport" Julie Binnie, Ritchie Laverty and Steven Strachan who are great ambassadors for Inverurie Academy with the support of I & K Motors Ltd of Inverurie

Inverurie CLD played a huge part with Penny and Jenna creating links that will last throughout the pupil journey at Inverurie Academy. Transition + 2019 is already being planned so look out in Term 3 for the initial details.

Malcolm Grant

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



Community Learning Calendar

LEARNING



Community Learning Calendar 2018-19

Together with our Cluster Primary Schools, Inverurie Academy run a Community Learning Calendar where we offer a series of learning opportunities on various themes throughout the course of the year. These are available to all; parents, community members, students and staff. Please find below two opportunities coming up in the next month.

Wednesday, 31 October 2018 - 6.30 pm

in the Assembly Hall at Inverurie Academy

Drugs & Alcohol Partnership Presentation

Developing an awareness of Substance Misuse

Sign up via the following link - <http://bit.ly/CLCSubstance>

Thursday, 15 November 2018 - 6.30 pm

in the Assembly Hall at Inverurie Academy

Child Friendly Culture – Social Media Presentation (12 years and over only)

Sign up via the following link - <http://bit.ly/CLCSocialMedia>

SCHOOL CALENDAR
~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

Tuesday, 6 November 2018	UKMT Maths Challenge (Senior)
Wednesday, 7 November 2018	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 – 8.30 pm)
Monday, 19 November 2018	S5 Safe Drive Stay Alive
Tuesday, 20 November 2018	Art Folio Exhibition (5 – 7 pm)
Thursday, 22 November 2018	Photographs – S4/S5 Individual Photos + S6 Group + Captains
Tuesday, 27 November 2018	S3 Full Report to Parents
Thursday, 29 November 2018	S1 Parent Evening – 4.30 – 7.00 pm
Friday, 30 November 2018	S3 Profiles Available for Parents
Wednesday, 5 December 2018	S4 Parent Evening – 4.30 – 7.00 pm
Monday, 10 December 2018	Christmas Concert – Full Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday, 11 December 2018	Christmas Concert – 7.00 – 9 pm
Thursday, 13 December 2018	S5/6 Parent Evening – 4.30 – 7.00 pm
Friday, 14 December 2018	S2 Tracking Report to Parents

SESSION 2018-2019

OCTOBER HOLIDAY 2018

Monday, 15 October 2018 – Friday 26 October 2018 (Inclusive)

Monday, 12 November 2018 – In-Service Day – No Pupils in School

Tuesday, 13 November 2018 – In-Service Day – No Pupils in School

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)

