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Reminder

We are still unable to welcome visitors including parents/carers to the building. Please do not visit in person for the time being. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



New School Number

A reminder that the new school number (including for absences) is

01467 532290

AMBITION
INCLUSION
INTEGRITY
RESPECT

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ACADEMY**

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Welcoming Students to the new Campus

Tuesday 27th October 2020 saw Inverurie Academy finally move in to the new Inverurie Community Campus. The occasion was marked with a piped procession into the building (although this actually took place on the Monday!) together with a representative group from St. Andrew's School.

It is great to have made this move – despite the huge benefits it is bringing us as a school, it has been a major focus of attention for the staff team and will now allow us to push forward with many of the projects and activities that have had to be on pause during this time.



Mark Jones
Head Teacher

1

COVID-19 Latest

Term 2 of 2020-21 has seen students, parent/carers and staff of Inverurie Academy impacted by COVID-19.

On three separate and unconnected occasions, we have had to seek the advice of NHS colleagues following a positive case within the school community. This has resulted in a number of students and staff being asked to self-isolate.

This has been a tough time for all concerned and we remain hugely grateful for the support of parents and carers as we pull together to cope.

The Health Protection Team have affirmed the processes and procedures we have in place in the school to mitigate risk, and for this I would particularly thank Mr Shepherd for taking the lead on all matters COVID-19. Any parent or carer wishing to see the latest COVID-19 documentation can do so by accessing our website using the link found [here](#).

Although a vaccine has now started to become available, Terms 3 and 4 will still be impacted by COVID-19 and our collective continued vigilance is vital. Thank you for your support.

2

Protect Scotland App available for students

The Protect Scotland app is available to all secondary school students. Previously it was only available to those aged 16+, but now any secondary students with a compatible smartphone can download this – from App or Google Play Store.

3



SQA

The Deputy First Minister made an announcement on 6th December (<https://www.gov.scot/news/sqa-awards-update/>) that there will be no exams for N5, Higher or Advanced Higher in Session 2020-21.

For some students this will come as a blow and for others as a delight, but what it does mean for all staff and students is that we now begin to have clarity and timeframes as to how the process will work, well in advance of the time we had for this last session.

N5 Assessment Period

Well done to students involved in the N5 Assessment Period over the last three weeks.

As outlined to students, please note the following:

- This was one window of opportunity for staff to begin to gather evidence under assessment conditions to support provisional results to be provided to SQA in the absence of exams. Subject-specific guidance has been and will continue to be released to support further evidence gathering over the remaining months of the session. If students have done well, it is important they continue to demonstrate they are working at this level throughout the remainder of the course. If they feel they have underperformed, now is their chance to identify next steps with subject teachers and produce evidence that their work is improving.

- If students had to self-isolate, this is through no fault of their own (or if they have to in the future), class teachers have/will provide opportunities to sit the assessment at another time. Students have also been identified as "vulnerable" due to the time they missed face-to-face learning and teaching. This will be considered by staff when assessing work and assigning provisional grades.

H/AH Assessment Period (18.1.20 – 29.1.20)

Timetables have been issued to students sitting Higher/Advanced Higher and some practical N5 assessments in January. Please read the guidance provided and ensure students have spoken to class teachers to identify the correct assessment times for their appropriate course/level.

Students have been advised, if they have any questions, to please come and ask (F14 is my office).

Dr Alison Drysdale, Depute Head Teacher/SQA Coordinator

inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01467 532290



4

Campus Defibrillator

The Inverurie Academy Parent Council has partnered with charity Keiran's Legacy to install a Defibrillator for the Campus. On Friday 27th November, representatives from the Parent Council, Keiran's Legacy, contractors FES (who completed installation free of charge) and two of our School Captains marked the occasion with the hope that this can provide a life-saving chance to members of the community in their hour of need. Thanks to all!



5



Northsound One's *Mission Christmas*



This year has been a tough one for everyone, but some children and teenagers will wake up on Christmas morning to no presents through no fault of their own. Mr Duncan has been publicising this great cause within the Campus and students and staff have been donating New and Unwrapped gifts. Thanks to all for donating to this great cause!

6

Christmas Jumper Day – 18.12.20



We are inviting students to wear festive outfits on 18th December to celebrate the last day of school. We are not asking for a financial donation – however, as you will see from another section of this newsletter, we are supporting *Mission Christmas* this year and in this way we hope to be able to bring smiles to the faces of families in our area who are going through a challenging time.

7

Virtual Talent Show & Christmas Song

With all that is going on, it sadly isn't possible to have a Talent Show with audience this year. However Mrs Jones & Mrs Gibson have been working hard with budding participants to create a virtual talent show for the last day of term. This will be beamed into classrooms as an end of term celebration. Thanks to all involved.

As if this isn't enough, the Creative Arts Faculty with Miss Maguire and Mrs Purvis at the forefront, have been working with staff and students to record a Christmas song. We look forward to seeing and hearing this soon!

8



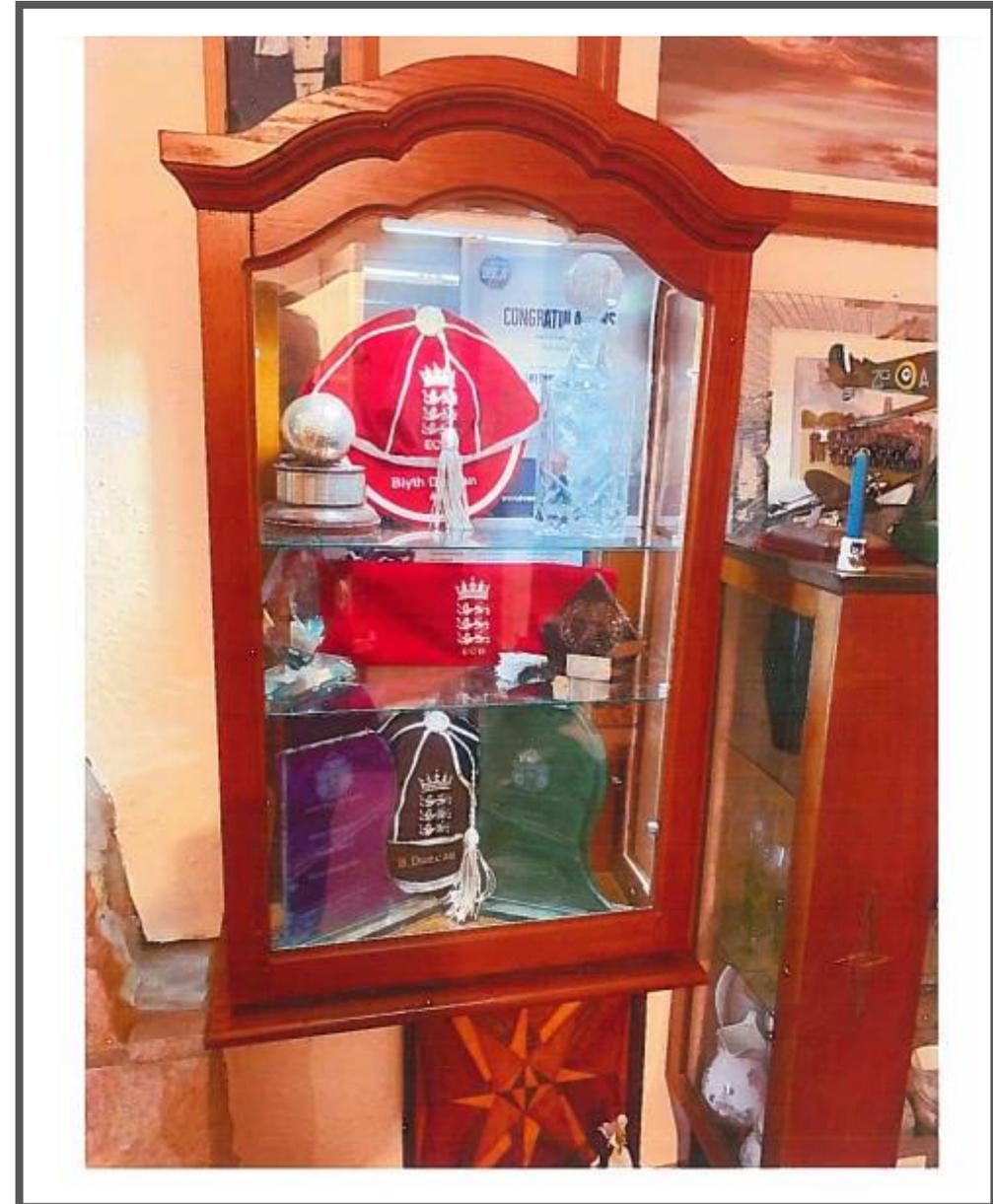
Former Student Success

We have a rich history and heritage at Inverurie Academy. A large part of this is built by the successes and achievements of our former students. Our former students include Olympians, World Number One Sports people, politicians, TV presenters and Harvard Professors. However, not all of us can be successful on this scale – sometimes it is the successes in our vocations, in coaching and supporting others, and in demonstrating our values of ambition, inclusion, integrity or respect that make a huge difference.

Mr William (Blyth) Duncan was a student at Inverurie Academy who went on to coach cricket for the English National Disability Team, a team that included his son Blyth. The picture to the right of this paragraph contains the blue England Cap won by son Blyth, and a series of awards for the services rendered by William including the Outstanding Services to Cricket Award (OSCA).

If ever we need an example of our Core Values of ambition, inclusion, integrity and respect, it can be found in the good works and achievement of our former student, Mr William Blyth Duncan.

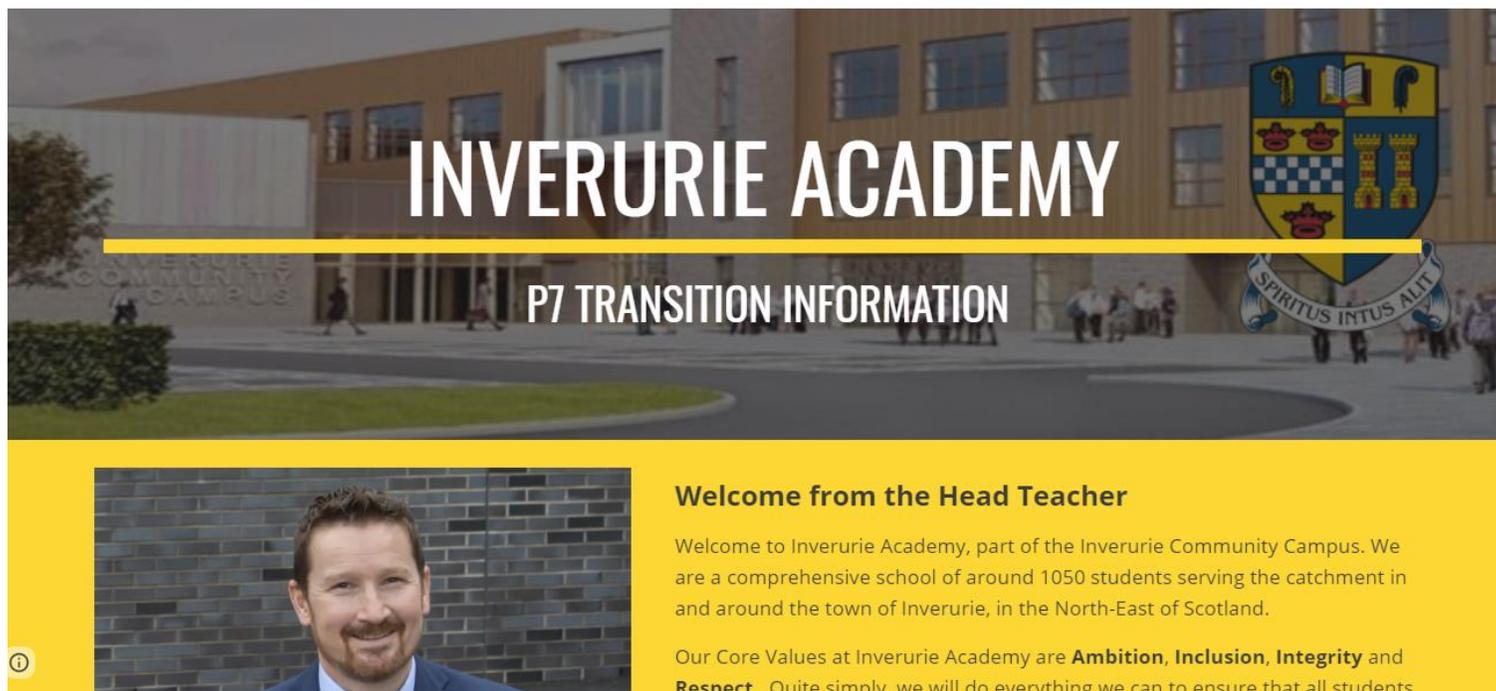
If you have any similar stories of former student achievement, please email us at inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.





P7 Transition Website

Mr Anderson has been working hard with his P7 Transition Team and members of staff at Inverurie Academy to create a P7 Transition Website. This includes a variety of information: introductions to key personnel; information about the Campus; an overview of the transition calendar for 2021. The link to this area of the school website can be found [here](#).



Choice Process Dates

During this session, our choice processes will necessarily be happening a little earlier than would normally have been the case. This is to allow us to effectively plan for the unknowns that still exist in the SQA plans for S4/5/6 and, subsequent thoughts around when year groups will move to a new timetable.

The following details have been provided to help parents/carers understand the timescales for choice processes in our various year groups.

5-8 January : S2 Choice launch in Class

19,20 January : S2 Guidance Teacher Interviews

29 January: S2 Choice Deadline

18 February : S4 Choice Launch

19 February: S5 Choice Launch

23-24 February : S4 Guidance Interviews

25-26 February: S5 Guidance Interviews

5 March : S4&S5 Course Choice Deadline



#TeamInver on Social Media

Inverurie Academy Retweeted

Mr Fuller @MrFullerMSH · Nov 11

Today, at 11am, our classes & corridors @InverurieAcad feel silent to remember all those lost in and affected by war and conflict. It was and is always a humbling moment to sit and reflect, learn and remember. #ArmisticeDay #LestWeForget #RemembranceDay



Inverurie Academy Retweeted

Mr M Jones @InverurieHT · Nov 27

Fabulous to welcome Keiran's Legacy to mark the installation of our Inverurie Community Campus defibrillator - thanks to fundraising from our Parent Council, and FES for installing this for us - #teaminver #keiranslegacy #INTocommunity #parentalengagement



Inverurie Academy @InverurieAcad · Nov 28

Another busy week for #TeamInver - rebuilding partnerships in #COVID-19 safe ways. Many of our fab @mcrpathways mentors have reconnected with their mentees, & even more new connections have begun. Let us know if you could spare 1 hour per week. #community #connection #resilience



Inverurie Academy Retweeted

Mr M Jones @InverurieHT · Dec 4

Traditions continue at our new #teaminver Campus - the Library Book Tree is back! Well done to our Library Team! #INToreading #INToliteracy



Inverurie Academy RRS @InverAcadRRSG · Oct 20

Today's #inspirational Black figure is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As an activist Dr. M.L.K.Jr. became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement, peacefully protesting and sharing the message of #love for all, too all.

#BHM #Learning #MLK



AberdeenshireCouncil @Aberdeenshire · Oct 27

Good luck to #TeamInver as @InverurieAcad pupils enjoy their first day in their new Inverurie Community Campus today. @standrewsin looking forward to joining them in just a few weeks.

More at: bit.ly/ICcpupils

#TeamWork @hubNorthScot



Inverurie Academy RRS @InverAcadRRSG Retweeted

Shayne Omale MSYP @ShayneOmaleMSYP · Nov 4

Great to be at @Aberdeenshire's Pupil Participation Forum digitally today!

Our first meeting in 9 months. Also great to represent @InverurieAcad at the PPF. #TeamInver #GoneDigital



Inverurie Academy RRS @InverAcadRRSG · Dec 4

First week done of the Inverurie N5 Prelim Timetable!

Here are our top tips for revision... #teaminver



@InverurieAcad @InverAcadRRSG @InverurieGIRFEC @InverurieBio @inveruriedofe @tapadhleat @InverurieSport @InverurieP @InveruriePF @InverurieEng @Invercreative @IA_Charities @InverurieWA @inverbusinessit @InverurieHT



Dates for your Diary

05.01.21	Term Begins
18.01.21	Higher/Adv. Higher Assessment Period Begins
20.01.21	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 – 8.30 p.m.)
21.01.21	S2 into S3 Curriculum Info. Event (Virtual)
27.01.21	S2 Tracking Report in lieu of Parent/Carer Evening
29.01.21	Higher/Adv. Higher Assessment Period Ends
12.02.21	S4/5/6 Full Report to Parents & Carers
15.02.21	Mid-Term Holiday
16.02.21 17.02.21	INSET Days
09.03.21	S3 Tracking Report in lieu of Parent/Carer Evening
25.03.21	Parent Council Meeting (6.30 – 8.30 p.m.)
01.04.21	Last Day of Term

