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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



**INVERURIE
ACADEMY**

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Reflections on the session

It has been absolutely fantastic to have a largely uninterrupted Term 4 for Inverurie Academy in our new Campus. During this return, we have seen the whole school community, students, families and staff show resilience in abundance.



A book has recently been written about the Pandemic called *Apollo's Arrow*, and in this book the author discusses some of the terrible things that are often consequences of such global infectious events. However, he goes on to say that such infections *also elicit kindness, cooperation, sacrifice, and ingenuity*. I have been privileged to hear stories of kindness from our students as they have shown our values in the school community, of cooperation as our leaving students have worked with us to find a way for them to leave well, and of the sacrifice and ingenuity of our staff who have worked to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in their assessments. This makes me confident of a bright and hopeful future in 2021-22.

Mark Jones
Head Teacher

COVID-19 Latest

Whilst the hope of widespread vaccinations for the adult population in Scotland provide reasons to be optimistic, we continue to operate with uncertainty around infection rates and next steps. A recent document shared with schools suggests that mitigations will continue to be part of school life during Term 1 at least. For Inverurie Academy, this means that the following mitigations will continue to be in place for the school community:-

- Face Coverings to be worn in corridors and classrooms.
- Hand sanitiser to be used regularly throughout the day in addition to an encouragement to wash hands thoroughly.
- A one-way system to continue to operate in the school corridors.
- Set class layouts to be retained by staff.
- Symptomatic students to be sent home and asked to provide evidence of a negative PCR test prior to a return to school.
- A strong encouragement to continue with LFD testing as a way to provide confidence in the infection rates in school.
- An avoidance of large gatherings of students for assemblies or events.
- Visitors to the Campus to be kept to a minimum.

It is hoped that mitigations can be eased during Term 1. However, as always, we will rely on Scottish Government and Local Authority advice for any changes.



SQA / Assessment Update

Many thanks to all parents/carers, staff and most importantly young people for the hard work and dedication you have committed to your national qualifications this year. You have developed skills of patience, resilience and tenacity over a year like no other. Just this week we have had some updates from SQA on some adaptations to coursework in place for next session, which allows us to ensure appropriate curriculum delivery over Session 2021-22. Despite recently publicised reformation of Education Scotland and SQA, it is our job to continue to deliver courses and awards in line with students' ability and aspirations. We are on a positive attainment journey and wish for that to continue next year and beyond.

We again encourage young people to sign up for a My SQA profile (www.mysqa.org.uk), which ensures they receive their results on Tuesday 10th August by text and email, as well as the physical certificate being delivered to your home address. Please advise the school office if there are any changes to your postal address between now and then.

Information has been circulated by SQA around the modified appeals service this year (<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html>). Although this is available direct to learners from Friday 25th June, the first stage of the process is that the young person has had a conversation with their class teacher around the evidence used for awarding their grade. Appeals will only be upheld where there is appropriate assessment evidence to support a change. This is the very evidence used to establish the provisional result, cross-marked and quality assured both within school and across Aberdeenshire, to ensure assessments across the country are marked against the same national standard.

Should a young person submit an appeal, this will come back to the school in the first instance to discuss with them in August. Candidates must understand that a result may go up, down or stay the same as a result. For those who wish to submit an appeal to support a UCAS application, please make contact with the school after the 10th August (results day). The timing of the process falls during the summer holiday, so necessary dialogue cannot happen until staff and students return w/b 16th August.

Well done again for the hard work and dedication you have shown to your assessments this session – many of you have exceeded expectations and for those who have found it more of a challenge, we continue to be here to support you as you progress your educational journey at Inverurie Academy and beyond. As advised in the Provisional Results communication, the Skills Development Scotland helpline is available up to 9th August (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) on 0800 917 8000 and you can also contact our local Careers adviser, Ruth Berry, for an appointment on 01467 670306 or 07901 008466.

Continued importance of LFD Testing

The last two sessions have been massively impacted by COVID-19 and all of the messaging we have received tells us that there is still work to be done to counter the rate of infection and maintain vigilance on community spread. One of the really important ways we do this is through participating regularly in the LFD testing made available by the Scottish Government and also by logging results (including negative results) via the link.

We were really proud of the positive reaction from staff and students alike to regular testing in March and April, but it is evident that there has been a drop-off in recent weeks. I would strongly encourage families to continue or re-engage with the LFD tests. Please contact the school office at inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk for further information. If your young person needs further supplies of LFD kits, please ask them to visit the School Office when in School.



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Academy Houses



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School Captains



During late May, a rigorous process took place to identify our School Captains for 2021-22. This involved a range of community partners: former School Captains, Parent Council representatives, Active Schools, members of the School Office Team and partners Baker Hughes. Congratulations to **Abbie G, Amira C, Hamish L, Harry M, Paul V** and **Ruby P**.



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House & Sports Captains



Our new House Captain and Sports Captain Teams are taking shape also with the following students successfully appointed...

Rhiannan M, Jennifer M, Abbie K, Aidan C, Isla M, Benjamin G, Freya W, Shona W, Jamie S, Eve C, Freyja W, Rachael S, Michael P, Luke D, Laura A, Isabelle D, Leoni H and **Jakob I**.

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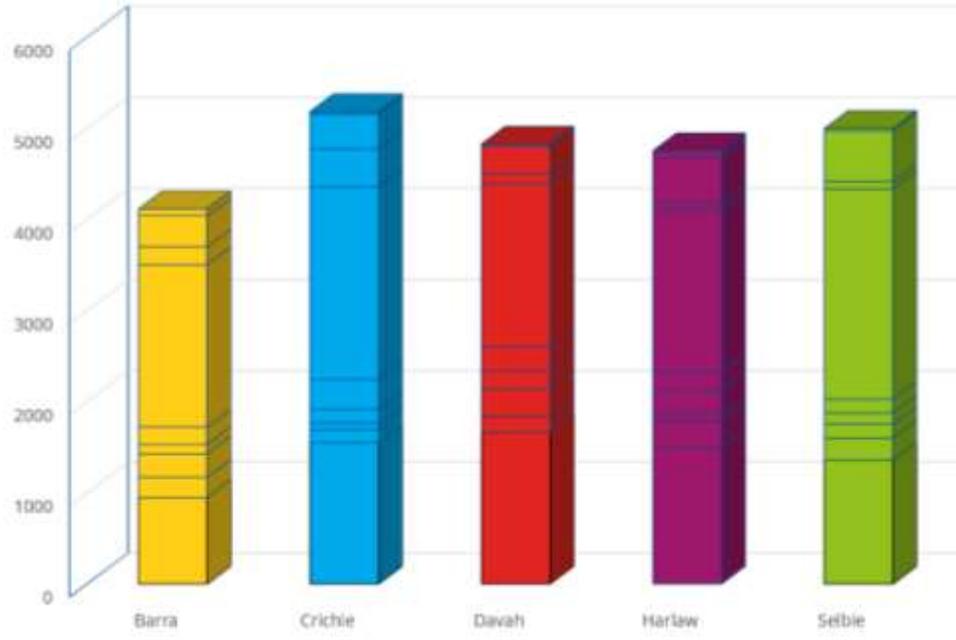


Millennium Cup

Each year, the Millennium Cup is awarded to the House that has gathered the most House Points during the course of the session. House Points have been awarded this year for activities including: gaining Merits in class; the Talent Show; our Run/Walk/Cycle competitions; Art competitions, and volunteering.

This year, the winning House was Crichtie! Well done to all!

Millenium Cup 2020-21





Farewell & Welcome – Staffing Changes

This year, we say goodbye and welcome to a number of members of staff.

Mr Dave Duthie retires from the TVE Faculty in the summer and **Mrs Jill Yule** will retire from the ASL Team in late August. Both of these staff members have given a great deal to Inverurie Academy students and will be greatly missed.

In the wider staff team **Mr Dave Seymour** retires from his time as Janitor whilst **Mrs Ann Glennie** retires after seventeen years as a member of the canteen staff.

Miss Benetti (Modern Languages), **Miss Pate** (PE), **Mrs Sweeney** (PE) and **Mrs Sinclair** (Home Economics) leave us after a year apiece to pastures new.

We wish **Mrs McAndie** and **Mrs Taylor** well as they go on maternity leave and are delighted to welcome back **Mrs Sherrington** and **Mrs Wilson** as they return to us.

Thank you to these members of staff for all they have done for the school.

In August, we welcome the following members of staff to our growing team:- **Mrs Ramalho & Mrs Ritchie** (TVE), **Miss Mitchell** (Languages), **Miss Irvine** (RMPS), **Miss Smith** (Geography), **Mrs McCallum** (Geography), **Mr Cameron** (PE), and **Mrs Ham** (HE). Finally, our new head of Thainstone House and PT Guidance is **Mr Willis** who has been with us for this past year as Acting Head of Davah House.

Join the Parent Council

We are a group of parents/carers who through our informal meetings work in partnership with representatives of the teaching staff and pupils for the benefit of the school community.

-The Head Teacher is invited along as an Advisor

-Members of the Pupil Council participate by representing the views of the Pupil Council

-The local Councillor comes along to share updates from Council discussions

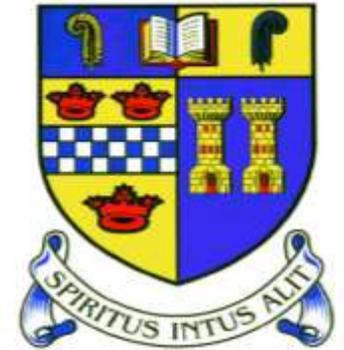
-Representatives from the teaching staff may also be there to share updates on recent or planned changes to policies/extra-curricular activities...

Please feel free to get in touch or come along to one of our termly Committee meetings.

All parents/carers are very welcome!

Email:

inverurieacademypc@gmail.com



INVERURIE ACADEMY

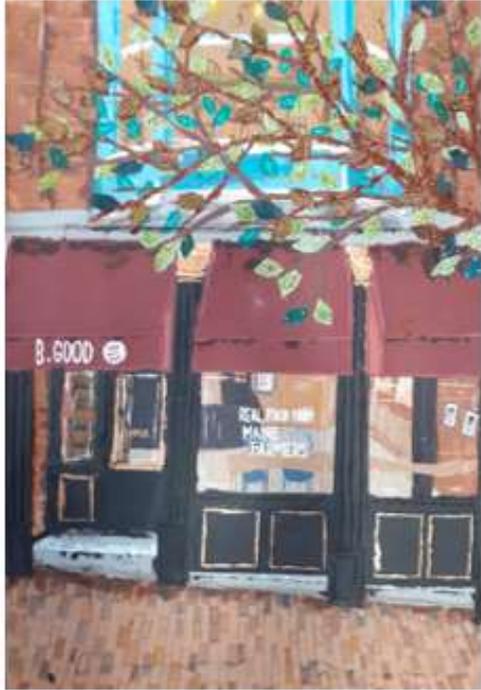
PARENT COUNCIL

PARENT FORUM INFORMATION



Creative Arts - Gallery

We have incredible talent across the school and this is very evident in our Creative Arts Faculty. Please find below just a small selection of artwork from some of our Senior students...





Congratulations to Mrs Weir MBE



We were delighted to hear that our recently retired Mrs Weir was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2021. Mrs Weir was a valued and long-serving member of the Inverurie Academy Staff Team and it is wonderful that she has been recognised in this way.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Anita Weir. For services to Education. Faculty Head of Business and Information Technology, Inverurie Academy, Aberdeenshire.





Term 1 & 2 dates for your diary

16.08.21	INSET Day
17.08.21	First Day for Students
30.08.21	Merits Week for Students
07.09.21	Activities Fair for Students <i>(COVID-provisional)</i>
09.09.21	Parent Council Meeting
20.09.21	Merits Week for Students
21.09.21	S4/5/6 Tracking Report to Parents/Carers
11.10.21	Merits Week for Students
12.10.21	S1/2/3 Tracking Report to Parents/Carers
15.10.21	Last Day of Term

01.11.21	Students Return
08.11.21	Merits Week for Students
09.11.21	S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening <i>(provisionally virtual)</i>
18.11.21	INSET Day 1
19.11.21	INSET Day 2
22.11.21	National 5 Assessment Period Commences
23.11.21	Parent Council Meeting
25.11.21	P7 Parent/Carer Info Evening <i>(provisionally virtual)</i>
29.11.21	Merits Week for Students
01.12.21	S1 Parent/Carer Evening <i>(provisionally virtual)</i>
03.12.21	National 5 Assessment Period Ends
09.12.21	S4 Parent/Carer Evening <i>(provisionally virtual)</i>
21.12.21	Last Day of Term

