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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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Reflection on Term 1

We are reaching the end of an incredibly busy term at Inverurie Academy. This has been a term when the temptation has been to focus on hand-gel, face-coverings, social distancing, risk assessments, wiping down surfaces and one-way systems. However, I would like to use this space to commend the efforts of the Inverurie Academy Staff Team to re-introduce a great deal of normality in learning and teaching, and particularly the efforts of our students who have, on the whole, adapted back very well to this 'new normal'. Thanks to you parents and carers for supporting this return.

Of course, the other familiar words for Inverurie Academy have been 'pack', 'unpack' and 're-pack' and we are delighted to finally be ready to move into the new Inverurie Community Campus.

This update document will give you information on closure days and provide some reminders about life in our new Campus. I hope you find this useful and that you are able to have a good break over the October Holidays.

Mark Jones
Head Teacher

COVID-19 Latest

During this past term, we have continued to refine and adapt a risk assessment based on guidance from Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Government and our NHS colleagues.

Our processes have included the expectation to use of hand-gel and face-coverings on entry and in classes, regular wiping down of surfaces, staggered starts, breaks, lunches and ends of days and a one-way system as just some ways to mitigate risk.

We monitor all COVID-19 precautionary absences (whether intimated by you as parents/carers or as a result of students or staff being sent home with symptoms). At the time of writing, we are in the fortunate position of having no positive cases of COVID-19. However, as I have said in previous communications, this is not something that is likely to continue indefinitely and we continue to be prepared and ready for any eventuality where a positive case is confirmed.

I would like to ask you to take the October Holidays to remind young people in your family of the importance of some of the simple things – the wearing of face-coverings (unless exempted), regular handwashing and use of hand-gel, and the following of safety-related guidance at Inverurie Academy.



Closure Days

Following on from our two additional closure days (12th & 13th August) at the beginning of this term, we have two further days to allow us to unpack and get ready for moving into the new Campus. These two closure days are:-

Friday 9th October 2020

Monday 26th October 2020

So to confirm, Inverurie Academy will be closed to all students on the two above days.

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Contingency Plans

As things stand, we will welcome all students back to Inverurie Academy on Tuesday 27th October with the staggered arrangements that we are currently working with (S4-S6 starting at 08.50 and S1-S3 at 08.55 etc.).

However, a reminder that given the changing picture, there remains the possibility that we might require to move to the blended learning version that we shared with you in June. This was the version that included a one week in three rotation. If this possibility becomes a reality, we will communicate the detail of this with you again.

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Canteen Service

As the Canteen services begin to plan for our Campus move, there will be a change to provision for the last week of term...

Wednesday 8th October – soup, sandwich and baked potato service offered both at the Main Canteen and at Barra Base.

Thursday 9th October – soup, sandwich and baked potato service offered only at the Main Canteen area.

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Prelim Assessment Period

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These are the dates of our prelim assessment period:

National 5: 30th November 2020 – 17th December 2020

Higher/Advanced Higher: 18th January 2021 – 29th January 2021

There will be a small number of exceptions to these dates e.g. practical subjects.

As you know, the last-minute removal of exams in May 2020, resulted in grades being awarded based on teacher estimates. To support the students of Inverurie Academy, we want to ensure ample opportunity for generating robust estimate grade evidence. We recognise the pressures associated with over-burdening students with assessments so have slightly delayed and extended the assessment periods.

Whilst final exam grades would never be based solely on a prelim assessment, this is the best opportunity we have to allow students to experience exam conditions. The opportunity assesses the level young people are working at and identifies targets for them to show progress upon before final exams in May 2021.

Timetables for the N5 assessment period will be issued by the beginning of November.

Parent/Carer Evenings

During a 'normal' year, an important part of communication with parents/carers is to offer a mixture of tracking reports, full reports and parent evenings. Given the necessary restrictions on gathering large groups of people, it will not be possible to hold parent evenings in the short to medium term. Having consulted with various groups in the school, we will be offering a tracking report in place of each parent evening we are unable to hold. Those of you involved in the consultation process have discussed how valuable you find face-to-face contact with our staff team and we will re-instate these as soon as we are safe to do so.

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Expectations in the Community

We have been really impressed with the way students have coped with the number of changes we have asked them to make, particularly in relation to use of hand-gel on entry and of face-coverings.

However, some less positive feedback seems to have come from the local community at breaks and lunches where a few of our students have not been social distancing in shops or wearing face-coverings.

It would be great if you could remind young people in your family that they represent themselves, their families and the school and we would really appreciate their demonstration of our Core Value of **respect** in the community.

Thank you.

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Inverurie Community Campus Expectations

We have created some key messages via video that we have shared on a number of occasions with students.

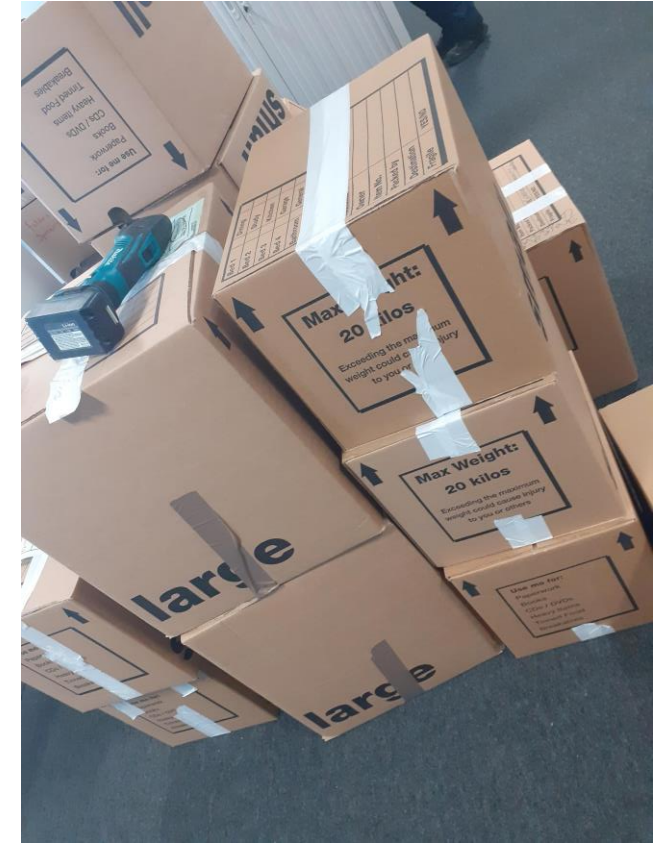
- **Breaks and Lunches** for S1-S4 will take place on the ground floor of the Campus (unless a student has a meeting or group to go to on 1st or 2nd Floor).
- The Campus has been designed with **unisex toilets** for students – these can be found throughout the school.
- We will continue to operate a **one-way system** and with staircases being ‘up’ or ‘down’ only to support the flow of students throughout the building.
- We are operating a **‘jackets off’** expectation in the new Campus. Soon after we move into the Campus, we will be opening up an opportunity for a locker for everyone who requires one and given the facilities and lack of need for our portacabins, we can dispense with outside jackets at the beginning of the school day.
- With the superb new canteen facilities in the new Campus, we will be asking students to use the Atrium eating area for packed lunches or for canteen-purchased food only – and that **no hot fast-food** is brought into the building. This allows us to fall into line with the expectation of other Academies.
- Finally this is a **shared** facility – we are one of a number of users including Live Life Aberdeenshire, St. Andrew’s School and Community Learning & Development.





Preparing for the big move

With only seven days to the big move, preparations are in full swing for our move to the Inverurie Community Campus. Boxes are being moved, one-way systems have been created, an induction video is in production for students (to be shown w/c 5th October) and student tours are taking place during this fortnight, supervised by our fantastic Guidance Team. Please find below just a few photographs showing the preparations under way.





School Uniform

At the beginning of August, we made adjustments to the School Uniform for Inverurie Academy.

As we move into the new Campus, a couple of reminders about these adjustments:-

The optional Grey or Black v-neck jumpers should be plain colour and not of the hoody variety.

The jumper is not an alternative to the blazer. The blazer is a compulsory item that students involved in creating and voting for this uniform were most keen on.

I would be grateful if you could remind young people in your family about this clarity on these adjustments.



The School Uniform at Inverurie Academy was changed following consultation with students, parents/carers and staff in time for session 2018-19. Great importance was placed on the requirement for Inverurie Academy School Uniform to be student identifier. This requirement was underlined with the move to the shared Inverurie Community Campus during 2020.

The Uniform (S1-S6)

Compulsory Blue Blazer
White Shirt and School Tie
Optional Grey or Black V-Neck Jumper or Cardigan
Black Trousers or Skirt
Black Shoes or All-Black Trainers

The Uniform – Explanation

Compulsory Blue Blazer This can be purchased via Academy Uniforms at https://www.academyuniforms ltd.co.uk . Fitting opportunities are provided in May each year in time for the following session.
White Shirt and School Tie School Captains are presented with an Inverurie Academy Tartan Tie to wear as part of their identity. Otherwise Ties can be purchased at https://www.academyuniforms ltd.co.uk .
Optional Grey or Black V-Neck Jumper or Cardigan Grey and black v-neck jumpers with the school crest can be purchased from Academy Uniforms at https://www.academyuniforms ltd.co.uk . However, it is acceptable to wear plain grey or black v-neck jumpers as an alternative as long as these are accompanied by the School Tie and the Blue Blazer.
Black Trousers or Skirt Most recent contention has accompanied the wearing of suitable trousers and skirts.
Trousers There are two factors which distinguish acceptable from unacceptable school trousers. 1) Colour – school trousers must be black and not faded, worn, weathered or ripped. 2) Rivets – school trousers must not have obviously visible rivets. School trousers should have either no rivets or black rivets.
Skirts Skirts should be of a reasonable length and should not be too short. As a guide, fingertip length or longer when arms are held by a student's sides would be considered appropriate.
Black Shoes or All-Black Trainers Shoes should be plain black and must not have coloured detailing.

The School Uniform in the Campus

At the beginning of the school day, students are asked to place outer jackets in their lockers or bags. These can be put back on at the end of the last period of the school day.

ambition inclusion integrity respect

Guidelines Revised April 2020

Dates for your Diary

27.10.20	First day for students at ICC
02.11.20	S1/2/3 Tracking Report - To Parents/Carers
10.11.20	Tracking Report <i>in lieu of</i> S5/6 Parent Evening*
24.11.20	Parent Council Meeting
26.11.20	P7 Parent Information Evening (Virtual)
30.11.20	N5 Prelim Assessment Period Begins
02.12.20	Tracking Report <i>in lieu of</i> S1 Parent Evening
10.12.20	Tracking Report <i>in lieu of</i> S4 Parent Evening
18.12.20	Last Day of Term