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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.



**INVERURIE  
ACADEMY**

Inverurie Community Campus  
Victoria Street  
Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire  
AB51 3QS

Telephone: [01467 532290](tel:01467532290)  
Email: [inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:inverurie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)





## Reflections on the session

It has been so great to see students, staff and members of the community overcoming the continued challenges we have faced this session with COVID-19. This has meant we have been able to enjoy a nearer-to-normal term at the start of session 2021-22.

With a focus on recovery, wellbeing and getting back to nearer-to-normal business, it has been great to see the enthusiasm students have for their learning and for wider activities. This was particularly evident in the S1-S3 Activities Fair where we saw around 600 sign-ups for clubs, groups and activities and a number of groups have had to create a second day or class to run lunch-time groups.

As always, we look out for examples of our Core Values in action. One particular example shines out. Having given out some left-over cinnamon rolls to students, our S5 cohort spontaneously decided to applaud the Canteen Staff every time they appeared to wipe down a table! A real example of **#respect** in action!

Wishing you a great October break when it comes!



Mark Jones  
Head Teacher

## COVID-19 Latest

Thank you for your continued support in efforts to mitigate risk in and around Inverurie Academy. This has been a challenging term with infection rates rising nationally, although there are signs of a recent reduction in the past few weeks.

We continue to look for support of the local community in the following ways...

- Maintaining good hand hygiene.
- Wearing face coverings (in school, and when using school transport).
- Following the one-way system that is in place.
- Carrying out lateral flow testing regularly. (Supplies are readily available from the school office – young people can collect these as/when needed. Please remember to record the result.)
- The advice we have is that staff and secondary students should be encouraged to continue testing during the holiday period in line with national public health guidance. Please ensure that students take a test on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October before returning to school on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Our school website has a dedicated COVID-19 page where you can find full details and also links to useful guidance from NHS and Scottish Government. The link to the page of our website can be found [here](#)



# Recovery Plans for Inverurie Academy

Since May, our staff team have been thinking and planning towards our 2021-22 session being about recovery. Our planning has included many aspects of school life with a resulting *Recovery Plan* designed to bring all of these different aspects together. For us, recovery doesn't mean reducing our expectations, lowering our ambitions or 'taking it easy' as a school community. Instead it means thinking carefully about how we achieve our ambitions, planning to take full advantage of opportunities, and targeting support where it is needed. Rather than include the full *Recovery Plan* with this newsletter, just a few examples of recovery activity have been included below. If you have questions about any of this, please ask via the school website [here](#).

## Wellbeing

### We will:

- Track wellbeing data with termly SHANARRI surveys of both students and staff
- Create a 'Snapshot of Inverurie Academy' video to strengthen school identity and a sense of belonging
- Introduce Wellbeing Ambassadors as leadership opportunities throughout year groups

### Impact:

- Provide clear data on the overall wellbeing of students and staff to provide the right support at the right time
- Highlight the depth and variety of issues our young people deal with & provide a vehicle to share this with our wider school community and partners
- Provide further leadership opportunities for students with a journey towards peer education around positive wellbeing

## AFCCTrust

### We will:

- Support all S2 students in completing the Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust 12 week Mindset Programme
- We will further invest by having a number of staff complete the 'Train the Trainer' course to deliver the Mindset programme in house for future year groups

### Impact:

- Scaffold positive mindset for S2 students
- Have a positive impact on behaviour and poor decision making, leading to a reduction of demerits and exclusions
- Link with our restorative practice journey in doing the right thing and managing conflict appropriately
- Improving attendance by providing coping strategies for those who are struggling
- Build on partnerships

## IN2Learning

### We will:

- Design an online programme of work for S1/S2 students to complete at home including some certified courses
- Provide a small online group for S1 non attenders to phase towards a return to in person learning
- Continue to look for opportunities for FLPs to support SP students struggling with in person learning

### Impact:

- Provide appropriate work for those non-attenders with minimal workload for staff
- Provide a group based programme to support those struggling to attend for in school learning
- Further utilise partnerships to offer a wider range of learning opportunities for flexible learning plans (FLPs) specifically within the Senior Phase to ensure all students are achieving and attaining.



- A removal of our bell system for the session to ease congestion.
- Maintenance of a staggered break and lunch reduce crowds and support recovery.
- Introduction of a virtual Parent Evening platform to allow video-conferencing to replace in-person parent/carer meetings during 2021-22.
- Extending our use of Microsoft Teams for Parent Council Meetings.



Inverurie Academy Recovery Plan 2021-22  
*Good at Learning, Good at Life*

## 7. Wider Activities

- Following careful consideration of the Scottish Government guidelines (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>) a decision was made to restart wider-curricular activities at Inverurie Academy. Activities Fairs were held on 8<sup>th</sup> (BGE) & 15<sup>th</sup> September (Senior Phase). From this date, clubs, groups and activities have recommenced.

## 6. Learning & Teaching

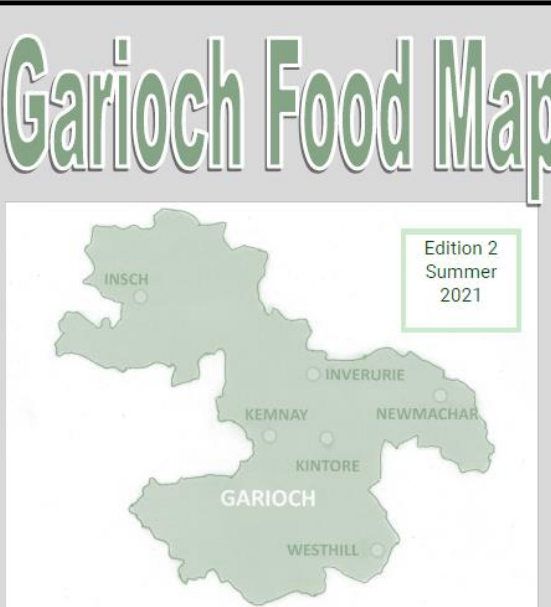
- Our staff team are engaging with *Pivotal Education* to embark on a programme introducing restorative practice to the school. This commences in November 2021.
- The Learning & Teaching Project Group will be focusing on differentiation.
- The Inver Merit initiative will continue – on ten occasions during the year, S1-S6 students will receive a virtual merit award via email to parents/carers with these merits contributing to a consistent effort merit award in June.
- Registration has recommenced with a focus on wellbeing – tasks are provided by the Pastoral Team.

- Following review, the number of columns in S5/6 were reduced from six to five to provide more time for learning and recovery in subjects than would previously have been on offer.



## Garioch Food Map

Please find information below from our partners Garioch Community Kitchen with a list of agencies / organisations providing practical food item support and information in the Garioch Community.



**Garioch Food Map**

Edition 2  
Summer  
2021

INSCH  
INVERURIE  
KEMNAY  
NEWMACHAR  
KINTORE  
GARIOCH  
WESTHILL

List of agencies/organisations offering practical food item support and information in the Garioch Community

Alehousewells Nursery School FareShare food collection point, & Co-op Foodwaste Scheme. Residents of Kemnay & Alehousewells areas. 9am to 3pm. No referral required

Contact—Alehousewells.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

⇒ Kemnay Family Resource Centre FareShare Food Hub, dry goods & sanitary products— taken by Social Workers for families in need & Kemnay residents. General public Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm. No referral required.

Contact—Duty Line 01467 532888

⇒ Kemnay Parish Church FareShare food distributed from the church centre. All Kemnay residents. Tuesday to Friday, 10am—4pm. No referral required.

Contact— www.Kemnay Kirk.org

⇒ Littlewood Court FareShare Food Hub for residents at sheltered housing complex only. Station Road, Kemnay.

⇒ Kemnay Fareshare Flexible Childcare Services Dry goods food larder & sanitary products. Monday to Friday, 8am—4pm 2 High Street, Kemnay.



**If you require any additional information please contact each organisation direct. Opening times and appointments may be subject to change due to the most up to date Covid 19 regulations. This booklet has been collated by the Garioch Food Provision Group, and is valid as of 13th July 2021.**

Contact: [gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk)

⇒ Aberdeenshire North Foodbank Food parcels, sanitary products, & soon to be financial inclusion service. Delivers out with town of Inverurie, but pick up for people living in town from St James place Inverurie Mon, Wed Friday, 11-1. Mon and Wed. 11-1.30 Friday. Contact—<https://aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk/> All details on the website

⇒ Garioch Community Kitchen Cooking Skills Courses for all ages. Currently providing Recipe bags with ingredients for cooking at home, REHIS Food Hygiene Courses, occasional Food Parcels & sanitary products. Anyone in the Garioch area, currently closed, by appointment. No referral required.

Contact—[gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 07729297892

⇒ Catalyst Vineyard Church Inverurie Food Parcels. Available to anyone in the Garioch region. Phone available to receive calls on Thursday afternoons from 2pm—5pm. We deliver on Saturday & Sunday, & can deliver emergencies at any time. No referral required.

Contact—07594 382496

⇒ Grampian Opportunities A range of food items & sanitary products will be available to those in need of support. This is a drop in service, with no need for a referral or appointment. We ask people to bring their own bag. Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm. Open to all. No referral required.

Contact—01467 629675 or email:[linda@grampianopportunities.org.uk](mailto:linda@grampianopportunities.org.uk)

⇒ Port Elphinstone Community House (PECH) FareShare Hub & CFINE. Residents of Port Elphinstone, & the general public. Monday 9.30am - 11.30am, Thursday 11.30am- 1.30pm and Friday 1.30pm- 3.30pm. No referral required.

Contact— [frances.matheson@yahoo.com](mailto:frances.matheson@yahoo.com)

<http://www.pechonline.co.uk/> or 01467 625206

⇒ Co-op Food Share for local communities, distributed through local partner community groups. Anyone in Inverurie. No referral required.

Contact—[Ryanjohnson@coop.co.uk](mailto:Ryanjohnson@coop.co.uk)

<https://www.coop.co.uk/environment/food-share/apply>

⇒ Kellands School & Nursery Kellands collect surplus food items from PECH through FareShare. They also collect from the local Co-op 3 times a week but this can be minimal. Food is available from the front of the school Monday to Friday, 9am—3.15pm. There will be a smaller selection available from the nursery front door Monday to Friday, 8am—6pm. No referral required. Only available during term time.

Contact—[Kellands.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Kellands.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) for more information and current availability of goods.

⇒ Port Elphinstone Primary School FareShare Food Hub. Dry goods food larder. For parents of the school, school opening hours.

⇒ Inch-Leslie-Premnay-Oyne Parish Church Any food needed meat, fruit & vegetables, tinned items, toiletries, & sanitary products etc. Wood & kindling available—can deliver. We are happy to provide for anyone in the parish and we also support folk in Kennethmont, Ythanwells and Old Rayne on a regular basis. No referral required. Monday & Thursdays 2.30—4.30pm, & any time for emergencies.

Contact—Dr Kay Gauld 07951 059272

⇒ Lend a Hand Kemnay Food parcels & sanitary items with items from the Community Larder, FareShare & fresh food. For households in need in Kemnay and immediate surrounding area. Requests for a parcel by Thursday, deliveries on Fridays. No referral required.

Contact—07802708167(Kayleigh Wallace) and Facebook: Lend a Hand Kemnay

⇒ Kemnay Primary School Nursery Fareshare Hub & sanitary products. Anyone in Kemnay. School time 9am - 3pm. No referral required.

Contact— [kemnay.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kemnay.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

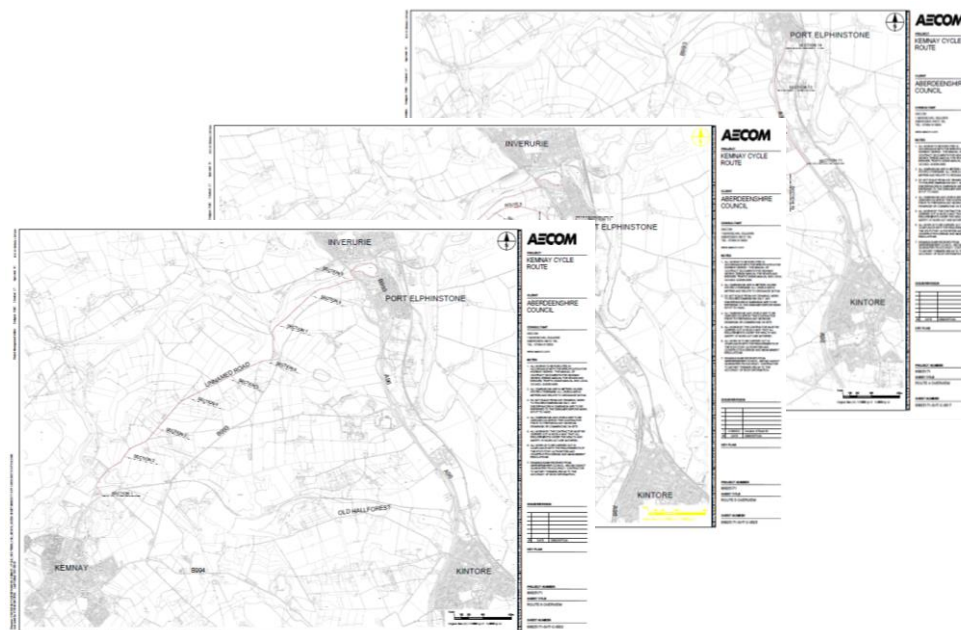
Contact: [gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gariochcommunitykitchen@hotmail.co.uk)

# Active Travel Route Survey

The following Active Travel Route survey is a chance for students, staff and the local community to get involved in having a say on possible travel routes linking Inverurie, Kemnay and Kintore.

Groups of students at Inverurie Academy have been encouraged to participate in this survey (closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> November).

A QR code has been included below to help you get started.



## INVERURIE, KEMNAY, KINTORE

Aberdeenshire Council is proposing to develop two active travel routes - one between Kintore and Kemnay and one linking Kemnay to Inverurie.

With the completion of a cycle route from Inverurie to Kintore and plans in development for a route between Kintore and Blackburn, these new routes would create a network of paths linking the towns together.

We are seeking public opinion on these two route corridors; Kintore to Kemnay and Kemnay to Inverurie. Scan the QR Code below to complete the survey online or for paper copies please refer to the details below.

Survey closes Monday 8th November 2021

Please email [transportationstrategy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportationstrategy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or call 01467 536929 if you are struggling with the QR code and need an electronic link or you wish to request a hard copy that can be sent out to you.

Paper copies are also available at:  
Inverurie, Kemnay and Kintore Libraries





## Football Trials Start



One of the really welcome signs of recovery took place when the first school football trials started to get under way this term. Hosted at the Garioch Sports Centre (whilst the Campus grounds are being developed), over sixty S2 and S3 students participated in a hard fought 3-3 draw.

Further trials and the commencement of league and cup matches for all age-groups will take place in Term 2. Watch this space!

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## Ski Team Success



At a recent dry-slop Ski Race day at Alford, three Inverurie Academy teams competed thanks to a parent-led group of organisers.

Congratulations to Rhona, Ben, Eilidh and Archie who won gold in the S1-S6 open category (through to the finals in November). Congratulations also to Fergus, Blair, Charlie and Archie who won bronze in the S1-S3 category.

Well done to all with the remaining team of Antoine, Lexie, Hannah and Emily also deserving great credit.

Finally, a big thank you for Mrs Girdwood for organising the teams.

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## Wider Achievement Music Groups

It has been a long and quiet time without the music department running lunchtime and after school music groups but we are delighted to announce that they will gradually begin again after the October holidays.

There will be a variety of groups for all ages to join so look out for any announcements in the daily bulletin.

Groups will include:

**Concert band, Brass group, Celtacad (ceilidh group), Orchestra, Ukulele group, Singers**

And more....

All groups perform at the Christmas Concert and Spring Concert and there are also opportunities to perform at various events in school and in the wider community throughout the year.

Hope to see lots of you soon.

Mrs Purvis & Miss Maguire



## 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

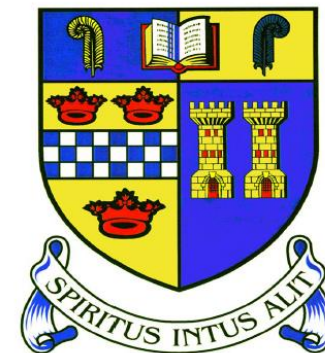
-Representatives from the teaching staff may also be there to share updates on recent or planned changes to policies/extra-curricular activities...

**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](mailto:inverurieacademypc@gmail.com)**



INVERURIE ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL

PARENT FORUM INFORMATION



## Duke of Edinburgh

This session sees a welcome return to DofE activities for the large number of participants here at Inverurie. Seven bronze groups comprising of 40 pupils took to the slopes of Bennachie on their qualifying expedition. Pupils planned and followed their own routes over two days walking, whilst also carrying out activities for their aim. Group aims included recoding wildlife sightings and creating a vlog of expedition advice. The pupils were delighted to be getting back out in the countryside and for many this was the last section in completing their bronze award. Comments ranged from: "It was better than I was expecting" to "It was so good!" and "I enjoyed doing something different to my usual weekend!".

The pupils were fantastic representatives of Inverurie Academy as they rose to the challenge and positively interacted with the public. As a result, all seven groups passed the expedition section!

Moving forward, we plan to have more bronze and silver expeditions in the spring. For now though, we will focus on fundraising, training and supporting participants to complete their volunteering, physical and skill section.



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## Education Scotland Visit

In September, Scottish Government announced the resumption of activity by Education Scotland. At Inverurie Academy, we received an inspection report in March 2020 which indicated that a further visit would take place to check on the improvement that was evidently in progress.

This visit has frustratingly been delayed due to COVID-19 but we are pleased to confirm that this visit will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November. We are looking forward to sharing both the positive story of the school and also our reflections on both impact and recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The visit will include some focus groups with parents/carers, staff and students and we will receive an update from Education Scotland after this visit. This update will be shared with our school community.



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## SAMH & Attendance

Inverurie Academy have been allocated a practitioner from SAMH (the Scottish mental health charity) who will join us 2 days a week after the October Holidays. Beth Rose will be working with young people on a 1:1 basis as part of a pilot in two Aberdeenshire schools. Developed in 2020 'Time for Me' is a 6 session life skills course, based on the principles of CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy), for young people aged 11 – 18 years, who are experiencing anxiety, low mood and anger. Referrals are made via the Pupil Support Team and young people must meet certain criteria. Beth will be working with us for one year and spend next term getting to know staff, all our young people and parent/carers by offering advice sessions.



Marie Maclean joins Moreen Laurenson as jobshare Attendance Officer next term, further supporting our drive to improve pupil attendance. Understandably, attendance has been impacted by COVID but to continue our improvement journey, it is essential young people are supported to attend school on a daily basis as it is clearly proven that young people with good attendance go on to achieve well. Thank you to all parent/carers for notifying the school office promptly regarding pupil absence (by 8.30am at latest) – this can be done via the school phone number (Option 1) or via the 'Contact Us' form on the website. Attendance letters will be issued next term for those young people whose attendance over Term 1 has given us cause for concern.

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## Communication

Whether in normal times or less normal times, it is great to have regular contact from our parents/carers.

However, a plea for understanding... It would be great if you could remember that contact made to school by phone/email/website Contact Us form cannot always necessitate an immediate response. With increasing amounts of digital contact, the workload associated with this has increased exponentially. **As you can understand, the priority of our staff is first and foremost, face-to-face learning and teaching and learner wellbeing.**

When you liaise with a member of the Office staff, Pupil Support Team (Principal Teachers of Guidance/Additional Support for Learning) or the Senior Leadership Team, it may be your communication requires information gathering dependent on the availability of other staff. Please be understanding and reassured that we have to prioritise issues of the most urgent nature in the first instance. Likewise, it is possible, given the volume of communication that something is overlooked – please feel free to resend if you have not had a response within 5 working days. Many thanks.

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## Term 2 dates for your diary

<b>01.11.21</b>	Students Return
<b>08.11.21</b>	Merits Week for Students
<b>09.11.21</b>	S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening ( <i>using Parents Evening Booking System for video conferencing</i> )
<b>18.11.21</b>	INSET Day 1
<b>19.11.21</b>	INSET Day 2
<b>22.11.21</b>	National 5 Assessment Period Commences Visit from Education Scotland Team
<b>23.11.21</b>	Parent Council Meeting Education Scotland Team Visit Ends
<b>25.11.21</b>	P7 Parent/Carer Info Evening ( <i>using Parents Evening Booking System for video conferencing</i> )
<b>29.11.21</b>	Merits Week for Students
<b>01.12.21</b>	S1 Parent/Carer Evening ( <i>using Parents Evening Booking System for video conferencing</i> )
<b>09.12.21</b>	S4 Parent/Carer Evening ( <i>using Parents Evening Booking System for video conferencing</i> )
<b>10.12.21</b>	National 5 Assessment Period Ends
<b>21.12.21</b>	Last Day of Term