

# Farewell to Ms Lynch



By Oliver Greig, S2

Before Ms Lynch left Inverurie Academy, I interviewed her. She has been working at Inverurie Academy for nine years. She really loves the natural light with the new school because in winter when it gets dark it makes it feel a lot brighter. She really liked all the wacky different rooms and the big high walls.

Her next job is Rossie Young Person's Trust which is just outside Montrose. The things she is going to miss at Inverurie Academy are the people because there are some really special pupils and staff..

Ms Lynch's most enjoyable mo-

ments were seeing a young person start with us and witnessing them growing in confidence as they are coming up thought the school and now adults who are working or having a family of their own. She really likes the laughs and so many days that she has proper belly laughs. She hopes we get back to having Christmas concerts. She has been so proud and almost cried because of the way people come together to make a magic performance.

We spoke to a few staff members and this is what they said about Ms Lynch.

**Mrs McFarland** - Ms Lynch is such a good listener and is always there for you no matter what. I can't be-

lieve she is leaving as the school will not be the same without her, there are so many little things she does which make her such a special part of the school which we will really miss.

**Ms Lees** - I have worked alongside Ms Lynch since I started at Inverurie Academy eight years ago. We hit it off straight away and have had a lovely relationship throughout. I will miss Ms Lynch's guidance and advice. She always works so hard to get things right for our young people and I admire her commitment and dedication to all in our school. I wish her all the very best in her new role, she will nail it!

**Mr Littler** - "Ms Lynch will be missed by me for a variety of reasons. Throughout my time here at Inverurie she has supported me through many different situations – both personal and professional. She's always been a great source of wisdom to me and I'll miss her smiley face"

**Dr Drysdale** - "Missing you already Ms Lynch – who'd have thought our paths would cross again since we first met at Aberdeen Uni Concert Band last millennium! Thanks for all your support and guidance over the last 4 years."

**Mrs Farquhar** - The biggest heart with the biggest GIRFEC brain! Going to miss her wealth of knowledge and expertise on GIRFEC and child protection based. She's been brilliant to work for to always feel valued as a team member.

## New Era for Inverurie Academy



From Left to right, Chloe Michie, Liam Sharp, Lily Boyd, Oliver Greig, Molly Bryce with Mr N Hendry behind.

By Liam Sharp, S2

In this article you will hopefully get to know our amazing new headteacher, Mr Hendry! You'll get to find out things like why he chose Inverurie Academy, what he is looking forward to, even if he likes the open plan classrooms!!!

Mr Hendry has previously been a headteacher at Lochside and Northfield Academy. He chose Inverurie Academy because it's a big school which increases opportunities for everyone. He loves the school being a community building and that it's "bang in the

middle" of the town.

He doesn't think of his new role as headteacher as "changing things"; it's just about tightening things up. He thinks it's about continuing the journey of the school. The school has been on a really successful journey over the past 5 years. The result of the HMI follow up last year was a real statement of how successful the school has been. Mr Hendry is keen to continue to look at the curriculum and will also do some work on looking at what we do in S1-2-3.

Mr Hendry is most looking forward to getting to know all of the

staff and then all the individual year groups. In return, he hopes that people will soon get to know him and his expectations.

He thinks that the open plan classrooms is the 1 million dollar question as they create challenges and opportunities. All new builds have their quiriness about them and this is Inverurie's. He has seen open plan classes a lot in primary schools but not so often in secondary schools. "They are interesting and just a different way of doing things," he said.

He thinks his height helps him in his job because people see him coming and his present is felt. He also thinks it's not an essential and that he could still do the same job if he was 5ft 10.

Do people look up to Mr Hendry?? Well physically yes they do and he hopes that as people get to know him that he will inspire them. He would like to think he's a role model as a headteacher. He also would like to be approachable. His door is open most of the time if you ever need him.

# Inverurie Academy celebrates RND



*The entire group of 'gungees' alongside the RND organiser, Mr Duncan*

Written by Molly Bryce, S3

Inverurie Academy celebrated Red Nose Day 2022 with a series of events taking place from the 14th to the 18th of March. The Academy has always taken part in comic relief, taking part in gunging, dressing up and buying red noses with the goal to raise as much funds as possible for the charity.

This year Mr Duncan (English) is in charge of the fundraising. Mr Duncan said in response to the importance of the day that.

"It brings people together, and is a great way of having fun and is a good way for people to learn about

charity."

This year in the auditorium a Dance event took place where many people participated, as well as a performance from Mr Duncan where the auditorium was packed. Pupils describe that people were being turned away from the doors as the event was so popular. When the song Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond was sung by Mr Duncan, the entire crowd clapped and sung along, which created a strong community feel to the event.

As well as this, a Mr and Mrs Quiz also took place from the married teachers in the school, Mr and Mrs Dair emerged victorious after a

close game with Mr and Mrs O'Connor. It was an excellent way to raise awareness and for everyone to have an exceptional experience.

Additional money was raised through the sales of red noses and badges which had raised approximately £2000 by the end of the day on Thursday 17th.

The final event, which had been the most anticipated, was a gunging of both teachers and students. Staff and students from each house

could volunteer themselves, with the house which raised the most amount of money then being gunged. **Continued on page 3**

The winning house, Crichtie, raised the most with £412.71. Ms Taylor was the teacher representative, with Taylor Ritchie, Chase Ranquist, Sophie Greig and Fergus Christie representing S2-S5.

As well as this, Jack Kelman, Caiden Guyan, Annalie Davidson, and Megan Robertson were also selected for gunging as each had raised more than £100 individually.

The final member of the school to be gunged was Mr Cowie, who had personally amassed over £70 in donations.

An impressive gunge tank had been created especially for the event and at the end of the day, every year group along with staff were invited to attend. The gunge had been coloured red in honour of Red Nose Day and was placed in a large tub at the top of the tank.

Each representative sat just underneath and Mr Duncan had the honour of gunging each person.

The crowds roared after each gunging and there was much laughter, particularly when it was time for both teachers to take part.

However, the gunging wasn't just a way to bring everyone together, it was also to try and raise money for such an important charity. An impressive £1500 extra was raised on the final day, meaning the

grand total raised over the full week was £3500. This total was far higher than the previous Red Nose Day event in 2019 which raised £2578.

Comic Relief helps the small projects as well as the big ones whether the funds are donated to Oxfam or assisting children with

added difficulties to have a better quality of life.

"It works with so many little projects, such as toys suitable for children with cerebral palsy or a mini bus that can bring elderly people together for a cup of coffee. It can



*The gunge had been specially dyed in honour of Red Nose Day.*

# Student Success on Expedition



The biggest cheers were for Ms Taylor and Mr Cowie.



All smiles at the top of Bennachie.

added difficulties to have a better quality of life.

“It works with so many little projects, such as toys suitable for children with cerebral palsy or a mini bus that can bring elderly people together for a cup of coffee. It can work in war zones, poverty stricken zones even around £2000 can effectively give a small community a school.”

Despite everything that has gone on in the past couple of years (where schools haven't really been able to help fundraise) that we can all help with the important causes that comic relief aid.



On the 17th-18th of September and 10th-11th of October, several groups of S4 students embarked on an expedition as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. The group were hiking around Bennachie and had to tackle a variety of obstacles over the course of two days.

Two members of the group, Samuel Stephenson and Lewis Cowling, explained what was required of them before even beginning the expedition.

“We also had training for how to correctly use the equipment, for example working the stove or setting up the tent.”

The groups were required to develop essential skills as part of their preparation. Each group had to produce their own maps, with some groups, including Samuel's, even completing the route beforehand so that they knew the layout in advance.

“Map reading was definitely the biggest skill we needed,” Lewis explained. “We also needed to cook for ourselves, as well as develop our team working and communication skills.”

Samuel added: “Time keeping is also really important. Our group turned up six minutes late to our checkpoint and Mr Dair wasn't too happy about that!”

Alongside the expedition itself, each group was also tasked with choosing a particular aim. There were several options to choose from, all focusing on ways to record their progress on the hike. While Lewis's group aimed to document their time on the expedition through photographs, Samuel's group decided on a video diary.

“The idea was that every hour or two, when the group was taking a break, you would use your camera to check in with either a video or a short video recording to see how everyone was doing.”

# The Youth Space



*Students gained valuable skills such as map reading and cooking.*

While the expedition is designed to be two days of walking with camping in between, Coronavirus restrictions meant the groups weren't allowed to stay overnight. Instead XXX. The walk itself was between six and nine miles each day which both boys agreed could be quite tough.

The other major challenge facing the groups was the weather:

"It was so windy that, when I looked back on the video footage, I could barely hear my own voice above the gale. The weather conditions weren't great."

Fortunately this was something the groups were already prepared for,

with clothing being particularly important when staying warm. Having plenty of hot food was also essential, especially on the second day when the weather included both rain and wind.

"You have to cook quite easy, straightforward meals because you only have a small camping stove," said Samuel.

"We chose noodles because they're pretty simple to do," continued Lewis. "Other groups went for pasta because it means you don't need to keep anything refrigerated. All you need is the basic ingredients which you can carry with you."

As part of the team-working skills the groups developed, the majority of their food was cooked as one big meal, meaning everyone had to work together.

As to whether Lewis and Samuel will continue on to Silver award, they said:

"Absolutely. It's been a lot of fun taking part in the Bronze award and we're looking forward to continuing with our D of E training for Silver."



**By Lily Boyd, S2**

A couple weeks ago a member of the Academy Star met with Jenna Dobbie who told me all about the Youth Hub and its journey.

**What is Youth Hub all about?**

The youth space is a place that was developed by the youth forum they meet here once a week and they have done for the past 15 years we used to be based in the community centre and throughout these 15 years they have always wanted to get a youth space for the community for young people, cause the age group that used to come along to the community centre where between 11 and 25. So it's for people out of school as well.

**So why is the Youth Hub im-**

**portant?**

The Youth Forum wanted to get a space dedicated to young people. They felt that there were not enough spaces for young people. They always have to share it with adults, they just need that extra space. So for 15 years they have been campaigning to get a space and it's all been a bit different to what we thought. It's all about supporting young people and their ideas.

**Where was it before it was inside the ICC?**

So they were going to get an extension on the Garioch Community Centre so we were busy raising money for that and then we found out that it would be demolished along with the school. Then the council offered to build us an extension but it would be knocked

down anyway and the young people thought that would be really silly. We were then offered another space but the young people thought that it wasn't really what they were looking for.

**So all of this was because of young people?**

Yep, they worked with the people who were building the community campus, and they had to sit in meetings with some councillors and meetings with Robertsons. And then what they wanted was a place close to the door, so nobody had to go in through the school. They even designed what they wanted it to look like inside, they wanted lots of plugs to charge their phones or for the Xbox and we do lots of arts stuff so there is lots of art supplies. It's nice and cosy inside.

# New EPC Opens for Pupils

In 2020 Inverurie Academy faced a lot of changes. We moved school and went into lockdown at the same time. A place in school that changed from this was the EPC, the Enhanced Provision Centre. The EPC is a place where students can go if they need some time out or maybe they might go there to do their work.

The EPC is run by three amazing teachers called Miss Jayne Smith, Miss Claire Hancy and Mrs Cally Buchan. Between them, they run the EPC fantastically.

The way the EPC works is that students are timetabled to go there,

and they have lots of activities that run throughout the day. In the morning, there is a soft start with lots of fun things to do and it also has a concentration station and arts and crafts. Pupils are often timetabled to go there during class time to do their work in the EPC instead of in the classroom if they maybe don't like the classroom environment or need a bit of peace and quiet. Going to the EPC can improve a lot of students' self-esteem and it helps them to meet new people and build their social skills and confidence.

In the old school, the EPC had lots of space and a sensory room, and they even had a kitchen. When they moved to the new school, they had a space in G11 and then in June they were moved up to F16 where they have a small but lovely room that has books and all sorts of fun things and a big open learning space right beside them where they do some of their activities. Lots of people enjoy going to the EPC to make new friends and have lots of fun in their new space.

**By Emily Duncan, S1**

# The Youth Space

*Continued from page 7*

**They must be really passionate about all of it then, right?**

We are very lucky to have had this campaign for us and made it specially for us. And yeah they must be because it can't all be the same young people who do it right? They aren't always youth! So they pass down all the work they do to new young people and then carry on the mission. But the people who originally designed it have missed it! They have left school, so all the work that they did is all for you guys and your benefits!

**That's great! So do you do anything else?**

On Mondays we have our Art Club, which was advertised at the club fayre. At the moment it is online but we hope to get it in here soon, in the youth space.. And on a Tuesday we have our comic group convention which is actually at the moment planning a convention for September, a big event organised all by youth. Anyone is welcome and it's free too, no admission charges. On Wednesday nights we have our Devisionarys Night, is that the word? It's supporting young peo-

ple in the community so when it's cold they have a place to hang out. With the Xbox and the pool table it's really fun. And on Thursday is the Youth Forum. They are why this place exists!

**Wow, Thank you for answering all my questions! It sounds great!**

No problem!

# Student View on the new Bus Pass



*First Bus travelling past Marischal College, Aberdeen*

travel into Aberdeen or even venture further afield as they got older. Public transport is expensive, especially for young people before they are able to work and earn money, so it is a great idea for it to be free so all youths will be more inclined to use it, which in turn helps protect the environment.

**By Lily Boyd, S2**

On 31st January 2022, Transport Scotland launched a new free bus travel scheme. The Saltire Card (which is called the National Entitlement Card for those too young for a Young Scot card) allows all

young people aged 5-26 free travel on Scottish buses, as well as discounts on Scottish ferries and trains.

A couple weeks ago, on behalf of The Academy Star, some S2 pupils were asked about the new scheme. Everyone spoken to thought it was a great idea mostly because it gave them a lot more independence in terms of travelling places, rather than relying on their parents. The bus pass allowed them to more cheaply meet up with their friends,

No one spoken to had any real problems applying for the card via the app, although it was probably their parents that applied. It took just a few days for the card to be delivered after the application was processed, which was very quick. There seemed to be some teething difficulties connecting the new card with the former Young Scot which has always paid for our meals. Just leave your card with the dinner ladies for a day and they sorted it out without any problems.

Personally it encouraged all young people to replace their current Young Scot card with the new entitlement card - it's great to be able to care about the wallet as well as the planet.



# New Generation of Leaders

By Chloe Michie, S1

The Leadership Project is a fun and enjoyable time out of class to work on Leadership skills. The Leadership Project is aimed towards S1s and S6s who are put into groups with a mixture of both years. Before the Leadership Project started all the S6s interviewed the S1s asking what skills they think they are good at and what they think they could improve on. Miss Maguire is the brains behind this whole amazing project.

The skills that The Leadership Project looks at are those to prepare you for your future and can help with job applications and further education. Here is a little bit more detail about the 6 skills

the project looks at:

**Communication** - the imparting or exchanging of information by speaking, writing, or using some other medium.

**Resilience** (growth mindset) - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness.

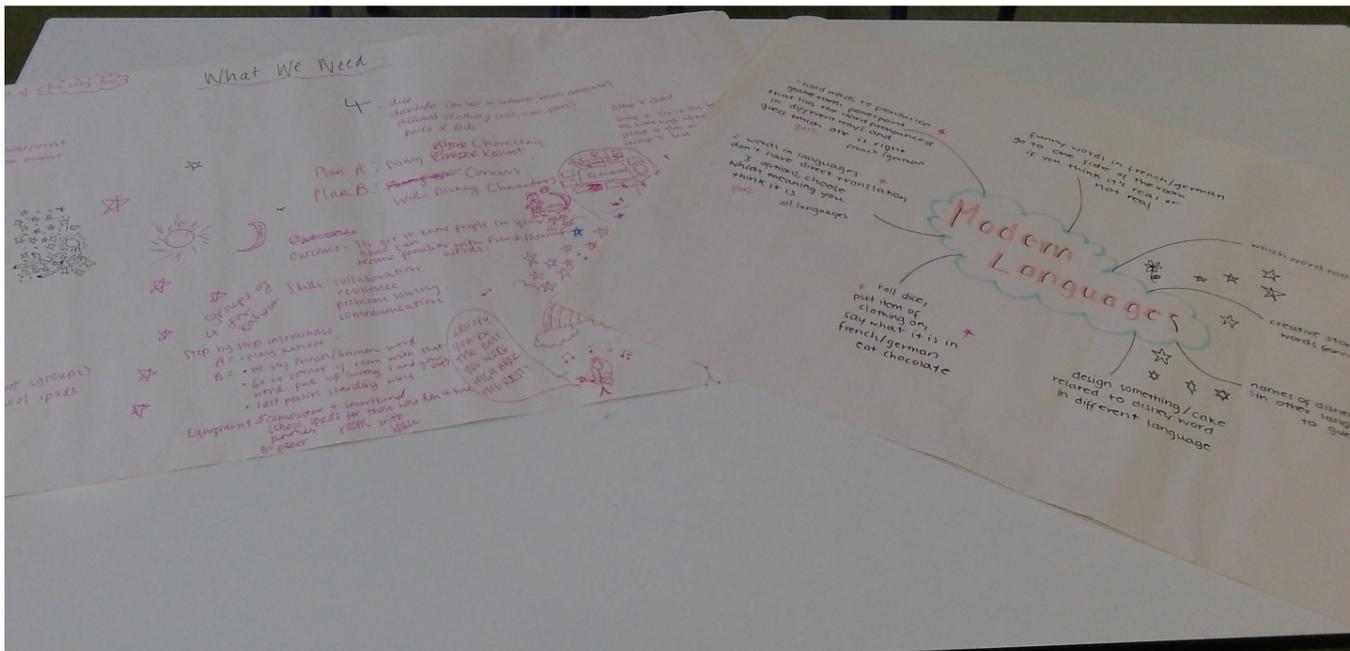
**Creativity** - the use of imagination or original ideas to create something, inventiveness.

Problem solving - the process of finding solutions to difficult or complex issues.

Collaboration - the action of working with someone to produce something.

**Leadership** - the action of leading a group of people or an organisation.

Right now, in the leadership they are working on a transition event for the soon to be new S1s (current P7s) coming up to the academy after the summer. Each group has been given a class subject to base a fun and enjoyable activity on, including the skills you would build whilst learning that subject (for example: if you got English, they could use their creativity skills to make a story). The leadership project is sending out videos to introduce the departments and the teachers.



Students from S1 and S6 created various mind maps of their chosen subject.

# Array of Clubs for School Students

By Molly Bryce

At Inverurie Academy, we have many clubs that are offered to us either at lunch time or after school hours.

## Book Group

At the book group, we partake in quizzes, various activities and all things bookish! Book club is a close-knit community of which we all share our interest in books, we are set book related tasks and it is run by Mrs Skelly, Mrs Taylor and Mr Fuller. We really want to make changes around the school and make reading and books more visible across the different subjects. There are on average currently 14 people who attend each week. We take place on a Wednesday at 12.30pm (room S11) in English. If you are a bookworm just like us, come and join the fun! Everyone from S1-S3 is welcome!

## Tapadh Leat

Our club takes place on a Monday both BGE and senior lunchtime. We have a lot of senior pupils attending so we would like more BGE pupils. We come together to show appreciation to people across our school. We regularly deliver 'Tapadh Leat' cards which

have been written by people within the school. These are thank you cards. Every year we also take nominations to give someone the 'Tapadh Leat' award. We aim to show appreciation to people as not everyone feels like their hard work is noticed and we want everyone to feel respected! It is run by Suzi, Mrs Buchan, Mr Willis, Miss Irvine and Miss Cully.

## Debate Club

This club is all about learning how to debate with one another. From controversial issues to strange disagreements, we work together, respectively, to work through arguments over things like whether we should have the death penalty or, whether schools should have afterschool detentions. We look for people who are keen to try new things, work together and include all who come along. Debating is a great skill and can be great fun when everyone works together. For the BGE pupils, Mr Fuller runs the group on Thursday lunchtime in S22 and around 12-15 attend. For the Senior pupils, Mr Fuller, Mrs Skelly and Miss Addison welcome a group of around 10. We would love more people to attend!

## LGBTQ+ Club

The LGBTQ+ club takes place on a Friday 12.30-1.15 for S1-S3 in S07 and 1.20-2.05 for S4-S6 in S12. The LGBTQ+ has taken part in many projects such as LGBTQ+ leaflet to give people more information on the community, some members of the club took part on an interview conducted by the KOOH team on how KOOH has helped and how can it help people of the LGBTQ+ community. We are a welcoming group and are happy to have anyone who is part of the community or an ally join us at either lunchtime.

## Drama Club

Drama club is run on a Monday and Tuesday after school for an hour. This is a great opportunity to meet and make friends with people who have similar interests, take a break from studying, develop leadership and creativity skills and most importantly have fun! We have previously done activities like making scenes to match songs, murder mysteries, choreographing dances and making scripts. Right now we are working on a big musical mashup and we need your creative ideas to make this the best show ever!