

A Final Farewell from Mr Jones



Mr Jones, former head teacher. Photo from Grampian Online

I have loved being part of this school for the last five years. As I get my head around the fact that I am moving on, the song that repeats in my head is a U2 song "It's the little things that give you away".

I will remember lots of big things but it will be the little things that I will remember... some examples for you...

- Being given my tour as a candidate for Head Teacher by Archie and Caitlin, and how honest they were about the strengths of the school and the areas we needed to improve.
- After my first few months when I was covered in 'gunge' for Red Nose Day by a very enthusiastic crowd – some our S6's might have been in S1 and been there that day!
- The last Sports Day on our

playing fields in the old school will be a great memory – the bunting, the gazebo, the spectators, Mr Massie on the megaphone...

- I will remember our first Graduation Ceremony for leavers in 2018 and the nice comments from students, parents and carers who experienced it for the first time.
- Hearing about how students helped out an older member of the community who needed an ambulance on the High Street, how they waited with the person until the paramedics arrived.
- Two fantastic years of Rock Challenge and the pride when other school teachers commented on how polite and friendly our students were.
- Our first Talent Show in 2019 with all of those brave acts performing in front of the S1-S2 audi-

ence.

- The first day in our Campus, the return to school after lockdowns, the nice comments from students and staff when they heard I was leaving.... The list could go on!

Above all, I will remember how frequently we as a school community lived up to our Core Values of Ambition, Inclusion, Integrity and Respect.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Head Teacher and I'll be cheering on when I hear of all your future successes and feel just as proud.

Mr Jones, former Head Teacher of Inverurie Academy



Tuesday 21st December, 2021

Triumphant Win for Ski Team!



Inverurie Academy Ski Team

On Sunday the 3rd of October, a ski race called the SSSA 2021 autumn dual slalom race took place at Alford dry slope. Our school Inverurie Academy's team took part and two of our teams won medals.

In the race there were two other schools competing at Alford. They were Banchory Academy and Alford Academy. Our Inverurie team A won gold in the open and our B team won bronze in the S1-3 category. Well done, Inverurie! Each academy had three teams A,

B and C except for Alford Academy who only had teams A and B. The way the teams are made up is by skill so team A has the academy's best skiers and team B has good skiers and then team C has the not as advanced or experienced skiers.

The organiser and manager of our school team is Aileen Girwood. She has been a great support to all of the team by cheering them on and when we asked her what she thought the teams had done she said "I'm so proud of the

whole team. They gave it their all and were brilliant at supporting each other during and after the races. Well done everyone!"

Sadly the finals of this race have been cancelled, they would have been in Glasgow and two of our teams would have been going but hopefully it will be rescheduled soon. All in all our teams have done amazingly and all of Inverurie should be very proud of them.

By Emily Duncan, S2

Meet the Team!



One of my favourite things is how the school is very open.

My favourite subjects are Woodwork Technology and English.

Molly Bryce, S3

My name is Molly Bryce and I am an S3 at Inverurie Academy.

I joined the newspaper as I am an aspiring journalist and

one day, I hope to write for a newspaper as a career.

I hope to gain valuable experience from the newspaper that will help me on my way to becoming a more improved writer.



The Academy

Star Team



Chloe Michie, S1

Hello! My name is Chloe and I am part of the Academy Star.

I am in S1 and I joined the Academy Star because it sounded like an interesting group to be part of.

My favourite thing I am looking forward to doing in the Academy Star is writing articles.

Some of my interests outside the Academy Star are art, Musical Theatre and going to the gym.

Lily Boyd, S2



Hi I'm Lily! I'm in S2 and I came to Inverurie in Primary Four. I lived in America and the Middle East for 6 years. I have two brothers and a sister. I also have a pet rabbit.

My hobbies out of school are ballet and trampolining. I also play the Piano and Clarsach (Harp). I enjoy surfing or any water sport.

At lunch times I do Eco Club, Book Club, Rights Respecting Club and The Academy Star.

I joined the Academy Star at the Club Fair. I joined because I like writing and because I thought it would be fun. I also like photography which might come in useful for Articles.

Liam Sharp, S2

Hello I am Liam and I am part of the Academy Star!

I joined the Academy Star because I like interviewing people to find out their views of things. I also like writing up my articles!

I like to act, go to scouts and game in my spare time.

My favourite colours are green and blue. And I have been in 3 shows!



Emily Duncan, S1



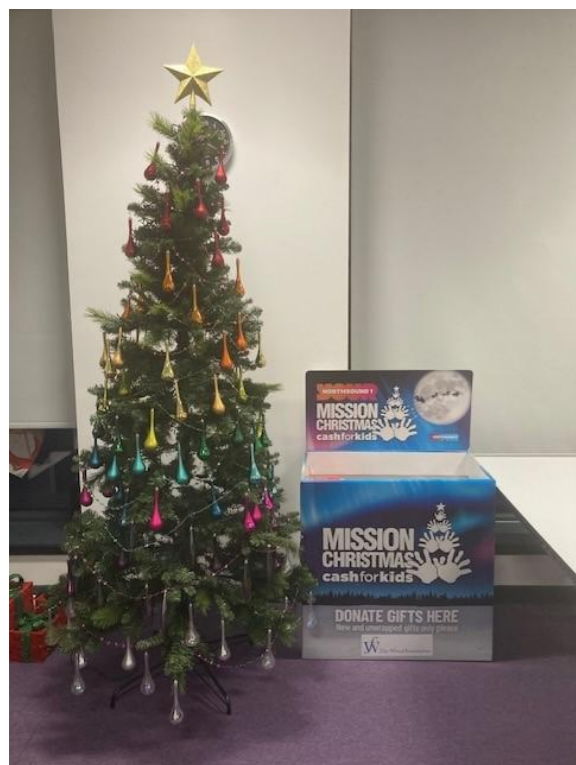
My name is Emily and I am an S1 at Inverurie Academy.

I joined the Academy Star because I have always enjoyed writing and was interested when I heard that the academy had its own school newspaper.

My favourite part of the Academy Star is probably the writing aspect and I also like interviewing people as well.

In my spare time I enjoy lots of different sports and I also like reading.

Seniors Claim Victory in Christmas Quiz!



Mission Christmas Appeal Collection

This year, Inverurie Academy has celebrated Christmas in many ways: from the Christmas jumper day, to the Book Group Advent calendar and the Mission Christmas Toy appeal.

The Academy Star also launched its first Christmas quiz this year, created by Chloe Michie in S1. Register classes were quizzed on their knowledge of Christmas song lyrics, Christmas around the world and Christmas in foreign languages! Although the standards were high and we were impressed by our student population's

knowledge of all things Christmas, we are delighted to announce that this year's winning register classes are 4C1 and 5T1—we had a tie! Huge congratulations to you!

Inverurie Academy's Book Group also contributed to the school's festive spirit with a literary themed advent calendar. Mrs Skelly, one of the teachers who leads the group, told us

that, 'the group was passionate about sharing their love of reading and sharing stories with others. We hoped the advent calendar would spark discussion and excitement about the festive period and get more people reading! They thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing about texts from their childhood and wanted the opportunity to share these with others. We also wanted to hear about staff and pupil favourites as it is important to us to gauge what those around the school are reading. Stay tuned as we are going to take this further in the New Year!' Finally, it is so important to re-

member those who are less fortunate and for whom Christmas may not be such a happy time. Mr Duncan from the English Faculty gave students the opportunity to make a donation so that children in the North East would receive a gift this Christmas. He told us that, 'For me Mission Christmas is all about ensuring every child wakes up to a gift on Christmas morning. We don't all realise how fortunate we are at times and by giving a simple gift to the Northsound campaign we make sure that no one feels forgotten – regardless of their circumstances. You never know in life when you might need the help or support of others and this allows us to pay it forward if we can afford to. We've had a great response from pupils and staff with their donations and with the Dress Down day money also helping Cash for Kids it's a positive and practical thing to do during this festive period.'

Wishing everyone from Inverurie Academy and the community beyond a fantastic Christmas.

Our School Captains



House Captains are an important part of the school community and have a variety of roles. There are six House Captains in total, and only S6 students are selected for these positions. One of our Inverurie Academy House Captains, Amira, shared her thoughts on the job.

"One of my main roles of being a School Captain is to have a student voice and to be able to bring forward ideas to the senior lead-

ership team. Another responsibility we have is being an extra pair of eyes for the teachers and I am able to help out and monitor the atrium during lunches."

When asked about what is the best part about being a House Captain, Amira said:

"One of my favourite things of being a house captain is having lots of opportunities. So we have recently had interviews with Vincent Docherty. He is part of the education team for Aberdeenshire council—with his official title being Head of Education—so we got to speak to him."

Why, then, did Amira want to take on such an important role within the school?

"The reason I took on the role of school captain is it is my final year and I would really like to make a difference and hopefully bring forward some ideas that can help Future year groups. I also thought it would be a fun thing to end my school year here at Inverurie Academy."

As a House Captain, Amira is able to see aspects of the school which other students do not see. When asked about what Amira's favourite part of the school is, she stat-

ed:

"One of my favourite parts of the new school is the dance studio because that is something I would like to do when I leave school and it has helped me do my Highers because at the old school that would not be possible."

For those eager to participate next year, Amira has plenty of suggestions and advice for how to apply for the role.

"To become a school captain, I had to answer a few questions about myself and what I had been involved in. I want to improve at this school and we took part in interviews which was a useful experience. I had Mr Anderson as my interviewer and got to ask some more questions."

It is clear that if you have an ambition to take part in the school community, there is no better role to take on than that of a House Captain.

Read the next issue for further interviews with our current House Captains.

By Oliver Greig, S2

Meet the Faculty Heads

An interview with Miss Taylor, Mr Shepherd, and Dr Webster.



really good at art! The different subjects/languages in her department are French And German! Miss Taylor thinks the new school is a lot brighter than the old one and is a lot cleaner.

And here is Mr Shepherd's view of his department:

Mr Shepherd likes the new school because there are a lot of new facilities and modern equipment and amazing new technology! His specialist subject is Geography. He teaches

History, Modern Studies and RMPS for BGE phase (Broad General Education). He also does NPAs. His department runs by teaching each other's subjects in

In this article you will find out about the 'Faculty Heads', how their department runs, what they teach, their favourite thing to teach, the different subjects in their department and how the new building compares to the old school.

Here is Miss Taylor's view of her department:

Miss Taylor likes the new school because their department is nearer to other departments. In the old school, Modern Languages was really isolated from any other subjects. Miss Taylor teaches Modern Languages (French and German). Her department runs by meeting with all the staff once a week to discuss what is going to

happen in the department. Miss Taylor's favourite thing that she would love to teach is art! She is



BGE; all the humanities staff are also part of World Studies (S3-4) They pride themselves on their lessons being fun and engaging! He loves teaching glaciation and volcanoes and Hazards in Geography. The subjects in Mr Shepherd's department are Geography, History and Modern Studies. RMPS, Politics, Scottish Studies, Travel And Tourism , Leadership And Pathways+ . Mr Shepard likes the new school because there are no drafts coming through the windows in the new school!

Finally but not least I spoke to Dr Webster The Head Of Science:

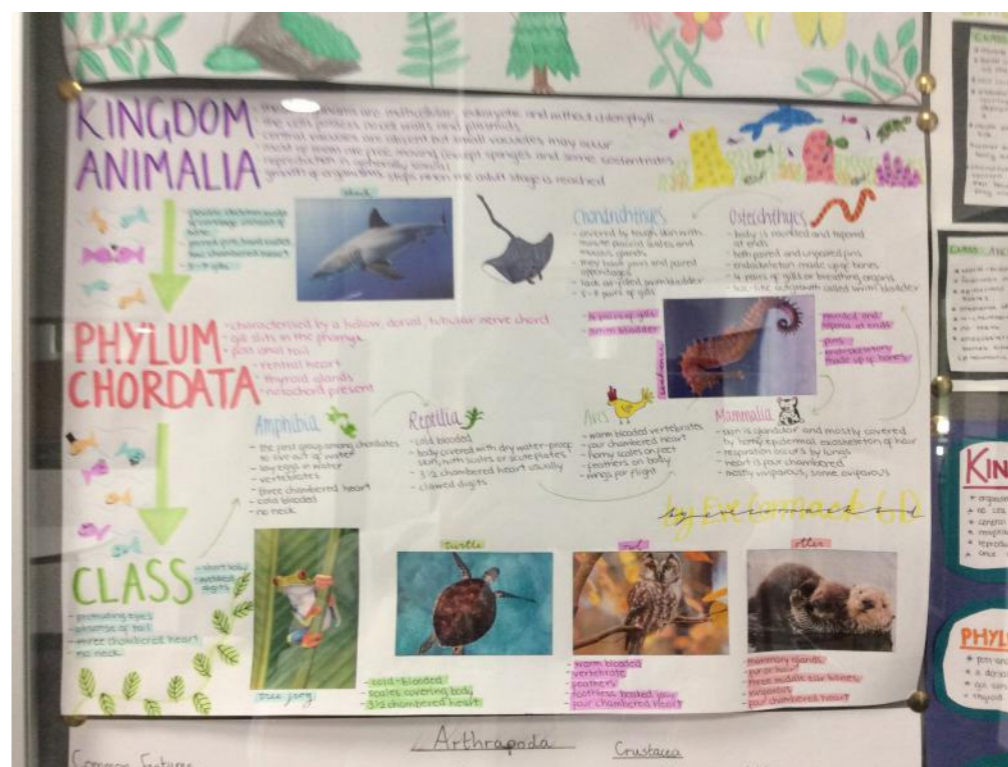
Dr Webster likes the new school because there is a lot of space and new materials. He teaches Chemistry and Science S1-2. Dr Webster's department runs with 3



subject areas. He has an overview of this! In BGE all the teachers teach all sciences! His favourite

thing to teach is Biochemistry. He loves the Chemistry of living things. The different subjects in Dr Webster's Department are S1-2 Science , S3+ Chemistry, Biology , Physics, National Progression Award, Scientific Technologies, and Foundation Apprenticeship. He loves the new school because the new building is fit for modern teaching.

By Liam Sharp, S2



Getting to Know our Student Population



Inverurie Community Campus' new dining area

In the last couple of weeks we got to know the student body, asking them various different questions to help us know them better. From the select few who were questioned there were a variety of different answers to give a better understanding of each year group.

When asked most of the pupils had a positive response towards the new building, praising it's spaciousness and how easy it is to get around. An S1 boy Brodie said

that "It has good facilities" with the building offering many useful rooms. Many stated that it was clean and spacious, the S2s who were in the old building preferred the new one saying "It is not a maze and is a lot less confusing".

Inverurie Academy hosts many lunchtime clubs with many pupils who were interviewed going to a large variation of different activities; the most popular clubs listed were Eco Club, Book club and Fit for Girls. As well as the pupils tak-

ing part in Lunchtime Clubs, multiple also do activities outside of school.

A majority of the interviewees usually said that they go out for lunch in the town instead of staying in for a school dinner. The most in demand place to go for Junior pupils is JG Ross with almost everyone choosing it as the place to eat. Older pupils however preferred going to shops such as

Mcleish, Greggs and Tesco.

Overall the student population are happy with the new campus and everything it has to offer, but this doesn't stop pupils from going out for lunch in the town centre with the vast amount of options being as popular as ever.

By Molly Bryce, S3

We are a Rights Respecting School



When did Inverurie Academy start Rights Respecting?

I [Mr Campbell] joined in August 2017 and by that point we had already begun our journey to Bronze, so I would think that our journey probably started around about 2016.

What is UNICEF all about?

Unicef stands for United Nations Children's Emergency Relief Fund. Its aim is to focus and enhance the rights of young people and protect them from both dangerous situations and countries. Some young people flee to other countries to seek safety and UNICEF helps their human rights be protected across the globe.

Mr Campbell is a Modern Studies teacher at this school and also runs the Rights Respecting Club. I asked him a few questions about UNICEF and how this club fits in at Inverurie Academy.

Why did it start here in Inverurie Academy?

There was a lot of change at that point; we had a new head teacher, Mr Jones, and there was a desire to make sure that young people's voices were heard loudly and more actively around the Academy. What better way to do that then to join up with UNICEF and deliver a rights respecting school agenda?

Why do you think that the Rights Respecting Club is important?

It's very important because it's all about your human rights! You've

got these human rights so you should be able to talk about them and know what to do when they are broken. Our Rights Respecting group is also making sure that staff and students work together to make sure that our rights are achieved.

What is Rights Respecting working on now?

The club is working towards Silver status for Rights Respecting so now we are starting to make sure that all our staff and young people at Inverurie Academy are not only able to identify their human rights, but also act on them, and protect them.

If you are interested in joining the Rights Respecting Club then we meet on Wednesdays at BGE lunchtime in Mr Campbell's classroom. We would love for you to join us!

By Lily Boyd S2