

# Junior Girls' Footballing Success



*The Junior Girls Team after winning the North of Scotland Cup final match against Banff Academy*

The Girls Football teams, both senior and junior, have achieved a huge level of success this year. The Junior Girls football team have recently done our school proud by reaching the Scottish Cup final and North of Scotland Cup final. The girls are the first team from Inverurie Academy in 18 years to achieve this milestone in the Scottish Cup and have made many significant achievements.



showed tremendous character and fought hard the entire game; this is proven because we scored the

Fifty teams entered the Junior Scottish Cup and our girls were one of the final two. Despite the defeat to Bor-

oughmuir High School in the final, our girls

last goal of the game. Attending the match were over thirty supporters; consisting of pupils, parents and teachers. Miss Waite told us "A thank you must also go to their Colony coach who has really brought the girls on and the improvement in some of the players since Christmas is brilliant." The competition in the final was very fierce and the competition was a quick, strong and athletic team, making the challenge even greater for our side.

The team picked themselves up and prepared for their next match: the North of Scotland Semi-final against Mintlaw. At full time, with a score of 1-1, the girls had to yet again pick themselves up and fight for their place in the final. Inverurie Academy's junior team did just that and won the match on penalties, meaning that they would now face Banff in the finals. They won which means Inverurie Academy trophy cabinet now has the North of Scotland Cup!

*By Luke Wraight S3*

## Inverurie Academy Rocks!



*From left to right, Kirsty Hay, Chloe Hay, Sarah Mair, Ellie Cook and Charlotte Allen receiving the award for 3rd place*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March this year we witnessed Inverurie Academy placing third for the first time in the school's history in our regional rock challenge heat. The team arrived full of hope at the AECC ready to showcase all of their hard work from throughout the year. We interviewed Megan Munro and Kirsty Hay (S6) to find out more about the team's remarkable achievement.

This year's performance was based on a concept which the performers feel is a huge issue today and is hardly reflected on in the modern society we live. This is



The production considered the oppression of women in regards to education and marriage in particular and took inspiration from Bollywood when choreographing their dance and designing costumes and set. Mr Duncan, the

teacher in charge of Rock Challenge, remarked that this was a "female heavy group and mainly female dancers were involved in it. This allowed them to use their voice for those who can't."

The day itself in Aberdeen sounded tiring but according to the team, the adrenaline keeps you going. Dance offs keep you energised and Megan said this was a real highlight for her because it creates a friendly atmosphere and allows you to socialise with other schools. The performance was really well executed and Kirsty felt that "the theme was really strong and is still very relevant today. Each segment of the performance effectively portrayed women not having power; each part was extensively thought through and avoided any stereotypes. The

puppet section of the performance came across very strongly and the judges commented, saying it was 'daunting'."

*Continued on p.2*

# Inverurie Academy Rocks Continued



her favourite. She thought it was an emotionally powerful way to end the performance.

Mr Duncan had to leave early on the day and so didn't manage to see the final performance as he was playing at a wedding. He told that as often as he could, he was checking his phone for a text from Mrs Milne. When he received this message, he felt partly relieved and more importantly, so proud of all the pupil's efforts.

The overall experience was enjoyed by everyone and really impressed the judges, community and most of all, the school. Megan and Kirsty told us that when they heard fourth place being announced, they thought they weren't going to get placed because this school had impressed so much during the day. So when Inverurie Academy's name rang out in the arena, they were shocked and ecstatic! Kirsty and Megan were very grateful because they had finally received the recognition they deserved for all the hard work that the ENTIRE team put in. They both told us that this was the best feeling ever and that this year's performance will stay with them forever. They were especially proud to be the only school who won an award for choreography.

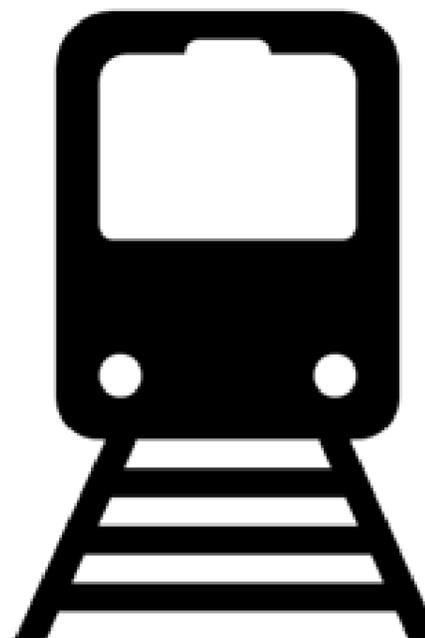
For Kirsty the puppet section was her favourite part because it showed women being taken away from society and then there were only five dancers left. This showed that it wasn't just her going through the pain: it was the rest of them too. For Megan, the ending, when all the girls were returning to the stage one at a time showing all the emotions and how any girl could have experienced this, was



Nick Scott Photography



# A Fare Deal



In the month which continues to ask the big questions following this year's SQA exams, many candidates are beginning to venture out into the world again after a month of study-induced hibernation.

At the recent 66<sup>th</sup> National Sitting and Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Youth Parliament, MSYPs elected our new team of office bearers and adopted public transport as our next campaign. This will be an exciting opportunity to bring the views of young people across Scotland to transport providers and others to improve the experience of using public transport.

Whether it's getting to school in

the morning (and returning in the afternoon) or going to the cinema at the weekend, young people need to travel, in some shape or form. Although this may bring disappointment to the Monty Python enthusiasts of Aberdeenshire, the Ministry of Silly Walks can only do so much when it comes to the Aberdeen-Inverness Rail Improvement or the long-awaited Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.

Indeed, it is clear, from these two projects alone, that the North East of Scotland has benefited from investment in its travel network. However, this can only go so far for young people in my sunny constituency of Aberdeenshire East. Not all of my constituents can drive and benefit from the likes of the AWPR.

Similarly, not all of my constituents can afford regularly a return train ticket from Inverurie to Aberdeen, despite the dual lines being constructed, at the time of writing. Indeed, with only around 2.5km of railway in my entire constituency, the lack of any regular and accessible public transport can be restrictive for many young people, particularly in rural areas. This can, in turn, result in social isolation and impact on the mental health of young people if they

cannot meet friends, or even contact them through social media due to poor network connection.

It is clear, therefore, that young people struggle to get a good deal when it comes to public transport and it is my hope that this can be addressed over the coming year. The campaign will be constructed by my fellow MSYPs over the coming months, prior to its launch in October, so there is still time to get involved in the *Right Here, Right Now* campaign on young people's rights.

For now, let us enjoy a moment of relief after the ravages of last month's exams. With the summer holidays just around the corner, I hope that you can relax and enjoy a bit of time off before the return to coursework in August. Before that, let us revisit the big questions: namely, were those popcorn boxes in the N5 Maths exam really mathematically similar?

**By Josh MacRae, S5, MSYP and columnist to *The Academy Star***

# Oyster Catchers Return to Inverurie Academy



Each year Inverurie Academy becomes a nesting home for a family of oyster catchers. The family have been nesting here for several years and have nested in different locations but the Barra quad is where they still are today.

Each year the parents lay their eggs, normally two; however, the past two years, they have laid three and they return each year to continue the tradition.

Once the eggs have hatched, one parent stays to keep watch while

the other searches for food, mainly worms and insects! Despite the combined efforts of the parents and school, normally only one or two chicks make it through the winter as chicks compete for food and predators, such as the seagull, can pick off the smaller chicks when they are occasionally left alone.

The family returns each winter and have shown to be quite adaptable with their nesting spot. This leads me to think that if we provide them with an area to nest in our new school, they will use it. Mr Shepherd feels that the archi-

itects could incorporate a flat roof or a protected area especially for them.

Each year Mr Shepherd works hard to ensure that that the birds and their offspring feel safe and secure. Their nesting space is cordoned off and pupils are made aware of them so they respect their space. If we continue providing them with support and a shelter, they will thrive. After all, they have become a treasured and important part of Inverurie Academy life.

**By Luke Wraight, S3**

# Pupils Attend Grampian Children's Book Awards



The Grampian Children's Book Award is a ceremony which awards a prize to the author of the best children's book. Pupils all over Scotland read the books from a short list and then vote for their favourite. Pupils can also take part in a competition by entering a poster, a book review or a book trailer of their favourite book.

On the day of the award ceremony, around 40 pupils from Inverurie Academy went to the University of Aberdeen. The authors of all nominated books read excerpts from their work and then told us about how they find inspiration. Some authors were really funny but also honest about how hard their job is. Academy pupil James Teasdale commented, "It was really interesting when the authors talked about their careers."

A group of pupils from Inverurie Academy won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for their book trailer. Well done! Rian Leask was lucky and won the raffle prize – a set of all six nomi-

nated books. Altogether it was a very successful trip because we learned so much about writing. One of our pupils, Ruby Mitchell said, "I especially liked one of the authors, Linda Strachan, and bought her book 'Spider'. It was exciting because it was fast moving." Kevin Dudycz summed up the event with "#fabulous!"

Miss Sarran really enjoyed being part of GCBA with the school and said, "What an inspiring event this was! I was so proud of all pupils, their work and their interest in books and writing."

**By Nikola, James and Noah, S2**



Mr Duncan told us that their secret to success this year was concentrating a lot of effort on the choreography. He knew the importance of a good narrative but the choreography was key. Some of the dancers had never danced before and improved so much from the start. Mr Duncan said "Each year you are looking to add another layer and next year, we will really focus on improving the set."

Mr Duncan told us that he wasn't completely in charge and he was merely pointing them in the right direction! Even the people not

the first round. We had over 15 teachers and 100 pupils attending this year which is more than most other schools! We feel that this simply shows how everyone wants us as a school to succeed and it was a well-deserved third!



Academy's Rock challenge team attended its first ever Scottish final at the Caird Hall in Dundee. Competition was fierce and Inverurie Academy was proud to receive four awards for their moving performance in stage use, concept, entertainment and choreography. Moving on to next year, the team is going to focus on producing an eye catching and original set. This will become much easier because the seniors, as part of the new timetable structure, now have a double period of wider achievement and many have chosen Rock Challenge.

Overall, the experience was hugely positive for the school and the team. It is also important to remember that rock challenge is not limited by dance or academic ability and anyone can take part. Here is the perfect activity you all have been looking for! As Kirsty said, "It will be guaranteed fun if you join!"

**By Luke Wraight and Ben Sharp, S3**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, Inverurie

# Farewell, Mrs Terry!



year's concert where the concert band played Coldplay because it made her cry. She has enjoyed working here and says that her favourite part of working here was getting to know the pupils.

We spoke to one of Mrs Terry's pupils, Elise Ferguson, and asked her some questions about Mrs Terry. Elise has been getting lessons on playing the flute with Mrs Terry for 5 years. She said Mrs Terry has

Mrs Terry is the school's woodwind music instructor and the conductor of the school's concert band. She will be moving to a different school after the summer. Mrs Terry has been working here for 23 and a half years and sadly will be moving to work in and around Peterhead.

us that when she was 8 years old, she was given a recorder and since then that's what she wanted to be. We asked if she had any advice for people wanting to become a music instructor, and she said, 'Practice really hard, find out what level you need to be at, set your goals and work for it'. We wanted to know why she is leaving. She said that the teacher who had taught her music when she was a student was retiring and as a result she is getting the opportunity to move back to her hometown and teach there. She told us she was 'exceptionally sad' to be leaving Inverurie Academy. Her favourite concert was last

helped her improve a lot and that she enjoys her lessons with Mrs Terry. She then went on to tell us how she'll miss "How she tells us stories that make us laugh and how she lightens up the mood to make concert band fun."

We are going to miss Mrs Terry and we wish her the best of luck with her new schools. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for Inverurie Academy during her time here.

**By Ife Akiode and Hannah Reid, S4**

# The Tale of the Oyster Catchers!



# Past—Present—Future Continued

# Past—Present—Future

the like, new 4G football pitch, new sports pitches, new gym equipment and new learning plazas. The school also will be getting new computers and things like that. There will also be more social areas all around the school spreading out where everyone goes to socialise, instead of sitting in the corridor outside Barra. For security reasons there will be security door around the entireness of school to stop members of the public walking all around the actual school. Ideas for letting the pupils gain ac-

*School extension being built to add Home Economics, IT and the Library*

The final major works on the school building was in the 1980s when Home Economics, IT and the Library were added. Obviously this school just keeps growing and growing!

main part of the school will be done, then in 3 years the new sport pitches and demolition of the old school will be completed.



The school is going to be three stories high and won't take up as much surface area as the old school but it already looks like it will be a lot taller! St Andrews

Nearly 40 years after the last major works on the school, we are looking forward to moving into a new school in 2 years. The new school will have a capacity of around 1600 pupils and will be home to many modern facilities. In 2 years' time it is planned that

school and the swimming pool are going to be connected to the academy. The new school site is going to be called, Inverurie Community Campus. There are going to be three swimming pools in the campus, including a training pool. The actual Academy will get features

cesses through the doors could be using our Young Scot Cards.

The school has gone through a lot in its time starting at two buildings then changing to one. After that it had a massive extension adding English, Modern Languages and Social Subjects. The library and B&IT was added. Now the school is starting a brand new chapter in its life by getting a new building, now we are all wondering how will the school change in the next one hundred years!

**By Ben Sharp, S3**

As most of you already know the school is a very old building, standing at 115 years old. It has come a long way from the original build, evolving from 2 separate buildings. It once housed a primary and a secondary school. These two buildings were later to form what we know as Inverurie Academy. Once the academy was filling up, they decided to move the primary school to the old Market Place School (which they now have moved to Ury Side)

The school was built in 1903 because the loco works moved from Kittybrewster to Inverurie. People knew this would make Inverurie bigger which means more families and more children to supply education for so the council built Inverurie Academy.

Thinking about it the academy

would have been really different in the sense of how things were taught back then.

For example if you wanted to join the academy after you finished primary at the minimum leaving age for school (which was 14), you would have to sit the "qualifying exam". This determined whether students could continue their education further in secondary. Another big difference back then would be how boys and girls were taught separately!

Still to day you can still see

where the two old assembly halls were located: the primary school one was located where the roof is vaulted (domed / arched) in Barra base and the secondary school one was located where the roof is vaulted in our current Science corridor.

The first work completed on the school was when it was around 40 years old which joined the two schools. Ten years later this was formed into one secondary school. When the two schools were joined, work on an extension began which, when it was finished, marked the beginning of a single secondary school. This extension is currently home to English, Social Subjects and Modern Languages.

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# A New Chapter for Long-serving Staff



The end of the summer term will mark the retirement of four valued members of Inverurie Academy's teaching staff. We spoke to them to find out more about their experiences at Inverurie Academy.

Mr Prosser has been teaching for 34 years but teaching and building relationships with pupils, both in the classroom and on the pitch as a football coach, still inspire him just as much as it did when he started his career. "At its best, when you're in the classroom engaging with the pupils, there's no better job."

He has taught for 7 years at Mintlaw Academy, 22 years at The Gordon Schools, and just over 5 years at Inverurie Academy. Mr Prosser has not only taught at Inverurie Academy, but spent his secondary schooling at the Academy too. Mr Prosser is actually the third Prosser in his family to serve as a Principal Teacher at Inverurie Academy.

Mr Prosser told me he is most looking forward to spending time both at home and in France, and starting "a new chapter". With his first grandchild arriving earlier this year, he can spend more time with family as well.

Before the end of our interview, Mr Prosser said that, in life, "Enthusiasm is everything" and that we should "Never underestimate experience."

Another long-serving teacher here, and renowned football coach, is Mr Massie. He was first employed at Inverurie Academy in 1975 and after leaving, he actually returned to teach here again on two separate occasions so it is fitting that this is where he should finish his career.

Mr Massie is looking forward to spending more time doing his hobbies and things he enjoys in retirement. This includes football, golf and gardening.

His favourite memory of Inverurie Academy is not one single event, but is actually the time he has spent with the staff he has worked alongside for so long. The support of colleagues is something which has really made his time teaching special. Besides this, Mr Massie told me an anecdote from when he returned to Inverurie Academy for the third time. He told me that

he was chatting to a registration class when one girl said to him "You taught my mum and she didn't like you either!"

Reflecting on his time in teaching, Mr Massie said that "I've totally enjoyed the time I've been here and teaching." However, when asked if he would recommend a career in teaching, he paused for a moment before saying "I wouldn't have hesitated to say 'Yes' twenty years ago, maybe not so much now; it doesn't seem to have the same place in society as it once did." I think it would be fair to say that despite the changes in education over the years, Mr Massie has thoroughly enjoyed teaching and has enjoyed the time he has spent with colleagues and pupils.



Dr Duncan has been teaching for 17 years. Those 17 years were mainly spent at Inverurie Academy, but she also did a short spell teaching primary school Science for a few months.



She said that she really enjoyed doing primary school Science lessons but travelling and carrying equipment was difficult. The pupils were really enthusiastic, so helping them learn was one of the best parts of it.

She recounts a funny story of how on one occasion, when she arrived at a primary school to teach, the head teacher said, surprised, "Oh! We didn't want you, we wanted a drama specialist!"

Dr Duncan's favourite parts about teaching have been the pupils and the staff she has worked alongside. She told me that there have truly been some "real characters of teachers" and they have always been extremely supportive. Dr Duncan will also "miss the interaction with the kids and the staff but [she] won't miss the development work and CfE and all its changes!"

In retirement, Dr Duncan plans to spend a lot of time gardening,

while also trying some watercolour painting. She also intends to give writing a novel a go; watch out J.K Rowling! She advises that "No matter what age you are, you should always try something new."

Dr Duncan said she would recommend teaching as "no day is ever the same. You may be exhausted by the end of the session but it is rewarding." She said that another brilliant part about working with young people is that you can have a good laugh together but still work hard. Most of all, "you still learn through teaching. You never stop learning."



Mrs Gauld has been teaching since 1980 and has always taught Mathematics. While she has been working at Inverurie Academy for 19 years, she has also worked at Banff Academy and Kemnay Acad-

emy.

The thing Mrs Gauld is looking forward to most about retirement is not only the fact that there will be no paperwork, but also that she will be able to spend more time doing the things she enjoys. Her hobbies include reading, cycling and walking.

It is difficult for Mrs Gauld to choose one single memory from her time teaching at Inverurie Academy as "sometimes it's not until you're away from places until you think of your favourite moment." However, she does say that there are lots of little things which she has enjoyed and will miss, such as the camaraderie of the staff and the pupils. Mrs Gauld also told us that "I think I've been lucky to have worked in a really good Maths department. I've really enjoyed working there."

As we look to the future of Inverurie Academy, we also must recognise those who have contributed so much. We would like to sincerely thank Mr Prosser, Mr Massie, Dr Duncan and Mrs Gauld for sharing their experiences of Inverurie Academy with us and more importantly, for their hard work and dedication to the school.

**By Blair Center and Sam Weston, S6**