

Word Search



- CRICKET
- CYCLING
- HIGHJUMP
- JAVELIN
- OLYMPICS
- RUNNING
- SHOTPUT
- SPORTSDAY
- SWIMMING
- FOOTBALL

By Andrew Cunningham 4D2

Summer Laughs!

What did the pig say at the beach on a hot summer's day?

I'm bacon!

Why don't oysters share their pearls?

Because they're shellfish!

Why do bananas ALWAYS have to wear suntan lotion?

Because they peel!

What is brown, hairy and wears glasses?

A coconut on vacation!

What do ghosts like to eat in the summer?

I scream!



Barra Takes Sports Day Win



One relay to go and one point separated the leaders. "Marks. Set." Bang!

On Thursday the 30th May, the school's P.E department selected S1 to S3's best competitors from each house to take part in the Inverurie Academy Sports Day 2019. The range of different activities goes all the way from shot put to the 800 metre run. Each year group received varying amounts of house points towards the millennium cup for events depending on the success of their chosen few which is one boy and one girl from each year.

So, debatably, one of the most competitive and fiery events is the 100m sprint. All finals of this event were extremely close; however, this was amplified by the S3s with Euan Skinner falling and getting

back up to here in the sports village." Nothing come fourth like a win on the home ground! and George Also victorious was Daniel Bisset Teasdale grabbing the lead. (S2), coming first in the 800m run, really trying his best and with a lot of passion, which was good to see. When interviewed, George told The Academy Star "My height is not what carried me



Also this year were records being broken right, left

to victory; it was my strength," which is the result of working out six days per week (what about the seventh day, George?! What a slacker!) Perhaps even tighter was the S3 girls 100m, with Mya Christie literally winning by an inch, crossing the line just decimals of a second before Hayley! Still, well done to both of them as they clearly worked as hard as they could in order to gain that number one spot for their house.

However, all attention wasn't on the S3s: success was gained by both S1 and S2 in abundance, in particular the S1 boys 800m run. Samuel Stephenson rose to the top and was first to cross the line and taste that sweet, sweet victory. When asked about the road to success, he said, "I've been doing training and athletics actually right

and centre! Alex Curry threw the discuss 14.43 metres to take the S1 girls' record. Holly Grant earnt the S1 Girls' high jump by leaping a grand 1.35 metres high. In S2, Katie Anderson also achieved 1.35 metres in the high jump equalising the record set in 2008 for her year. Records weren't the only things broken though with Brooke Mathieson (now 4S2) even competing in the shot put event despite being put in a boot due to torn ligaments! This injury was the result of a sporting accident prior to the day.

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Celebrating Pupil Success

On Thursday the 13th of June, an award ceremony took place in the assembly hall at Inverurie Academy to celebrate pupils' successes from throughout the year. Pupils were invited to come and told they were getting an award, but they didn't know what they were receiving the award for or how even how many till the night itself.

As the award ceremony opened there was a photographic montage showing pictures of the many ways pupils in Inverurie Academy have demonstrated the core values (Integrity, Ambition, Inclusion and Respect) and also the skills for learning, life and work (creativity, communication, leadership, problem solving and resilience).

There were performances by Hannah Reid who played *Tequila Sunrise* on trumpet, The junior singers who sang *Colours of the Wind* and the cast of *Our House* who sang *Our House*.

One of the categories of the award ceremony was Higher subject awards. These awards are given to some students who sat Higher and showed hard work and determination. Pupils were given this award in certain subjects like Daniel Ferrier who was given it for Higher Admin and IT and Computer Science, and Stephanie McIn-

tosh who was given a subject award in Higher French, Spanish and Music. Euan Stewart who was awarded in Higher Accounting, Engineering and Mathematics was also given the University of Aberdeen Principal Award of Excellence for Highers. A professor from Aberdeen University came in to hand over the University of Aberdeen Principal Awards.

Like Highers, awards were given to some students who sat National 5. Kirsty Napier was awarded for National 5 Accounting and History, Kayleigh O'Grady was given an award for National 5 Media and Art & Design and Mohamad Dawas was awarded for ESOL. There was also a University of Aberdeen Principal Award of Excellence but this time it was for National 5 and the recipient was Rory Weetman. He was also awarded in National 5 Engineering Science, Geography, Graphic Communication and Mathematics.

So S1-3 are also worthy of awards and every year has stand out pupils who do not go unnoticed by their teachers and faculty heads. In S1, the winners were Miranda Wilson, Archie Nicolson, Max Kent, Katie Gibbs, Daniella Hardy, Jack Kelman, Jamie Mitchell and Rhona Fraser. In S2, Aedan Fong

was awarded for B&IT, Shayne Omale for Creative Arts and Humanities, Kieran Laird for English, Annalie Davidson for Health and Wellbeing, Declan Douglas for Maths and Science, Niamh Cruickshank for Modern Languages and Pippa Hall for TVE. Finally, to our S3 winners. Eve Simpson received two awards in B&IT and Creative Arts, as did Luke Wraight, for English and Science. Natasha Masson was awarded for Health and Wellbeing, Matthew Smith for Humanities, Laura Allan in Maths, Andrew Cunningham in Modern Languages and Paul Van Den Beukel in TVE.

A huge congratulations go to all the winners for their achievements this year. It is a wonderful testament to the talent and hard work evident amongst our pupils here at Inverurie Academy.

The night was a massive success and a big thank you to all of the people who were involved. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and we hope to see you, reader, next year. Good luck!

By Andrew Cunningham, S4, and Ife Akiode, S5

Book Illustrator Inspires S2 Students



There was excitement at Inverurie Academy as S2 pupils took part in the First Minister's reading challenge for the first time, an idea which was created to make reading for pleasure more attractive for young people. As part of this scheme, Miss Sarran organised a nevent for all S2 pupils led by a book illustrator.

I spoke to Miss Sarran to find out more about the event. I began by asking her about the illustrator who led the talk: Edinburgh based artist, Kate Leiper. Interestingly, she is originally from the North East, with some of her family members having previously attended Inverurie Academy. "However, we did not know that when we invited her," Miss Sarran went on to say. Leiper's art is very detailed and one of her strengths is the ability to create lifelike animal portraits.

I asked Miss Saran why she decided to organise this talk on illustra-

tion and what she thought the pupils gained from it. "The decision to invite an illustrator was made because we wanted to know more about how images can help in understanding a text," she replied. She thought it was very interesting to

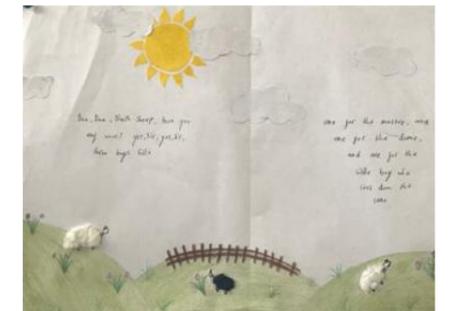
see how pictures can enhance a text. "We also noticed that illustrators are using similar techniques as writers such as atmosphere." Additionally, it was interesting to learn about the painstaking process of illustration. Kate Leiper



showed pupils how she develops her pictures until the final result.

Miss Sarran finished by saying that she thought the event encouraged many pupils to think differently about texts. According to teachers taking part in the event, two S2 classes took the talk as inspiration and began to illustrate various well-known nursery rhymes. These classes have submitted their work,

which is now on display in the English department and examples of which you can see here. A winner has not yet been chosen; however, Kate Leiper will soon be crowning some champions!



Finally, I asked Miss Sarran what she would like to say about the event itself. She followed up by saying "I loved the buzz in the assembly hall after Kate Leiper's talk. Pupils sat in groups on the floor, the stage, the chairs to jot down their ideas for their own illustrations. Everyone was inspired!"

By Cameron Buchan, S6



Barra Takes Sports Day Win Continued



When the points were counted, it was an incredibly close race between Barra and Selbie. The overall winner was Barra in order to secure a victory. It was a close race to begin with; however, Barra slowly increased their lead on Selbie with Selbie finishing an unfortunate third in this race and Barra securing the S3 boys relay victory and the Sports Day win.

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The P.E staff managed and organised the event and the day was certainly a reflection of all that went into it. Mr Milne told The Academy Star "I thought that it was a big suc-



cess because it was the first time we had been to the sports village and it went really well. All the competitors performed well and I would certainly hope that we could go back next year."

Barra in order to secure a victory. It was a close race to begin with; however, Barra slowly increased their lead on Selbie with Selbie finishing an unfortunate third in this race and Barra securing the S3 boys relay victory and the Sports Day win.

In full, the Sports Day placings finished as follows: Davah in fifth, Harlaw in fourth, Crichtie in third, Selbie in second and Barra in first by six points. Go Yellow!

What a pity that the teachers didn't have a chance to show off their racing skills in what was meant to be the finale of the day! Something to look forward to for next year!

Once the two hundred and thirteen pupils arrived back at school, an

awards ceremony began which announced winners and handed out medals for all competitors to see. After the medals, there were awards for best boy and best girl. The recipients of these awards were both members of S3, Mya Christie and George Teasdale. They were chosen to receive the awards because they earned the most amount of points. Obtaining this award is an amazing achievement and is certainly the ultimate award from the day.

In short, the day was full of inspiration and was most definitely a great way to round the year off. A



huge well done to everyone who took part and a thank you to all the staff who helped make this amazing day possible!

By Andrew Cunningham and Luke Wraight, S4

Summer Awaits!

With summer fast approaching and getting a SIX week break from school, you will need to find plenty of activities to fill in that time! Here at The Academy Star we have created a list of activities that we think would be great too-do alone, with friends or family! These will range from indoor and outdoor activities and will have different price ranges.



One of the first things you can go out and do with anyone or by yourself for next to nothing is... walking or biking! All around Inverurie there are plenty places where you can go and experience the natural outdoors. One place that you can go is Bennachie; you can spend an entire day there walking around all the different routes and trails, take a packed lunch and just walk and clear your head!



Another place is East Aquhorthies,

a stone circle located just outside Inverurie up from Black Hall road. When there, you can see the old stone circle, walk along the different trails and find some interesting bike trails (which are easy enough for beginners). Finally another one of my personal favourites is, Tarland Trails. It is located in Tarland, Aboyne AB34 4UP and involves a series of different bike trails ranging from moderate (blue), Difficult (red) and Extreme (orange)! The trails are suitable for all different ranges of abilities and helping you learn and gain confidence! The biggest selling point for Tarland Trails is that it is 100% free!



The next few activities are more inside related and cost slightly more compared to the last few that we looked at. The first place I would recommend is Skyline Trampoline Park. They are constantly updating and improving, with their newest edition to the park being a toddler soft play area. The prices are £10 per person at peak times and £8 off peak times, making it a cheap and fun couple of hours to meet up with some friends. Using the title you can probably guess that skyline is



a trampoline park with loads of different trampolines and climbing equipment! Another place I would recommend is Garioch Indoor Bowling Centre, which is located in Inverurie. Their 10-Pin Bowling area offers entertainment for all ages. They have a fully licensed Bar, Pool Tables, Air Hockey and Arcade Games, as well as 6 10-pin Lanes. It is a great afternoon out with friends or family where you can chill, relax and just have fun! The prices aren't incredibly high with the highest being £6.50 for one game (at the weekend).



There are **tons** more activities and adventures to be found in Inverurie; you just need to look for them, with fun day trips that cost next to nothing and some places that may stretch the budget. This is just a start on things to fill your summer so go out and ENJOY!

By Ben Sharp, S4

The Quality of Gender Equality



In the month which sees female footballers kick off the Women's World Cup in France, there is much to discuss about the standing of women's rights in recent weeks.

According to Google, the definition of mansplaining is 'the explanation of something by a man, typically to a woman, in a manner regarded as condescending or patronising'. The BBC has even gone as far as to share a flowchart on the matter, with four outcomes: not mansplaining; probably mansplaining; definitely mansplaining, and just stop talking now.

This may act as a poignant backdrop to the ongoing abortion debate across the pond. Like a mafia wanted poster, the mugshots of Alabama state senators voting for the bill – all male – were splattered across social media, with dissenting comments varying in eloquence. Naturally, a prominent question is, do men have the right to legislate on women's

bodies? As in all representative democracies, our politicians cannot be experts on every matter. Instead, we must look to those who do know, to those who can present the information from which decision-makers can pass judgement. All too often in our current politics, understanding, logic and dignity are swept aside in the name of party, petulance and personality. It is blocking our political systems, and we need a plunger.

As the Conservative Party leadership contest drags on, what is clear is that our next Prime Minister will not be female. It concerned me deeply to hear someone in a café comment more on Theresa May's shoe choice than on the substance of her departure speech a few weeks ago. Staggeringly, in the 21st century, gender remains a robust barrier to whether a politician is taken seriously, regardless of their policies.

We cannot forget our values of decency and politeness. Wolf-whistling and sexist comments have no place in modern society; surely, there is consensus on that. Yet, holding a door open for a passing female colleague is not a suggestion of their inability, rather a display of courtesy. We are

taught as children to treat others the way in which we ourselves would wish to be treated. We should all do well to remember that.

As someone elected to office, I am all too aware that I am judged to a higher standard. I have made mistakes and have taken responsibility. Nevertheless, I am perturbed that the gender debate is becoming increasingly tribal, with broad stereotypes rearing their all-encompassing heads. The language used is extremely powerful and false accusations are equally damaging and long-lasting. Having a difference of opinion with a female colleague is not an exhibition of sexism or misogyny, rather an indication of healthy political debate. Regardless of this, language, tone and delivery do matter, even in the digital age.

Politics is becoming alarmingly personal. Each appointment to office appears to carry a gender-based filter of analysis, with the focus on balance and optics, rather than skill and competence. Let us respect one another as individuals and strive to create a more inclusive society.

Josh MacRae, S6: columnist to The Academy Star and MSYP

The Doric Showdown!



Our S1 finalists, from left to right, back row—Poppy, Rhona, Samuel, Ria and front row—Emma, Katie and Bethany.

On the 28th of May, S1 pupils had a Doric poetry recital showdown. Only the best were able to go to the finals. In the weeks leading up to this, S1 pupils learned a Doric or Scots poem as part of their Doric studies in English. They all went head to head in class to get to the finals. The English staff selected their finalists and runner up from each English class.

The winning contestants and their poems were Poppy Reith-Thompson doing 'The wind' by Sheena Blackhall, Katie Gibbs doing 'Peer Pressure' by Scardogan, Ria Rutherford reciting 'Granda' by Morris Gartshore, Emma Grant with 'Cat Food' by Armstrong, Rhona Fraser with 'Winter' by Sheena Blackhall, Bethanay Stewart reciting 'Yesterday' by Dr Mackie Lewis and last but not least, Samuel Stephenson with

'Robert the Bruce' by Pat Wokoma.

We spoke to the contestants about their experiences and Poppy told us "I loved doing Doric as a topic and all of the finalists enjoyed it too" and Bethanay said "I loved this unit as much as I loved this competition."

The competition itself was judged by Mr Paterson, Mrs Reid and Mrs Bonnyman. Afterwards they gave us their opinion on the contest:



"We were really really pleased to have been asked to judge the competition and it was a very hard decision to make. They all put in a lot of effort." - Mrs Reid & Mrs Bonnyman. Mr Paterson told us that he "Really enjoyed it. It was really great to hear that people are keeping the Doric language alive."

They all did so well but one particular contestant captured the imagination of the judges ... Katie Gibbs!



S1 winner of the Doric competition, Katie Gibbs

Our overall S1 winner, Katie, told us that "This was a great unit to do and we all learned a lot of new words."

A few weeks later, after the competition, an awards ceremony was held in the assembly hall and Katie Gibbs was awarded with "The Dr Collie Doric Trophy." Huge congratulations to all finalists and especially to Katie.

By Connor Robertson and Sammy Howitt, S2

Celebrating Ramadan



Sahoor: the first meal before a day of fasting

Ramadan is a festival celebrated by Muslims across the world, including Scotland. Each year, it can be celebrated at a different time. This is based on the cycles of the month and the lunar calendar is used to decide when it will take place. This year it was on the 6th of May until the 4th of June. We interviewed two former pupils of Inverurie Academy, Daren and Alaa, who told us what the true purpose and meaning of Ramadan is.

They said that Ramadan is a very special month of the year and that you feel like everyone is helping each other. Daren explained 'When you are fasting you feel like it helps you to understand the poor and it teaches you patience. We don't drink, or eat or smoke from dawn to sunset.'

For some people, it is really hard to fast and you usually start

around the age of 7. Alaa and Daren explained that 'The first couple of times when you fast at Ramadan it's harder. It gets easier as you get older and you become more used to fasting. Some children when they first fast, only fast for half of the day to build up their strength and tolerance' and then gradually you'll go on to fast fully which helps you ease into it. The girls also said that once you understand why you are fasting, it certainly helps.

In Syria, they would normally have fasted from around 4 am until 7:30 pm at night. They would get up early to eat before 4 am. This meal is called Sahoor and it usually includes fruit and lots of water. Then you'll eat a proper meal at nightfall called Iftar it usually includes dates because the Prophet Mohamed said it's good for your health. Since Ramadan's date is always changing, the girls have had experience of fasting in all four seasons. Due to this they have to fast in summer, which is really hard at times since the days are longer and hotter and you can't have water.

At Inverurie Academy, they give students who are fasting a room

where they can pray and read the Quran. The girls say this is really helpful as they don't have to see people eating and they can pray which helps take their mind off the hunger. Praying is very important in Ramadan and you usually spend a lot of time reading the Quran. When Ramadan is coming to an end, Alaa told us that 'we all go shopping and buy special clothes and presents to wear to celebrate the end of Ramadan.'



Maamoul, a dessert to celebrate the end of Ramadan

After that, they are ready to eat and together they will make a sweet called Maamoul that everyone will eat together to celebrate the breaking of the fast. Most importantly, as Daren said Ramadan 'Is a celebration. Muslims will not only celebrate the end of fasting but will also thank Allah the god for the help and strength that he gives them throughout the previous month.'

By Daniella and Lara Hardy, S2

Rapid Progress at New School Site



Featured in our 2017 June edition of 'The Academy Star' was an article detailing plans for a new school which is finally taking shape. The external façade and cladding is now going up on the outside of the building so it's now looking more and more like it will when we move in early next year.

Robertson is the main contractor for the build and they have worked closely with depute rector Mr Johnston who is the man in charge of the communications between Inverurie Academy and Robertson. Progress is also now accelerating with Robertson's workforce increasing to 180 people on the project and delivery of materials is increasing.

Once complete, the £55 million campus will be home to Inverurie Academy and St Andrew's School, extensive community sports and leisure facilities such as a six-

lane swimming pool, a multi-use games area and two all-weather pitches.

The most exciting part of the build is the idea of having such fantastic swimming pool right here on our doorstep. The new six lane swimming pool is now taking shape, this pool will soon accommodate more young people looking to learn to swim and help to hold larger and more attended swimming competitions.

To show you what this build will mean for the community, Aberdeenshire Provost Councillor Bill



Howatson gave his opinion to Aberdeenshire Council "This will im-



A view of the developing pool facilities

prove opportunities for everyone, and it is a demonstration of Aberdeenshire Council's commitment to investing in Inverurie; maintaining what makes this a great place to live and work through the construction of modern multi-purpose spaces."

Deputy First Minister John Swinney also told Aberdeenshire Council: "I was pleased to attend the 'Topping Out' ceremony for Inverurie Community Campus, this project will result in a fantastic new campus that the whole community can be proud of. Learning and teaching in such an innovative and inspirational setting can make a real difference to education outcomes." Mr Swinney visited our school just last August but he hasn't been the only person to visit the site: Robertson has hosted many visits and our school council was given the privilege to attend and the Inverurie Rotary Club were the most recent to visit.

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Thanks and Farewell to Long-Serving Staff!



Mrs Weir at the retirement celebration with former pupils of Inverurie Academy

The 31st of May marked Mrs Weir and Mrs Reid's very last day at Inverurie Academy. Mrs Weir and Mrs Reid have served the school for 32 and a half years and 30 years respectively. Both teachers plan to spend their earliest months of retirement visiting new places and undertaking new challenges whilst experiencing other cultures.

Mrs Weir who was the B&IT Principal Teacher before retirement moved to the school for this promoted post in 1987 at only 27 years old! During this time her two daughters were also attending school at Inverurie Academy and she's stayed with us 100% committed for all 32 and a half years. Mrs Weir told us why she has enjoyed working here for so long: she mentioned how her enjoyment comes from the fact that the kids are great, they want to learn and succeed in what they do and the staff are good fun. Personally, I think that these are incredibly inspiring words and truly



Mrs Weir with a farewell gift from her department

reflect the morals and core values of the school.

Mrs Weir was asked for her favourite memory of the school and told us that she will always think about kids who have done the best they can and have gone on to get apprenticeships, go to uni and so on during her time spent at Inverurie Academy. This coincides with what she said upon being asked of what she will miss the most. The staff she's around and her colleagues that she worked

closely with were first mentioned; however, she said that she will miss the kids the most. She said "I do the job for the kids" which is a very supportive moral from a pupil's perspective.

Moving on to another long-serving and devoted member of staff - Mrs Reid. She worked as a pupil support teacher, spending her time supporting and assisting a large amount of pupils across the school. These pupils may have included her own as they attended the school at this point also.



Much loved PSA, Mrs Reid

She moved here from a role in Alford after an opportunity to help children with additional support needs surfaced in 1989. A friend of Mrs Reid told her that she thought that she would be ideal for the role so she went for the job. It turns out her friend couldn't have been any more right! Mrs Reid clearly suited the role as she stayed to help for a further 30 years!

Mrs Reid was also asked why she enjoys working at Inverurie Academy and she said that she enjoys the act of helping others.

Mrs Reid then went on to tell us about what her favourite memory is from the 30 years she spent at Inverurie Academy. Her words were "school trips, meeting children who have now left school and when they talk to you and recognise you and show you their own families." Mrs Reid will miss the general school atmosphere and being around everyone upon retirement which says a great deal about how our school has developed and maintained a respectful, ambitious and inclusive community.

Throughout this brand new chapter of life, both of them will be seizing the opportunity to travel and undertake new experiences. Mrs Reid has planned "to go on lots of holidays." She has already been back in touch to tell us about her cruise to Iceland and



A photo from Mrs Reid's holiday in Iceland!

she plans to visit to the Mediterranean, Italy and Corfu. She also mentioned that these holidays will be accompanied by lots of visits to Ballater. Mrs Weir has similar plans to visit new places. She is going on her first cruise to Alaska and over the next year will be visiting places such as Slovenia, America, Canada, Tenerife, Mexico and Orkney!

It seems like they have a lot planned for the beginning of their retirement and although they are no longer part of the fantastic teaching team here, they will always be an asset to the school. THANK YOU for teaching us and for all your dedication!

By Luke Wraight, S4, and Lara Hardy, S2

Rapid Progress at New School Site



A view of the developing atrium which will be at the centre of academy life

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The Robertson group is spending a lot of time visiting local primary schools to talk about the new pro-

ject and what it means for them. Strathburn have recently been their main focus. A Primary 7 pupil from Strathburn said "It was a very good opportunity and I enjoyed it a lot!"

This £55 million project will provide amazing opportunities for people within the area who will benefit from the soon very accommodative sports facilities and every pupil and staff member at the school will reap the benefits of having better areas for learning and teaching. I'm truly excited to

move into the new school early next year and I'm sure you are too! Only eight months to go!



By Luke Wraight, S4