



May/June 2025 Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week all of our young people moved into their new yeargroup. We were delighted to welcome back our learners who have been on exam leave. This term has been extremely busy for staff and young people in Inveralmond Community High School. In addition to the SQA exam diet and completing SQA coursework, many young people in S1-3 have been involved in various trips out of school.

Over the last month or so, young people have been involved in lots of things, not only in their school but in the wider community. This newsletter provides an update on the various activities which pupils have been involved in, and of which we can be proud as a community.

On Tuesday 27th May, we had our seventh parent council meeting of the session. Following each Parent Council meeting I provide a newsletter on the items discussed in the meeting, along with any other news. Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th June at 1845 and takes place in the Business Studies Department. At this meeting we will welcome any parents/carers from our cluster primary whose young people are joining us in August.

Yours Faithfully

Hamish Shankland

Headteacher



Headteacher Newsletter Contents:

1. Welcomes and Announcements
2. Outward Bound
3. Values Awards
4. SQA
5. S5 & S6 Induction
6. Uniform
7. Attendance
8. Latecoming and Pupil Door Update
9. Coming Up



1. Welcomes & Announcements

Mrs McGinnis has joined Inveralmond as permanent Depute Headteacher Support. Mrs McGinnis joins us from out with West Lothian and is a highly experienced educator and leader.

In August we look forward to welcoming two probationer teachers to Inveralmond. The two subjects we have been allocated are PE and English.

We recently appointed Miss How to the post of 'teacher of Home Economics'. Miss How will join us in August when Mrs Cowan leaves us for a post closer to home.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Moore who joined our music department from Monday 2nd June as a permanent member of staff.

Congratulations to Miss Jones in the languages department who recently secured a permanent contract in Inveralmond following interviews.

Mrs Blyth our Business Manager will retire at the summer. We will have the opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Blyth before the Summer break as she leaves us. Recruitment for a replacement Business Manager is currently underway.

Mrs Thorburn has returned from maternity leave and is back with us as PTC Languages. Our thanks go to Mrs Williamson who has been with us for a year as Acting PTC Languages.



2. Outward Bound

24 of our S3 pupils enjoyed a 5-day residential trip to Outward Bound in Fort William.

During the week, they took part in a range of tough challenges, including camping, rowing, abseiling, gorge walking, rope challenges and other activities. Our pupils developed an appreciation and awareness of the landscapes Scotland has to offer and improved their team-building skills and confidence. The young people were awarded their Adventure & Challenge qualification which recognises their hard work and determination.

Pupils described the trip as 'adventurous', 'fun' and that 'they were pushed to try new things that they wouldn't normally get the opportunity to do'.

Miss Moran & Miss Callaghan highlighted how successful the young people were in pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and how the Outward Bound centre has had a positive impact on the pupils when they returned to school. The Geography department intends to continue working with the Outward Bund trust to provide opportunities for S3 pupils in future years.



3. Values Awards

Last session we introduced our 'Values Rewards System'. This allows any member of staff across the school to nominate a young person who they believe has demonstrated a school value in action. The Rewards Working Group meets termly to select one winner from each yeargroup. Our Easter winners received a letter home, a Headteacher meeting and Praise postcard, along with an Easter Egg. In our Awards Ceremony we will introduce a new 'Headteacher Values Award'. All termly winners will be considered for this award.

Congratulations to our Easter Values award winners:

Zach Cannon : Kindness.

Lily Cartwright : Kindness and Respect

Alia Majeed: Kindness

Miguel Ricardo: Kindness

Aiden Cuthbertson: Honesty

Logan Kinnell: Kindness



4. SQA



We have recently updated two areas of our website with all of the essential information for:

1. [SQA & Study Leave Information - Inveralmund Community High School](#)
2. [Exam Support - Inveralmund Community High School](#)

Students, parents and carers are invited to make use of these pages over the next few months to ensure they take full advantage of all of the information and support which has been provided.



5. S5 & S6 Induction

On Friday 30th May we held a formal induction for all pupils in S5 and S6 who are planning to return to school. Pupils participated in a range of activities to welcome them back to school and set them up for the year ahead.

The format of the day was focused on our school ACT (Achieve, Connect, Thrive) skills framework.

All pupils will undertake activities which develop:

- ▶ Teamwork, leadership and key skills
- ▶ Their understanding of expectations and standards in senior school
- ▶ Growth Mindset
- ▶ Study planning - all young people were provided with a study plan which they should complete in their first week back at school
- ▶ All pupils electing for an S5 or S6 signed their contract
- ▶ S6 had an opportunity to sign up for leadership and participation activities as part of their S6 experience

All resources from the S5 and S6 induction have been posted onto the S5 and S6 Team. Young people are able to access them. Any parent wishing to see the induction programme can ask their young person to show them the materials on the Team.

6. ICHS Uniform

Uniform items can be bought directly from BE Uniforms' website where you will find a dedicated Inveralmond Uniform Shop. BE uniforms offer a discount and the time period for this has been extended for Inveralmond CHS families. Items ordered before the 8th of June have 15% off. BE Uniforms also have a uniform club which enables the cost of uniform to be spread throughout the year. Here is a link to the dedicated Inveralmond CHS shop: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/inveralmond-community-high-school.html>

All of the items in our uniform policy can also be bought in high street stores and supermarkets. Please note that not all items sold as 'uniform' will comply with our uniform policy, please refer to the policies when purchasing items. To support with this, we have a uniform graphic on our website, as well as a document which illustrates acceptable uniform items. [Uniform Policy - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

We are keen to promote the highest possible standards of uniform in school.

As a school we are able to support with items of uniform from our own stock, or through <https://schoolbank-westlothian.org/> They can also be found by searching on Facebook. School ties can be purchased at the school office.



Inveralmond CHS Uniform Policy



School tie with a black or white formal shirt (long or short sleeved) or a sweatshirt with school logo
Black jumper or cardigan
School blazer (optional)



Must be black. Pupils can choose to wear trousers, a skirt, jeans, formal shorts, jogging bottoms or thick leggings



Shoes must be mostly black



Our uniform policy promotes accessible and equitable uniform items that can be reasonably expected to be worn by all pupils. Parent/carers are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of our school uniform.



As a community we are working together to become inspired and fulfilled individuals who





7. Attendance

The information below gives an idea of the impact of attendance on achievement.

There are 32 periods in a school week. There are 190 days in the school year = 6080 periods in the year. The notional delivery time for an average course is 160 hours.

95% attendance = 9.5 days missed = 60.8 periods

- 37.5% drop if concentrated into one SQA subject
- S4: 6.25% drop in each subject
- S5: 7.5% drop in each subject
- S6: 9.38% drop in each subject

90% attendance = 19 days missed = 121.6 periods

- 75.6% if concentrated into one SQA subject
- S4: 12.6% drop in each subject
- S5: 15.1% drop in each subject
- S6: 18.9% drop in each subject



Notional Grade Boundaries:

A = 70-100%

B = 60-69%

C = 50-59%

D = 40-49%

No Award = 0-39



8. Latecoming

The information below gives an idea of the impact of latecoming on achievement.

Inveralmond CHS starts at 0835 with period 1.

If a pupil is late to class for 5 minutes each morning:

= 25 minutes across the week

= 15.83 hours over the year

= 13.67 periods

= 8.5% of an SQA course



8. Update on Door Procedures

We recently made a change to our pupil door procedure. It is as follows:

0800 - breakfast club

0833 - warning bell

0835 - classes begin (pupils should be in class)

0840 - pupil entrance locks and 'late arrival' process kicks in

Following this change there has been a significant improvement in pupils' punctuality. We would ask that parents and carers support us in ensuring that young people are on time for learning.



In August we will be extending our 'late arrival' process to end of break and end of lunch to reduce disruption to classes with pupils returning late.

9. Coming up:

- ▶ 2nd June: Senior pupils return and timetable change
- ▶ 9th June: West Drive - for pupils who are old enough to learn to drive
- ▶ 11th June: BGE Awards Ceremony
- ▶ 19th June: S6 Prom
- ▶ 24th June: Final Parent Council Meeting (we will invite Primary PC members)

