



April 2025 Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as we approach the Easter holiday. This term has been extremely busy for staff and young people in Inveralmond Community High School. Our young people in S2-S6 have been thinking about their future in school and beyond in Pathway Meetings. Our S4-S6 pupils have been focused on SQA coursework and exam preparation; and will soon begin their SQA exams.

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 1st of April we had our sixth 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 27th of May at 1845 and takes place in the Business Studies Department.

In invitation is extended to all parents/carers who have an interest in school reports, and tracking and monitoring of student progress. This meeting will have only one agenda item which is 'Discussion and consultation on ICHS Tracking and Monitoring Reports'.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in our community an enjoyable Spring break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 22nd of April.

Yours Faithfully

Hamish Shankland

Headteacher



Headteacher Newsletter Contents:

1. Welcomes and Announcements
2. Christmas Rewards
3. Values Rewards
4. How to Help your Child Pass
5. Uniform
6. Attendance
7. Latecoming and Pupil Door Update
8. International Visitors
9. Health and Wellbeing Survey
10. Coming Up



1. Welcomes & Announcements

Mrs McGinnis will be joining Inveralmond as permanent Depute Headteacher Support. Mrs McGinnis joins us from out with West Lothian and is a highly experienced educator and leader. We look forward to welcoming her to our Senior Leadership Team on April 22nd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Lee Anne Steel who has been Acting Depute Headteacher Support following the departure of Mrs Charters. Mrs Steel has been an exceptional school leader throughout this time, as well as a valued colleague. In April Mrs Steel will return to her House Leader post in Arran House.

Whilst Mrs Steel has been Acting DHT, Mrs Brogan Townsley has been in the post of Acting Principal Teacher (PT1) in Arran House. I would like to thank Mrs Townsley for her excellent work throughout this time. In April Mrs Townsley will return to her post in the Art & Design Department, but will continue to work with a caseload as part of the house team.



2. Easter Rewards

In Inveralmond we believe there are good life habits that are essential for our young people. It is essential that our students develop these life habits if they are to be successful in school, and life beyond school. They are:

- Cultivating good values, including our school values of Honesty, Kindness and Respect.
- Maintaining good attendance.
- Having good punctuality.
- Behaving in a way that allows everyone to learn to the best of their ability.
- Working hard and always doing the best you can.
- Having high standards, including uniform.

This session all pupils who earned their reward had the option of attending a concert by K-pop artist Shao Hao. Shao Hao is a Chinese British singer-songwriter, based in London and Tokyo. He graduated from the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance and IMW Studio in Vocal and Music Production with a first honors degree. He has since been a resident artist at the world-class music venue Roundhouse in Camden and supported and performed with prominent British artists like Imogen Heap, Jamie Callum, Will Young & Edwyn Collins. Shao Hao is a big songwriter in the K-Pop world and also has produced many songs for Netflix TV series and films. He has many personal stories to share regarding mental health, racial discrimination & homophobia which he is promoting to pupils all around the UK.

Shao Hao - Rose On The Ground

S1-3 also had a disco with Tuck Shop on Friday morning. This was organized by our Level 6 Events class.



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:



4. SQA



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

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

We know that many young people may go shopping to replace uniform items over the holidays.

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.

Please note the following:

- We ask pupils to wear unbranded clothing so that others are not under pressure to buy expensive brands
- Crocs are not an acceptable form of footwear for school. For safety reasons any young person wearing open shoes may not be able to access all of the curriculum.
- All shoes should be 'majority black'
- No young person should wear any item of clothing which exposes their stomach or back

As a school we have created a uniform guide which can be found on our website. This has pictures and more detail of what is accepted as uniform.



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





6. 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



7. 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



7. 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.



8. International Visitors

Inveralmond Community High School once again had the amazing opportunity to work with one of their partnership schools from Santander in Northern Spain.

Thirty- five pupils and five teachers from IES Peñacastillo visited Inveralmond, where they spent a morning with some S3 and Senior Phase Spanish classes. This year the school also had the opportunity to welcome 12 students from Brazil.

All pupils collaborated in conversational icebreaker tasks, teambuilding activities and a cultural quiz where pupils from both countries learned more about the language, festivals and traditions of the country they are studying. The event boosted pupils' confidence and enhanced their problem solving and communication skills.

Pupils were welcomed to the sound of the traditional bagpipes and given a warm welcome from Head Teacher Mr Hamish Shankland.

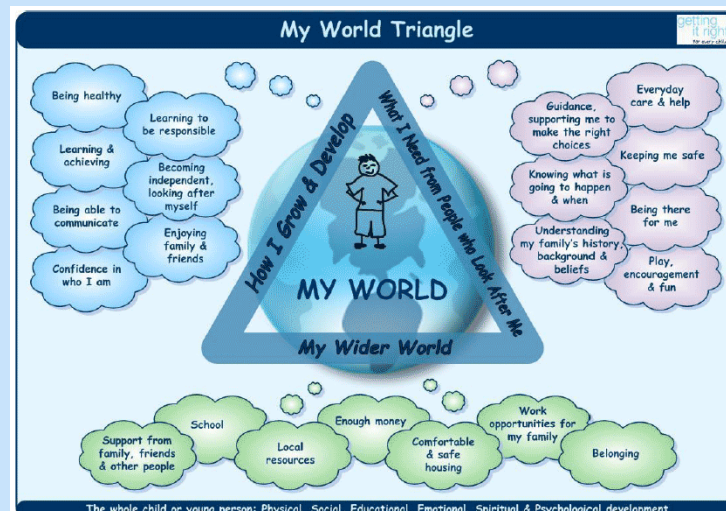
This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about different cultures and expand their horizons while also being able to share their own lives and experiences. We were delighted to welcome our friends from Spain and Brazil to Inveralmond and hopefully they gained just as much as our pupils did. All pupils embraced and thoroughly enjoyed this incredible experience organised by Mrs McMillan. Pupils have provided very positive feedback and hopefully it is something we can repeat later in the year with our session 25-26 Spanish classes.



9. HWB Survey

We have recently conducted our Health and Wellbeing Survey. After each survey the following actions are carried out:

- ▶ Any young person identifying a concern about Safety at home in school, or in the community receives a 121 support meeting.
- ▶ Any other key themes identified in the survey are addressed through PSE.



10. Coming up:

- ▶ Easter School takes place throughout the Easter holiday
- ▶ Tuesday 22nd April: term begins
- ▶ Wednesday 23rd April: S6 Graduation
- ▶ Thursday 24th April: S6 last day
- ▶ Friday 25th April: Study Leave Begins
- ▶ Tuesday 27th May - next parent council meeting will take the form of a discussion and consultation on ICHS Tracking Reports.

Have a wonderful Holiday!

