

Invervalmond Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr H Shankland
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15th August 2025

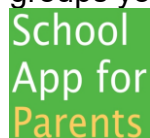
Dear Parent/Carer,

This week we were delighted to welcome back our staff and students to Invervalmond Community High School. I trust you had a restful summer break, and made the most of the good weather. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead, and to seeing our young people grow, develop and learn; both academically and personally. Below you will find a few updates for the start of term.

Communication

In Invervalmond we have a several platforms which enable parents and carers to keep up to date with the life of the school.

The school app can be downloaded by searching for 'school app' in your app store. It contains a live school calendar as well as updates. Push notifications can be set according to the year groups you need. The school app can be recognised by this logo:



Our school website is populated with useful documents and links and is mobile-friendly.

[Invervalmond Community High School - Invervalmond Community High School](#)

We communicate directly with parents using Groupcall. In order to ensure this works smoothly, please ensure that your contact details are up to date on our system. You can do this using the Online Parent Portal. [parentsportal.scot - Invervalmond Community High School](#)

Exam Success

On Wednesday I was able to congratulate those young people returning to school on their outstanding successes in SQA exams. Our students undertake a range of qualifications at varying levels, and types. Staff will have the opportunity to well done to all those young people now that they are back in classes. Once again the school has improved exam results both for SQA qualifications, and SCQF qualifications. We are immensely proud of the achievements of our young people.

This year again, pupils undertaking Higher qualifications have improved their performance on last year. In S4 there has been a significant improvement in National 5 performance. In S6 those young people undertaking Advanced Highers or an equivalent has again been the highest the school has ever seen.

As a school we will now look to build on this success, encouraging young people to be aspirational, to work hard, and to believe in themselves. On Wednesday 3rd of September we will hold our Senior Phase Awards Ceremony where we will recognise these achievements along with many other accolades and successes in other areas.

School Uniform

In Inveralmond we have had a focus on our school uniform. As a school we want to ensure every young person is clearly identifiable as an Inveralmond pupil and we want pupils to be proud to wear their uniform.

To prevent pressure on young people and families, unbranded uniform items should be worn. This prevents peer pressure to spend large quantities of money on branded items. School uniform items can be bought economically in supermarkets and high street chains. 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.

We are delighted that this year we are partnered with BE Uniforms. BE Uniforms have a dedicated ICHS shop where uniform items can be ordered. Items with the school badge are also available. This year our students asked if Blazers could be made available to them as an option. These are now also available on the BE Uniform site. [Inveralmond Community High School](#)

Mobile Phones

In line with National Policy our Mobile phone policy has been updated. We are in the process of creating a dedicated page on our website about mobile phone use. This will include our policy, but also links to support for parents/carers who are concerned about the impact of mobile phones on learning and wellbeing.

Over the next few weeks, staff will be working with young people to prepare them for the formal launch of the policy. This means our students have an opportunity to adjust to the new approaches, before full implementation. It is our aim to launch the policy formally after the September break.

Our new approach is as follows:

- Mobile phones should not be used in corridors between classes, other than to check timetables.
- On entry to class, pupils are asked to have their phone in their school bag, or to place it into the phone holders provided.
- Teachers will use a mobile phone sign, and a verbal instruction to let pupils know when they may take out their mobile phones to complete a learning task. The sign and a verbal instruction will be used to signal when phones must to back to bags or phone holders.
- Young people who do not follow this policy will be sent to reflection, where their mobile phone will be placed in a secure locker. They will receive a ticket, and can retrieve the phone when the bell rings for the end of the school day. A groupcall will be sent to alert parents/carers that the mobile phone has been stored securely and is not in the young persons possession.

Further information on our Mobile Phone Policy will follow in due course.

Attendance and Punctuality

As a school we want our young people to be present with us and on time. Research has shown that attendance below 90% majorly impacts the life chances of young people, and that a 1% drop in attendance equals a 3% drop in achievement.

Our school day starts at 0835 and we encourage all young people to be in school before the bell rings. Breakfast is also available in our school dining hall from 0800-0830. We do not have a registration period, therefore any young person arriving after 0835 is missing out on learning and interrupting the class which is already underway. Please support us by encouraging young people to be on time.

More information on attendance can be found on our website. [Attendance Policy - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

Parent Council

The first meeting of our Parent Council will take place on Tuesday 26th in the Business Department from 1845-2000. All are welcome.

Contacting the School

When calling Inveralmond Community High School, you will be asked to select an option so that you can be connected with the right team in the school. Our staff have been trained to ask you a few questions so that they can direct your call to the person or team who is best placed to support you with your query. In line with our school values, please be patient and kind while they gather all the information they need from you. In order to direct your query staff will need to ask for your full name; if you are calling about a pupil they will ask for the pupils' full name and your relationship to the pupil. It would also be helpful if you could tell us the pupil's tutor class or house, and in order for us to prioritise calls we will need details of what your query relates to.

All of the information about contacting the school can be found on our website. [ICHS - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

Yours Faithfully,



Mr Hamish Shankland
Headteacher
Inveralmond Community High School