

The ACADEMY STAR



The S3 girls put on an exhilarating performance during their race. (Photography: PE Dept)

Selbie Soars to Success

Written by Oliver (S5)

The annual Inverurie Academy Sports Day was hosted on the 28th of May at the Aberdeen Sports Village (ASV).

Students had been working hard for months before to show off their talents in different sports. Because Sports Day was during study leave, only a select number of S1, S2 and S3 students competed from all houses with activities like running, long jump and discus just to name a few.

The PE department had been getting the juniors ready for the amazing event as Sports Day is a

thing everyone looks forward to every year and there's lots of competitive energy to the day.

The day itself was fortunately dry and sunny which was perfect for all the outdoor races. There was a lot of energy from the students taking part and teachers on the sidelines were cheering everyone on as they competed.

Speaking about the event, Ms Bell said:

“It was a great day to see so many talented students taking part in their chosen sport. A lot of the races were very close and it added to the excitement of the competition.”

There were so many fantastic athletes taking part across lots of sports. The 100m sprint was definitely nail-biting with Archie and Ruby (S1), Fraser and Rachel (S2), and Harrison and Mya (S3) taking the winning medals.

The High Jump was also a very successful competition with lots of wins for the juniors. Taking home medals for S1 were Cooper and Millie, while S2 saw Cian and Frankie take gold, and Liam and Mya were the champions for S3.

Finally, the house relay races were a nail-biting event with groups having to work well together in order to be successful.

Foreword by Miss Ross

What an outstanding year it has been for The Academy Star and Inverurie Academy as a whole!

The paper has continued to expand its horizons, developing its links with the wider community (more on that in future editions!) as well as honing the writing and editorial skills of our keen journalists.

The team have, as always, been hard at work to bring the latest news and current events from the academy and local community. Leading the headlines this term was Inverurie Academy's annual Sports Day. Intrepid reporter, Oliver, ventured along during his study leave to get a first-hand account of the competitions. You can read his front page spread to find out more.

This term also marked a number of other events: the Awards Ceremony last month was a celebration of success for Inverurie Academy students, while the Summer Concert showcased the creative and musical talents from a wider variety of groups. Music was also at the forefront for our community articles, with Jessica attending the annual Garioch Fiddlers Rally in April (see right).

Rounding off our edition are a number of features from around the school. We welcomed our upcoming S1s with a variety of activities (Page 17), while our newly-appointed School and House Captains explained their vision for the future (from Page 4).

All this and more can be found within the 20-page edition of the summer issue. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it. From all at the Academy Star, we wish you a fantastic summer holiday and we look forward to bringing you more news from around the school next term!



Roaring Rally for Garioch Fiddlers

Written by Jessica (S3)

The 39th annual Garioch Fiddlers rally took place on the 27th of April in the Inverurie Town Hall.

Many groups were performing including the Garioch Fiddlers, the Junior Garioch Fiddlers, the Aberdeen Gaelic Choir, and guest artists Daniel Thorpe and Tom Oakes. Sets were selected for the event weeks before, and rehearsals for all of the performers started in the morning of the 27th.

The audience arrived at 18:30, and the senior fiddler's first set began at 19:00. This year's comedy selection was based around trains, with the junior fiddlers acting out a scene on the stage. The Aberdeen Gaelic Choir then performed, singing a few sets after the

Junior Fiddlers performance.

There were raffle tickets available to buy at the beginning of the night, with the numbers being called at the beginning of the interval. Prizes included biscuits, chocolates, and vouchers for local shops. The night finished with a vote of thanks and the habitual play out of "The Gadie". All proceeds went towards the Garioch Fiddlers Society.

Clair Scott, Junior Fiddlers Conductor, said her favourite part of the night was "definitely hearing the juniors play."

She added: "I love the fact that such a small group can make such an impressive noise." Overall, it was a very successful 39th rally, and was very much enjoyed by all who attended.



(Left) Mr Hendry with Thainstone's mascot. (Right) The high jump proved very challenging for competitors.

Thainstone won for S1 boys while Selbie won for the S1 girls. Harlaw beat out all other houses for both the S2 girls and boys relay, while Thainstone again took the medal for the S3 boys, and Barra won gold for the S3 girls.

It was Selbie who ultimately triumphed on the day when all the totals were added up, taking the lead in a number of the sports, particularly the track events where they had over 100 more points than the next winning house!

Speaking after the day, Mr Hendry offered his personal opinion on how he thought Sports Day had gone:

“We were really lucky to have such lovely weather and that definitely makes the day even better. Everybody has been hugely positive and our young people showed a fantastic amount of sportsmanship. A huge well done to all those who took part and a particular well done to Selbie for winning the Millennium Cup!”

Even though Sports Day is all about sporting achievements, the amazing teacher helpers had a good laugh and dance which made some people's Sports Day the best

they have had.

But the school does not just do their own Sports Day - they take part in a number of other competitions including NASSA. Students from across the school took part in a number of different competitions where they were going head-to-head with other schools on a national platform.

Inverurie Academy were involved in Badminton, Athletics, Cross Country and Netball to

name a few, with the Athletics team having a very good day coming second in the whole event. This is an amazing achievement, and so are all the other efforts the groups received.

For everyone involved in NASSA and Sports Day, we congratulate you for being involved in such a big event and good luck next year - we are sure it will be even bigger and better!



The S1 boys were neck and neck for victory.

Captains to Create Community Spirit



School Captains for 2024-25 (L-R): Matthew, Emily, Ellie, Cara, Isla, Eilidh, and Abbie.

Written by Molly (S6)

The School Captains in Inverurie Academy can be easily distinguished from the rest with their distinct tartan-like ties and the badges on their blazer displaying their role. School Captains can be easily identified, however many pupils are likely wondering: Who are they? What do they even do? What is their role, and what should we, as a school, expect from our new pupil representatives? It is the purpose of this article to answer just that.

In the academic year of 2024-2025 there are 7 School Captains: Matthew, Eilidh, Cara, Emily, Abbie, Isla and Ellie, who some may already recognise from the assemblies they

hosted from the 23rd-28th June (where they introduced themselves and their personal goals for the future).

The position of School Captain requires a significant amount of dedication, with all of the Captains having different motivations as to why they took on the role. Some said that the opportunity would allow them to develop their communication skills both personally and professionally. Others said that they wanted to be able to give back to the school and allow younger pupils to have more of a voice. Alternatively, Isla and Abbie described more personal reasoning for why they vetted for the position with Isla stating that she was inspired originally in S1 by former school captain,

Josh McRae, due to his impact within the school community and the wider Inverurie area. This therefore caused her to want to commit to the role and “follow in his footsteps”. Abbie was also inspired to be a school captain as she felt that she could bring different ideas and skills to the position as she “came from a sports background”. She further commented that it meant each Captain brought something new to their positions, and that their differing personalities and goals were beneficial in working well together as a team.

The captains were chosen out of multiple candidates earlier this month, having to go through multiple interviews in order to secure their position,

which was no easy feat. One of the captains, Eilidh, noted how the whole experience was quite “nerve wracking”, however preparation was key and once you “get into the process you are fine”.

Cara further explained what the selection process entailed, saying that there were multiple stages in the proceedings in order to progress further. Firstly, they would apply for the role through google forms and then be selected for house captain interviews; if they were successful in that they would then be put forward for school captain interviews. This was the final stage, where Mr Hendry and other senior figures within the school would ask scenario-based questions and observe the candidates responses in order to make their final decision. For instance, questions like the qualities in which they possessed and how that would make them suitable for the role were just some examples that were put before the captains. Other questions got candidates to consider their leadership experience, and even how (if they got the role) would they manage to involve the community in school life?

Ellie’s overall consensus was that despite the difficulty of the interview, she felt that it was good practice for any potential job or university interviews in answering difficult questions under pressure.

The captains were keen to discuss their wider goals for the school and what vision they had for the coming year.

Matthew responded to this

saying that he wanted to provide a personal perspective and have a focus on diabetic students, helping them with their transition from primary school and offering them support. He also stated that he wanted to “better the image of the school and to show ourselves in the best light within the community.”

Emily echoed this, as she wanted to promote the student voice, however encourage more positive viewpoints as pupils are often very vocal about what they don’t like. Instead, she wanted to motivate them to be proud of the school.

Eilidh later expressed the importance of the issue of the environment, urging it to be a focal point as the school produces a significant amount of waste. Her plan to resolve the problem was to “raise awareness about what we as a school could do to solve it.” Additionally, she wanted to showcase more of the school’s creative talents to the community, potentially hosting a fair as a fundraising opportu-

nity.

Cara vocalised that she was going to take over the school’s social media with Emily and create more of a general presence and increase communication within the community, students and parents.

Isla and Abbie added that they wanted to promote the student voice and reform the student council so pupils can talk about issues they are passionate about.

Ellie finally mentioned that she wished to help students to get ready for moving on from the school, wanting to help pupils gain confidence and the skills necessary to leave, as school is a “stepping stone and the foundation of life”.

All in all, the school captains for the year 2024-2025 clearly have ambitious plans for the future of both our school and the community, aiming to be more than their tartan tie and make important changes. We wish them the very best of luck in their endeavours.



Promoting House Pride

Emily

What is your role as House Captain?

“My role as House Captain involves coming up with prefect rotas, organising events and giving information to everyone in my house which is Barra.”

What made you want to be a House Captain?

“I’m not that much of a confident person and I don’t really like speaking in front of people, but I think being House Captain has helped with that as I have gotten to know other people and it’s boosted my confidence.”

How are you going to boost house involvement?

“I think getting people involved in events that are going on is really important; Sports Day obviously being the big one, and planning events for everyone to get involved in.”

How will your position as House Captain benefit you in the future?

“It shows that you have been a leader; then if you do leadership roles in the future people can see that you’ve done plus it’s a really important skill.”

Adam

What is your role as House Captain?

“I am responsible for making the rotas for lunchtime duties and making sure that the prefects and House Captains all stick to it. We are also responsible for increasing house awareness and making sure everyone follows the rules.”

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

“I want to make sure everyone knows what they are doing and there is no confusion between anyone because I feel like that’s an issue with a lot of people as they don’t know where they are going or what they’re doing.”

How will your position as House Captain benefit you in the future?

“It gives you a good leadership opportunity which is very important when going into employment because it gives you a chance to work with people you wouldn’t usually work with.”

Grace

What made you want to be House Captain?

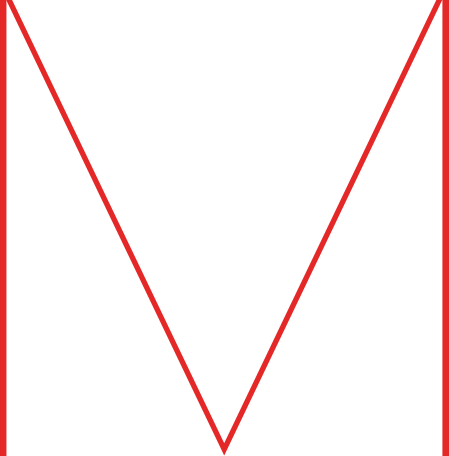
I applied for the House Captain role as I wanted to make a difference within the school, mainly through making House Captains more known and making house assemblies more relevant and interactive. I also applied as I felt it was a role I would thrive in, as I would class myself as a natural leader.

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

My plans as House Captain are to make house assemblies more interactive and interesting, and ensure the topics of these assemblies are ones that pupils feel they can relate to or add to. Another plan I have is to make sure pupils are aware that we are approachable and there for them, if they require it.

How are you going to boost house involvement?

I plan on boosting house involvement through bringing back different inter-house competitions that suit everyone. These may involve sports, baking, or even art-related competitions.



Rachel

What is your role as House Captain?

“My role as House Captain is to check on all the year groups in our house and make sure everyone is getting on okay. To set an example and be a role model for the younger years to look up to.”

What made you want to be House Captain?

“I wanted to become a House Captain to develop good leadership skills but also to begin to take more initiative. I enjoy working with others and I am keen to develop my communication skills when speaking to larger groups of people.”

How are you going to boost house involvement?

“I hope to make more incentives for people to win house points and encourage house members to get to know each other better to make a stronger team going forward. During assemblies I hope to get more members of the house involved and to express their own ideas with changes that can be made within the school.”

Chloe

What is your role as House Captain?

“To represent my house and give out jobs to the prefects and also help them with what they need to do in the house.”

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

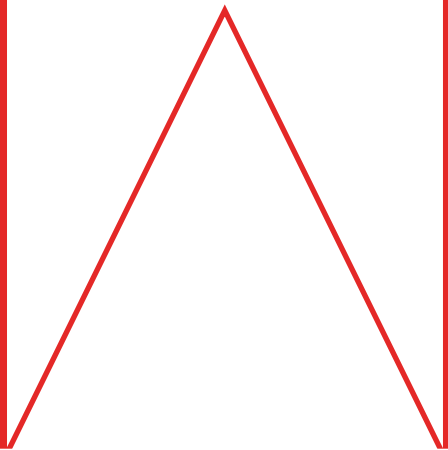
“To listen to what people want in the house and enforce that in the school.”

How are you going to boost house involvement?

“To make people aware of who we are and allow them to come to us if they need help, so hopefully that would boost involvement in the house.”

How will your position as House Captain benefit you in the future?

“I hope to boost my confidence and also work well as a team with the other captains, and hopefully make my university application stand out, and prepare me for university learning.”




Abby

What made you want to be a House Captain?

“I wanted to improve house morale and make a change in the school.”

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

“I would like staff and pupils to work better together instead of as two opposite teams and I believe that activities will combine the two groups.”

How are you going to boost house involvement?

“I hope we can run more activities which are less sport-based and be aimed at people who maybe do not enjoy sports as much.”

How will your position as House Captain benefit you in the future?

“I am hoping to be able to carry over the skills from being House Captain into situations that I may come across in the future such as in university. I also think that it will contribute to becoming more of an independent individual.”

Louis***What is your role as House Captain?***

“My role is to help in the school with any parent evenings and any extra curricular events. The role has a lot of responsibility, especially when planning school rotas, lunchtimes and overall helping around the school.”

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

“Being a presence around the school is one of my main goals. Making sure that corridors and other public spaces are monitored consistently so that there are no issues and that students can come to us.”

How are you going to boost house involvement?

“What I suggested in my interview with Mr Anderson was that instead of football events like the keepy-up challenge which we did last term, instead we do events that include everyone such as quizzes so that people who don't do sports can actually get involved and win house points.”

Kathleen***What are your plans/goals as House Captain?***

“Our main plan this year is to promote Selbie, as we all know our house but we don't know what it involves, so this year is about focusing to make sure everyone is working within the house, getting to know it and helping out and boosting its status. We are hoping to do more with the house boards and displaying people's achievements, for example if someone did really well in a swimming competition or they passed one of their exams in music, we would want to put that up.”

How will your position as House Captain benefit you in the future?

“In the future I want to go to university and be a physiotherapist and for that you need to be quite confident speaking to new people and making them feel understood. House Captain goes into that as you are talking to loads of new people and you are also trying to solve their problems as well. It means that all the experiences and skills I learn in this role, I can then transfer over.”

Liam***What is your role as House Captain?***

“As a House Captain we are building our house presence so that it can be the greatest it's ever been.”

What made you want to be a House Captain?

“I wanted to be a House Captain so that we could promote our school values and encourage younger years to show positive behaviour.”

What are your plans/goals as House Captain?

“Can't say too much right now as we have a few things in the works! We are going to be designing our house boards which will be in place by summer, and we will also be welcoming our new S1s after the holidays from their primary schools. We will also be going to registration classes more often to get to know you (Selbie pupils) more.”

Introducing the New House Boards

SELBIE HOUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM



KATHLEEN (HOUSE CAPTAIN)

This is Kathleen - one of your new Selbie House Captains! Kathleen is ready for the challenge to promote our house! She also wants to encourage our young people to play tennis.

Harlaw House Captain



Louis

Some hobbies that I enjoy doing are playing football, going to the gym and exploring new places.
My favorite subjects are Physics and History.

Emily 56 - House Captain



Outside of school I do Judo and weightlifting. When I'm not doing sports my other interests are art and design, and I would like to go to university to study textiles.



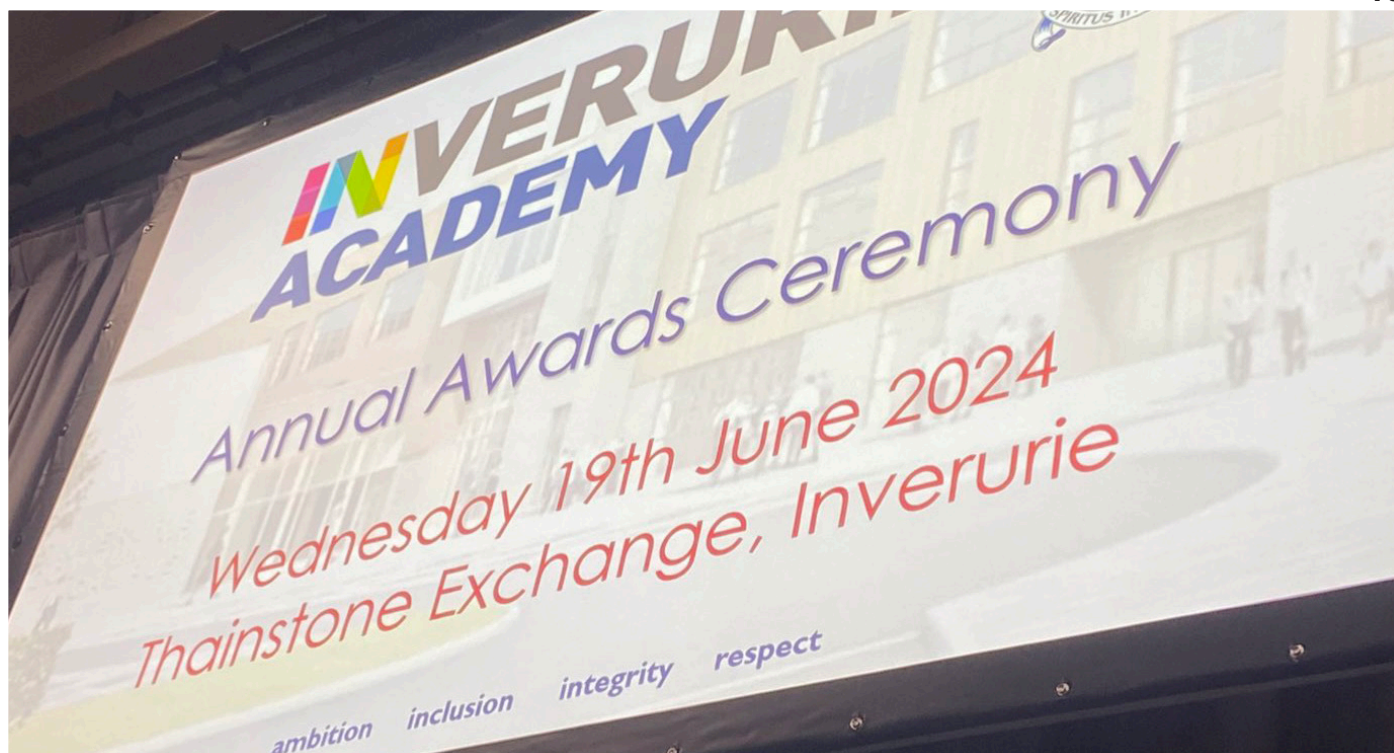
Alex

...for colony colts and I



Grace

My fun fact is I had lived in 4 countries by the time I was 5.



Triumph at Thainstone Exchange

Written by Fiona and Cara (S6)

Once again, Inverurie Academy was proud to host their annual Awards Ceremony, where students from all across the school gather together to have their achievements recognised and celebrated. This grand event took place at Thainstone Exchange on Wednesday the 19th of June, and lasted from 7:00pm to 9:00pm (discounting the practice ceremony the students took part in earlier that day).

This event celebrates all the incredible achievements of our students, while also giving family members the opportunity to join in on the celebrations of their child's success. There was a wide range of awards students had the chance to win, such as the Awards of Excellence BGE students received, Faculty Awards given to senior pupils, as well as a host of Wider Achievement awards won by many pupils. Many students were also proud to be the recipi-

ents of our coveted Golden Envelope awards, which were revealed for the first time to the audience and students at the time of announcement that evening.

The BGE Awards of Excellence were appointed by guidance teachers and given to junior pupils for a myriad of reasons, such as the amount of merits gained as well as behaviour and effort in class. A whole host of pupils worked hard throughout the year and were proud to receive these awards, and we hope it will encourage them to continue with their outstanding behaviour and success.

A select number of senior pupils were nominated by each faculty to receive a Faculty Award in a specific subject at either National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher level. Each student chosen for a Faculty Award was chosen by said faculty as the highest achieving student in the subject at their specific level. One Faculty Award winner, Eilidh Swanston, who won an award for Advanced Higher

Physics (among others), explained how she felt when she had won the award stating:

"I felt over the moon when I learnt I had won the award as I had spent so much time and hard work over the course of the year. I was very grateful that my efforts had been recognised and I was very thankful to my teacher Mr Duncan who motivated me all through the year to be ambitious and to always try my best."

When asked what work she had done to achieve her Advanced Physics award, Eilidh added: "To win the award, I had to perform well consistently over the course of the year and keep up with all the school work. I had to go the extra mile in class and show that I was passionate about the subject. Additionally, being able to revise well and effectively as well as having good time management skills helped me to do well in my prelim."

Eilidh revealed her future plans in relation to Physics, stating: "At

university, I would love to study aerospace engineering in which physics is a very key part of. Learning this subject has helped me prepare for this and the world of work. In the future, my dream is to either work on making air travel eco-friendly or working in the space industry.”

When asked about what he thought of the Awards Ceremony, Mr Hendry stated: “It was an incredible evening which showcased all the amazing achievements of our Academy.” As well as Mr Hendry, many of the incredible members of staff at Inverurie Academy had a hand in running the evening and making it the success it turned out to be, including Mrs Hutcheson, who all students present agreed was extremely involved and the clear reason for such a success, Mrs O'Connor and Miss Stephen. When interviewed about her role in the awards ceremony, Miss Stephen responded:

“This year, my role in the award ceremony was overseeing the sponsorships that we gathered last year, so we managed to do most of the work for that last year. We're just gathering a couple more to feed in our growing Awards Ceremony and also I am in charge of the social media on the day.”

Furthermore, when asked why she got involved in the Awards Ceremony, Miss Stephen replied:

“Last year, I really thought the Awards Ceremony was a great thing because there's so much success that goes on at Inverurie and sometimes it's so easy for lot of that to go unrecognised, so the Awards Ceremony is a really good day just to ensure that people who deserve it are recognised, we show off the school's successes. I was involved in the businesses side of it, so getting sponsorships, getting these businesses recognised, making sure they're invited to see



Mrs May alongside Holly, Sophie, and Kathleen, celebrating Selbie house winning the Millennium cup.

the pupil's successes and I think it's just a really good thing that we should focus on.”

Inverurie Academy was proud and extremely grateful to be sponsored by so many local companies, with each subsection of awards being sponsored by a different company. These sponsors helped fund many things including booking the venue, medals and the £10 Scotland Loves Local gift cards awarded to Faculty and Wider Achievement award winners.

Inverurie Academy's 2024 Awards Ceremony was the perfect end to the students' school year, and has hopefully encour-

aged many who attended such a successful and exciting event to continue to try their best in the coming school year.

The Academy Star would like to thank all the teachers involved for doing such an incredible job and we would also like to give a huge well done to every student who won an award this year.



The S6 students were dressed to impress at the 2024 Prom! (Photo: P&J)

Our Last Goodbye

Written by Grace Pratt, Abigail Gray and Lucy Michie

On the 5th of June, Inverurie Academy's class of 2024 had our end of school prom at Lochter Activity Centre in Oldmeldrum, for one last goodbye before we embark on our separate journeys to begin the rest of our lives.

All students were expected to be at the school for 6:15pm where the buses departed for Lochter at 6:30pm. We then shortly arrived at the venue around twenty minutes later, where we were greeted by a red carpet and a cheery ensemble of teachers. The interior had been decorated for the event by Mrs Elrick who organised and planned the entire prom for the third year in a row. Well done Mrs Elrick! The decorations consisted of Love Heart themed centrepieces and pastel colours, including a balloon arch which acted as a backdrop for

photos. We sat at our tables, which were complete with custom Love Heart sweets with a good luck message printed on the wrapper which added a touch of sentimentality.

We then were called table by table to secure our carvery which had a selection of gammon and/or turkey as well as a variety of sides, including a vegetarian option.

After we had finished our main, the staff collected our plates and served us our dessert which was a sticky toffee pudding with ice cream. Once we had all finished our meals, DJ Jasper had finished setting up and began to play the music, starting with 'I Gotta Feeling' by the Black Eyed Peas to get everyone up on the dance-floor. Throughout the night, many classic dance tunes were played to keep everybody partying, including 'Cha Cha Slide', 'Macarena' and the 'Conga', led by our very own Gabi Yong! The set also included

some typical Scottish anthems like 'Freed from Desire', 'Yes Sir, I Can Boogie', 'I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)' and of course, 'Loch Lomond' which was played to signify the end of the night in a joint celebration of students and teachers. In true Scottish fashion, we had to have a few Ceilidh dances which were 'Strip the Willow' and 'Gay Gordons'.

From speaking to our fellow sixth year students, we gathered their thoughts on their experiences of the night. Former student of the Journalism NPA course, Ellie Milne said: 'Prom was a great way to end our 6 years at Inverurie Academy, it was a really fun night with friends and teachers.' Everyone agreed that it was a great way of getting everyone together and creating a sense of community in our year. Former Thainstone house captain, Miranda Wilson said: 'It was really nice to see everyone up dancing and get-

ting along, I'm glad there was no drama or issues so it meant that it was enjoyable for everyone. Also, the carvery was yummy!' We were all very impressed with Lochter as a venue, Mrs Elrick did a fantastic job! 'The DJ, food and the decorations were all great – but it was the enthusiastic and excited leavers who really made the Prom excellent' said Mrs Elrick herself. Olivia Craig said: 'I really appreciated the hospitality of Lochter as I think they did a really good job of catering. I also enjoyed the DJs as they played good tunes like the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide which made everyone feel like a child again.'

I think we can all agree that the night was one to remember and an excellent way to celebrate our leave at Inverurie Academy, even the teachers had a brilliant time! Mrs Farquhar, guidance teacher of Harlaw (the best house) said: 'This is the best prom we've had in ages because everyone was up boogieing and having a great time, instead of standing outside and being boring!' Humanities teacher Miss Cully said: 'Prom was AWESOME! Everyone looked



absolutely stunning and I loved seeing everyone all dressed up. Was a beautiful way to say goodbye to an amazing year group!' English teacher Miss Addison who has attended a number of Inverurie Academy's Proms said: 'It was a fantastic send off for our S6 pupils. Everyone looked amazing in their outfits and the dancefloor was full all night long! One of the best proms I've ever been to!' And finally, head of the Academy Star

Miss Ross said: 'Although this was my first time attending a prom as a teacher, I doubt there could be a better prom than the one for Class '24. The level of effort that was put in to marking such a special occasion was shown through the decorations, the music, but most importantly the students themselves. They wore the most incredible outfits, danced until they dropped, and brought such fantastic energy and enthusiasm. It was a pleasure getting to be a part of their final send off from Inverurie Academy!'

This year's prom was a brilliant night and will remain unforgettable in the hearts of the students and hopefully the teachers – head teacher Mr Hendry said: 'Our 2024 Prom was a night to remember, fun was had by both students and staff on the dancefloor, jumping around from the first to last song. It was such a celebration of the last six years for the class of 24!'



Sunshine Success at Inverurie Raft Race 2024



Inverurie's annual Raft Race was filled with drama and hilarity as teams went head-to-head to claim victory.

Written by Liam (S5)

Inverurie Scout Group's annual fundraiser, the raft race, was back again for its 5th year. This year saw 12 rafters battle the River Don from Kembhill Park Kemnay to Davidson Park Inverurie on Sunday the 2nd of June, all trying to be crowned Inverurie Raft Race 2024 winners.

This year Inverurie Scout Group's charity partner was Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA). They received a portion of profits raised from the 2024 raft race to help fund their crucial services. This is the second time that Inverurie Raft Race have chosen SCAA as their charity partner; last time was the 2020 Raft Race.

The Raft Race is organised by

Inverurie Scout Group and has been since 2019. The idea of the Raft Race is to "bring some summer cheer and joy to the community whilst having a laugh and welcoming in the summertime."

The raft race is the biggest fundraiser of the year for ISG and helps to keep the Inverurie Scouting movement going. The fundraiser would not be possible without the



fantastic support of Tesco's Extra Inverurie, Morrisons Community Partnership, M&S Inverurie, Farmfoods Inverurie, GPH Inverurie, West High Street Garage Inverurie and the parents of young people within ISG who donate, help on the day and promote the event.

The rafting times varied from 1 hour 15 minutes all the way to 4 hours 37 minutes. The first place winners this year who got the fastest time, coming in at 1 hour 15 minutes, were Kevin & Sean Go Large. The raft team who managed to raise the most money, winning the Best Fundraising award was Prestige Worldwide - arriving into



Inverurie at just under 2 hours 15 minutes. The team who won best decorated raft and came in at 9th

place was Rental Technology and Services Ltd. The best decorated crew trophy went to Fishful Thinking who came in at 10th place. Finally, winning the wooden spoon, the team that came in at the 4 hour 37 minute mark was Tiki Trailblazers.

The events team have already started to think about Inverurie Raft Race 2025, if you are interested in taking part, the organisers recommend that you keep a lookout on Inverurie Raft Race's Facebook page.





Some of the literary winners alongside Ms Sarran (left) and Mr Foley (middle).

Literacy Ambassadors Are Cooking with Gas!

Written by the Literacy Ambassadors

This year has been an incredible success for our school in terms of promoting literacy and fostering a love for reading. After last year's focus on genre, specifically non-fiction literature, we have shifted our effort to inspiring readers by celebrating a wide range of writers, and national and international events and celebrations such as National Poetry Day, Scottish Book Week, Storytelling Week, Purple Friday, World Book Day, Earth Day, Pride Month, Poetry Olympics, Windrush Day and UFO Day. But our work is not just visible in the library and school environment, it also includes staff training, a Reading newsletter which regularly goes home to the families and book projects undertaken during our English lessons. The Literacy Ambassadors and the Reading Leadership Group have worked tirelessly to fulfil the school's action plan for the silver level of the Reading Schools Programme run by the Scottish Book Trust. To cel-

ebate the dedication and engagement in our school community, we organised an awards ceremony in the library where we presented 72 certificates to students for various levels of interests: Avid Readers, Library Assistants, Book Adventurers, Classic Connoisseurs, Widely Read, and Literacy Ambassadors. We also recognised the staff who significantly promoted reading this academic year. A special thank you went to Miss Sarran for her leadership in this initiative over the years. She said, "I feel honoured to drive the work around Reading Schools at Inverurie Academy. We have gained a lot of momentum, and in the last months especially we had so many members of staff and different pupils contributing. We are now looking forward to further raising the profile of reading with families and the wider community." Of course, the celebration also included party snacks and mingling. Acknowledging the hard work of both students and staff is a vital aspect of our mission, often overlooked, so it was heartwarming to see so many attendees at the

ceremony.

Another crucial part of our efforts is to encourage networking and discussions about texts and reading. We are therefore excited to introduce Inverurie Academy's very own cookbook - Book Cookery. Launched in the last week of the summer term 2024, the cookbook will be shared with the entire community in the format of an eBook. Featuring 21 recipes ranging from breakfast items to delectable main dishes, the cookbook blends our passion for reading, favourite books, stories, and authors with delightful recipes suitable for the whole family. The content of the cookbook was carefully curated by our Literacy Ambassadors, who thoroughly enjoyed working on this extensive project. Mr Pacitti and some S1 classes have already tested a few recipes, as have some enthusiastic staff members. We hope that our Book Cookery cookbook will spark conversations about literature, stories, good food, and the joy of cooking.



Creations on Canvas

Written by the Academy Star Team

Inverurie Academy's Promise Group have been busy this term working on an impressive art project which was to be exhibited in the library on the Thursday 6th of June.

The group, who have been working over the last few months with artist Penny Downes, came up with the title of 'Be Creative' for their project. Penny, who has worked with young people for many years as well as with Community Learning and Development, was there to offer her expert guidance and to support the students as they tried out lots of different artistic styles.

Speaking during the exhibition, Penny said:

"We wanted to try and create a really positive set of images, what-

ever that meant for the young people. They tried out a huge number of artistic techniques to find the one they enjoyed best.

When asked about what she thought of the artists, Penny said: "It was such an enjoyable experience to be a part of. The young people involved worked so hard, as you can see from their fantastic gallery of work. We were able to try out a huge amount of artistic techniques - spray painting was the surprise success with all students seeming to enjoy it the best. The very best thing about this event is being able to show the variety of artwork created and emphasise such an important message - everyone is different."

The exhibition allowed staff to come and see the artwork on display during periods 5 and 6. The art had been expertly displayed on boards around the library, mean-

ing that it really felt like you were a part of a professional art gallery.

Speaking during the gallery walk, three of the artists (Jasmine, Josh and Logan) said:

"It was great to get to socialise with each other outside of a normal class. We really liked getting to be so creative and we felt inspired by Penny."

When asked about how they felt seeing their artwork displayed, they added: "We feel really proud!"

Ms Lees who, alongwith Mr Willis, has been working with the Promise Group, stated:

"Although the group were working individually on their artwork, they came together as a group to support each other and that was fantastic to see. They're such a fantastic bunch of young people and I'm looking forward to working on the next project."



Welcome to Class of 2030

By Yasmeeen (S6)

After a few weeks of students settling into their new school year, the P7 transition took place from the 11th to 13th of June. This was a 3 day taster of the next chapter of education for the P7s, where they would meet their new classes and follow their allocated timetables. Almost 270 P7s entered the school, being one of the biggest years yet. Many of them were experiencing a mix of excitement and nerves and required lots of support and encouragement from both staff and senior pupils.

On the first day of their transition, the P7s gathered in the gym hall to be assigned their registration class. Many of the new S6s came to help, sacrificing some of their class time, which the school was very grateful for. Despite the large size of the year, the registration was successful and the P7s were ready for their classes. For each registration class (containing between 25 and 30 P7s per class), around five S6s helped buddy that class. This role involved getting the class and taking them to each lesson. It also included making

sure the class was early enough to avoid the bustling crowd of the rest of the school while transporting the P7s to their lessons. To solve this, the S6s would take the class 10 minutes early. Many S6s enjoyed this role because it helped build their confidence and skills for the workplace. One of the S6 buddies, Fiona Duncan expressed her opinion:

“Having the experience to be involved in the P7 transition was very enjoyable and it was great to get to know some of the new students that will be arriving in August.”

Apart from lessons, the P7s took part in a tour of the enormous school which is a drastic difference to their current primary experiences. The current S2s also organised activities within some faculties such as the Creative Arts and English. This allowed students to practise their communication and leadership skills. As well as the S2s helping organise the event, some of Inverurie Academy’s dedicated teachers were the backbone to make it all possible. Deputy Head Dr Drysdale had a significant role behind the scenes ensuring the smooth-running of the events.

In addition, Mrs Maguire, who is part of the Creative Arts faculty, also helped organise the transition with her leadership team. When asked about the event’s success, Mrs Maguire said; “There was a huge amount of preparation involved however it paid off across the three days and the P7s came away with a very positive impression of the school”.

During the few days, the P7s took part in science classes, getting to see bunsen burners for the first time. They also took part in French, Geography and Business & IT as well as Modern Studies where they spotted Joe Biden and Keir Starmer cardboard cutouts in Mr Campbell’s amazingly-decorated classroom. This was to give the pupils a variety of the many subjects in the school. On the last day of the transition, the P7s had a full timetable that allowed them to see what a proper day at the academy would be like.

Having the P7s up was a great opportunity for everyone involved. The P7s have had a wonderful glimpse of their next few years in secondary school and we hope they enjoy the school as much as we do.



The musical groups received multiple rounds of applause after their excellent performances.

A Musical Masterclass

Written by Oliver and Lauren (S5)

Inverurie Academy's Creative Arts team hosted their much-anticipated Summer Concert on the 26th of June to show all of the pupils hard work that they have been doing this school year.

Every year the Summer Concert has a theme and this year was Hawaiian, with lots of tropical flowers and trees. Lots of our actors and helpers and even our very own Mr Hendry were wearing flower necklaces to ensure everyone was on theme which really made it work very well together.

There were some incredible performances on the night. We had the Concert Band who showed off their professional musical skills, while Wavelength also played to a very impressed audience. Alongside these groups, there was also Celtacad and the Guitar & Ukelele Group, as well as the Brass Group and individual singers such as Cassia (S4).

Speaking at the event, Mr

Hendry said: "It was the best one yet with the whole event coming together marvellously."

This just shows how much work the students in the Creative Arts department do as well as all of the teachers who bring the whole show together.

The Summer Concert is a great way to close off the school year and show the community as well as other staff and students what goes on in the building and the amazing talent on offer.



We'll Always Have Paris!

Written by Erin (S6)

On Sunday 2nd June 2024, a group of ecstatic pupils and teachers hopped on a bus which was to take them from Inverurie Academy all the way down to Dover in England. At 17:30 that day, they met their bus drivers Paul and William and undertook a lengthy journey to the South.

After arriving in the early hours of Monday morning, they caught the ferry to Calais - bringing the first taste of French air. Next, they journeyed with a new bus driver known as 'Alan No. 1' who was the "best bus driver ever" to their accommodation located in Lésigny, just 20 miles South of Paris. They stayed in 'Château Grande Romaine', a beautiful building with a gorgeous estate to roam on, with sports pitches to entertain and encourage the pupils to settle in. They met their tour guide known as 'Alan No. 2' and their animateur (host/leader) Florian who accompanied them for the week. Dinner was served and a night of activities followed after.

Tuesday, the next day, they were up bright and early and off to a town called Brie Comte Robert, in the direction of Paris.

"It was a beautiful, very typical French town with lots of lovely wee streets and a pretty church. There was a market on so we all got to see the typical things bought at a French market with the opportunity to buy different things and the pupils could practise their French!" said Mrs Hutcheson, Modern Languages teacher.

Then it was time to head into central Paris to a place called Montmartre. They visited the

Sacré Coeur and the Place du Ter-tre where they discovered many artists hard at work. Nighttime arrived and they made crêpes from scratch and they had the chance to swim in 'la piscine' (the swimming pool) if they wished.

The pupils and teachers then experienced a full day in Disneyland, and this was for some "the most exciting day of all". They also stopped at a hypermarché (a giant supermarket) to stock up on French snacks for the next three days. Embarking in a way that would make everyone back in Scotland turn green-eyed, they ascended the famous Eiffel Tower and floated along the River Seine on a boat cruise. Here they took in the beautiful views of Le Musée D'Orsay, Les Invalides, Le Nôtre Dame and many more.

Before heading back to the Château with Alan No. 1, they perused

Le Louvre which contained some "interesting and beautiful artworks", said one student.

Sadly, to end an amazing trip, Friday morning was an emotional farewell to France as the group had to rush back to the ferry with word of a possible strike in Calais. Thankfully, Alan No.1 delivered them on time and they set sail back home to Scotland.

Around 06:30 on Sunday, they arrived back to school, all worn out and ready to rest. Some pupils went off to their beds, others to work, and a few went down to Edinburgh for Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.

What a jam-packed and memorable trip for both the students and teachers. A fabulous experience to discover a small part of a country everyone loves, especially Mrs Hutcheson!



INVER ramble

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