



INVERALMOND
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS 2017 - 2018



FOOTBALL



F1 IN SCHOOLS



DANCE



WELCOME TO INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent

I am delighted to welcome you to ICHS. As Head Teacher, it is a privilege and a pleasure to lead our school, working in partnership with pupils, staff and parents to ensure all of our young people experience the highest quality of learning and teaching.

In particular, I would like to offer a very special welcome to our new S1 pupils and their parents. It is an exciting time for P7 pupils who are now in the final stages of their primary education and are preparing for the transition to secondary school.

It is also a time when both pupils and parents have many questions about what this new experience of school will be like. I hope you will find the information provided in this prospectus interesting and useful.

Inveralmond Community High School is a large, six year comprehensive school with young people attending from many areas of Livingston. The school has a strong, inclusive ethos and offers a vibrant environment for learning and teaching. We seek to develop the highest standards, socially, educationally and morally in all our pupils.

Our key purpose is to provide all our young people with a fully rounded experience of learning and teaching, rich opportunities for achievement and attainment and a strong sense of community and shared values. We are preparing our young people to be fully prepared for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Our emphasis is on high quality learning and teaching, raising attainment and enhancing pupil achievement. We actively encourage our young people to demonstrate their values in action within the school and its wider community. Beyond the formal school day, the school provides a wide and exciting range of extra curricular activities.

Inveralmond thrives as a community which is creative, supportive and forward thinking. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our community, we hope this year brings your child many opportunities to try new things, develop new skills, experience success, and enjoy their learning. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs S Young
Head Teacher



School Vision

Inveralmond Community High School
Vision

'We are working together to inspire
learners and shape successful
futures'



School Aims

- Excellence and Equity
- Provide effective transitions at all stages including moving to positive sustained destinations
- Deliver the highest quality learning and teaching
- Celebrate attainment, achievement and diversity
- Work effectively in partnership with our parents, carers and community

FACILITIES



Inveralmond Community High School is a comprehensive non-denominational school situated in the Ladywell area of Livingston and serves a cluster of six primary schools.

The school roll is currently 1049.

The School provides a Broad General Education for young people from S1– S3 and a Senior Phase S4-S6.

The school offers a broad curriculum with presentation in a full range of National Qualifications and a wide variety of awards in accredited courses.

Effective learning and teaching is the core business of all staff. It is, therefore, essential that all staff set high expectations to encourage young people to be all they can be in order that they achieve their full potential. This will allow our young people to leave school as effective contributors, successful learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens.

Pupil learning is key, and we encourage all pupils to be involved in the wider life of the school.

As a community school we have outstanding facilities. These include sports facilities such as swimming pool, two floodlit all weather pitches, Hi-Tech Fitness Suite, Dance and Drama studios, as well as ICT suites and multi-media Library. These are all available to our pupils during the day and after school. We also have a fully equipped hairdressing salon and enterprise room.



Personal Achievement

At Inveralmond we recognise the value of personal achievement and extra-curricular activities can have for our pupils. The skills gained by our pupils in such activities include:

- Communication and negotiation
- Decision making
- Creativity
- Leadership
- Risk taking and problem solving
- Practical application of core skills (Numeracy and Literacy)
- ICT
- Working with others

There are a vast range of opportunities open to all young people including:

- SFA School of Football
- Basketball
- Extra Curricular
- Model United Nations Club
- Various Musical Activities
- Music Technology
- F1 in Schools
- STEM
- Leadership Courses
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Personal Development



See school website for a list of all our activities
www.inveralmondchs.org.uk



PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION



Transfer Arrangements P7 to S1

ICHS works closely with our cluster primaries and nurseries in our Learning Community. Our cluster primary schools are Harrysmuir Primary, Livingston Village Primary, Toronto Primary, Riverside Primary, Peel Primary and Letham Primary. High quality partnership with our cluster primaries is central to our practice in order to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary both in terms of the curriculum and learning experiences and also in continuing to build the confidence of our pupils.

Parents of pupils in Primary 7 are warmly invited to our Open Evening in October where there is an opportunity to meet the staff of the school and experience our showcase of learning and teaching. Throughout Primary 7 there are many informal opportunities for our young pupils to visit Inveralmond while they are in their final stages in primary. In particular, during the summer term, all Primary 7 pupils are invited to participate in a high quality experience of Inveralmond Community High school. This gives our young pupils a rich opportunity to become more aware of the new demands of a secondary school timetable and to have a clearer understanding of their “new” school. This is a real benefit to pupils when they arrive in August. We are currently developing a P6 programme of transition.

While Inveralmond draws mainly from its six cluster primaries a number of parents from non-district primaries may wish their children to attend Inveralmond. Parents in this category must apply to the Pupil Placement Section immediately on being notified of their child’s secondary placement.



Uniform—We are ready to learn.

Our School greatly encourages school uniform for all our pupils. We believe it promotes a real sense of school identity, shared values, self-confidence and a shared sense of community. The uniform is actively supported by all parents and the parent school council.

our uniform is:

- White shirt / Black shirt
- Black trousers / skirt (no leggings or shorts)
- Black v-neck jumper / cardigan
- Black shoes
- School tie
- School blazer

Pupils in the senior school have their own tie. Pupils should also have a complete change of kit for Physical Education

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

We are a healthy promoting school and as such we are committed to promoting good health at all levels within the school.

Central to our Health and Wellbeing policy is our commitment to an ethos which is fair, takes care of Individuals and promotes respect.

Health promotion is at the heart of our school’s activities and we aim

- to promote the physical, social, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff
- to work with others in identifying and meeting the health needs of the whole school and its wider community.

CURRICULUM

Broad General Education S1-3

In S1—S3 pupils work through eight curricular areas and through inter-disciplinary learning :

The 8 curricular areas are

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Languages and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Religious Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Numeracy, Literacy, and Health and Well Being are the responsibility of every teacher.

As pupils progress into S3, they will have the opportunities for personalisation and choice, learners have opportunities to stretch their learning into 4th level E's and O's and beyond. S3 will provide a seamless transition into the senior phase.

The Senior Phase S4-6

Learning in the senior phase will build directly from Broad General Education to ensure all learners are equipped for life-long learning, further study and employment. Young people will have become accustomed in the BGE to learning which promotes their sense of purpose and motivation to learn.

Curriculum for Excellence is a unique opportunity to raise achievement and to ensure all learners are well prepared for learning life and work.

See full handbook for curriculum models

The new National Qualifications, units, and awards are designed to promote the enriched approach to learning of Curriculum for Excellence. The new qualifications are designed to validate the knowledge and understanding and skills that young people have learned and developed.

A substantial range of courses will be offered providing personalisation and pathways which are both academic and vocational. There will be opportunities to develop a range of skills necessary to succeed in the world of work, Further and Higher Education, and life. Pupils will be able to widen achievements and contribute to the whole school community through volunteering, participating in and organising events such as fundraising for charity.

Work Placement

At an appropriate point in the school year each pupil in the Senior Phase will be given the opportunity of a work placement for one week. Our pupils will have the opportunity to gain an appropriate award or extended placement.

There are many educational advantages to the time invested in this experience.

- development of confidence and motivation in the young person
- early experience of some of the issues involved in finding a job
- experience of a particular job, career or vocation
- contact made with local employers
- development of communication skills e.g., telephone, report writing, application forms



The benefits will be built on in the senior years when pupils will be given further opportunities of work experience, work shadowing and project assignments linked to the world of work

Careers

Inveralmond is proud of the increasingly high number of pupils who leave school for Higher and Further Education and of the number who also leave for employment. This comes with help from the extensive careers education programme delivered by the school and partnership working with Skills Development Scotland.

The school has its own up-to-date careers library and regularly takes part in careers conventions, which are of interest both to those intending to leave school and those wishing to continue with further and higher education.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE AND PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT



Every child is entitled to a **broad and deep** general education, whatever their level and ability. Every teacher and practitioner will be responsible for **literacy and numeracy** – the language and numbers skills that unlock other subjects and are vital to everyday life.

CFE develops **skills** for learning, life and work to help young people go on to further study, secure work and navigate life. It brings real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helps young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links **knowledge** in one subject area to another, helping children understand the world and make connections. It develops skills so that children can think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

Bringing learning to life and life to learning

Curriculum for Excellence is now being introduced across Scotland for all 3-18 year olds, wherever they learn. It aims to **raise standards**, prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow, in a fast changing world.

Curriculum for Excellence enables professionals to teach subjects creatively, to **work together** across the school and with other schools, to share **best practice** and explore learning together. Glow, Scotland's unique, world-leading, online network supports learners and teachers in this and plans are already in place for parents across the country to have access to Glow.

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's 'learning journey' from 3-18, helping their progression from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and beyond, ensuring the change is smooth. Teachers will ensure children continue to work at a pace they can cope with and with challenge they can thrive on.

Curriculum for Excellence balances the importance of **knowledge** and **skills**.



LEARNER VOICE

At Inveralmond Community High School we believe that a successful "Learner Voice" is an integral part of nurturing responsible, collaborative and pro-active young people. Learner Voice aims to build a sense of community and strength allied to the schools mission statement "We are working together to inspire learners and shape successful futures". The aim of Learner Voice is to create and maintain a respectful and formalised student body representing student's views and aiding the decision making process for pastoral, academic and whole school development.

At Inveralmond Community High School we believe that the voice of our students should be heard and their views taken into account. This corresponds to the Scottish Government's "Getting It Right For Every Child" agenda.

Learner Voice gives representatives from each year group the opportunity to meet regularly for debate and to participate in making decisions. It aims to gather student views, plan initiatives and events and generally to be a positive influence in the development of the school, with management, staff, parents and students all working in partnership to achieve this goal. We want our students at Inveralmond to become actively involved in school improvement and this will include discussing teaching and learning, observing and feeding back on lessons, and working with all departments to enhance leadership projects. By becoming more involved in various aspects of school life, students will have the opportunity to experience several essential life skills, including;

- Leadership
- Team Work
- Responsibility
- Raising Self Esteem
- Improving Self Confidence
- Supporting And Developing Rewards For Leadership Qualities

We want to develop a successful "Learner Voice" that contributes to the school's culture and ethos. We aim to nurture and support the integration and expansion of learner voice activities. We aim to involve students at the heart of our learning community.

PARENT COUNCIL

OUR PARENT VOICE

The membership of the Parent Council comprises of parents, who have a majority, and co-opted members chosen to represent the school and the community. (e.g. staff and pupils)

West Lothian Councillors, representatives of the Authority and Head Teachers have a right to attend meetings, but cannot be members of the council.

Parent Councils have a variety of duties and functions including communication with parents, monitoring school areas such as budget, premises and staffing and taking part in the appointment of senior staff of a school. The Council is expected to produce an annual report to the parents highlighting its work over the previous 12 months.

A booklet detailing the functions, membership of and regulations governing Parent Councils is available from the Education Office.

The Chair of the council is elected annually and a parent can serve on the council for up to four years before coming up for re-election. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month during term time.

***Chair of the Inveralmond Parent Council 2017/2018 is:
Mrs M MacAuley***

The detailed membership of the Parent Council is available from the school office and the chair can be contacted c/o Inveralmond Community High School.

In order to provide support for pupils, and inform parents, we provide reports to parents regularly throughout the year. The pattern of reporting ensures that pupils and parents are kept aware of progress on a regular basis. In addition to full, annual reports we also provide short, interim reports at other points in the session. In the upper school this also gives parents and pupils a good indication of likely success at SQA examinations. Parents' meetings to discuss pupils' progress are held once per year for each year group. However parents are always encouraged to contact their child's Pupils Support Team at any point if they wish to discuss their child's progress.

Parents of students starting their first year at Inveralmond will be invited to a parents' meeting before the summer in which their child starts.

For each year in the school we try to organise a parents' meeting usually after the reports have been issued.

It is also school policy to contact parents should any problems arise relating to their child. This contact is usually made through the Pupil Support Team.

Parents are also encouraged to contact the school should they wish to discuss any matter relating to their child.

Members of staff are very willing to meet parents whenever their teaching commitments allow.

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

Pupil Support in Inveralmond Community High school is designed to provide both universal and targeted support to ensure that all pupils are safe and achieving their potential. The school has an integrated approach to supporting learners and the team consists of heads of house, assistant heads of house, support for learning staff, pupil support staff and support assistants.

Pupils are organised into four vertical houses: Bruce, Lorimer, Stuart and Wallace. Each group has a head of house who works with tutors to ensure the welfare and progress of all.

Our vision for pupil support is to ensure that young people achieve their potential and achieve positive sustained destination. A key part of this is ensuring we are aware of pupils wellbeing. We also strive to Getting It Right For Every Child 'GIRFEC' and adhere to national policy in assessing young peoples wellbeing.

Inveralmond staff are strongly committed to high quality relationships with parents. There are formal opportunities at parents evenings to talk with pupil support and learning support teachers, however if you have any concerns about your child please contact the pupil support team who will arrange a convenient time to discuss.

PSE is delivered to pupils at present. This is a clear focus on health and wellbeing and pupils are given opportunities to learn about a range of topics from planning for choice and changes to substance misuse.

The key aims of Pupil Support are:

- Review of learning and planning next steps
- Gaining access to learning activities which meet their needs
- Planning for opportunities for achievement
- Preparing for changes and choices support through changes and choices



Pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN)

Acquiring new skills brings challenges to everyone and some people require some targeted support in order to provide additional focussed support which young people may require to overcome barriers to their learning either for long or short periods of time. All teachers have a role in this area but the Support for Learning Team and head of house team can assist by planning interventions such as intense literacy groups, nurture groups and outdoor learning. We work very closely with partner agencies such as Amber Conflict Resolution.

Support for Learning staff also offer staff and parents advice on passports to success and assessment of individual learning needs. Pupils who require additional support for SQA examinations will also be supported by the Support for Learning department.

We are fully committed to meeting the needs of all our pupils. We hold regular child planning meetings, reviews of passport to success as well as IEP meetings with parents, pupils and partner agencies.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



The Scottish Government guarantees all 16-19 year olds an offer of education or training. In line with the Youth Employment Strategy we track, monitor and support all students who are eligible to leave school to ensure a positive and sustainable offer is made to them. The best option for them may be:

Staying on at school, Further and Higher Education, Training, Modern Apprenticeship, Employment or Volunteering.

Inveralmond has a dedicated area for both students and parents to raise awareness of post 16 options available to them. This resource supports career planning and next steps. Future plans stand well in advance of leaving school and support current plans in terms of what we aim to achieve in order that our young people progress positively in life.



The Opportunities for All Zone at Inveralmond is about:

- Getting the right information at the right time in a way that is understood
- Building skills to enable all young people to make decisions about their future
- Making sure they are ready and prepared for next stages in life
- Exploring the options available to them and planning what they need to do to achieve their goals



We aim to support our young people into positive and sustainable destinations. The Opportunities For All Team support students to take a lead and plan their futures in a positive and informed way. We expect our young people to engage in career management skills both within their curriculum, through the use of the Opportunities for All Zone, taking advantage of opportunities and personal planning.

Students with career aspirations in mind should have an awareness of what further and higher education establishments can offer them, what careers this leads in to and what the entry requirements are at the various levels. This will then prepare them to aim high within their studies, achieve their plans beyond school and prepare them for life-long learning and career management.



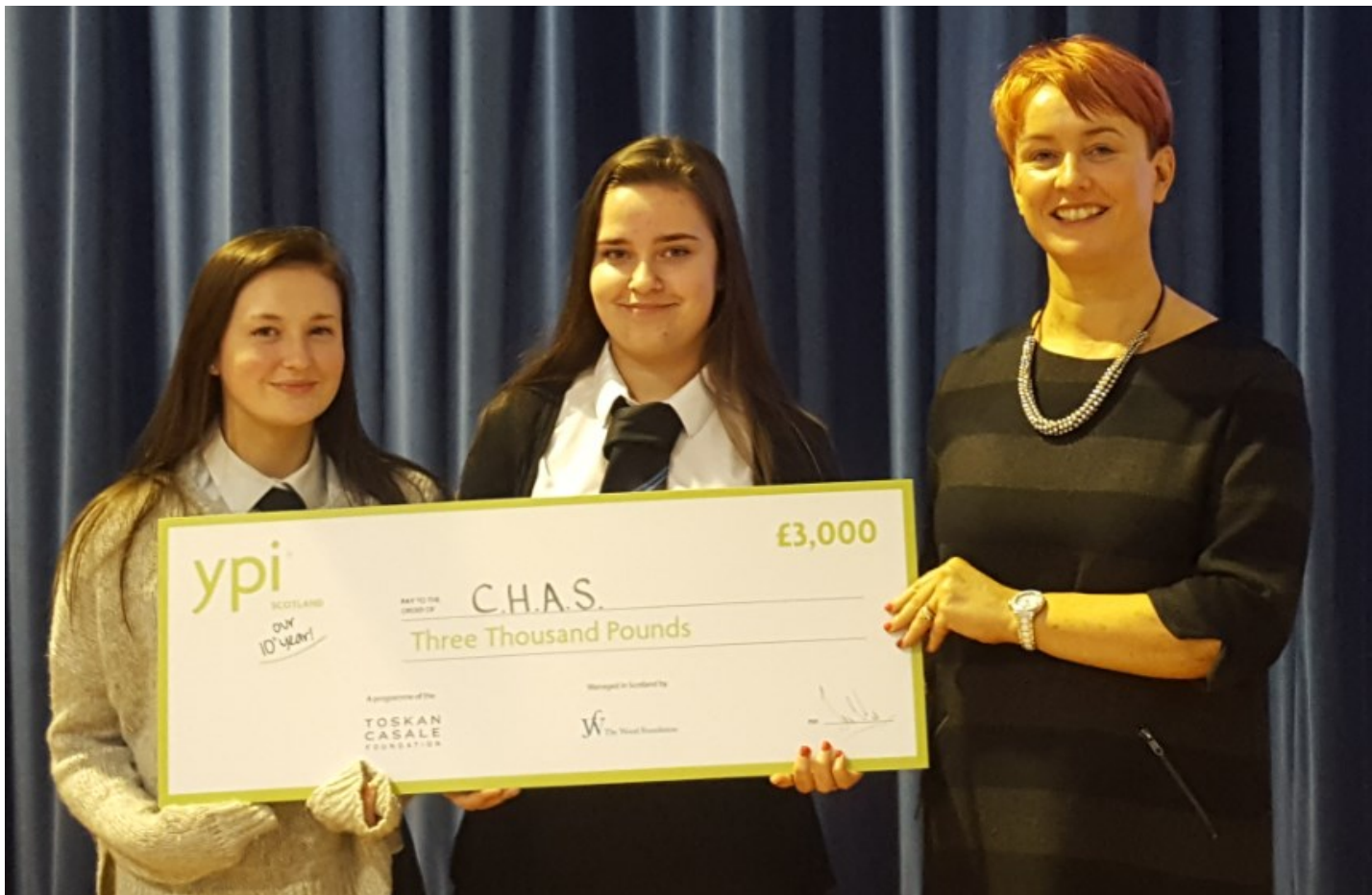
SCHOOL CHARITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Fundraising and Charity Work

Every year the pupils of Inveralmond CHS raise money for a wide range of different charities these charities have benefited from the hard work and effort of our pupils. A wide range of skills are developed as a result of taking part.

Senior Pupils Involved in raising funds for Children





S6 GRADUATION



SENIOR STUDENTS



**West Lothian
Council**