

16 August 2024

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to write to you at the end of our first week back to share with you the great success which our young people in Inveralmond Community High School had in the recent SQA exams, along with some other key information. I have also included some additional useful information for parents and carers.

### Exam Success

In session 2023/2024 our young people undertook SQA qualifications, many of which had exams in April-May. Session 2023/2024 was the first year in which young people completed coursework which had been removed since session 2019/2020. Our staff and young people rose to this challenge and Inveralmond has enjoyed strong results across year groups and measures. We are immensely proud of each young person and their achievements.

On Monday I was able to congratulate staff on their learners' achievements, and on Tuesday I met with all year groups to share this success with our young people. Staff have been able to congratulate returning young people throughout the week on their individual successes. It has been lovely to be able to congratulate our young people on all their successes as I am sure you have at home.

Pupils in S4 achieved strongly in National 5 exams and Level 5 qualifications and are well placed to succeed in S5. Performance in S5 was also strong, notably we had the highest number of students in S5 achieving 5 Higher qualifications the school has ever seen, with the exception of session 2019/20 when awards were granted without exams or coursework submission. In S6 our young people have achieved the highest number of Advanced Highers and Level 7 qualifications the school has ever seen.

As a school we will now look to build on this success, with a view to ensuring that every young person aims high, works hard, and is supported to achieve their full potential. On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 1800 we will hold our Senior Phase Awards Ceremony, celebrating the success of our young people, both in terms of academics, and wider achievements.

### Uniform

We are delighted that the vast majority of our young people are dressed smartly in their uniform. 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.

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. There is an option to buy uniform branded with the school logo should you wish, however due to costs we do not insist on school branded items. Our school uniform policy is on our website. The school is in the process of changing uniform suppliers, if you wish to purchase items with the school logo this will be possible soon. We will circulate the link with the new supplier as soon as possible.

### **Mobile Phones**

The current school policy on mobile phones is that young people should not use phones in class, or in corridors at period changeover. Teachers will give the option to use phones as part of learning where this is appropriate, otherwise we ask that mobile phones are not seen or heard during class time. You may be aware that the Scottish Government has issued guidance on mobile phones in school. Our parent council has been discussing mobile phone policy recently and will now take this guidance forward in their meetings.

### **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 until 0835. 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.

### **Headteacher Newsletter**

You will be aware that we share news and the achievements of our young people on our app, website, and X (twitter). This year I will publish a Headteacher Newsletter following each Parent Council Meeting. The formal meeting of the Parent Council has been moved to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 6.45 pm.

Yours Faithfully,



Mr Hamish Shankland  
Acting Headteacher