



October 2024

Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were delighted to welcome pupils back to school from their October holiday and hope that you all had an enjoyable break.

Prior to the October break I wrote to all parents/carers to update them on my permanent appointment to the role of Headteacher in Inveralmond Community High School. The letter with this information can be found on our website.

We started Term 2 with a series of Assemblies conducted by myself and the Senior Leadership Team. In these we spoke to young people about our school vision, values, reminders of expectations and an update on the mobile phone policy pilot which is running in the Social Subjects Faculty this term.

On Tuesday 29th October we had our second parent council meeting of the session. The items discussed in this meeting are included in this newsletter along with other news. A Headteacher Newsletter will follow each Parent Council Meeting.

Yours Faithfully

Hamish Shankland

Headteacher

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New Staff & Announcements

New staff:

- HT appointment took place on October 8th

Announcements:

- Miss Burnett in our Art Department got married at the October break and is now Mrs Rhodes - Congratulations!
- Miss Jarvis in our English Department got married prior to the October break and is now Mrs Webster - congratulations!
- Congratulations to Mrs Elliot in the Business Department who has secured a position in a school much closer to home. We wish you every success.
- Congratulations to Mr McKinnon in the Science Department who has secured a position in a school much closer to home. We wish you every success.

Fire Assemblies - Bonfire Night

S1-S4 participated in an assembly delivered by PC McCartney and Robert Meehan of The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Pupils were reminded about the risks and responsibilities at bonfire time.

Pupils were made aware of safety and legal implications of making the wrong choices.

Pupils were encouraged to report any illegal or unsafe situations they become aware of.

All information regarding Bonfire Night safety has been circulated to parents and carers on our normal channels.



100% anonymous. Always.

CrimeStoppers.

Invy's Got Talent

On Thursday 10th October, Inveralmond Community High School celebrated the end of term 1 with it's Invy's Got Talent Final.

Over a dozen acts battled it out through 2 rounds of the competition. The worthy winners were the guitar and vocals duo Lola and Ewan S3 with their crowd-pleasing rendition of the Oasis Anthem 'Don't Look Back in Anger'. The most entertaining prize went to Jaxson S3 who performed vocals and guitar.

The prestigious judging panel on the evening was Headteacher Mr Shankland, Chair of the Parent Council Jane Naysmith, and Chair of the Ladywell Community Council Mary Benson. Our judging panel were in a position to offer great prizes on the night. We also held a successful raffle. Our prizes and raffle prizes included: 4 tickets from Livingston FC; 2 x day passes for Bannatyne's; a family ticket to 5-Sisters Zoo; a Farmfoods voucher; 5 tickets for Edinburgh Zoo (2 adults, 3 kids) family ticket; and afternoon tea for 2 at Four Point by Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh.

The competition was organised by the ICBS parent council in conjunction with school staff and was an evening we hope to repeat. The competition was a great platform to pupils to develop their skills and confidence in performing. Over £300 was also raised for Parent Council Funds on the evening. These funds can be redistributed to school projects which the parent council would like to support. It is our hope that Invy's Got Talent will be come a fixture in the school calendar.



Soapbox Derby success for getaway car

Staff from Inveralmond Community High School recently celebrated a second-place finish at the Castle Douglas Soapbox Derby while raising much needed funds for charity.

The Castle Douglas Soapbox Derby is an eagerly anticipated event, attracting creative and competitive teams from all over the U.K. This year, Roger McCluskey, David Collin and Jamie Steel formed a soapbox team named "Prison Brake" achieving an impressive second-place finish, showcasing both ingenuity and skill while raising £1050 for Prostate Scotland.

"Prison Brake" featured a unique design inspired by a jail break theme, the attention to detail, to the striped prison suits worn by the team added to its charm.

The team demonstrated excellent control and speed throughout the race, the soapbox was engineered for speed, stability and agility, which contributed to a second-place victory.

Competition was fierce but friendly, with a variety of innovative and imaginative soapbox designs, from futuristic cars to whimsical creations and with teams helping each other with carry out repairs after each run. Teams were judged on speed, creativity, and overall performance, the ability to combine these elements effectively was key to securing a top position.



Coming up Soon:

- ▶ 6th November - P7 Parents Support Tour - Harrysmuir, Livingston Village, Toronto
- ▶ 7th November - Senior Phase Parents Evening Online
- ▶ 12th November - P7 Parents' Night/Tour - Livingston Village, Peel, Toronto
- ▶ 12th November - Financial planning input from HMRC and My Bnk
- ▶ 13th November - Careers Fayre and Pathways Evening
- ▶ 21st November - S3 Parents Evening Online
- ▶ 25th November - Practice Exams

Details of all school event can be found on our usual channels: website, app, groupcall & X.

ICHS Uniform

Our uniform policy remains unchanged and can be found on our website, along with specific information about PE equipment.

Each day we will send a message if your young person is missing an item(s) of uniform. When you receive this, your young person will already have been spoken to and made aware of which item they need and where support is available.

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.

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 or designer 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. All young people should attend school in uniform in the morning, even if they have PE period.

The following information may be useful in guiding the purchase of uniform items.



ICHS **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.

ICHS As a community we are working together to become inspired and fulfilled individuals who  **ACHIEVE CONNECT THRIVE**



Acceptable Uniform Example:



Unacceptable Uniform Examples:



Shirt – plain white or black



Shirt – no logo or pattern



Tie - ICHS school tie



Tie – no alternatives



Acceptable Uniform Example:



Unacceptable Uniform Examples:



Jumper – plain black



Jumper – no logo, pattern or hood



Acceptable Uniform Example:



Unacceptable Uniform Examples:



Skirt – plain black, appropriate length



Skirt –inappropriate length



Tights – plain black or tan



Tights – no pattern



Acceptable Uniform Example:



Unacceptable Uniform Examples:



Trousers – Black trousers, jeans, skirt, leggings, plain jogging bottoms



Trousers – no holes in jeans, no logos



Footwear – mostly black



Footwear – not any other colour or cros



Latecoming

We have a number of pupils who arrive late to school. Period 1 starts at 0835. Please encourage your child to be on time. Every time they are late they are missing learning. When pupils are late it also disrupts the learning of others. The diagram below shows the impact of latecoming on learning.

If a child is 5 minutes late a day they miss

25 minutes per week

1 hour 40 minutes per month

5 hours per term

16 hours 5 minutes per year (equivalent to over 3 days)

If a child is 10 minutes late they miss

50 minutes per week

3 hours 20 minutes per month

10 hours per term

32 hours 30 minutes per year (equivalent to over 6 days)

If a child is 15 minutes late they miss

1 hour 15 minutes per week

5 hours per month

15 hours per term (around 3 days)

48 hours 45 minutes a year (equivalent to over 9 school days)

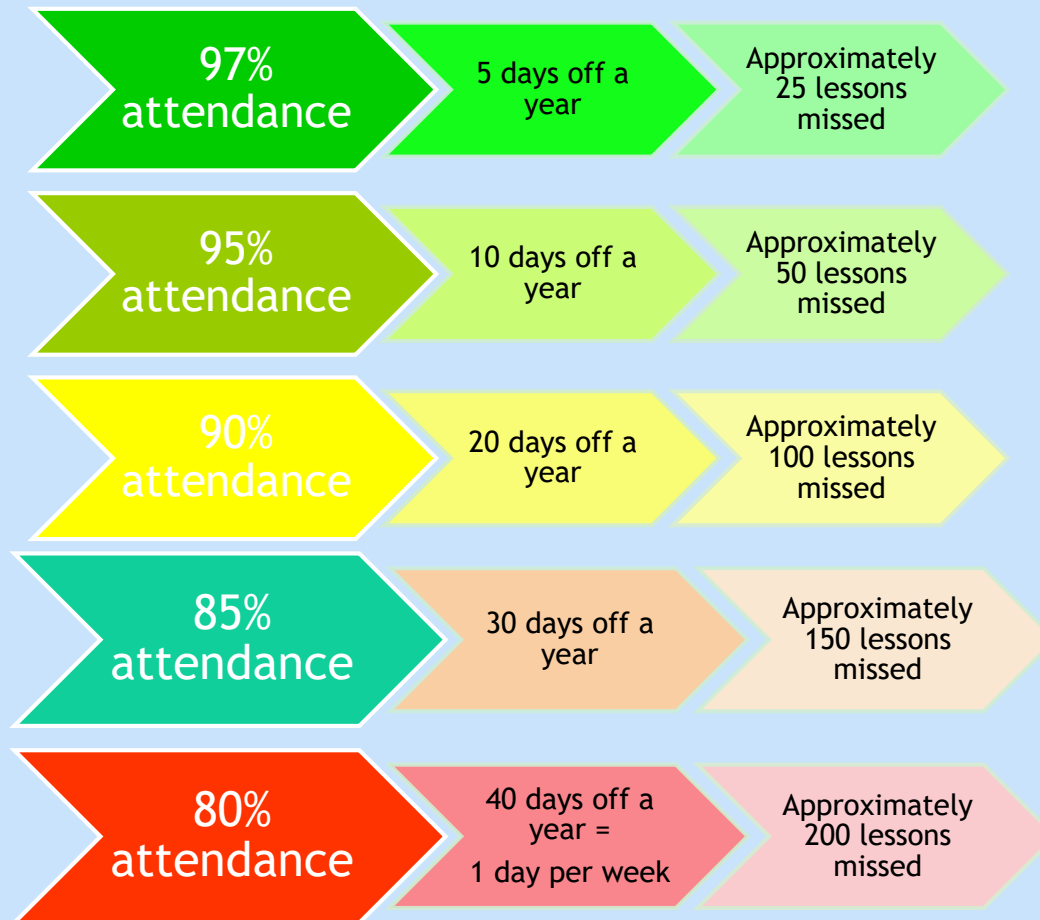


Attendance

West Lothian sets an expectation that all learners have attendance above 90%. We know that sometimes health or other challenges can impact attendance.

We will communicate with parents and carers when a young persons attendance goes below thresholds. If there is anything we can do to support attendance, please contact your child's House Leader.

The diagram below shows the impact of attendance on achievement.



The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Tuesday 26th November at 1845. This meeting will be an AGM and include an annual report from the chair, and election/reelection of our key Parent Council Offices.

Honesty



Kindness



Respect

