



Christmas 2024 Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as we approach the Christmas Holidays. This term has been extremely busy for staff and young people in Inveralmond Community High School. Our young people have achieved a huge amount and we are incredibly proud of them.

Over this term young people have been working hard, not only in their school but in the wider community. This newsletter provides an update on the various activities which pupils have been involved in, and of which we can be proud as a community.

On Tuesday 26th of November we had our third parent council meeting of the session. Following each Parent Council meeting I provide a newsletter on the items discussed in the meeting, along with any other news. Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28th January 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in our community a very happy holiday, and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours Faithfully

Hamish Shankland

Headteacher



Headteacher Newsletter Contents:

1. Welcomes and Announcements
2. Sight Scotland at The Linburn Centre: Remembrance
3. Children in Need
4. ChriSTEMas
5. How to Help your Child Pass
6. Coming Up Soon
7. Uniform
8. Attendance and Latecoming
9. Christmas Rewards
10. Mobile Phone Pilot
11. Coming Up



Welcomes & Announcements

New staff:

- Mr Lester will join us in the Additional Support Needs Department whilst Mrs Drummond is on maternity leave.
- Mr Wood has joined our Physics department following the departure of Mr McKinnon. In the new year we will welcome Mrs Chalmers as the permanent member of the Science department.
- Miss Curtis in Home Economics will leave us at the winter break to take up a post in New Zealand, we wish her all the best in her new venture.
- In the New Year Mrs Charters, DHT Support, will take up a post closer to home in Edinburgh City.
- We are in the process of recruiting a Home Economics Teacher, and DHT Support



Monday 11th November: Remembrance Service at Sight Scotland (Veterans) Linburn

House Captains Sophie Hope, Lewis Cameron and Ryan McLintock were accompanied by Headteacher Mr Shankland.

Pupils participated in the remembrance service and acts of remembrance and joined veterans for lunch, providing an opportunity conversation and intergenerational interaction.



Level 6 Events Class: Sight Scotland

A group of pupils from the Level 6 Events class at Inveralmond Community High School organised an awareness talk with the charity Sight Scotland to raise awareness of those living with different visual impairments.

The pupils who were tasked with planning and running their own event as part of their course, got in touch with Andrew from Sight Scotland with the aim of hosting an event for their S6 peers during PSE lessons.

Their plans came to fruition with the team successfully organising an awareness talk from Sight Scotland and additionally raising £126.51 for the charity by selling Christmas cards, sweets, juice and cakes to other pupils. Well done to all involved!

Picture shows: Head Teacher-Hamish Shankland, Events Teacher-Eva Scott and the pupils responsible for organising the event.



Friday 15th November: Children in Need

As part of the Level 6 Events course, a group of S6 students carried out a fundraising event for Children in Need:

- ▶ ‘Soak The Teacher’
- ▶ sweetie stall in the lunch hall for other students
- ▶ The S6 year group carried on an ICHS tradition by dressing up for the fancy dress year group photo while the rest of the school dressed down.
- ▶ Students enjoyed the festivities and raised a total of £380 for Children in Need.

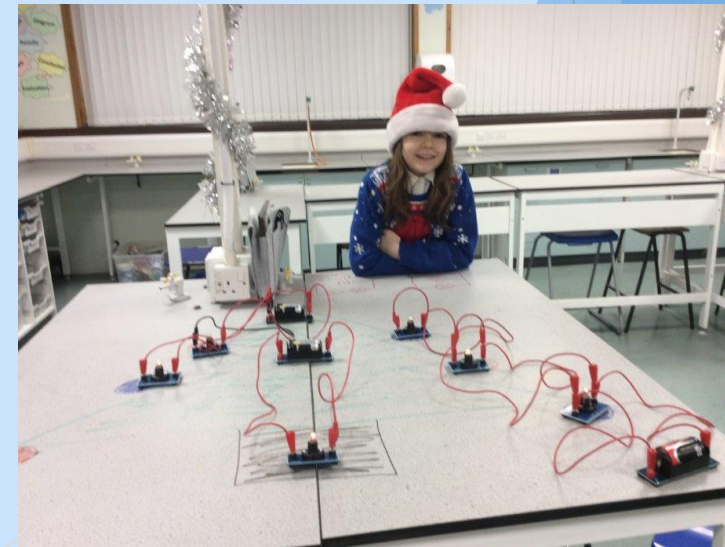


S1 ChriSTEMas Event

Inveralmond Community High School Science and Home Economics Faculty ran their first ever S1 ChriSTEMas Event. This event was for S1 students and their families to take part in some fun Christmas based experiments.

Families had the opportunity to make snow, decorate chromatography baubles and flame test in the Chemistry room to mimic Laplands lights. In the Biology room they could use health check equipment such as oximeter and stethoscope as well as look at snowflakes using microscopes.

The challenge in Physics was to light a Christmas tree using circuit equipment. S5 students organised a STEM room where families could decorate salt dough baubles, make sleighs from moly mods and build the tallest tree.



S1 ChriSTEMas Event

All was topped off with hot chocolate served by S3 hospitality students.



How to Help Your Child Pass

On Wednesday 29th January we will hold our first ever 'How to Help Your Child Pass' evening. This is aimed at parents and carers and will share information about:

- ▶ Study planning
- ▶ Study skills
- ▶ Setting 'SMART Targets'
- ▶ Sleep, exam stress and time management
- ▶ Learning Styles

In January we will circulate a flyer with further information and a signup QR to give us an indication of numbers.



ICHS Uniform

We know that many young people may go shopping to replace uniform items over the holidays.

We are keen to promote the highest possible standards of uniform in school.

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.

Please note the following:

- We ask pupils to wear unbranded clothing so that others are not under pressure to buy expensive brands
- Crocs are not an acceptable form of footwear for school
- All shoes should be 'majority black'
- No young person should wear any item of clothing which exposes their stomach or back

The information on the next few pages should be useful in ensuring your young person is dressed according to the uniform policy.



The poster features the school logo (a circle divided into four quadrants with letters I, C, H, S) in the top left and a tree logo in the top right. The title 'Inveralmond CHS Uniform Policy' is centered at the top. Below the title, three columns of text describe uniform requirements, each accompanied by an illustration: 1. 'School tie with a black or white formal shirt (long or short sleeved) or a sweatshirt with school logo', 'Black jumper or cardigan', and 'School blazer (optional)'. 2. 'Must be black. Pupils can choose to wear trousers, a skirt, jeans, formal shorts, jogging bottoms or thick leggings'. 3. 'Shoes must be mostly black'. A central paragraph states: '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.' At the bottom, a blue banner contains the school logo, the motto 'As a community we are working together to become inspired and fulfilled individuals who', and three icons with the words 'ACHIEVE', 'CONNECT', and 'THRIVE'.

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.

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)

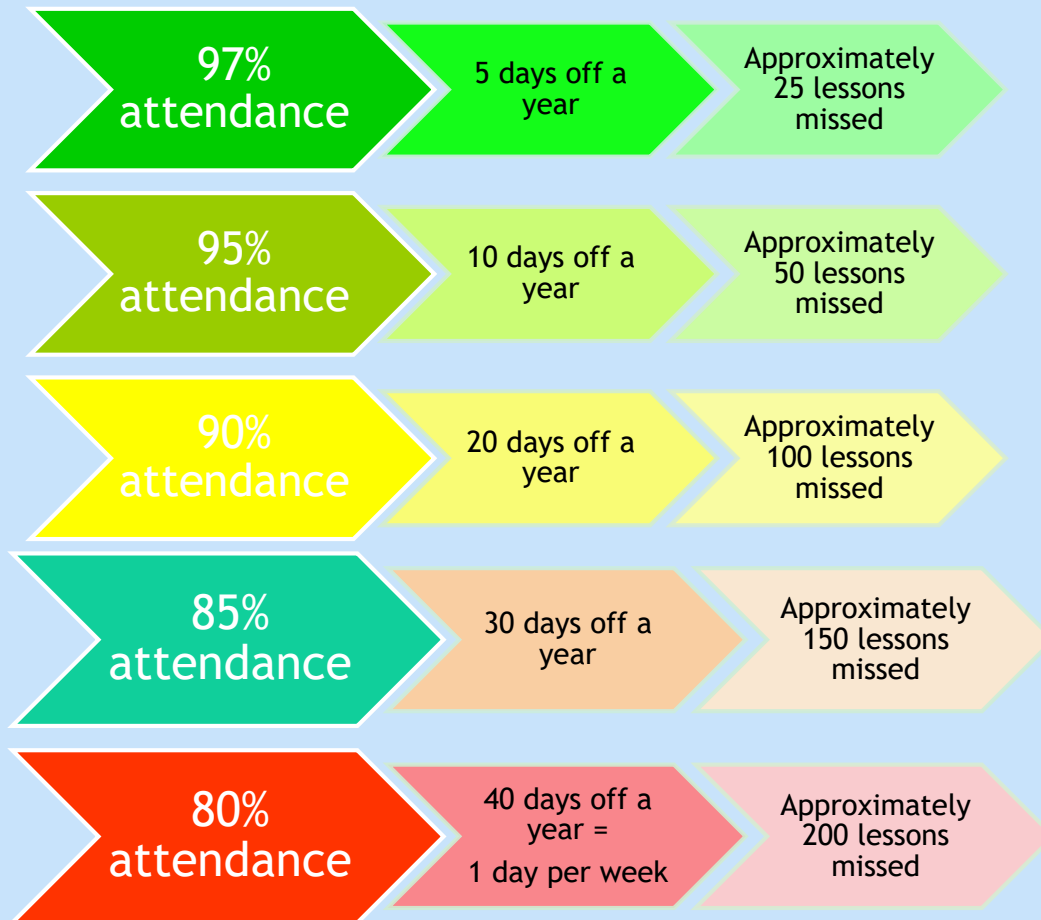


Attendance

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.



Christmas Rewards

In Inveralmond we want to encourage young people to aspire to the highest possible standards.

We have a termly rewards system where young people can earn a reward for meeting the basic expectations of the school. These expectations will set them up for the habits required to be successful in life. The rewards are not based on academic success, the criteria is based on:

- Attendance & punctuality
- Engagement and behaviour
- Class attendance, punctuality and Uniform

We want all of our young people to live out our values of kindness, honesty and respect.

Each term the rewards system resets and pupils have an opportunity to meet the criteria in the new term.

This term the Christmas rewards were: A disco and a performance from Scottish boyband 'Just The Brave'.



Mobile Phone Pilot

- ▶ You will be aware our Social Subjects Department have been piloting new mobile phone procedures.
- ▶ We will be seeking views of pupils, parents and staff in the new term, before deciding how we proceed with a whole school policy



Coming up:

- ▶ The majority of S2 into S3 pathways are complete. If for any reason your young person has not had their pathways meeting this will be picked up in January.
- ▶ We have made a start on S3 into S4 pathways. In January this will be completed.
- ▶ Senior Phase Reports were issued at the end of term.
- ▶ On 20th December we have our Christmas Rewards Day. This day is also dress down/Christmas jumper day. Our S1-3 pupils who are eligible will have a disco. Our S4-6 pupils will have a band performance by 'Just The Brave'.



We look forward to
welcoming pupils back
to school on Monday
6th January 2025.

