



August 2026

Headteacher Newsletter

Welcome!

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were delighted to welcome pupils back to school on August 12th, after a six week summer holiday.

At the beginning of term, we welcomed our new S1 from our cluster Primary Schools, we congratulated those young people returning to school on their exam results, and a series of Headteacher Assemblies covered our school vision, values, and expectations to begin the new year.

On Tuesday 25th September we had our first parent council meeting where we discussed, staffing updates, school QS (Qualifications Scotland) results, planning for 2026/2027, and cost of the school day.

Following each parent council meeting, I will issue a Headteacher Newsletter to parents and carers. This will provide updates about what has been going on in school. Our weekly newsletter is available on our website and provides additional information to pupils, parents/carers and the wider community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our young people and families a successful and enjoyable academic session in Inveralmond Community High School.

Yours Faithfully

Mr Hamish Shankland

Headteacher

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1. Welcome to Our New Staff

We are delighted to welcome seven new members of staff to our team at Inveramond CHS. There will be an opportunity to meet all staff at the various parent/carers evenings, transition evenings, and information evenings throughout the course of the year.

Sarah Boyd	English	
Shona Dobie	Art & Design	
Lisa Brown	Art & Design	

Rachel Jamieson	Modern Studies	
Max Lawes	Mathematics	
Rachael Stewart	Home Economics	
Michelle Dornan	Depute Headteacher: Learning Teaching and Assessment	

2. Congratulations and Announcements

In each newsletter share updates of key events, congratulations, and details of name changes. In line with our value of 'aspiration' we also aim to share good news stories.

Congratulations to Miss McLellan (Head of House: Tiree - now Mrs Glass.



Congratulations to Miss McLeod (Business and Admin) on her marriage – no name change.

Congratulations to Mrs McMillan who competed in Lawn Bowls at a national level this summer.



3. The ICHS House Team for 2026/2027



Head of
House: Mrs
Steel



Head of
House: Mrs
Townsley



Head of
House: Mrs
Prentice

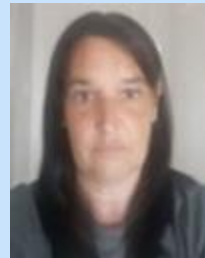


Head of
House:
Miss Quinn

Head of House:
Mrs Jamieson

Head of
House: Mrs
Sneddon

Awaiting
photograph



Head of
House: Mrs
Glass



Head of
House:
Miss
Callaghan



Head of
House: Mrs
Lavery



Last year our winning house was Tiree. All Tiree pupils had the opportunity to go to Innoflate at the end of term.

This year again, pupils are encouraged to do their best in: attendance, timekeeping, effort, participation, behaviour, and school values so they can win house points.

There will be a termly reward, as well as an end of year award for the best house, and individuals.

2025/2026 Winning
House: Tiree
Arran 1183
Skye 1414
Tiree 1645



4. ICHS Captains 2026-2027

At the start of this week we interviewed 12 of our amazing young people who put themselves forward for the role of School Captain. All of the candidates demonstrated outstanding interview skills and showed real passion for their school and in talking about their own values and aspirations.

Our School Captains are pictured with Mr Shankland and their house staff. School Captains will be key leaders in the improvement and development of the school.

Tiree

Skye

Arran



5. Qualifications Scotland (QS) Results

This year again our young people have excelled in their QS results. Every young person deserves to be congratulated for their hard work and achievements.

S4

This session 33% of our S4 achieved 5 or more National 5 qualifications, providing a strong basis on which to progress. 6 of our learners achieved all A's in their National 5s. In Level 5 qualifications our S4 cohort is 20% above our 'virtual comparator' which shows what other comparable young people across Scotland achieve.

S5

This session 16% of our pupils achieved 5 Highers in one sitting (based on the roll in S4). This is more than 3% points above our 'virtual comparator' which shows what other comparable young people across Scotland achieve. 6 pupils achieved 5x A's which is an amazing achievement. ICHS also has an increasing trend in the number of pupils achieving 3+ Highers, and is above the 'virtual comparator' for 1+ Highers. Our S5 pupils have achieved Level 6 qualifications which are between 17 and 33% above our virtual comparator.

S6

This session 16% (based on the roll at S4) of our young people achieved 1+ Advanced Higher. This is the highest in the school's history and now in line with the virtual comparator. This is a fantastic platform from which learners can progress to a learning environment beyond school. 5 learners achieved 2x Advanced Highers with 2 learners achieving A's in both. In Level 7 qualifications, 20% of S6 achieved 1+ Level 7. The school has an improving trend in the number of young people in S6 achieving 5+ or 3+ Highers over 5 years, and both are above the virtual comparator.

What happens next?

Following our success in QS results we will continue to build on this, focusing on our next cohorts and ensuring they are well supported to achieve to the best of their abilities. This begins by ensuring pupils are in the best possible combination of subjects at the highest possible level so they have the opportunity to succeed.

Senior and Middle Leaders, along with teaching staff have analysed results to take forward any learning from last year. Staff will now plan and revise the curriculum for the current session

Staff will now plan for high quality Learning, Teaching and Assessment using the learning from results. Particularly focused on meeting the needs of the individuals in our 2026/2027 cohorts.

6. Equity Updates

Equity updates are now on our school website:

Cost of the School Day:

<https://express.adobe.com/publishedV2/urn:aaid:sc:EU:5850343b-4c7a-50ab-a26c-0f89b0f8a235?promoid=Y69SGM5H&sdid=C4SZ2FYJ&mv=other>

Pupil Equity Plan:

<https://express.adobe.com/publishedV2/urn:aaid:sc:EU:5850343b-4c7a-50ab-a26c-0f89b0f8a235?promoid=Y69SGM5H&sdid=C4SZ2FYJ&mv=other>



Inveralmond CHS Cost of the School Day Action Statement 2026-2027



Families and Young People Advice Service (FYPAS)

In ICHS we work closely with FYPAS. FYPAS can provide advice or support with: benefit entitlements and income maximisation; clothing grants; Free school Meal Entitlement; school clothing bank referrals, Education Maintenance Allowance, and disability benefits. Support is available [here](#).



Uniform

We have consulted with parents/carers and young people about our uniform policy. For safety reasons all young people need to be easily identified as a pupil of ICHS. All uniform items can be bought inexpensively from supermarkets and high street stores. We ask parents/carers to buy unbranded clothing so that no family or young person feels under pressure to buy branded clothing.

Support is available through the clothing grant [here](#).

The School Uniform Bank can also support with uniform items [here](#).

Our school uniform policy can be found [here](#). Our dedicated uniform shop can be found [here](#).

School ties are available at the school office. All pupils are provided with a tie when they join the school.

Learning

There is no cost to parents/carers or pupils for learning. All resources and materials for learning are provided. Pupils can access stationary, books and IT devices in class.



Inveralmond CHS Cost of the School Day Action Statement 2026-2027



Travel to School

The majority of our young people walk to school. Young people aged 11-22 are entitled to free bus travel.

Information about this can be found [here](#).



School Trips

In ICHS we plan trips which have no or limited costs to make trips accessible. Other trips have payment schedules to support payment over time. Financial support is available to young people where it is required to ensure there is no disadvantage.



Extra-Curricular Events

We offer lunchtime and after school clubs at no extra cost. Pupils are invited to attend.



Invy Eats: School Canteen

We encourage all parents/carers and young people to check their eligibility for Free School Meals [here](#). Our Family Link Workers can support FME applications. Our menu is good value for money and we operate a cashless system. Our Breakfast club opens at 8am and offers low-cost breakfast items.



Charities

Throughout the session we support various charities which young people want to support. We ask for donations for these events and spread them across the school year.





Inveralmond CHS Pupil Equity Plan 2026-2027

Literacy

- S1 Literacy Intervention
- S1 Viper Experience & Nurture Approach
- S2 Vipers Reading Programme
- S3 Literacy Spelling, Reading and Writing Group
- National 4 support in classes
- Hub English and Literacy Intervention

Numeracy

- S1-3 Numeracy Individual Intervention
- S3 Level 4 Numeracy intervention
- HUB Maths and Numeracy intervention

Health & Wellbeing

- Engagement and Attendance Support from Family Link Workers
- Learning Employability HUB Engagement intervention S1-4

This year our participatory budget is £4561.05. Our Pupil Parliament will consult with the wider student body on how this will be used to remove any barriers to participation in the wider life of the school.

ICHS has been allocated £152,035 from the Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for session 2026-2027. PEF is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty-related attainment gap. In ICHS our vision is to work together to ensure every young person achieves, connects and thrives. PEF supports our ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty.

Honesty



Kindness



Aspiration



Respect



7. School App

At the summer, the school app closed. We are now communicating using the Eduspot App (formerly xpressions). This app links directly to your child and filters the communications to you according to yeargroup.

[Get the Eduspot App | Eduspot](#)

Get the free Eduspot app on your mobile device!

Our mobile app for parents and carers allows you to see all messages from school in one place, even across multiple children at different schools.

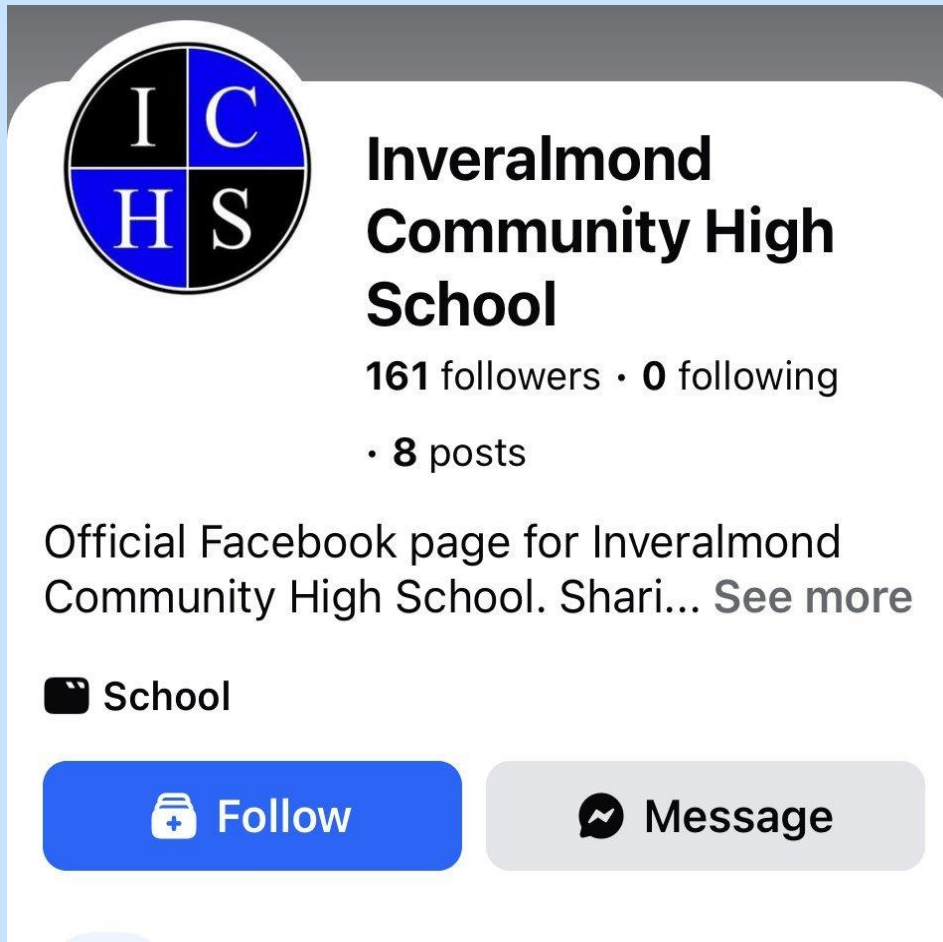
The app is available for free on both the App Store for iOS and Google Play for Android. Download the app to get started!



7. Socials

Be sure to follow us on socials for the latest updates on what is going on in ICHS.

We are on Facebook and TikTok.



7. Communicating With Us

If you need to speak to us, the fastest ways to do this are:

- ☐ Telephone: 01506 280700
- ☐ Email: wlinveralmond-chs@westlothian.org.uk
- ☐ Contact us through our website: [Contact Us - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

When you contact the school by telephone, your call will be triaged to your child's Head of House in the first instance. They will co-ordinate a response or pass it to the most appropriate person. This means that the person who knows your child and the family best, is always aware of what is going on for each young person.

Pastoral Team (Head of House)

Discussions relating to:

- ☐ Pupil welfare
- ☐ Wellbeing
- ☐ Child protection
- ☐ Pastoral support
- ☐ Family concerns

Curriculum Team (Faculty Heads)

Discussions relating to:

- ☐ Individual subjects
- ☐ Class issues
- ☐ Teaching and learning
- ☐ Qualifications and assessments

Additional Support Needs Team

For concerns relating to:

- ☐ Additional Support Needs (ASN)
- ☐ Targeted support
- ☐ Learning support arrangements

All staffing information can be found on our website: [Staff - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

8. Dates for Your Diary

Our full calendar can be found on the school app. We provide groupcall email updates in advance of events as a reminder.

Here are a few upcoming events to note:

- Senior Phase Awards Ceremony: Wed 2nd September 7pm
- Transition Launch Event (Primary 5-7): Wed 9th Sept
 - Riverside, Letham & Harrysmuir: 5pm-6.15pm;
 - Peel, Toronto & Livingston Village: 6.15pm-7.30
- S1 Parent/carer Evening: Wed 16th Sept 4pm-6.30pm
- September Holiday: Mon 21st Sept
- Senior Phase (s4-6) Parent/Carer Evening: Thurs 1st Oct 4pm-7pm
- S2 Parent/Carer Evening: Wed 14th Oct 4pm-6.30pm
- Invy's Got Talent: Thurs 15th October 7pm