

Invervalmond Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr H Shankland
Depute Headteacher: Mrs I McGinnis
Depute Headteacher: Mr K Varty
Depute Headteacher (Acting): Miss M Dornan

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to inform you about an exciting opportunity that will be available for the first time in Invervalmond. The **Columba 1400 Young People's Leadership Academy** will be available to S3 pupils in session 2026/2027.

At our school, we are passionate about helping every young person recognise their strengths, build confidence and aspire to be the best version of themselves. Our partnership with Columba 1400 offers a unique opportunity for pupils to do exactly that in a supportive, inspiring and transformative environment.

For over 25 years, Columba 1400 has helped young people across Scotland develop confidence, resilience and leadership skills through a values-based programme. Through a focus on awareness, focus, creativity, integrity, perseverance and service, young people are encouraged to reflect on who they are, what matters to them and the positive impact they can have on others.

Key Dates

- **S3 Assembly and Taster Session:** Monday 28th September
- **Applications Close:** 5th October
- **Residential Experience (Isle of Skye):** Week beginning 14th December

About the Programme

The Academy begins with a series of preparation sessions where participants get to know one another and explore the values that underpin the programme. This is followed by an intensive leadership experience, including a residential stay at Columba 1400's leadership centre on the Isle of Skye. During the residential, young people take part in activities and discussions designed to challenge, encourage and inspire them.

Following the residential experience, participants return to school to put their learning into practice, working together to bring about positive change within our school community.

Young people who have participated in the programme often speak about increased confidence, stronger friendships, finding their voice and discovering qualities in themselves that they never realised they possessed. Independent evaluations have also identified significant improvements in participants' confidence, resilience, self-esteem and leadership skills.

About the Application Process

On **Monday 28 September**, S3 pupils will attend an assembly with representatives from **Columba 1400** to learn more about the Leadership Academy. Pupils will then have the opportunity to take part in a taster session and experience first-hand what the Academy has to offer.

We know that every young person has leadership potential, and we will carefully consider how to ensure this opportunity reaches those who will benefit most from it. There are **16 places available**. Following the taster session, pupils will have the opportunity to apply for the programme, with applications closing on **5th October**. Application information will also be sent home via email so that you can support your young person with the process if they choose to apply.

As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in your child's development, and I hope you will encourage them to consider this opportunity. Experiences such as these can have a lasting impact, helping young people grow in self-belief, raise their aspirations and strengthen their sense of belonging within their school and wider community.

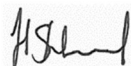
You can find out more information about Columba 1400 on their website:

<https://columba1400.com/what-we-do/young-peoples-leadership-academies/>

I am excited about the opportunities that our partnership with Columba 1400 will bring and look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on the young people involved.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With best wishes,



Mr H Shankland
Headteacher