



September 2026

Inveralmond Community
High School
Headteacher Newsletter

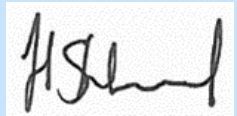
Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find contained in this newsletter the various experiences and activities which our young people have been engaging in over the last month. Also included is information which I trust will be useful to parents and carers, and members of our wider school community.

As always our young people have been busy, and achieving in many unique ways. Another newsletter will follow our next Parent Council Meeting.

If you don't already follow us on our social channels I encourage you to do so for live updates on what is going on in school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Shankland', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Mr Hamish Shankland
Headteacher



Contents

1. Staffing Changes
2. Key Parent/Carer Contacts 2026/2027
3. House Points Update
4. School Improvement Planning Updates
5. School Communications
6. Uniform Expectations
7. P5-7 Transition Launch Event
8. Higher Modern Studies – London Visit
9. Staff Fundraising
10. Columba 1400 Leadership Academy
11. Senior Phase Tracking Reports
12. Coming up next....



1. Staffing Changes

In September we said goodbye to Mr Ward. Mr Ward was Principal Teacher of Mathematics and CDT.

A new Principal Teacher of Mathematics and CDT has been appointed and will join us in November.

In the interim:

- Mrs Dornan will line manage the Maths and CDT departments
- Mr Purdom has been appointed as teacher of mathematics on a temporary basis

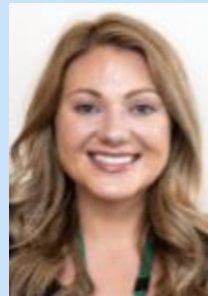
Mrs Lindsay Evans who has been with us since last year was appointed permanently as a clerical assistant in the ICHS staff. Mrs Evans currently manages the triage desk in the Wellbeing Centre.



2. Key parent/carers contacts 2026/2027



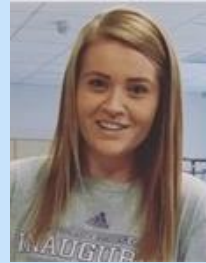
Head of
House: Mrs
Steel



House
Leader: Mrs
Townsley



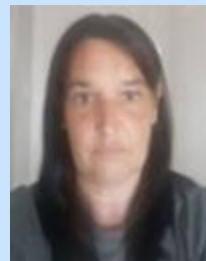
Family Link
Worker: Mrs
Prentice



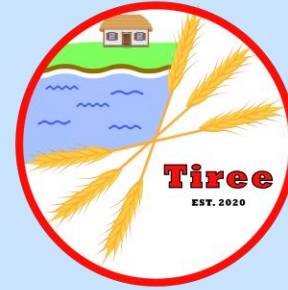
Head of
House:
Miss Quinn



House
Leader: Mrs
Jamieson



Family Link
Worker: Mrs
Sneddon



Head of
House: Mrs
Glass



House
Leader: Mis
s Callaghan



Family Link
Worker: Mrs
Lavery



We have recently updated our website with information about communication to support parents and carers.

Contact Us: [Contact Us - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

When calling Inveralmond Community High School, you will be asked to select an option so that you can be connected with the right team in the school. Our staff have been trained to ask you a few questions so that they can direct your call to the person or team who is best placed to support you with your query.

In line with our school values, please be patient and kind while they gather all the information they need from you. In order to direct your query staff will need to ask for your full name; if you are calling about a pupil they will ask for the pupils' full name and your relationship to the pupil. It would also be helpful if you could tell us the pupil's tutor class or house, and in order for us to prioritise calls we will need details of what your query relates to.

How do we process your call, email, or e-form?

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

- Telephone: 01506 280700
- Email: wlinveralmond-chs@westlothian.org.uk(opens new window)

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.



We have recently updated the information on our website to support parents and carers about what to do if they are concerned about something, unhappy about something, or feel they need to complain.

This information can be found on our website under policies and procedures:

[Complaints Procedure - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

Definitions

Concern: a concern is when you are not happy, feel worried about, or need more information about something. For example, it might be that you are concerned that your child has told you something happened in a class which they are not happy about. In this case you should raise a concern so that the school can look into this, feed back to you, and resolve the concern.

Complaint: a complaint occurs when something goes wrong or you are dissatisfied with our services. For example, if you have a concern about something and have already notified and worked with the school to address this. It might be that the concern continues or reoccurs, in which case you may raise it again as a concern or you might feel that the service given has dropped below expected standards, in which case you wish to make a complaint.

The following sections are included on this page: Step One: What to do if you have a concern; Stage 1: Formal Complaint; Stage 2 Formal Complaint; links to the West Lothian Customer Services Policy.



3. House Points Update

Last year Tiree were the winning house.

House points awarded up to the September weekend are:

Arran 269

Skye 261

Tiree 252



4. School Improvement Planning Updates

The annual publication of our School Improvement Plan, along with our Standards and Quality report took place on Friday 18th September.

These documents are published on our website:

School Improvement Plan 2026/2027:

https://inveralmondchs.westlothian.org.uk/media/71215/ICHS-School-Improvement-Plan-2026-27/pdf/ICHS_School_Improvement_Plan_2026-2027.pdf?m=1789465113720

Standards and Quality Report

[ICHS Standards and Quality Report 2025-2026.pdf](#)



Details of our improvement priorities are located in our full School Improvement Plan (SIP) for 2026/2027. Our improvement priorities are summarised in 5 key areas:

Attendance, Wellbeing & Inclusion

We aim to improve attendance, timekeeping and a sense of belonging within the school.

Great Learning in Every Classroom

We aim to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment so that every pupil experiences high-quality, engaging learning experiences.

Pupil Voice & Leadership

We aim to increase opportunities for young people to influence school life through pupil voice, so that they can influence how their education is provided. We also aim to provide increased leadership opportunities so that young people can be involved in the wider life of the school.

Pathways for Success

We aim to continue to expand vocational, college and employment pathways to support young people into a positive destination of their choosing.

Raising Attainment & Achievement

We aim to improve attainment in literacy, numeracy, and learner outcomes in the broadest sense. In 26/27 we will have a particular focus on S4 attainment.



5. School Communications

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](#)

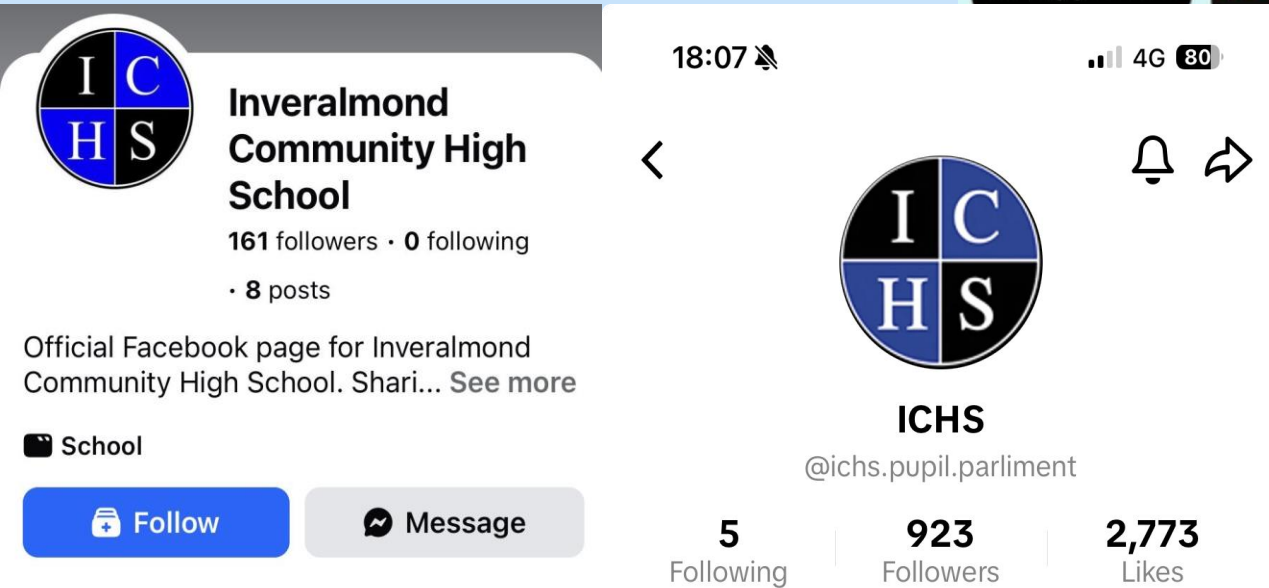
Be sure to follow us on socials for the latest updates on what is going on in ICHS.

We are on Facebook and TikTok.

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!



6. Uniform Expectations

Over the last 3 years, we have worked hard as a school to improve the standards of our uniform.

All of our uniform information can be found on our website: [Uniform Policy - Inveralmond Community High School](#)

In line with our value of 'aspiration' we want our standards of uniform to be at least as good as other schools in WL and beyond.

We want our young people to wear their uniform with pride, create a positive impression on the community around them, and remove pressure on families to buy branded clothing.

At all times safety is a priority (in school, at break and lunch, and on the way to and from school). ICHS uniform means that our young people can be identified as part of our school community.

A uniform update will shortly be shared with all: parents/carers, pupils, and staff as a reminder. The parent/carer update is on the next slide:



Why Uniform Matters: At Inveralmond Community High School, we believe that school uniform helps create a sense of belonging, promotes equity, develops pride in our school and supports the safety and wellbeing of all our young people.

Our Uniform

- Plain black or white shirt
- Inveralmond CHS school tie
- Plain black jumper logos, or jumper with school logo
- Black trousers, black jeans, black joggers, black skirt or black leggings (all must be plain black)
- Mostly black footwear

Hoodies: Plain black hoodies with minimal logos may be worn when travelling to and from school. Hoodies are considered outdoor clothing and must be removed in classrooms and learning spaces. For safety reasons, hoods and hats should not be worn inside the school building.

Working Together: We expect all young people to wear school uniform each day. Where a young person is not wearing part of their uniform, staff will work with them to find an appropriate solution and support them to meet expectations.

Support with Uniform: We recognise that families may sometimes require support with uniform. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school if assistance is required. We will work with families to remove barriers and ensure that no young person is disadvantaged.

Individual Circumstances: In very rare cases, a young person may require an adjustment to our uniform expectations to support an identified need or specific personal circumstances. Where appropriate, a uniform pass may be agreed. Decisions will be made on a pupil-by-pupil basis, taking account of the needs of the young person and any relevant information provided by parents, carers or partner agencies. These arrangements will be reviewed regularly. In line with our inclusive environment, our aim is that individual adjustments look like full uniform so that young people do not stand out as different from others.

Our Shared Commitment: By working together, we can ensure that Inveralmond Community High School remains a safe, inclusive and aspirational environment where all young people can achieve, connect and thrive.

Further Information

Detailed information can be accessed directly using this link to our website: [Uniform Policy - Inveralmond Community High School](#)[Uniform Policy - Inveralmond Community High School](#)



7. P5-7 Transition Launch Event

We listened to feedback from our pupils, parents and carers and made the following changes to our transition:

- ▶ Our first 'transition launch event' has been opened up to P5 and P6. The evening used to involve a presentation, but now has a short introduction followed by learning experiences in different departments. (TikTok coming soon...)
- ▶ Our departments are working on subject transition projects with all years of Primary
- ▶ Our cluster Primary Schools now have a 'what's on at ICBS' section in their sways/newsletters
- ▶ Our next P7 transition event (23rd February 5pm-7.30pm) will also be an interactive evening comprising of a presentation and then time in departments.

On the next slide you will find some pictures from our P5-7 Launch Event.

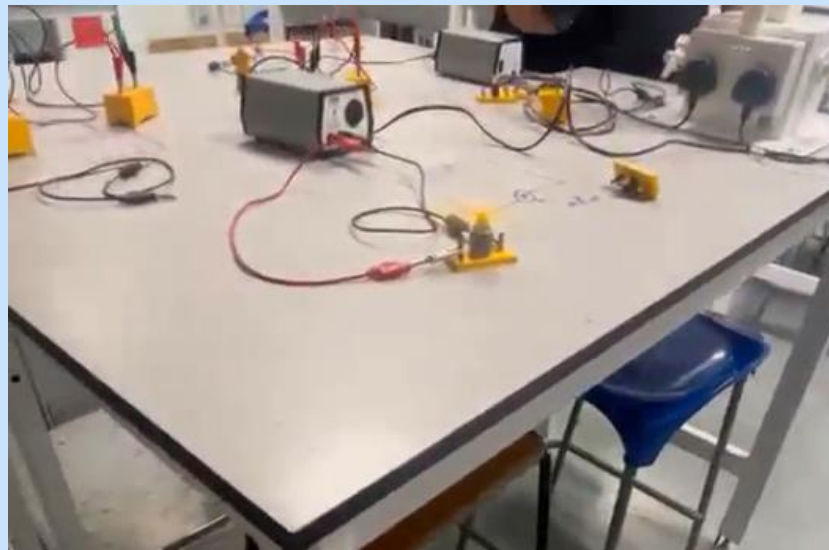
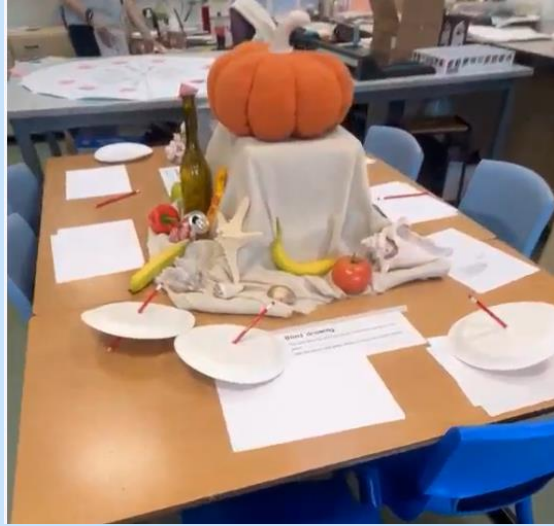


P7 TRANSITION CALENDAR

Building Confidence • Creating Connections • Inspiring Success

Month	Activities
October	- Maths Challenge - House Captain Leadership - P7 Classroom Experience: Social Subjects, CDT Spatulas & Drama Film Experience
December	- Breakfast with Santa (Home Economics) - Santa Sleigh
February	Business OneNote Escape Room
March	- School of Football Taster - English World Book Day Experience
April	House Team Visits to Primaries
May	- STEM Challenge - Sports Festival
June	- Sphero Robotics - Transition Days - Music Show

Building Confidence • Creating Connections • Inspiring Success



8. Higher Modern Studies – London Visit

On 8th September a group of our Higher Modern Studies students travelled to London. They toured the Houses of Parliament, welcomed personally by Livingston Constituency MP Gregor Poynton with whom they had a Q&A session in Parliament.

As well as this valuable educational experience, pupils visited Madame Tussauds, Buckingham Palace, The London Eye, and took in a show.



9. Staff Fundraising

On 5th September a group of our staff ran the Edinburgh Inflatable 5k. Monies were raised for Neil's Hugs.

In the UK, men are three times as likely to die by suicide than women. Neil's Hugs support those affected by suicide and poor mental health across West Lothian and Clackmannanshire.

The group has raised £920 to date. Donations can still be made to this worthwhile cause here:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/eva-scott-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Our running team posted a video on our school TikTok which can be viewed here:
<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZN8MULXU2/>



10. S3 Columba 1400 Leadership Academy

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

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.

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

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

A letter containing further information for parents/carers of S3 pupils has been issued.



11. Senior Phase Tracking Reports

- ▶ September S4/5/6 tracking reports were made available on Progress on the 9th of September. To access Progress please click [here](#).
- ▶ We are trying to get as many families as possible to access these progress reports. This will allow you to best support your young person with their learning.
- ▶ Click [here](#) to watch a helpful video on using the system.
- ▶ If you haven't logged in previously to set up your account please check your email inbox and junk folder for an email from services@didbook.com. This email had a link that was only active for 7 days.
- ▶ If you have an account issue or if your link is now inactive, please click [here](#) to complete our form and someone will be in touch to support you.

12. Coming Up Soon...

Thursday 1st October S4-6 Senior Phase Parent and Carer Evening 4pm-7pm

WB 5th October: S2 Tracking Reports Issued

Wednesday 14th October: S2 Parent and Carer Evening 4pm-6.30pm

Thursday 15th October: Invy's Got Talent 7pm

Friday 16th October: House Points Rewards Day and dress down

