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Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome back to the new school term, I hope you all had a pleasant October break. Included in this letter are a few updates from last term.

Our new pupils in first year have settled well into the Academy. I would like to thank parents for their supportive and positive feedback during the S1 Parent Information Evening and hope that the meetings held with Guidance staff during the last week of term were productive.

Large numbers of our S1 students, along with pupils over all the year groups, have signed up to participate in a large range of extra-curricular activities offered at school. These range from various sporting activities such as tennis, swimming and football to other clubs including science, film and engineering. It is great to see so many pupils involved in these. Details of these clubs are displayed throughout the school and information available on the weekly bulletin.

A club that we hope to resurrect over the coming term will be the gardening club. Over the October holidays the inner quadrangle was cleared and is now ready for redevelopment. Two members of staff, Jacky Barrere and Angela Mitchell, are keen to gather a group of interested pupils to work with and we look forward to seeing the end results of this.

Our S5 and S6 pupils have taken up leadership roles and are contributing to the wider school community in a very positive manner. Many are taking on roles such as Prefects, mentors and peer supporters. The S6 also completed a charity walk in September raising £265 for charity.

Some key highlights from the last few weeks of the term included the school retaining its Gold Sport Award and our sports ambassadors, Emma Donald and David Scott, speaking at the Young Ambassadors event at the AECC. This was a fantastic opportunity for them both and as a school we were very proud of them both.

The last week of term also saw the S2 YPI final for the school. I cannot understate the power of work that the year group put in to supporting their chosen charities. Whilst only some groups reached the final, all pupils showed a real commitment to their charity. The quality of presentations on the day of the final made it a very difficult decision for the judging panel and all pupils should be very proud of their work. On the last day of term we held a dress down day and the £612 that was raised will be split between the charities who reached the final but did not win. The winning group, representing Moray Woman's Aid, will now present later in the school year at the National final in Perth.

I would like to thank everyone who returned their preference for communication from school. From now, correspondence will be sent to parents by email unless they have specifically requested to have a paper copy. We hope this will mean that parents more regularly receive information for the school as well as being more environmentally and cost effective. If you did not make your return and wish to receive paper copies then please contact the school office ASAP. Tied clearly to this is the revamp of the school website. As we reconstruct our website you will still be able to find information on our weekly bulletin, School Improvement Plan, Calendar, and letters to parents. We will be making much greater use of social media such as Twitter

and a school Facebook page. More information on the new website and social media pages will be available as the term progresses.

One of the ways we will continue to share our news with the Forres community will be through the weekly FANG section of the Forres Gazette. I'm also delighted to say we now have a new school magazine, FAB. The first edition is now available and a letter regarding the magazine accompanies this. The magazine is entirely the work of the pupils and features various school and community articles as well as competitions.

Following a parent council meeting and AGM last term I am pleased to see our parent council growing in numbers and would like to thank those parents who have agreed to take part. There is a link to the parent council website from the school website and they also operate a Facebook page and are keen to engage with the whole parent body.

Finally can I take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to the pupils, parents and staff of Forres Academy for the warm welcome I received during my first term in post.

Yours sincerely



JAN SINCLAIR
Head Teacher