LOCHINVER HOUSE

Head of DT & Art
September 2020

Message from the Headmaster



Lochinver House School is a stimulating, happy and vibrant place to learn and develop. Supported by the School, a talented team of hard-working staff continue to invest in their own development so that they are well equipped to inspire our pupils. As a charitable trust, we work vigorously to provide a high quality education to boys aged 4-13, working in close relationship with the families we serve. We are enriched by a cosmopolitan and diverse population.

The continued success and sound financial management of the School has enabled a considerable investment in the buildings and resources across our 9+acre site. For example, the latest improvements include an extensive renewal of our dining hall and catering resources, the provision of exciting new seating and sound systems in our theatre and the provision of a spacious new staff room and associated services. We value our staff. Indeed, independent research conducted by Mungo Dunnet commented that 'we have not encountered a better regarded staff body'.

The School continues to work closely with Jane Simister as we promote key learning characteristics in those that we teach. Our 'Learning Powers' are focus, resilience, collaboration, curiosity, initiative, originality and reflectiveness. The School offers a broad and well-supported curriculum which grows subject-specialist input from Reception (where Computing, Music and PE feature) through incremental additions each year. From Year 6, teaching is led entirely by subject specialists within a fully developed pastoral system led by tutors, Year Heads and a wider support team. Much work has been achieved in the support of good mental health and a number of staff are trained as Mental Health First Aiders. We consider a broad curriculum enriched by the creative arts, physical challenge and learning beyond the classroom to be of great value.

Well-established, is the provision of an iPad to every pupil in our senior years. This thoroughly secure provision supports independent and creative learning both at school and at home. A purpose built Design and Technology lab creates the opportunity for hands on learning to support such endeavour found elsewhere in the curriculum. Pupils from Little Heath Primary School come to our specialist Science labs to join us for a science club each week and our theatre provides opportunities to perform for children throughout the school.

We have pupils who are part of the National Children's Orchestra or who who train at the Royal Academy. Two thirds of our pupils learn a musical instrument and 50 % of those, two. Termly progression through ABRSM grade exams sat at our school leads to 170 awards being made annually. Older pupils achieve distinctions at Grade 7. Our weekly composition club which builds on class music lessons and the use of Sibelius software led to a number of pupils hearing their own compositions being played by a visiting professional string quartet. Music scholarships are regularly won to senior schools.

The School continues to put out a tremendous number of sports teams and we have competed at the highest level with some of our pupils contracted to professional clubs. Lochinver football is highly respected because we are serious contenders and indeed 'giant killers' in the Independent Schools Football Association cup – a national competition. The School is able to be highly inclusive by putting out a large number of teams and we have been national champions or finalists in basketball. A football tour to Portugal was enjoyed by 70 pupils in October 2018 with over 80 taking part in our next trip planned for October 2020. We prepare for our 7th rugby tour to South Africa in April 2020.

A vibrant PTA works with passion and commitment to celebrate and support the aims of the School. A calendar of community events make us a welcoming School which cherishes its history and gets excited about its future.

The School thrives and balances upon or close to, our maximum number of 350 pupils. The Lochinver journey is a powerful one for pupils and enables tremendous personal development and achievement. 14 senior schools attended a recent evening at our school, keen to engage with our parents and the decisions they will be making about preferred follow on schools. Lochinver pupils are in demand and in the last 10 years we have sent pupils to 22 different schools. Academic achievement remains high. Our Year 8 pupils gain successful entry to their chosen senior schools. In the last 3 years our Year 8 boys have been awarded 42 Scholarships to world class schools. We are enormously proud of the value pupils have been able to add to their own capabilities and our part in that progress.

The educational journey at Lochinver produces pupils who have learnt how to learn, to communicate and to collaborate in order to solve problems. Our pupils think of others and know what it is to work hard for important purposes. We believe that flexible and resourceful thinkers and communicators are what a fast changing world will need and so we work creatively to enable such preparation.

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who pours their commitment, energy and inspiration into this wonderful school. I welcome your interest in joining us at Lochinver.

Ben Walker
Headmaster