Newsletter – January 2022

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022 and a belated Happy New Year to all parents and carers.

In this newsletter, we will reflect back on the run up to the Christmas holidays and on some of the activities and events that have taken place through the month of January. As always, there has been plenty going on across the school, despite restrictions necessitated by COVID.

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Covid

As you will be aware there remain ongoing concerns related to the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. Our school experienced high absence rates for both pupils and staff upon our immediate return from the Christmas holidays. The situation is starting to settle as it appears to be more widely across the country and this is allowing the Scottish Government to reduce some of the restrictions schools have to operate under. For the time being however we must continue to operate our one way system and pupils and staff must continue to wear face coverings. We are still having to provide face masks to some pupils who regularly forget to bring a mask with them to school and we would ask all parents/carers to ensure that their child has a mask in their bag for school along with a second mask as a spare in case a mask breaks.

Senior phase assessment block

Our S4-6 pupils engaged in their second main assessment block in January. At the time of writing departments are still marking and moderation pupil work but departmental heads are generally pleased with the quality of pupils work reviewed thus far.

The Scottish Government and the SQA remain committed to a formal diet of exams in April/May. To that end many of our staff have been asked to work for the SQA as examiners, verifiers and markers. The formal SQA verification process has started with schools up and down the country.

For some of our pupils the results of their January assessments may not be as good as they would have anticipated. This is no reason to panic as there will be further opportunities to do well in March when many subjects will offer further assessments. It is also worth pointing out that the SQA will have to take cognisance of absence caused by COVID – and other things too. At this stage we would not be looking to renegotiate our pupils' curriculum. We are convinced that our pupils, even those who feel they haven't done so well at the moment, will improve significantly in the coming weeks and months leading to positive SQA qualifications.

Supported study and Easter school

To help our pupils with their subjects we will run another block of supported study sessions from February through to the Easter break. We may well offer some additional targeted support for pupils during the first week of the Easter holidays if departments feel there is a need to do so. This may be in school provision or it may be done remotely over Teams. Further details will be issued in due course and the full programme will be put up on our website for your information.

We would urge that you discuss the supported study sessions on offer with your child and take advantage of this offer, especially if your child has not done as well in their assessments as they thought they would.

As well as supported study and Easter school provision we offer help and support in our Tuesday afternoon elective slot where pupils can opt for general supervised study or specific subject support where our timetable allows us to offer this. In this case we will target those pupils who need most support in the first instance for subject specific support.

Mentoring programmes

All S4 pupils will be offered personal support programmes after their tracking reports to allow them to reflect upon and discuss their academic progress with a dedicated member of staff who can offer help and assistance on prioritisation, time management and study skills. This will be reinforced in dedicated talks by year heads in February / March.

For some S5/6 pupils we have more bespoke programmes whereby those pupils who have not progressed well in two or more subjects will be allocated a dedicated mentor for regular one-to-one discussions. The focus of the discussions relate to how pupils can facilitate positive progress in their subjects.

Contemplation area

After nearly three years of complications and problems, mainly but not exclusively caused by COVID, we are now beginning to see positive progress being made on our contemplation area in the quadrangle.

The idea of a contemplation area emerged four years ago but the untimely deaths of two of our pupils and a member of staff in recent years led to an increased desire to have this area completed. It has been very frustrating having to deal with a range of problems, not least of which has been COVID, leading to delays in progressing with the area.

We are hopeful that we will have our contemplation area completed by spring time. This will allow any pupil / member of staff to go to a quite area where they can go to have a sense of calm for considered reflection. Special thanks are due to Mr Farquhar, DHT for S1, who has led on this initiative and coped with a myriad of frustrations along the way.

As you can see from the list of contents on Page 1 despite an abridged month and our S4-6 pupils being away on study leave for two weeks there has been plenty of things going on across the school in recent week.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Christmas Door Competition 2021 Results

In December staff across the school donated money to take part in the Christmas door decoration competition. A fantastic £156 was raised and donated to Marie Curie in memory of Lynne McCosh, a member of staff who passed away two years ago. The school captains Oscar and Katy decided the doors who should be awarded 1st,2nd and 3rd place. The Physics Department won 1st place, The Hub won 2nd place and Mr Sutherland won 3rd place.



Oscar and Katy also awarded a few titles:

Dachshund through the snow ~ most aesthetically pleasing

Miss Byers ~ best jokes

Miss Quearns ~ Katy's choice

Upper office ~ best 3D

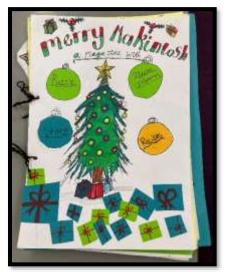
Lower office ~ scariest

Mr Jarman ~ most creative

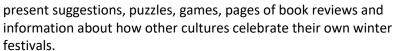
Thank you to everyone who took part, a great effort was put in by all. Hopefully we can raise even more money next year.

S1 Christmas Magazine Competition

Now in its 16th year, this year's S1 spent the last few days of term before the Christmas break creating their own Christmas Magazines as part of the house competition. These magazines are planned and created completely independently by each class with pupils also taking on the 'editor' and 'features' roles overseeing what will go into each magazine.



The magazines included recipe and



Judged by Higher English pupils, this year's winning magazine was 1MK2 (1D). The winner's cup will now proudly be displayed in Mrs Hendy and Mrs Stevens' classroom for the next year.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Santa Dash



Our yearly fundraiser for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was a huge success raising an incredible £2300.

The PE department had organised a 5k Santa Dash on the last 2 days of term for the S1 & S2 cohort around the Lenzie Moss.



All pupils received a free Santa hat to take part with and when they

completed the dash our HFT department was waiting with hot chocolate and cakes.





S2 Maths Challenge



As part of Maths week, the department entered a competition, where we had to detail the events that were taking place during Maths week.

Pupils where then invited to participate in a Magic Maths Workshop delivered via teams by the University of Edinburgh. On Wednesday the 12th of January, Miss Sutton's and Mr Sutherland's S2 classes participated in different activities led by Ben and Laura. The University staff performed Magic tricks and then explained the Mathematics involved. Pupils were given dice and playing cards so that they could try the tricks for themselves. All pupils were engaged

with the activities and enjoyed the experience. Some pupils were even brave enough to volunteer to

help with the tricks! Well done S2!



Young Musician of the Year

On December 8th, 7 of our young musicians took part in our Young Musician of the Year competition.

Our guest adjudicator Dr Angela Jaap had the unenviable task of selecting a vocal and instrumental winner.

Verna Lai won the instrumental title and Felix Schofield won the vocal title.

Well done to all who took part and many thanks to Mr Farquhar and Ms Sinclair for supporting our socially distanced event.

The performances can be viewed on the school YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIIvSUSYa3M



DYW @ LENZIE ACADEMY - UPDATE

DYW Mentors

Last term we piloted a DYW Staff Mentor programme, where a number of staff members volunteered to work one-to-one with pupils who require a little extra support when applying for jobs, college or apprenticeships and with writing of personal statements and CV's. Lots of these pupils have already achieved positive destinations, with others clearly benefitting from the extra support offered to them.



LA Futures

LA Futures is a new club, running in room B4 on Wednesday lunchtimes. Some pupils in S1-3 have found it helpful to ask about subject choices and how this might tie in with future career aspirations. They have explored My World of Work using the 'Subject Choice' and 'Explore Careers' tool to look at over 600 job profiles. Now that S4-6 have returned from prelim leave, we would encourage them to attend to work on any college/job/apprenticeship applications and receive general advice.

If your child hasn't yet registered with My World of Work, the link is here: https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/account/register#/

Employer engagement

Last term there was an aim to increase our whole school links with outside employers with a range of industries and we linked with McLaughlin and Harvey in September and JP Morgan in October. In November and December, the construction company CCG, delivered a 3 part virtual 'Building Futures' course to S4-6 pupils interested in pursuing a career in this industry. The attendees found it a very useful insight into apprenticeships and how the construction industry will start to change in the coming years, with the move to Net Zero.



Up next

The Army recruitment team will be visiting the school in February to work with pupils from S3-S5 who may be interested in pursuing a career in the armed forces. They are going to deliver an interactive and physical skills workshop, followed by a careers presentation.

S4 Work experience

On 21 January, we had over 70 S4 pupils participating in a Work Experience Day. Pupils had the opportunity to source a self-found placement to experience the world of work in an area they may be interested in pursuing in the future. We had a range of placements taking place, including veterinary practices, GP surgeries, engineers, primary schools and sports clubs.

Pupils who were unable to source a placement, had the opportunity to research some virtual placements that they may wish to attend in the future and also complete some career-based research.

Unfortunately, due to current Covid guidance some placements were cancelled but it is hoped pupils can participate in these during SQA study leave in May/June 2022.

Advertised opportunities - Twitter, Teams, school website

Keep an eye out for advertised work experience, Modern Apprenticeship and Graduate Apprenticeship opportunities or virtual workshop opportunities via Twitter, Teams and the school website. Deadlines can be fast approaching so anyone interested can speak to myself (Ms Byres) or their Guidance teacher about applying.

Upcoming opportunities/deadlines

College applications – applications for Aug 2022 are NOW OPEN. College workshops were held on Tuesday 25th January to help pupils who are applying for this. Please ensure they submit personal statements and applications **in plenty of time.** A list of local colleges are below:



Arnold Clark – registering now for March 2022 intake of Modern Apprentices.

BAE Systems – looking for various Modern Apprentices to fulfil a variety of STEM role (science, tech, engineering and maths) – deadline 28th Feb.

NHS – Recruiting NOW for a variety of Modern Apprenticeship roles.

How can you help support your child's future as a parent/guardian?

There is some excellent 'in a nutshell' links on the National Parent Forum of Scotland that explain some options that your child has when they leave school:

Skills - https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/skills-in-a-nutshell/

Career Education - https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/career-education-a-world-of-possibilities/

Apprenticeships- https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/apprenticeships-in-a-nutshell/

Career Conservations -

https://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/edd/2017/04/career conversations JAN17 E.pdf

*If you or someone you know works for a local enterprise that can offer employer engagement with young people (this can be careers talks, workshops, application and interview advice or work experience) please get in touch with Ms Byres. It is always helpful to have as many employer links as possible to widen the scope of opportunities for our young people!

College Workshops

Now that the UCAS process is complete, on return after the prelim leave our focus in supporting students with their transition from the Academy was further education.

College applications for session 2022/23 are now open, and pupils who had indicated following this pathway for next year took part in a workshop on Tuesday 25th January.

With the support of one of the Guidance team the students were given the opportunity to research college courses and began applying. Information was provided on the different levels offered within college, and support was given with starting their personal statement.

A copy of the PowerPoint and the personal statement guide is on the year group Team for S4-6. Students who are considering leaving school for college next year should **apply now**.

Any further questions please contact the respective Guidance teacher in the first instance.

Scottish Suffrage Education

The History department was one of 100 schools lucky enough to be selected to receive a free *Scottish Suffrage Education Pack*, from Protests and Suffragettes with learning resources designed by Braw Talent.

As a partner school, Ms Baxter trialled the resources with her S4 class when teaching the 'Era of the Great War' National 5 course. The pack contained source materials and packs of trump cards, which pupils used to investigate the role of Scottish women who campaigned for the right to vote. Ms Baxter felt the resources were extremely helpful and complimented the course well. The feedback from pupils was very positive and they found using the trump cards was a fun way to learn new topic knowledge. MSCotSuffragette





S3 Geography Fieldtrip

As part of the curriculum, all S3 geography pupils had the opportunity earlier this month to partake in an urban field trip to Glasgow. Before Christmas S3 geography classes were studying the urban topic, looking at characteristics of cities and how they have changed over time.

Despite the trip being outside in January we were extremely lucky with the weather. Glorious sunshine meant pupils could see in real life the various case study examples we had been looking at in the classroom.

The trip was also an opportunity for pupils to practice their fieldwork skills. Learning different methods of data collection on traffic, pedestrians and land use was extremely beneficial to the pupils. This also directly linked into the added value unit they have been completing in class the last few weeks. This involves analysing fieldwork data, creating graphs and being creative in displaying this poster style.

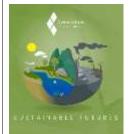
We hope all S3 geography pupils enjoyed their trip exploring the different urban zones of the city. The geography department really enjoyed being able to run fieldtrips again after such a long time, and we are looking forward to hopefully being able to offer this trip to future S3 pupils next year.



Vaccination Programme

The teenage booster programme for S3 – S6 pupils is underway; it is given to boost protection against 3 separate diseases tetanus, diphtheria and polio and is routinely given in secondary school at the same time as the MenACWY. If you child has missed their immunisation then there will be a catch up, hopefully later this session. The HPV vaccination for S1 and S2 pupils will take place on 24 February letters have been issued to pupils and consent forms should be returned to the office as soon as possible.

Inspiring Purpose



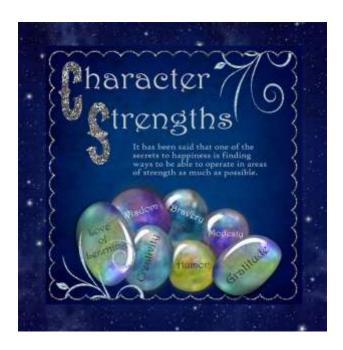
What is the Inspiring Purpose Poster Competition?

The S3 RMPS classes are developing their ICT skills and reflecting on their character by engaging with this competition via Teams. Mrs Davidson is overseeing this as part of the BGE Skills across the curriculum provision





Inspiring Purpose - individual assessed work





The Poster can be completed on a Word Document or via a series of PowerPoint slides which are completed at home every two weeks and then collated to form a virtual poster.

1. Identifying Personal Character Strengths





Researching an environmental issue or endangered animal we need to act on, is Section 2



Who and what inspires



Section 3. Inspiring People







4. Inspirational quotes











The last section puts the focus upon the pupil themselves



What are you inspired to act upon to make our future sustainable?













Here are some of last year's winning thoughts



On Twitter: Inspiring Purpose @CharacterScot



Copy the link below into your browser to view on Twitter

https://twitter.com/CharacterScot/status/1392077025016492034?cxt=HHwWhMC5gbir09EmAAAA

Next Term S3 will engage with the Youth Philanthropy Initiative to put their Values into Action



S1 Family Learning

This month the Business Education Department took part in a Family Learning activity as part of a Homework task. The S1 pupils have recently been learning how to code using the program Scratch. We further developed these skills by completing an 'Hour of Code' using the educational resource code.org. Pupils worked through their 'Hour of code' in class, and once completed were able to print off a certificate to reward their efforts.

As part of their homework they were tasked with teaching someone else from their household how to code, and they too were able to complete their 'Hour of Code' with their child guiding them through the steps. This proved very popular and we have received some very positive feedback from parents/carers who enjoyed being involved in their child's learning, and allowed them to gain a better insight into what we have been learning in class. Below is a copy of the certificate, and some quotes taken from the surveys that were completed after the activity.





"It has been great to see what my son has been learning in Business class."

"Yes, I liked this task- much more modern and fun than my own experience of coding at High School."

"Yes it was very good. Great bonding experience with my son. Other family members got involved as well. Great fun!"

"It was good to see that my daughter can break down instructions and is developing her analytical thinking."

International Recognition

Lucy Barclay in S4 represented Scotland Schools in their first competitive fixture of 2022. The Scotland girls team were victorious on the day with an impressive 4-0 over Borough Muir High School and Lucy was at the centre of setting up 2 goals



S1 Virtual Open Evening

Each year the school host an open evening, which is an opportunity for Primary 7 pupils and parents to visit Lenzie Academy and see the range of different subjects on offer as well as whole school activities that pupils in Lenzie Academy can participate in.

Due to current COVID restrictions, we were unable to have our open evening in its usual format. As an alternative, we have produced a virtual event. This provides useful and informative information from each of our subject areas:

You Tube Link is below:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpfxkVy2XgtQQomCYb3-SVarBr2NFbp6N

Various other Family Learning Activities are planned for Session 21/22 – updates will be posted on twitter/You Tube.

Pupil Equity

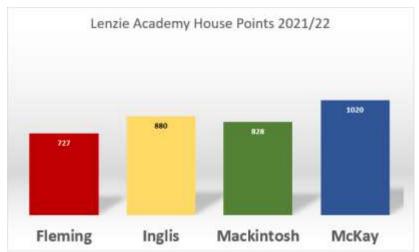
Equity in education aims to provide equal opportunity to all students regardless of a student's background or circumstances. Equity builds on fairness and inclusion, with safeguards such as interventions and resources utilised to ensure every individual has the opportunity to get the support and resources they need to achieve their educational goals. Recently, we have been working to gather in uniform items that pupils can access if necessary. We are now looking to expand the supports available for pupils. In addition to uniform, we will be providing organisational materials to pupils (eg pens, pencils, notepads, folders, etc.).

If you would like to donate any new or almost-new uniform or organisational materials to allow us to better support pupil equity, please hand these in to our school reception.

More information on pupil equity can be found on the school website <u>- http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/pupil-equity/</u>

House Update

House Competitions have continued throughout this year despite the challenge presented by COVID. Events have included Odd Sock Day, Halloween best costume, Book Week Quiz, Fairtrade Quiz and S1 Christmas Quiz. MacKay currently lead the way but with 5 months left in the session there is still plenty of time for the other houses to catch up.



Appeal for old / unwanted study revision textbooks

The School Captaincy Team are organising an appeal to collect in any old study or revision books which are no longer needed by our S5 and S6 students. Our hope is that we can collect in lots of unwanted revision books which we can then donate to other students in the school who may require them for this year's exams

This is a great way for the senior students to pay something back to our school community, to help other families during these difficult times and to also prevent these books from going to waste. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

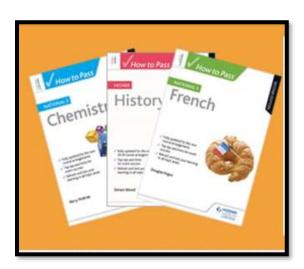
Donations should be passed to any member of the School Captaincy Team at interval or lunchtime on the Bridge or handed into the school office marked for the attention of the school captains.

We would very much appreciate the help of staff in highlighting this to S5 and S6 classes – the more books we can gather in, the more families we will be able to help during these difficult times.

Any donations should be handed in by **Friday 11th February.** This will allow us to hand these out the following week. The Captaincy Team will liaise with both Mrs Elliott and the Guidance Team on how we can best target students to attend a lunchtime drop-in session at the library where the books can be issued to students.

Many thanks in advance for any support you can give with this appeal - it is greatly appreciated by the Captains, and we are confident will be even more appreciated by both students and families in the Lenzie Academy Community.

Katy Forrester School Captain





PTA

The next meeting of our PTA group is on **Wednesday 9 February**. This will be a virtual meeting if you want to find out more check out our website www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk or send an email to lenzieacademypta@gmail.com.

Our next fundraising event is on **Friday 25 February** and is a Race Night held in Lenzie Rugby club doors open at 7pm with the first race at 8pm. Tickets are £5.

See posters below for more information



