

Welcome to our latest newsletter. This will be the penultimate newsletter of the session and there will be a truncated newsletter in June. Despite our senior pupils being away on exam leave the school has been very busy in preparation for the new timetable which starts on Monday 6 June. In this newsletter we have information on the following:

1. [Updates on progress for our new school.](#)
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Progress on a proposed new school

Over the past few weeks my DHT colleagues and I have been involved in a number of meetings with colleagues from EDC's education and major assets teams along with representatives from Holmes Millar (architects) and McLaughlin & Harvey (construction contractors) to start the initial work on scoping out what a new school will look like. These meetings have been very beneficial and it is clear that the architects are listening to the school's perspective and incorporating our ideas into their design brief. In addition to these meetings some of the DHTs and I have been visiting other schools to see for ourselves what some of these newly designed schools look like and feel like. These visits will continue through June to enable us to get a sense of what is working well in the new schools and what might not be working as well as the schools thought they might. This will enable us to engage meaningfully with the architects and construction company to ensure that we learn the lessons from the experiences of other schools and that the finalised design is informed by what works best so that our pupils get a new school that is as up to date and effective as it can possibly be.

Staffing update

In the last newsletter I provided an update of seven new teaching appointments and also of our new senior technician and technical technician. There are also a lot of temporary appointments that need to be made in various subject areas for a variety of reasons e.g. maternity cover. We will still have to appoint temporary staff in Business Education, Chemistry, English, Health Food Technology, Modern Languages and Music. This will be an ongoing process up until the end of term.

We have also a number of what we call 'Newly Qualified Teachers' (NQTs) who will join us for a year to complete their probationary year. These NQTs will be in the following subject areas – Geography, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Music, PE and Business Education.

SQA exams

I am pleased to report that the first set of SQA exams in three years have now come to an end and our teaching staff were generally happy with the question papers. Overall, most pupils found the exam papers by and large fair, though there is always a degree of variation across papers and levels. This is not unusual and happens every year when there is an SQA examination diet. We know that the vast majority of our pupils applied themselves well and were ready and prepared for their exams. Hopefully, we see the benefit of the pupils' hard-work in the SQA results in August.

Leavers and new starts

Our S6 pupils had a lovely last day with us prior to SQA study leave. It was a pleasure to see so many of them happily engaging with each other and their teachers – eating pizza and getting their shirts signed. They have been a credit to the school throughout their six years so it was fitting that their last day was such a positive one. They are to be commended on how they conducted themselves. As I write this they have their very final event as an S6 awaiting them when they come up to the school on Wednesday 1 June with their parents/carers to receive their yearbooks and we wish them farewell. It is then on to the Grosvenor Hilton for their Leavers Ball. We look forward to that and I'm sure it will be a huge success.

As our S6 depart we also welcome our new S1 for their P7 induction days on Tuesday 31 May and Wednesday 1 June. This will be an exciting couple of days for them all and I know they will have lots of fun and engaging learning with our teachers. I've met with quite a number of pupils through our enhanced transition events where we got them involved in a scavenger hunt that ended at my office with the successful groups getting some prizes for solving the puzzles laid out for them.

We will have our first in-person parental meeting on Thursday 16 June for P7 parents /carers and we look forward to meeting with them and explaining to them a little bit about our school.

School uniforms 2022/23

On Monday 20 June we will facilitate a blazer fitting event with a company called Stevenson's. They are a UK wide retailer and representatives of the company will attend the school from 4.15pm onwards to measure youngsters for school blazers. There will be the option of having the blazers delivered to peoples' home address, for which there is an additional delivery charge, or people can opt to collect the blazer from the school in August - without paying an additional delivery charge.

The blazer fitting is not for P7 only, any parent / carer can attend to get a new blazer fitted for their child if they have outgrown their existing blazer.

At the end of term if any parent / carer wants to hand in an old blazer we will ensure that it is washed and pressed and we can thereafter offer second hand blazers for sale for a small donation that will be given to one of the school's chosen charities. There is a recognition that some families are or will face significant financial challenges over the coming months due to high energy costs and inflation rates that have not been experienced for many, many years. In this edition of the newsletter we have provided details on 'Pupil Equity Support' which we hope is helpful to some of our parents and carers.

As well as information on pupil equity, this newsletter contains examples of departmental news related to a wide range of activities that our pupils have been involved with over the past few weeks.

I hope you enjoy the contents of the newsletter.

Pupil Equity Support – 2022/23

Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Allowance

As the end of the school year approaches, we'd like to draw your attention to EDC provisions that are in place for learners. This seems particularly important right now given the cost of living crisis. As a result of this, many families are experiencing financial hardship for the first time, and financial circumstances are expected to worsen as we approach autumn and winter. EDC provides Free School Meals (FSM) and a Uniform Allowance (UA) for households who meet the eligibility criteria. This is based on total household income and/or entitlement for benefits.

The current application form on the website is for the current school year 2021/22. A new application must be made yearly in order to receive the provision.

Applications for the 2022/23 school year will open by the end of June (we will issue an update when this opens). There is no deadline as applications can be submitted at any time throughout the school year. It is important to be mindful of the processing time for applications, so **we would advise completing the application as soon as it opens to ensure provisions are available for the start of the new school year (August 2022).**

To make the application process more accessible, EDC have now created one form for both FSM & Uniform Allowance. Please visit the following section of our school website for a step-by-step help guide to completing the application and a link to the EDC website to access the application form - <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/school-meals/>

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Scottish Government provide EMA to encourage access to, and participation in, further and higher education. If your child is 16 years of age before 30th September 2022, they may be eligible for an EMA from the beginning of the new term (August). If they are 16 years of age between 1st October 2022 and February 2023, they may be eligible for EMA from January 2023.

The EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 payable to eligible young people who have achieved 100% attendance per week. It is payable in arrears, generally on a two weekly basis.

The EMA application process will open for the school year 2022-23 at the beginning of July and can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/education-maintenance-allowance>

It is important to be mindful of the processing time for applications, so **we would advise completing the application as soon as it opens to ensure provisions are available for the start of the new school year.**

Please contact your child's Guidance Teacher or Miss Provan (PEF PT) via the school office if you have any queries about or require additional support with completing the application forms, or would like more information about other provisions available in school.

Learning & Teaching Committee update.

On Tuesday, 3rd May, approximately 30 staff from the Learning & Teaching committee took part in a workshop on Effective Feedback strategies. We explored ways to give pupils feedback on completed work more quickly and methods for pupils to provide instant feedback to teachers in class.

Teachers had trialled the strategies with classes in advance of the workshop and much of the time was spent presenting our experiences with the new strategies and discussing how best to share them with the wider school.

Some of the strategies, such as classroom visualisers and Plickers, are technology based while others, such as Marking with Coding and Target Logs, require very little in terms of additional resources. We really liked many of the strategies and could clearly see the benefits for pupils. We are hoping to give all staff an opportunity to see the strategies in action during an inset day early in the next session.

Departmental News

S2 Stock Market Challenge

On Monday 9th May, S2 pupils took part in the Maths department's annual BP Stock Market Challenge. For the first time ever, pupils worked in house teams, which definitely added to the sense of competition!

The pupils acted as real traders for the morning, buying and selling barrels of crude oil and the aim of the game was simple - make the most profit.

Pupils were given 'real life' scenarios which would affect the future price of oil and they had to decide whether the time was right to buy, sell or stick. Each team had to use their Maths skills to calculate each sale or purchase but also showcase a number of other skills including teamwork, problem solving, risk taking, leadership and communication.



There was a real buzz on the trading floor, with all teams getting into the spirit of the challenge and all staff commented on how well the teams worked together. After a full morning of trading, Mackintosh came out on top making over \$200,000 in profit and beating 59 other trading teams!

Well done to all S2 for taking part!

Mountain Bike Experience



On Thursday 12 May, at Callendar Park in Falkirk, 14 S1 & S2 pupils took part in an off-road mountain bike experience. The group managed to tackle some of the more challenging routes and were successful in doing so. What a fantastic day for those pupils who took part



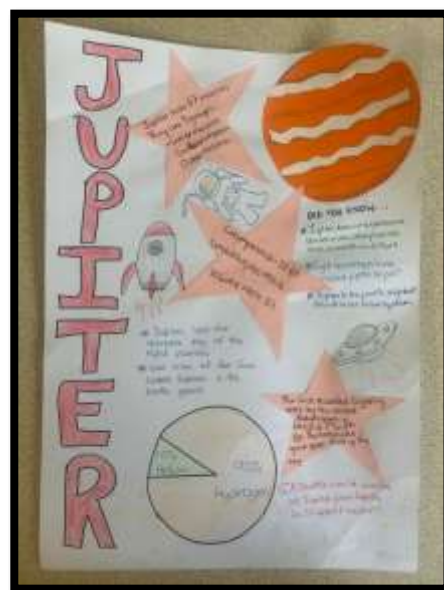
S3 Maths Space Project

In Maths, as part of the house week our S3 classes have all been working on the "Space Project". In this, each class was assigned a planet and some NASA style missions to work through.

These missions ranged from making a scale drawing of their planet to working out how long it would take a NASA shuttle to reach other planets in the solar system.

Pupils were divided into house groups and worked together to complete up to 6 missions, then used their creative talents to showcase their work in the form of a poster.

The results were out of this world! Here are some of the posters for our new space themed wall display in the Maths corridor! Each class had a top 3 set of posters and these groups all collected house points with McKay coming out as the winning house. Well done to all S3 for their efforts!



S1 Homework Challenge



Karl won the S1 "tree of hearts" homework challenge set by Mr McNeil.

All S1 pupils were asked to design a tree with hearts as leaves and write the names of people they are grateful for.

Karl used an origami technique that made up the hearts



Football Academy

Why is our Football Academy Breakfast Club important?

Not only is our Football Academy breakfast club there to improve the skills of our participants but it also allows the pupils the chance to meet new friends, improve their social skills and feel part of the school and its ethos. The group also get the chance to enjoy a healthy breakfast in the HFT department before the start of the school day.



S1 Breakfast Challenge

Our S1 classes have had a great time working on their “Breakfast Challenge” design and make activity.



Pupils have enjoyed learning about the nutritional needs of others and creating a breakfast dish suitable for a specific target market. We had some fantastic breakfast dishes from the very fashionable avocado on toast to the classic egg and sausage muffin! S1 worked very well in their groups and even managed to achieve house points too. We can't wait to see what they come up with in S2-well done!



Field Trip to Edinburgh

The capital of Scotland, Edinburgh. Where some keen S2 pupils - including myself - spent their day visiting a couple of most favoured tourist sights in the city.

Our group kick-started our morning off by ascending the ancient volcano, Arthur's seat. This is the main peak of hills in the city and forms most of Holyrood Park. The walk was surprisingly short, yet slightly strenuous at times. Although it was very worth it to see the amazing view of Edinburgh city. I appreciated walking up the hill. The feeling once we reached the top was supreme. It was a warm day, so the peaceful breeze at the top cooled us down.

For the rest of our time in the city, we had a tour of the popular 'Dynamic Earth'. It is a science centre that showed us the prehistoric forces of nature and how they changed the earth. It was very interesting to see and listen to. It was a great place to snap pictures also. There was an earthquake simulator and I know the whole class was entertained by it. I've never been through a real earthquake, so it was an insightful experience.

Overall, our day trip in Edinburgh was a great success and really helped put into context everything we had learnt in Geography. Both active and educational. I know our classes had great fun and so did I!

*Lara
S2 Lenzie Academy*



U18s Scottish Rugby

Former pupil Logan Jarvie was selected in the U18s Scottish Rugby Squad for their three 6 Nations fixtures, which took place in April. Logan was named in the starting line-up for all three matches against England U18s, France U18s and Italy U18s and played exceptionally well, even scoring 2 tries in his match against Italy U18s, helping Scotland to a 31-17 victory.



Amazonia

Recently in the S1 Geography course pupils have been looking at Empty Lands, places in the world that are difficult for humans to survive, including the Tundra, Hot Deserts and Tropical Rainforests. Their understanding of the climate, characteristics and how plants and animals have adapted to living in these hostile environments has been excellent.

To bring this topic to life Miss Gilmour organised an S1 Amazonia day that took part on Wednesday 25th May. Each S1 class got the opportunity to see, touch and hold real life animals from the Tropical Rainforest! Ziggy, the royal python and George the red footed tortoise were a big hit with all the pupils, whilst the Madagascan hissing cockroaches and giant African snail had fewer admirers. Feedback from pupils was a resounding success and we look forward to offering this to all S1 pupils in the future as part of our engaging and active Geography course.

Below are a few of our pupils making friends with each of the animals provided by the Amazonia outreach team from M&D's theme park:



S3 Skills for Work Elective

As you may be aware, Lenzie Academy is striving to ensure positive destinations for all pupils, as part of the aims of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW). Throughout May, S3 pupils have been engaged in a number of different electives to replace the subjects they are no longer taking into S4. For the first time, a Skills for Work elective was introduced for these pupils and proved to be a popular choice. Pupils have had learned about the various pathways available to them when leaving school, which is of particular importance as they embark on the Senior Phase part of their school career. They have also had the opportunity to learn about important transferrable skills needed in the future workplace and have built up their Skills and Strengths profiles on the My World of Work website. They have learned about structuring a CV and personal statement and looked at a number of examples. They also had a visit from a lecturer at New College Lanarkshire on 23 May who shared the variety of courses that they offer and the career pathways they can lead to. Speakers from InvestIN have also spoken to the pupils about employability skills, interview technique and how to make the most of summer.

I.D.A.H.O.B.I.T

On 17th May Lenzie Academy Allies group celebrated IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia) which is a worldwide celebration of sexual and gender diversities by inviting staff and pupils to join us in the quadrangle at lunchtime. This was a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate diversity.

