

Newsletter –June 2021

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

As we come towards the end of what has been another challenging and fragmented school session it is important for all parents / carers to know that the young people within the school have shown significant resilience and flexibility over the past year to cope with a range of changes necessitated by the COVID pandemic. As always the support of parents /carers has been fundamental in helping the school throughout the session and we appreciated this. For our new S1 it was a difficult transition to secondary school with no formal visits as the school was closed throughout the period March – June 2020. The youngsters then experienced the academic side of our school but we were not allowed to offer any extra-curricular activities for our pupils nor were we allowed to organise any school trips. The cancellations of these important aspects of school life diminishes the wider educational experience offered to our pupils. Notwithstanding this all of our young people have coped remarkably well throughout the year.

The health information upon which the opening up of wider society, including schools, is looking more positive and hopefully the school session for 2021-22 is much more akin to what a normal school year should be like. This aspiration is couched with some reservation based upon the experiences of the past 15 months.

Within this newsletter there is information about the following:

1. SQA Alternative Certification Model.
2. Our new timetable.
3. S6 leavers
4. Year Group Heads.
5. Staffing update.
6. S1 Reports.
7. Our new 3G rugby pitch.
8. Prize Giving 2020-21.
9. Change of guidance group names.
10. School uniform.
11. PEF updates.
12. Departmental updates.

SQA Alternative Certification Model

With the cancellation of the 2021 SQA examination diet the Scottish Government asked the SQA to devise an 'alternative certification model'. The establishment of a steering group called NQ21 would oversee this process. The steering group had membership of major stakeholders such as the SQA, Education Scotland as well as professional associations representing directors of education, school leaders and teachers organisations. In essence, teachers in schools would determine provisional grades for S4, S5 and S6 pupils using their professional judgement based upon 'demonstrable evidence'. In practice this meant teachers would be devising various forms of assessment and schools would put in place opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in the various subjects they were studying. The assessments would not replicate the SQA exam but would more likely be chunked into smaller assessments.

There would be a five stage process involved:

1. Assessments would be agreed upon within schools and discussed and agreed with moderation partners in other schools.
2. Assessments would be marked and cross-marked in subject departments by teaching staff.
3. There would be a thorough moderation process undertaken at school level. For example, a subject department in our school such as Biology would engage in professional dialogue once all work had been marked and cross-marked to ensure consistent application of standards.
4. There would be moderation at local authority level. For example, the Biology department in our school would work with at least two other Biology departments in other EDC schools to compare standards. In all subject departments across EDC there are teachers who work with the SQA as markers, setters and verifiers and their expertise could be used to moderate standards across the local authority.
5. Once moderation had been completed at departmental level there would be quality assurance procedures implemented at whole school level.

As far as our school is concerned the main assessment block for S4-6 pupil finished on 21 May, though a number of subjects continuing to offer some assessments beyond that date. All provisional grades once they have gone through the various moderation and quality assurance procedures will be sent to the SQA in late June.

New Timetable

Due to the very disjointed and truncated nature of the academic session in 2020-21 and the implementation of the alternative certification model outlined earlier, we are starting our new timetable later than would normally be the case. The new timetable for session 2021-22 will start on **Monday 14 June**. Further details will be issued about this in due course.

S6 Leavers

We would normally hold our S6 Leavers ceremony in late April, prior to our S6 going on SQA study leave. We would then have our S6 Leavers Ball in early June. Alas, due to COVID restrictions, neither of these events could take place in the way that they would normally do. In fact our S6 pupils only have to attend classes now when they have assessments to sit. It is far from ideal but we have no real choice. The last official day for our current S6 pupils will be Thursday 10 June and we are engaged in preparations for a scaled down series of events on that day.

Year Group Heads

Every few years we change the year group responsibilities of the depute head teachers (DHTs). From the start of the new timetable the following DHTs will be responsible for the following year groups:

- S1 Mr Farquhar
- S2 Mrs Clyne
- S3 Ms Robertson
- S4 Ms Sinclair
- S5 Ms Munro
- S6 Mrs Elliott

Staffing Update

At the time of writing I have yet to hear about our requests for one year probationary teachers (known as NQTs). Out with the NQTs there have been a number of staffing changes for next session and I outline these below:

- **English** – Ms Kelly (Douglas Academy) and Mr Quinn (Eastwood Academy) will start with us in August.
- **Mathematics** – Ms Sutton who has been with us for nearly two years in a temporary position has secured the permanent vacancy.
- **Biology** – Ms Paterson who has been with us on a temporary basis since August secured the permanent vacancy.
- **Chemistry** – Three changes in the department to outline. Mr McDowell, who has been Acting PT Chemistry since August 2020 secured the permanent post. Mr McGinley who has been with us for two years – for a year as an NQT and latterly as a long-term temporary member of staff has secured a permanent position. The third change involves Ms McComb securing a permanent vacancy and she will join us on 7 June from St Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock.
- **Physics** – Ms Warnock, who was our NQT in 2020-21 secured the permanent vacancy.
- **HFT** – Mrs Fairman joined us in April as PT Health and Food Technology and she will be joined on 14 June by Ms Fisher (Bearsden Academy) who has secured the permanent vacancy.
- **Guidance** – Ms Carr started with us on 17 May as a Principal Teacher (Guidance) from Park Mains High School. Ms Carr will also be teaching Modern Studies in addition to her guidance duties. In August Ms Buchanan will join us as a Principal Teacher (Guidance) from Graeme High School and will also be teaching Drama as well as her guidance duties.

S1 Reports

In recognition of the challenging start that our new S1 pupils have had we have decided to issue another report for our S1 pupils. This will be issued later in June and there will be some additional follow up phone calls to parents/carers who request further information about aspects of the report that they receive.

3G Rugby Pitch

I am delighted to announce that work on our new rugby pitch has been completed. This will enable us, as an official school of rugby, to play rugby throughout the year due to the installation of new floodlighting. The pitch can accommodate junior rugby matches and will also allow year round training for senior rugby. We are very grateful to East Dunbartonshire Council for the significant investment required to bring this new resource into operation for the benefit of our PE department and, through our links with the SRU and Lenzie Rugby Club, the wider Lenzie community.

Prize Giving 2020-21

The annual Prize Giving Ceremony is traditionally one of the highlights of the school year where we invite parents/carers and wider family members to come into the school and join us in the celebration of young peoples' achievements. This covers their academic endeavours; their continued commitment and determination to succeed and also their commitment to helping others through the recognition of wider achievement.

Last year we needed to devise a new set of arrangements for our Prize Giving ceremony due to COVID and this took place in September rather than June. Unfortunately we were not allowed to have any parents/carers or wider family members in school to celebrate their youngsters successes. This year's arrangements will be similar to last year. Although we cannot be certain what the situation will be in September 2021 with regard to restrictions on schools and wider society, it is highly unlikely that we would be allowed to have a large gathering of 400+ people into the school so we are proceeding on the assumption that the pupils will attend but not wider family members. This is a huge disappointment but unfortunately will likely to be necessary.

No animals on school grounds

We would just like to remind you that no animals are permitted on school grounds with the exception of assistance dogs.

Change of Guidance group names

As many of you will be aware we have used the guidance teacher's surname as the basis for naming guidance classes. For example, Mr Curran's guidance classes would be 1CN through to 6CN. There are advantages to this approach but when a guidance teacher leaves the school and a new one starts we have to change the names across all S1-6 classes for that particular guidance group. From August we are going to link the guidance groups more to our existing 'House' system and thus the following will apply:

Fleming House (CO + MC classes)

This House is named after Alexander Fleming the biologist and pharmacologist who discovered penicillin

- **CO classes become FL1** so 1CO will now be 1FL1 and so on through to 6FL1
- **MC classes become FL2** so 1MC will now be 1FL2 and so on through to 6FL2

Inglis House (MB + WR classes)

This House is named after Elsie Inglis a leading suffragette and doctor at the time of the Great War

- **MB classes become IG1** so 1MB will now be 1IG1 and so on through to 6IG1
- **WR classes become IG2** so 1WR will now be 1IG2 and so on through to 6IG2

Mackintosh House (RA and SL classes)

This House is named after Charles Rennie Macintosh the famous Scottish architect and designer

- **RA classes become MT1** so 1RA will now be 1MT1 and so on through to 6MT1
- **SL classes become MT2** so 1SL will now be 1MT2 and so on through to 6MT1

Mackay House (CN + MH classes)

This House is named after Ailsa Mackay and economist and Scottish Government adviser on gender equality

- **CN classes become MK1** so 1CN will now become 1MK1 and so on through to 6MK1
- **MH classes become MK2** so 1MH will now become 1MK2 and so on through to 6MK2

It is recognised that this change will take some time for pupils and parents/carers to get used to but we felt the time was right to deepen some of the links into our House system and this is one additional way to do this.

School uniform

In mid-June we would normally invite Academy Uniform into school and dedicate an evening for blazer fitting for August. Parents/carers could come up and get their child fitted for a blazer and get a date for collection in August. Parents could also purchase school ties from the school on the evening so everything could be done in one evening. We are unable to do facilitate this due to COVID restrictions. As a school we recommend Academy Uniforms for blazers, though parents/carers can purchase blazers from alternative suppliers. Academy uniforms can arrange for blazers to be sent directly to your home address, though there is a delivery charge for this. Alternatively, they can deliver the blazers to the school and they can be collected from the school on a due date at no additional charge.

We are happy to sell school ties to parents/carers. The ties can be purchased over the summer from the lower school office between the hours of 09.00am and 3.00pm.

The details for Academy Uniform are as follows:

Academy Uniform
4a Rennie Place
College Milton North
East Kilbride G74 5HD
Telephone number – 01355 244879
Email – academyuniformsltd.co.uk

SUPPORTED STUDY 2021

The school's Supported Study Programme for this session finished on Thursday 13th May.

Programme 2 -which ran for 4 weeks from Monday 19th April -offered a range of subjects at N5 and H and once again, students signed up in significant numbers. Sessions were designed to offer additional support for our Senior Phase students by revising subject course content and helping students to get ready for their SQA assessments.

While many students had accessed Programme 1 which ran throughout November and December, it was good to note "new" students signing up for the more recent sessions.

EASTER SCHOOL 2021

Having had no Easter School last year, due to lockdown restrictions, it was great that students were able to come along to this year's Easter School and attend N5 and H subject sessions. Of course, we did have to make appropriate adaptations which meant utilising both the social area and the assembly hall, to maintain 2m social distance, for busy sessions.

Feedback from students for both Supported Study and Easter School has been very positive.

We were delighted to be able to offer Supported Study and Easter School this year and grateful to staff who volunteered to provide them.

Updates from our PEF PTs

The Scottish Government has allocated additional money to schools aimed at trying to close the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged youngsters. Further details about how we have invested this money will be issued in August. In the meantime I have asked our PEF PTs to outline some of the work they have been doing over the past year or so. These updates are outlined below.

Skills for Learning, Life and Work (Mr Ortiz)

Throughout lockdown and since returning to school, S1 and S2 pupils have been taking part in a “Skills for Learning, Life and Work” course. The course, utilising many resources from our partners at Skills Development Scotland, is designed to encourage our young pupils to consider the many skills they are developing across the school and link these to future careers. The course has helped pupils to recognise and celebrate their own strengths and skills, relating these to the skills that will become increasingly more important in a future workplace. They have also been thinking about their own prospective career pathways and the related subjects that can help them to develop key skills.

We continue to promote the Skills for Learning, Life and Work around the school and are constantly striving to help our young pupils recognise and discuss their skills development, whether that be in class or during extra-curricular activities, this awareness is very important for the development of their career management skills.

All Lenzie Academy pupils have been encouraged to sign-up for the excellent My World of Work, Scotland’s career information and advice service. The new homework diaries for our S1 will have information on MyWoW and include a space for pupils to record their login details. As well as being packed full of information on the many pathways beyond school, the service helps pupils to build a skills profile, pick subjects, access the job market, write a C.V and much more!

To help S1 and S2 pupil’s sign-up, My World of Work drop-in registration events are currently being held in the school library.



PEF - Attainment (Mr Southcott)

Before COVID my role was to review the school data and to highlight any pupils who might require additional help, to achieve their best. When COVID hit, my focus moved to looking at reviewing the school data to looking at the data related to what pupils were missing from the online learning. This allowed our management and guidance staff to see what pupils were missing from certain subjects. Using this list, the other PEF PTs and myself helped with phoning the parents of the pupils on the list to see what barriers there might be in place, that prevented them from engaging in online learning.

Moving forward I will be going back to focusing on our pupil attainment data. This will be important, as it will allow us to support our pupils whose learning might have been impacted by lockdown. I will be also working with departments to review our literacy and numeracy knowledge. The aim will be to further improve the consistency of our marking and teaching of literacy and numeracy across the school.

Equity (Mr Cameron)

Devices

EDC has utilised COVID-19 funding from the Scottish Government to provide chromebooks and/or data to low income families in an effort to bridge the digital divide and combat data poverty. Between June 2020 and March 2021, 84 pupils at Lenzie Academy have benefitted from this so far to help them access online learning materials (through MS Teams and other digital tools) at home.

Wellbeing

Pupil wellbeing following lockdown is of paramount concern to the school. As such, tailored COVID-19 wellbeing questionnaires are completed by all pupils to gauge how they are feeling on their return to school. The questions follow SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible & Included), key elements of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). We can then identify individual pupils for interventions and recurring themes across the school to address in light of the impact of lockdown on our pupils.

Metacognition (Mr McGovern)

In a newsletter earlier this year your attention was drawn to the extensive Retrieval Practice programme that ran very successfully in the school this year despite Covid restrictions. It has been fantastic to see so many teachers and pupils utilising Retrieval Practice as they prepared for classroom assessments in recent weeks.

The Retrieval Practice focus is part of a larger Metacognition programme in the school that is being championed by the Learning & Teaching committee. We are now in the process of introducing the next focus, "Making Thinking Visible." The aim of this initiative is to equip pupils to clearly and confidently articulate their thought processes as they work through classroom tasks and assessments. Staff are undergoing in-person and online training in June and August and pupils will begin to utilise the new skills in August and September.

Due to a large number of staff generously volunteering their time it has also been possible to keep LA Launch (an after-school space for learning, revision and homework) running three days a week while maintaining social distancing to support all our learners.

The Learning and Teaching committee are looking forward to the next session as we introduce "Making Thinking Visible" and develop and deliver our established programmes such as introducing memory and study skills to our incoming first year cohort.



S2 Numeracy Workshops

To help address learning loss in Maths, the S2 year group are being provided with additional Maths Workshops during their elective time. The pupils are being put into classes of 15 so that they can receive more teacher time and ask for help with any problems that they are having. Every second year pupil will have two Maths workshops between the 10th of May and the 11th of June.

Handwritten mathematical calculations on paper:

- (I) $30 \times \frac{2}{3} = 12$
- (II) $\frac{3}{10} \times 30 = 9 + 12 = 21$
- $30 - 21 = 9$
- $11 \overline{)330}$
- $30 \times 9 = £270$
- $\frac{65}{20} \Rightarrow 3 \frac{5}{20} \Rightarrow 3 \frac{1}{4}$
- $\frac{9}{25} = \frac{18}{50} = \frac{27}{75}$

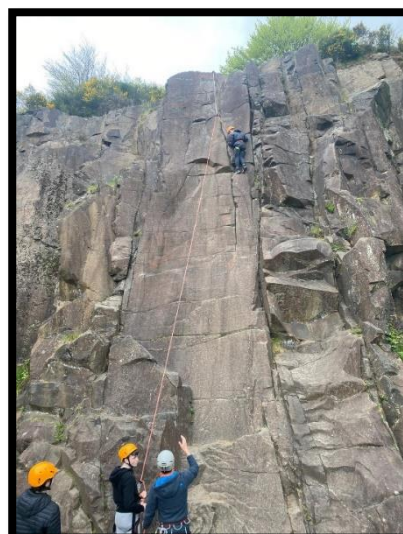
Stop the press!



Mrs Templeton's S2 English class (2C) held a mock press conference following the latest shocking revelations in Professor Benjamin Zephaniah's thrilling novel, 'Teacher's Dead'. Pupils took on the roles of reporters, characters and members of the press in order to get to the bottom of this complex case. A special mention goes to Ria, Darrach, Jess and Caiden for their outstanding performances - well done! They even got the seal of approval from the author himself.

Outdoor Education

The return of the Outdoor Education returned this month in partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College who invited the group to take part in rock climbing and abseiling at Auchinstarry Quarry. The group were put through some vigorous safety exercises before tackling the Quarry. All boys who took part demonstrated great leadership qualities and communications skills to help one and other up and down the quarry.



Association for Character Education Scotland

Pupils in S3 'Core' RMPS have received some recognition from the Association for Character Education Scotland, for their 'Inspiring Purpose: Sustainable Futures' posters that they created during lock-down as part of their RMPS remote learning. This national competition for best poster will be announced at the end of June. Fingers crossed for our pupils who have entered!



Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

S3 pupils in RMPS are currently working in collaboration with the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative to research social issues and support local charities. Teams of pupils are competing to win £3000 for a charity of their choice by producing the best campaign they can for their chosen initiative. This also contributes toward achieving the Religion, Beliefs and Values Award, and a 'Challenge' level Saltire award. We are proud of what pupils in the RMPS department can aim to achieve in only one period a week!

Scotland team named for the Loughborough International



We were delighted to learn that Brodie (S6) was selected by British Athletics for GB Juniors and NI to compete in the Scottish U20 4 x 400m relay team at the Loughborough International on Sunday 23 May. The 4 x 400m relay team took second place and the British U20 team finished third overall. Congratulations.

Issues/concerns

A reminder that should any parent / carer have an issue or concern regarding their children, the first point of contact is your child's guidance teacher. They can be contacted via the office email – office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk or you can phone the office (0141 955 2379) and leave a message. The guidance teacher will get back to you in due course. Details of your child's guidance staff are outlined below:

- Miss Cannon (CO classes)(New FL1)
- Mr Curran (CN classes)(New MK1)
- Ms Carr (MH classes)(New MK2)
- Mrs McNab (MB classes)(New IG1)
- Mrs McClure (MC classes)(New FL2)
- Mrs Rae (RA classes)(New MT1)
- Mrs Sutherland (SL classes)(New MT2)
- Ms Wright (WR classes)(New IG2)

And finally ...

On behalf of all staff within the school, we hope you have a wonderful summer break, when it comes. Hopefully, the Delta variant is brought under greater control and society can open up again and when we return in August the school is able to operate on what is recognisable as approaching normal service.