

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023 as we look back and reflect on events across December 2022. I hope everyone had a peaceful and relaxing winter break, especially our S4-6 pupils as 2023 will be a very important year for them with assessments in January for S4 and in February for S5/6 in preparation for the SQA examination diet in May.

The month of December is usually characterised by attendance at various concerts and school dances. Happily, this was the case in December 2022. The East Dunbartonshire Christmas concert took place on Monday 5 December in the Glasgow Concert Hall and was once again a lovely way to start the Christmas season. Our school was very well represented with 14 pupils playing in the concert. They all did very well indeed.

From my perspective as head teacher of Lenzie Academy, whilst I really enjoy the EDC Christmas Concert, I can't deny that I take more pride in the performance of our own pupils who participate in the Lenzie Academy Christmas Concert, which took place on Monday 12 December. This year the concert took place in Lenzie Parish Church and was a triumph. Further details are outlined within this newsletter.

On 13 December we had nearly 200 S1/2 pupils enjoy putting the ceilidh skills learnt in PE to good practice at their Christmas Dance and a great evening was had by all who attended. Similarly about 200 of our S5/6 enjoyed their dance on Tuesday 20 December. Staff turnout for both events was very high and everyone enjoyed the dances. Unfortunately we had very poor ticket sales for our S3/4 dance and had to cancel the event, which was very disappointing. In PE the pupils engaged well with social dancing but hardly any purchased a ticket for the event. We will seek to find out the reason(s) for this as this is a very rare event and indeed the first cancellation of a dance in more than 12 years.

In December we had a visitation from East Dunbartonshire Council for their annual attainment review. This was a very positive and constructive meeting and I am pleased to report that our attainment profile remains very strong. EDC have changed the focus of their annual visit and the school has no concerns with the slight change of focus.

In schools our primary purpose is to provide first class learning and teaching leading to strong academic attainment for all our pupils. If this was the only focus for schools young peoples' experiences would be quite a sterile one. As a school we have a wide array of extra-curricular activities and clubs across every day of the week and we have engaged in various school visits to support the curriculum as well as getting numerous guest speakers to come in and share their experiences with our pupils. This allied to a wealth of planned trips across the UK and beyond our shores enhances and enriches our young peoples' experiences. We also make it a key element in the formation of the development of a young person's character to get actively involved in helping others. As we do in every newsletter we outline examples of this and we remain very proud of the commitment of many of our pupils to helping others.

In this newsletter there will be information on:

1. [Maxwell Cay.](#)
2. [David Sutherland.](#)
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5. [Our N5 Retail led Christmas Fayre.](#)
6. [Updates related to PEF and pupil wellbeing.](#)
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## Maxwell Cay

Many of you may already be aware but on 10 December one of our S5 pupils, Maxwell Cay, passed away after a prolonged spell in hospital. Maxwell was a very bright and adventurous pupil who achieved very well in his S4 examinations and would have done likewise in his S5 examinations. Maxwell's funeral was attended by myself, Maxwell's guidance teacher Mr Curran, his year head Miss Munro, Mrs Clyne DHT for S2 as well as other staff and our school captains. It was heartening to see so many of Maxwell's friends and peers from school also attend the funeral service led by Rev Carmichael. The focus of the service was on how Maxwell lived a very full life and was keen to take on new and various challenges.

Some of Maxwell's friends held a guard of honour for him as his family left the church and I know that Maxwell's family were touched by both the huge turnout at his funeral and the guard of honour held by his close friends.

As a school we will be consulting with Maxwell's friends and family about how we commemorate his life as a pupil with us. For information, a just giving page has been extended as the family want to donate as much as they can to the British Heart Foundation. The details to access this should you wish to do so are - [Maxwell Cay \(bhf.org.uk\)](https://www.bhf.org.uk)

## David Sutherland

A couple of weeks ago the school was contacted by a fellow pupil of David Sutherland to inform us that he was an ex-pupil of the school and had been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to illustration. David had worked for many year in DC Thomson and had been heavily involved in many iconic comic strips such as 'Denis the Menace' and the 'Bash Street Kids'. Alas, David did not get much time to enjoy his honour as he sadly passed away last week, aged 89.

## UCAS update

We have processed and sent 119 applications to UCAS across December for a wide variety of courses ranging from Physics, Criminology, History, Primary Teaching, Music, Spanish, Business, Quantity Surveying, Biochemistry, Archaeology, Civil Engineering, Economics, Philosophy, various engineering courses – Civil, Mechanical, Electronic, Aeronautical – Occupational Therapy, Law, Psychology, Accountancy, Computing Science, Geography, Zoology, Mathematics, Optometry, Nursing, International Tourism, Physiotherapy and much more besides. Every year it is always very interesting to see what courses and career paths are being pursued by our pupils.

It is encouraging that our pupils are entering such a wide and varied array of courses. Many have already had unconditional offers and we hope their motivation to succeed remains regardless of this. Many have conditionals and this in and of itself will act as motivation for them to work hard to gain entry to their preferred course at their preferred university.

## Christmas Concert

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Lenzie Academy held its annual Christmas Concert at Lenzie Old Parish Church. The audience enjoyed a varied programme of music played and sung by the String Group, Ceilidh Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Band, Junior Choir and Senior Choir. The evening finished off with a sing a long of 'Do they Know it's Christmas', performed by all pupils involved which left everyone feeling in the Christmas spirit! Being the first concert in three years made the evening even more special and really showcased all of the pupils' hard work and talent!

Thank you to Lenzie Old Parish Church for their accommodation/support (and providing the mince pies which were enjoyed at the end of the concert!) and the School Captains for their brilliant compering! Thank you also to the music department for all of their work and the Lenzie Academy staff who attended and supervised on the night. Another big well done to all involved!



## National 5 Retail Christmas Fayre

On Friday 2 December 2022 the National 5 Retail pupils hosted a Christmas Fayre. Pupils and the staff were invited to the S6 Bridge during interval and lunch, to raise money for charity. Each group researched different charities to donate to, we presented this to the rest of the class and we had a class vote. The charity we chose was: Pathfinder Dogs. This is a charity which raises and trains German Shepherds as guides to blind people in the UK. The pupils from both classes worked very hard to produce a variety of different Christmas themed products such as Christmas mugs, baubles, Grinch sweet cones and reindeer hot chocolate. The classes were also responsible for designing promotional materials and decorations to ensure the event was well attended.



In the weeks leading up to the event the pupils from both classes worked hard in their teams in order to get all the products ready on time. They made excellent use of their ICT skills and demonstrated a great deal of initiative. The event was a hugely popular with staff and pupils. In total £280 was raised for Pathfinder Dogs. We would like to thank everyone who purchased one of our products and helped make the event a great success.



## PEF – Wellbeing

### New initiatives/information

We continue to work on additional ways in which we can offer supports to pupils. Our school canteen will now offer a daily breakfast service which will be open to all pupils and staff. Pupils can purchase cereal, toast and juice. This is a safe, warm, comfortable space where pupils and staff can gather in the morning and purchase something to eat.

Within the school, we now have the facility to refer families in need of food support to EDC Foodbanks. EDC Foodbanks have facilities across East Dunbartonshire and provide families with food and household items, including fresh fruit and vegetables when available. If you are in need of any food support, please contact your child's Guidance Teacher in the first instance in order to start the referral process.

Information has been issued to all pupils in PSE and at assemblies regarding the Free Bus Travel Pass provided by the Scottish Government for all young people under age 22. We are encouraging all pupils to apply for this pass as it allows them to travel on all public transport buses in Scotland free of charge. For those under the age of 16, parents/guardians must apply for this pass, those over the age of 16 can apply themselves. Any pupil over the age of 16 should speak to their Guidance Teacher or Miss Provan if they need any support completing this application. The application and more information can be found online - <https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel>

All pupils complete a Wellbeing Questionnaire every year. S1-S3 have now completed this. S4-S6 pupils will complete this over the next few weeks. This gives us an insight into pupil wellbeing in the school and informs pupil wellbeing groups run by the Support for Pupils department.

If you'd like more information on PEF or SIMD, please see the relevant section of the school website - <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/pupil-equity/> or contact Miss Provan – [lprovan@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:lprovan@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)



## Higher Art & Design and Higher Photography Exhibition

The annual Advanced Higher Art and Design and Higher Photography online exhibition is now live. This can be accessed through the school Twitter page or by clicking on the link below. The work showcases a small glimpse of each Advanced Highers' and Photographers' folio of work build over the 2021-22 school year. We hope you all enjoy the amazing creative imagery you see!

<https://d7mntklkfre1v.cloudfront.net/virtual-exhibitions/?i=3418>

## Teenage Treats

Thank you to everyone for their very generous and kind donations again this year! There was actually more than pictured below that was donated after the deadline - which has now been dropped off. We split all donations between GN1BFS charity who help families in Glasgow and our local Foodbank and Women's Aid, each of whom were overwhelmed by the generosity of Lenzie Academy community. These donations will make a huge difference and enable the holidays to be that bit more special for many, so thank you very much indeed!

Two S5 pupils were involved in this this year - Francesca and Rose J - 5MT1. Whilst they are currently working towards Duke of Edinburgh, this project -collecting for GN1BFS was from an entirely humanitarian point of view which is thoroughly commendable. Both girls worked hard to advertise the collection and arranged for their charity to collect items donated so a big well done to them. A huge thank you to all staff and parents for making this such a success despite a very challenging year.



## Sporting News

I am delighted to inform you that Olivia M 4IG2 has been successful in gaining a position on Sport Scotland Young Peoples Sport Panel.

This is a fantastic achievement with hundreds applying and only 20 finally being selected after an interview process.

YPSP role is to help influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland and to raise the profile of sport.

Well done Olivia!

## Science Club

The Science Club runs on Wednesday lunch time in Lab S4 for BGE, and Chemistry supported study will be available soon for Senior Phase pupils.

## Eco-club

Eco-club is a club where we learn about eco-friendly things and make projects which can help the school's environments. Eco-club chooses eco-friendly objects, also recycles spare things to turn into projects and much more. In eco-club, pupils try their best to make the projects as fantastic as possible. Recently pupils made an eco-friendly bin for all subject bases. The pupils completed a poster for the front of the box to tell staff what can and can't be recycled. According to us, eco-club is great and all pupils enjoy it very much.

Leven, Matthieu, Callum & Kyle (S1).



Lenzie Academy House Points 2022/23

