

Welcome to the February newsletter.

February is a very busy time in schools. We are finishing off SQA courses with our Senior Phase pupils and our S5/6 had their final assessment block prior to their SQA exams. We have the start of various practical based projects such as Music practical exams and Modern Languages orals.

February is also a time when we start to prepare for the following academic session. There are important course choice events for S2 pupils who reduce their curriculum and opt for nine subjects in S3. Our S3 pupils select their National Qualifications for S4 and decide whether to opt for two-year pathways towards H Grade or one year pathways towards National 4 or National 5 or some combination of one and two year pathways. A small number of S4 pupils re-select if they have one- year pathways whilst all S5 pupils select their S6 academic programme. These decisions, based upon the content of reports and a variety of other factors such as possible future careers aspirations are very important ones. Our guidance staff interview all pupils regarding their course choice and discuss matters in detail. Pupils and parents/carers can also access the careers service for advice if required. Based upon the course choice returns we start to devise our school timetable for 2023-24.

The timetable must have appropriate staffing and so the school engages with East Dunbartonshire Council over our staffing requirements for the next academic year and this is an ongoing process through until May 2023.

Every year we have a number of probationary teachers (NQTs) who join us for the year and February is when they can start to apply for positions in other schools. We support them throughout the session in various ways and I always run a couple of sessions to inform the NQTs about the application process for posts within EDC and other schools across the country and another session on how to prepare for interviews.

In the S5/6 Assessment Block, most pupils have done well. There are areas where some need to improve of course and we still have time for comprehensive revision within classes. We operate a double period study block on a Tuesday afternoon where pupils can opt for general private study or subject specific study, where we can timetable this. In addition, we are offering after school supported study in most subject areas for S4-6 students and we will offer an Easter school programme too.

We had two parental consultation meetings in February. Our S1 parents meeting had an 87% turnout rate, whilst our S3 parents meeting had a 78% attendance rate. In both cases, all parents / carers were delighted to be able to come into school and engage with their children's teachers once again. Over the past year, we have asked parents / carers whether face-to-face meetings or virtual meetings would be preferred and about 90% of parents/carers across all year groups prefer the face-to-face meetings so we will continue with this approach going forward.

One final issue to bring to your attention before you enjoy the content of the February newsletter relates to the issues that all secondary schools seem to be facing now. This relates to young people using vapes. You may be aware that a recent investigation by Trading Standards has shown that many vapes have content considered dangerous and there has been a surge in illicit sales by specialist shops and convenience stores. In North East of England, Trading Standards officers seized 1.4 tonnes of illegal vapes in a six-month period from July to December 2022. It is a significant and ongoing concern for society more widely but schools in particular. As a school, we have been pro-active on this issue and amended our PSE programme to cover this issue with all year groups and provide the pupils with the facts. We have attached below a useful link from a New Zealand parental website, although the law on vaping is for NZ it is a very informative site to help you as parents / carers to engage meaningfully with your children on this issue:

<https://vapingfacts.health.nz/vapefree-schools/>

The content of this newsletter demonstrates the positive contribution that many of our pupils make to others within the school and more widely across their communities. They are a credit to their school community and we are very proud of them for the work that they do.

I hope you enjoy the content of the February newsletter.

In this edition

1. [The official opening of Cafe La'tte.](#)
2. [Columba 1400 Leadership Academy.](#)
3. [Wider Achievements in the Senior Phase.](#)
4. [Fairtrade Fortnight.](#)
5. [National Reading Champions.](#)
6. [Geography Field Trip.](#)
7. [PTA](#)
8. [PEF / Wellbeing update](#)
9. [Pupil Equity and Financial Support for Families.](#)

Café LA'tte



Lenzie Academy's very own coffee shop opened with a bang on Friday 10 February. It has been a long time coming and a very lengthy process to finally get the café up and running. There was a multitude of activities pupils and staff got involved in over the course of the week in the lead up to the launch day. These ranged from, coffee pong, coffee bean and spoon race, wordle challenges, coffee-related quizzes, coffee-themed t-shirt challenges and to end the day we had a balloon drop with prizes for S1. Everyone was hyped up for the new café opening by the end of the week, which was piped in by our very own Flynn Porter and the ribbon cutting by our two school Captains, Ramsay and Saharish, featuring their PJ's. Well done to all the pupils and staff for getting involved in all of the activities and well done to Inglis House, who managed to score the most house points.

Thank you to the DYW Sub Committee for all of your help with the launch of the café and the ongoing supervision and contributions you will be involved in now it is open.



The café is situated at the back of the Social Area and will be open to pupils and staff from 8-8.40am in the morning and at lunchtimes. We hope to have it open during evening events, where parents, pupils and visitors will be able to come along and get involved in our new coffee craze. The café will be primarily run by our National 5 Retail classes to allow them to gain work experience as part of their qualification, however, there will also be further opportunities for pupils to become involved in this new venture. We have also been looking into the possibility of running a National 5 Barista course alongside this.

S1-S3 will only be allowed to purchase Decaf or Hot Chocolate. We will be continuing to add more to our menu as we get on our feet. Please look out for these updates on our Café's Instagram: [@cafelattelenzie](https://www.instagram.com/cafelattelenzie)



Columbia 1400

On Tuesday 21 February, our Columbia 1400 group visited Lenzie Old Parish Church to assist at a dementia friendly singing group. The pupils demonstrated incredible compassion as they sang songs, drank cups of tea and had conversations with elderly members of our community.

Alexander (S3) was delighted he got to speak to a lady called Ivy who has just celebrated her 90th birthday. Dylan (S2) sang his heart out to "Mamma Mia!"

We also met Mrs Seggie - a former Lenzie Academy music teacher who retired 17 years ago but hasn't forgotten her roots and played every tune perfectly on the piano.

The pupils were a credit to our school, they were conscientious, kind and not only found this experience extremely rewarding but also inspiring. The same group of pupils will now be organising similar events at Lenzie Academy in a few weeks' time.



Pupils involved today were: Alexander McC, Brayan T, Dylan B, Isabella S, Kyle C, Lucy H, Oliver O'N, Peace S, Rosie Mcl, Zander T



Wider Achievement in the Senior Phase



A number of pupils in S4 began their Youth Achievement award journey during Study leave by focussing on the “Challenge” - Developing my skills in learning life and work. They individually identified personal targets which they then worked on in school with Caroline Shirreffs our youth development worker, Mrs Davidson the PT of Wider Achievement and Ms Byres the PT of Developing the Young Workforce and independently at home. Once they have achieved the 31-hour award they will have the option to progress onto the two challenges of the Bronze Youth Achievement Award (SCQF level 4). There will be further opportunities to work on these challenges in May.

A group of experienced volunteers in S6 are piloting the Silver Youth Achievement Award (SCQF5) this year to give them a chance of further accreditation for their volunteering activity. They are required to identify four Challenges in which they have taken some responsibility and will have to spend 90 hours in total activity. This group is already on the ascent part of their Saltire Awards having volunteered for more than 50 hours in previous years.



A group of S5 pupils have begun their Platinum Youth Achievement Award in January having all turned 16 prior to this. The Platinum Award is a SCQF level 7 and requires five distinct and complex challenges. These are to complete a Personal Development Plan (detailing their prior knowledge and skills, their short- and long-term goals and identifying their targets for personal development as leaders of other young people), 30 hours of training, 60 hours of placement, evaluation and a presentation in front of an invited audience. All the S5 pupils are already involved in leadership roles in the Lenzie community whether in Sports coaching or Uniformed organisations and are also on the ascent part of their Saltire Awards.

All senior phase pupils have been asked to complete a form to identify where they are volunteering in school or the wider community in their year team in order for LACE (Lenzie Academy Community Engagement) to organise Saltire Award certificates. These can be for 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 or 500 hours. Those pupils who have achieved over 200 hours can apply to be nominated for a Saltire Summit Award by LACE if they contact Mrs Davidson.



There will be a Celebration of Character on the evening of 24th August 2023 where any pupil who has gained a wider achievement award can have it officially presented to them by a mystery celebrity guest. Families will be invited towards the end of this session.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

27th February - 12th March



What is Fairtrade?

- Fairtrade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient
- For farmers and workers, Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay
- For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products

Why is Lenzie a Fairtrade Town?

- Lenzie was named a Fairtrade Town for its work in ensuring that those in developing countries are paid a fair price for their products.
- Lenzie achieved this through raising awareness, supporting worker rights, showing its dedication to change and inspiring other communities to make a difference.
- It is also in keeping with the Fairtrade Zone that was awarded to the wider area of East Dunbartonshire in 2007.

Fairtrade Coffee

- Around 125 million people worldwide are dependent on our coffee consumption
- People tend to want quality but prefer cheaper products; Fairtrade offers both
- Fairtrade supports farmers and takes care of the environment
- Coffee is an unstable industry due to its reliance on climate and healthy crops without pests and diseases
- By 2050, around 50% of the world's land used for coffee crops will no longer be suitable
- Fairtrade's motto is : *Whatever your budget and wherever you shop*



What is Fairtrade Fortnight?

- Fairtrade fortnight is a two-week period that takes place at the end of February/start of March every year to raise awareness of fairtrade.
- This year Fairtrade Fortnight took place between 27th February - 12th March

What happens in Fairtrade fortnight?

- As a school we have traditionally run a variety of activities to raise awareness of Fairtrade fortnight
- These have included:
 - A Fairtrade bake off
 - A Fairtrade bake sale
 - A poster competition

Fairtrade @ 'Café Latte'

- This year the school has built a new café and we have discussed using fairtrade coffee, tea and other products
- The funds that we fundraise are put towards paying for them. And we are hoping to increase the amount of fairtrade products across the school
- We would like to promote Fair Trade through our café



What you can do to show support for Fairtrade?

- Look for the Fairtrade symbol when buying chocolate, coffee, tea, flowers, spices, clothes and other products
- Join the Fairtrade committee at Lenzie Academy – we meet on Monday lunchtimes in B4
- Support Fairtrade shops and cafes in Lenzie (e.g. Co-op, Billingtons etc)

National Reading Champions Competition

This month, four S1 pupils took part in annual National Reading Champions Competition 2023. After some great teamwork and some tricky questions, our Lenzie Academy team came in fifth place in the West Coast of Scotland heat. The quiz was challenging and great fun!



Geography Trip

On Friday 17th and Wednesday 22nd February S3 Geography pupils went on a trip around Glasgow to conduct field research. We travelled by coach to 3 different locations around Glasgow visiting the City Centre, Gorbals and Bishopbriggs. Pupils have completed their urban topic in class where they have learned all about the development of a city and how to recognise urban areas so completed a variety of different field techniques in each area to consolidate their learning, including traffic counts; pedestrian counts; and land-use surveys. Following this trip, S3 pupils have been working hard in class to complete their own urban investigation by processing their data from the trip into a variety of graphs and analysing their results to combine all their learning into a final poster.

"It was a fun day... especially lunch at Silverburn!"

PTA – News

The PTA are having their next meeting on **Tuesday 28 March from 6.30 – 8.00pm**. This will be held in Lenzie Academy in the Wellbeing Hub. As we are getting closer to the end of term, some members have children who will be leaving Lenzie Academy and therefore the members will be stepping down from the PTA. The PTA fundraise to benefit all pupils in Lenzie Academy through the purchase of various items that support staff and pupils.

We are always welcoming of new members, so please consider joining. We meet monthly to discuss how to raise money and how to spend it. It is good fun and we are a friendly bunch & everyone is welcome. Please get in touch to find out more by sending an email to us at lenzieacademypta@gmail.com or PM us on Facebook at Lenzie Academy PTA - FOLA

New Members Needed!

**Lenzie Academy
PTA Meeting
Tues 28th March
6.30-8PM
At Lenzie
Academy**

The next Lenzie Academy PTA Meeting is on Tuesday, 28th March, 6.30-8pm at the school in the Wellbeing Hub. There are a few members stepping down from the PTA, therefore, **WE URGENTLY NEED NEW PTA MEMBERS**. Please join us & help raise much needed money for all our children at Lenzie Academy. Everyone is welcome. Really looking forward to seeing you all then. Thank you.
Lenzie Academy PTA

PTA Contact Details
Website - <https://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/>
Facebook - Lenzie Academy PTA
Email - lenzieacademypta@gmail.com
Twitter - @PTA_LenzieAcad

PEF – Wellbeing

New initiatives/information

We continue to work on additional ways in which we can offer supports to pupils.

Parental surveys will be group called out to all parents and pupil surveys posted to all year group Teams pages on Monday 20th March. This survey aims to gather your views on how successfully we are tackling pupil equity, including the financial costs associated with school and to consult with you on how we can better support the financial wellbeing of our families. Please encourage your child to complete this survey as this will also help us to understand the pupil perspective and consider ways in which we can better support our pupils. All responses will inform our practice going forward. The deadline for returning both the parental and pupil surveys is Monday 27th March.

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. All year groups have now completed this. The questionnaire gives us an insight into pupil wellbeing in the school and informs pupil wellbeing groups run by the Support for Pupils department.

Pupil Equity Funding Background

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding from the Scottish Government allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the attainment gap. This funding aims to ensure that all young people have equal access to educational opportunities. Funding can be used at the discretion of the school to provide targeted support for young people within the Broad General Education (S1-S3) who are living in SIMD areas 1-4.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a tool the Scottish Government use to identify the geographical areas in Scotland where people are most likely to experience disadvantage across different aspects of their lives including income, employment, health, education, access to services,

crime and housing. It is important to note that SIMD ranking is based on geographical postcode and thus identifies deprived areas, not people.

Lenzie Academy has used some of this additional funding to purchase uniform items, stationery/organisational materials and hygiene products. There is a QR code outside of the upper and lower offices in the school. Pupils can scan this code and it will take them to a Microsoft Form that they can complete if they require any of these materials. Alternatively, pupils can request this support directly from their Guidance Teacher. Materials will then be issued discreetly to pupils where appropriate. Whilst these materials are primarily there for S1-S3 pupils living in SIMD areas 1-4, we appreciate the current economic climate is challenging for many families. Your child should speak to their Guidance Teacher in the first instance if any additional supports are required and we will try to accommodate this where possible. Parents can also make contact with the Guidance teacher to discuss potential supports.

Applications for Free School Meals & School Clothing Grants

Applications for Free School Meals & School Clothing Grants for academic year 2022-23 are now open. East Dunbartonshire Council has been allocated additional monies from the Scottish Government which means they have been able to double the School Clothing Grant to £300 per eligible secondary school child. This increase is aimed at helping families cope with the current cost of living increase and will be applicable only for the current academic year. Please note, the application form can be completed and submitted at any point throughout the academic year. The application form can be found on the East Dunbartonshire Council website or by clicking the following link: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Please see our school website or the following link to access a support guide which talks you through the application form: <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/14552/cost-of-the-school-day-fsm-and-clothing-grant-application-support.pdf>

We have previously issued out our Pupil Equity and Financial Supports for Families guide, which included information about where families can access additional financial support. We have included this again in this newsletter as the cost of living crisis continues.

Request for application support

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

Pupil Equity and Financial Support for Families

In Lenzie Academy, we are wholly committed to supporting our pupils and the wider school community. This is 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 remain tough for many, even as we approach the spring.

Within the school, we have a range of resource items available to pupils. These items include school uniforms, revision materials and hygiene products. Pupils should complete the Glow form using the QR code outside the upper and lower offices to request any items that are needed, or speak to their

Guidance Teacher. Additionally, we are now registered as a referral agency with East Dunbartonshire Foodbanks. If you are in need of food support, please contact your child's Guidance Teacher and we can arrange for you to be referred to your local food bank.

The links below provide information on financial supports available to families that may be of value.

The East Dunbartonshire Income Maximisation Service is available to all East Dunbartonshire residents and provides free confidential advice if you are experiencing any financial worries or hardships -

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/services-adults-and-older-people/income-maximisation-service#:~:text=The%20East%20Dunbartonshire%20Income%20Maximisation,any%20financial%20worries%20or%20hardships>

School Clothing Grant and Free School Meals (FSM) – <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

You will find additional support information to help with your application on our school website -

<http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/14552/cost-of-the-school-day-fsm-and-clothing-grant-application-support.pdf>

Pupils eligible for a School Clothing Grant will receive a payment of £150 to help with the cost of uniform. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will be given a daily allowance (enough to purchase one full meal at lunchtime).

Applications for the 2022/23 school year should open during July.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/education-maintenance-allowance#:~:text=The%20scheme%20is%20part%20of,achieved%20100%25%20attendance%20per%20week>

Scottish Child Payment – <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment>

Scottish Child Payment is a weekly payment of £20 made to families on low incomes in Scotland who have children under 6 years of age. This can help towards the cost of supporting your family to be spent however you see fit.

Scottish Welfare Fund – <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund>

The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes with living costs. Support can be provided in the format of a crisis grant, self-isolation support grant or community care grant. You must be 16 or over and on a low income, or getting certain benefits, to apply for these grants.

Child Disability Payment – <https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>

Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. You can also apply for Child Disability Payment if the disabled child does not have a diagnosis. This payment will be paid until the child is 18. The amount of the payment can vary dependent on circumstances. The rate of payment made is dependent on the level of need of the child.

Child Winter Heating Assistance – <https://www.mygov.scot/child-winter-heating-assistance>

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced by the Scottish Government. It is a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over the winter if they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. It is paid once a year, usually from the end of November onwards. The payment for winter 2022-23 is £214.10.

Cold Weather Payment – <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>

Cold Weather Payments will be made when the temperature in your area is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days. You must be in receipt of certain benefits to be eligible for a cold weather payment. You'll receive £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/benefits/discretionary-housing-payment>

DHP can help if your rent isn't covered by your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. DHP awards reflect the individual circumstances of each claimant and the amount of funds available at the time of the application.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – <https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance>

ESA is a benefit for adults whose ability to work is limited through ill health or disability. You can apply if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed. ESA awards vary dependent on whether the claimant is able to get back into work in the future or not.

Carer's Allowance – <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

Carer's Allowance is a benefit paid to people who spend at least 35 hours per week caring for someone – the person you care for must be in receipt of certain benefits for you to qualify for entitlement. Carer's Allowance is paid at a rate of £69.70 a week.

Carer's Allowance Supplement – <https://www.mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement>

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who are in receipt of Carer's Allowance at certain times of the year. The next round of payment is £245.70 in December 2022 – you'll be entitled to this payment if you are in receipt of Carer's Allowance on 10 October 2022.

Young Carer Grant – <https://www.mygov.scot/young-carer-grant>

Young Carer Grant is available to young people aged 16-18 who have been caring for 1, 2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours a week for at least the last 3 months. Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £326.65.

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods – <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods>

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the cost of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments: pregnancy and baby payment, early learning payment and school age payment. Best Start Food is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.

Independent Living Fund Scotland Transition – <https://www.mygov.scot/independent-living-fund>

Young people aged 15-25 with a disability or impairment can apply to the Transition Fund for money to help them take part in a new activity or learn a new skill. The most amount of money you can apply for is £4,000.

Job Start Payment – <https://www.mygov.scot/job-start-payment>

Job Start Payments help with the costs of starting a new job. Young people or care leavers who have been out of work and/or in receipt of certain benefits. If your application is successful you'll get £267.65, or a higher payment of £428.25 if you're the main carer of any children.

Cost of Living Support (East Dunbartonshire Council) –<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/cost-living/cost-living-support>

EDC have recently announced a £2.1million package of support, designed to help those most in need. Within this support package, there is a Winter Support Payment of £200, energy vouchers for council tenants, additional funding for the local Foodbank and Citizen's Advice Bureau and funding for a programme of free gym and swim access for school pupils between November 2022 and March 2023. Please visit the link above for more information about supports that may be relevant for you and for application forms.

Free Bus Travel Pass <https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel>

The Scottish Government now provide a free bus travel pass to all young people in Scotland under the age of 22. This pass allows young people 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