

Welcome to the September newsletter.

The school is most definitely in full swing and our S1 pupils have now fully integrated themselves as active and enthusiastic members of our school community. As has been mentioned in the August newsletter we have 68 extra-curricular activities on offer in the school this year and our pupils have signed up in their droves, especially our new S1 pupils.

As always there is a lot going on across the school and the contents of this newsletter are merely a taste of the wide variety of activities and events that take place every week within the school. I hope you enjoy the contents within this latest newsletter.

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EDC Quality Visit

On 30 October we will be undergoing a four day visit to evaluate the work going on within the school. This visit will entail a team of eight people who will come in and work with us to look at good practice and when required suggest some pointers for the school to review. The team will consist of three officers from East Dunbartonshire Council, two HTs from other EDC secondary schools and three Depute Head Teachers from other EDC secondary schools. During their visit the team will engage in a wide range of class visits; they will conduct focus groups with pupils across all year groups and with staff at all levels within the school and review school documentation on various aspects of our work. We are very much looking forward to the visit as we feel we have a very good story to tell our colleagues and high quality learning and teaching for them to observe.

As part of the Quality Visit process there will be surveys issued for teaching staff, support staff, pupils, the various partners that we work with and to all parents / carers of pupils within the school. It would be our plan to issue the parental survey just after the October break and allow one week for the completion of the survey. We will let our pupils complete the survey in their classes.

New Captaincy Team

After a robust nomination, voting, application and interview process the new captaincy team has been selected. The number and quality of applicants was very high and very strong. Our new captaincy team is as follows:



School Captains – Dilraj B
and Arran D



Vice Captains – Rose H,
Alana J, Francesca J and
Olivia N



House Captains – Arrow M (McKay), Lauren B (Inglis) Calvin B (Fleming) Rachel C (Mackintosh)

This is an outstanding group of young people who I know will lead our pupils well across this year. Indeed Ms Munro (DHT for S6) was so impressed with the quality of candidates for the captaincy team that she has created a team of BGE Ambassadors to facilitate more leadership opportunities for our S6 pupils. This allied to their roles as S6 Buddies for S1 pupils, wellbeing ambassadors, MVP leaders and ethics ambassadors demonstrates that many of our young people actively embrace the leadership opportunities provided.



BGE Ambassadors – Bethyn L, Jessica G, Rose J

Guidance Welcome Evening

On 19 September we had our annual Guidance Welcome evening for the parents/carers of our new S1 pupils. After a brief introduction from me and Mr McClune, DHT for S1, our parents spent about an hour learning what the role of a guidance teacher is in a secondary context. It was explained how the guidance teacher helps and supports pupils within the school and acts as the key contact for parents/carers when their child is in the school. Whilst the year head changes when children move from S1 to S2 or S2 to S3 for example, the guidance teacher is the important first point of contact for families from S1 through to S6.

Latecoming

In recent weeks there has been a noticeable deterioration in timekeeping for a significant number of pupils. Whilst, for most, this equates to 4-5 minutes late, it is an inconvenience to the rest of the class, and the teacher when pupils arrive late and disrupts the learning. We will look at reinstating a pre-covid system whereby if a young person is late at least twice in a week or five times across a month we will impose a time for reflection.

Please encourage your child to arrive on time. This means being in school when the warning bell sounds at 8.43am.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Updated SQA information

In mid-September the Scottish Government released their statistical analysis of the 2023 SQA results. This package is called 'Insight' and provides very useful data for schools. Allied to this East Dunbartonshire Council also provide their 'Results Machine' which is a very valuable tool also. Through analysis of both these packages schools can get a much more contextualised perspective on their examination performance. Our SQA results for S4 did initially cause some concern whilst we were sure our S5/6 data was strong.

Having reviewed the additional statistical data it makes for very pleasant reading indeed.

S4

Our S4 pupils' results were **64% 5+ at N5**. This concerned us initially as it is down on the average but there was a dip in EDC and across the country. We were **12% above** what Insight calls 'virtual comparators' – this is pupils from a similar socio-economic background to our pupils. Allied to this when we compare the performance in subjects across EDC we found that our S4 N5 pass rate was **90%** (3rd highest in EDC). We presented pupils in 26 N5s and in **19/26** of those subjects we were **4th or better**. In **12/26** we were **1st or 2nd**. So overall a very solid performance from our pupils.

S5 and S6

Our S5 pupils' results were **46% 5+ H Grades**. This is amongst the highest we've achieved so we knew the Insight and EDC data would confirm this and it did. Our pupils are **16% above** our virtual comparators. For S6 we had **69% achieving 5+ H Grades** and this is also **16%** above our virtual comparators. We presented pupils for 28 H Grade subjects and in **19/28** we were **4th or better**. In **15/28** we were **1st or 2nd**. Again, another really strong performance. In AH Grade we were **5% above** the virtual comparator so holding up well here too.

Individual pupil successes in the SQA examination diet

Two of our young people achieved exceptionally well in the 2023 SQA exams. Olivia N achieved 100% in her H Grade Modern Studies exam and was recognised by the Modern Studies Association. She along with a small number of others were the best performing candidates out of 5000-6000 across the country. This equates to being in the top 0.1-0.2%. A truly fantastic achievement. A few years ago one of our pupils achieved the highest mark in Advanced Higher grade Modern Studies so Olivia has a target to aim for in 2024 where she could conceivably achieve an unprecedented double. Also this year one of our S6 pupils who left in June 2023, Naomi G, achieved the top mark in the country for Advanced Higher Grade Biology. Another remarkable achievement. Well done Olivia and Naomi! You are both an absolute credit to your school and we are so proud of your achievements.



S6 Buddies

In September a large number of our S6 pupils received training to be buddies for our new S1 pupils. Now that our S3 mentors have done their job in ensuring our S1 pupils settled in well by working with them in P7, during their P7 visits to the school and leading them for a few weeks to ensure they knew their way around the school, we now hand over to our S6 pupils. Each S6 pupil will look after 2-3 S1 pupils and meet with them periodically to ascertain how they've settled in and offering advice and assistance when required. It also ensures that our S1s have a friendly face within the pupil body as well as their guidance teachers, class teachers and Mr McClune.

Developing the Young Workforce

Step Into Finance

In September, myself and a group of S4 - S6 pupils got the opportunity to attend the 'Step into Finance' event at Strathclyde University. It gave us the rare opportunity to talk to many employers and learn more about the business and financial sector. It was extremely interesting to talk to experts from different financial firms to better understand what their company does and the opportunities they offer.



These included: JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Acca, Deloitte, Fintech Scotland, Milne Craig, Barclays and much more. It was a great experience to help understand our interests and what we want to do in the future. As we made our way around the stalls, we learnt about opportunities for work experience and competitions and were able to ask questions relevant to our aspirations. The Future Asset stall was especially interesting as they described their annual competition where pupils research and pitch a company that would be valuable to invest in. We also learnt about their goals to promote gender equality by encouraging high school girls to get involved in finance and investment. Lenzie Academy is actually taking part in this competition this year. The event also provided an opportunity to learn about potential apprenticeship opportunities and other routes into employment. In particular, I enjoyed understanding more about the graduate apprenticeship programs on offer and how to get involved in these through Investment 2020.

Rose H (S6)

The Big Scottish Breakfast

"The Big Scottish Breakfast" is organised annually by STV to raise money for children and families in poverty through the STV Children's Appeal.

The "LACE events team" is a group of pupils who work together to make events like "The Big Scottish Breakfast" possible at our school. LACE stands for Lenzie Academy Community Engagement.

Members of the LACE events team were approached by STV at the recent Youth Philanthropy Initiative National Event and asked if they would consider hosting the Big Scottish Breakfast at Lenzie Academy. STV asked to come and film the event and they arrived with their presenter and camera crew on the day of our Big Scottish Breakfast, Friday 15th September.



Our Big Scottish Breakfast was an amazing opportunity to help towards to an important cause and positively contribute to our community. The event also strengthened our school community as it was tightly linked to our core values of ambition and inclusion which we really value at Lenzie Academy.

Through a donation of £2, pupils and teachers were invited to have breakfast in the school on the 15th of September from 08.00-08:45. We were kindly donated food from the Coop and through their amazing support we had cereal, pancakes and rolls for our bacon and sausage rolls! We also had endless support from the HFT department and their Practical Cookery pupils to make delicious cinnamon rolls and be the chefs on the day. Higher Photography students used their skills to take some amazing photos to capture the atmosphere on the day. Cafe LA'tte, our school own coffee shop run by staff and pupils, also kindly contributed some of their profits from the day to support the worthwhile cause.





The pupils of LACE events team organised all aspects of the event, from the photography and front of house to the media and advertising. Everyone collaborated extremely well to make the event a success. Many of our S6 prefects also volunteered their time to give a helping hand by selling tickets at a dedicated ticket stall during lunchtimes. From start to finish, the event was organised in just over 3 weeks. Overall, more than 50 pupils were involved either in the planning or the execution of the event itself – a real team effort!

We managed to raise over £270 and are extremely happy to be able to contribute to such a valuable cause. It was also a great experience for many pupils who were involved in the organisation of the event. We are all excited to tune in and watch the STV Appeal Show on Friday the 3rd November where hopefully there will be some film footage of our Lenzie Academy event.



We are keen to hold more events like this in the future to continue to support the community around us and further establish our school values.

Maths Department – Pupil of the Month

In September the Maths department launched our first ever “Pupil of the Month” competition. Each month we will highlight one of the school’s values and this month the spotlight was on **AMBITION**. Staff in the department shared their expectations on how to be ambitious in Maths and we were spoiled for choice when picking winners! At the end of the month, we handed out a whopping 51 certificates to some of our most ambitious mathematicians in the department. A few of these pupils can be seen in the picture below. A huge well done to all winning pupils!



Next month our focus will be on **RESPECT**. Winners for next month will be announced at the end of October and another set of certificates will be handed out.

Follow us on Twitter @LenzieMaths for more information on this monthly competition and see what else the department is up to!

YouTube channel

The school has a ‘YouTube’ channel which we would like to populate and update on a monthly basis. Our Parental Engagement team has asked that I bring this to your attention. It would be useful to them if parents/carers could have a quick look at the existing content to see if this is the kind of content you would like to see and if there are any other areas / topics that you would like to see included. Any suggestions should be emailed to the school office for the attention of Mr Farquhar, DHT for S5, who leads on our parental engagement approaches. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this area.

<https://www.youtube.com/@wearelenzieacademy>

European School Sports Day



In the PE department all S1s participated in the European School Sport Day. A range of activities was on offer which each house competing against each other. The focus of the event was to promote and celebrate the sports we offer here at Lenzie. Additionally, all pupils were encouraged to display the school values of ambition and inclusion in their chosen activity.

Young Carers

East Dunbartonshire Young Carers service delivered a presentation to S1 during their assembly on Wed 20th September. They raised awareness of what it means to be a young carer.



Over the coming weeks, guidance teachers will deliver the same presentation to year groups S2-6. During PSE pupils in all classes, including S1, will have the opportunity to fill in a slip if they identify as a young carer. This will allow them to access supports within the local community, and in the school, including our Lenzie Academy Young Carers club. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Buchanan for further information.

PEF – Equity

Blazer Swap Shop

We're delighted to see so many families taking advantage of our blazer swap shop this term. This initiative allows us to work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. We also recognise the current financial challenges facing many and we continue to aim to provide additional support to help reduce the cost of the school day as much as possible.

Now that we have the blazer swap shop up and running, we'd like to amend our process slightly to help make this initiative more easily accessible.

We will continue to accept donations of blazers that no longer fit. These blazers can be handed in to the school office at any time.

Throughout the school year, blazers can be ordered via the online form, accessed [here](#). You will receive a confirmation email to advise if we have your requested blazer size available, or to offer an alternative size.

Pupils can then collect their recycled blazers at the end of the school day each Thursday from the lower office. If donating a blazer, this can be handed in to the office at the same time.

The success of this initiative so far is down to the number of blazer donations that we have received – thank you to all who have donated!

A special thanks to S6 Wellbeing Ambassadors Lauren, Grace and Elliot who have taken on the responsibility for organising and managing the blazer donations that we receive.

S6 Wellbeing Ambassadors

In June, we had a Wellbeing Ambassador training day that included an overview of what our roles would include and focussed on developing our knowledge of what mental health was. Along with this, we were given invaluable tips on how to deliver our lessons on what we have learned to S2 classes, giving many of us good skills for engaging and working with others, should we work in teaching or fulfil any other role in the public sector. Since the initial training day, there have been two further wellbeing ambassador meetings to remind us of everything we learned in June and to allow time for lesson planning before we go into the S2 classes.

An important element of S6 is trying to be as involved as possible within the school community, so having the chance to go into younger classes to give them information and resources on mental health will be a good opportunity for us to pass on the information that helped us and interact with younger pupils. Personally, I'm looking forward to opening up a discussion about mental health in a younger class in a light-hearted and relaxed environment. I hope this will help the S2s to think and talk about their mental health more freely and not be afraid to access support if they need it. **Rose S6**



A huge well done to all S6 Wellbeing Ambassadors for their successful lesson delivery in S2 PSE classes throughout September. Early evaluations show that both S6 and S2 pupils have increased their understanding of mental health as a result of these lessons. S6 evaluations highlight the skills gained by pupils such as confidence, working with others and organisation.

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 2023-24 are now open. You can submit an application at any time throughout the academic year if your circumstances change. 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. Those in receipt of Free School Meals will also receive additional financial support during five holiday periods over the coming academic year – October mid-term 2023, Christmas 2023, February mid-term 2024, Easter 2024 and Summer 2024.

Please note that you must submit a new application for Free School Meals and/or School Clothing Grants each 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/18116/fsm-and-clothing-grant-support-website-2023-24.pdf>

[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 – office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Pupil Success

WoSPEG

The Physics department entered into the West of Scotland Physics Education Group Competition and reached the quarterfinals. During the visit the pupils, Diego, Iain, Olivia and Catriona had the opportunity to try out some exciting experiments in the university labs.

Athletics

Douglas (S4) was in Aberdeen for the Scottish Athletics Age Championships a few weeks ago where he won Gold in the U15 boys 80m Hurdles, Shot Put and Long Jump. Last month in Manchester at the Trafford AC Combined Events Championships Douglas won with a Championship Best performance of 3115. He had a PB in the 80m Hurdles and a massive personal best in the High Jump of 1.78m. This score of 3115 has taken him to no 1 in the UK for pentathlon and 2nd all time in Scotland. He is now U15 boy no 1 in Scotland for 60m Hurdles, 80m Hurdles, Long Jump, Shot Put, indoor and outdoor Pentathlon. Douglas has been invited to the pentathlon coaching days and will be in the mix for the SIAB International Indoor Pentathlon in Cardiff in December.

Scottish Schools Ski-ing

Melissa M (S2) won Gold at the Glasgow Region Scottish School Ski Slopestyle Lily S (S2) won Silver at the Glasgow Region Scottish Schools Boarding Slopestyle



Hockey and Football

The following pupils have been selected to represent **Scotland** in their relevant sport

Abigail P (S5) - u17 girls football

Angus M (S4) - U18 hockey

Kyle F (S5) - U18 hockey

Many congratulations on this achievement.

S6 Ethics Ambassadors

The Ethics Ambassador role was introduced into Lenzie Academy in 2019 with the aim of developing Holocaust Education across the wider school and promoting our values under 'Inclusion'. This helped lead us to gain a Vision Schools Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education in November 2019. Post-pandemic we are hoping to resurrect this role for pupils in S6 – giving them the opportunity to be involved not only in the development of Holocaust education but in all issues of Equalities and Diversity.

Ms Byres and Ms Baxter led interview presentations with a number of S6 pupils before the September holiday weekend. We are delighted to announce that the following pupils will be taking up roles as Ethics Ambassadors this session:

Hannah C

Ellis I

Jason Macm

Olivia N

Ines O

Linda T

Subject to the interviews, Olivia and Jason will represent the school in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project in partnership with the Holocaust Education Trust. As participants they will take part in a seminar led by experts in the history of the Holocaust, hear directly from Holocaust survivors and travel to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland in November. On their return, they will work alongside the Ethics Ambassador team to share their learning with fellow pupils and the wider school community.

The Ethics Ambassadors are currently working on the first Equalities input which will give an overview of Equality and Diversity at Lenzie Academy to all staff and pupils. This is an excellent leadership opportunity for these pupils as the role will give them the opportunity to work with younger pupils, work with the wider community and develop their team work, verbal communication and public speaking skills. Well done everyone!



#YSSchools

Many of our pupils are already making good use of their Young Scot card but as a Young Scot School we just want to remind you if your child still hasn't got their National Entitlement Card (NEC) for free bus travel, discounts and benefits we can help!

Pupils can either collect a paper application from the school office or the schools Youth Development Worker Caroline in room D18. If you would prefer to apply digitally, please use details below.

All we need are your details and signature from young person if 16+ or a parent/carer signature as consent for travel for under 16's, we do the rest!

**Got your
Young Scot
National Entitlement
Card?**

**Save money with
amazing discounts on
shopping, travel and more!**

Young Scot

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If you have any queries or require any support
Please contact the schools Youth Development Worker:

Caroline Shirreffs – [07785 715 740](tel:07785715740)

caroline.shirreffs@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



A Greener Fairer Future:

During Climate Week 2023 our pupils had an opportunity to come together and show support for tackling the climate emergency through a series of consultation workshops (and a survey) run on behalf of the Scottish Government in conjunction with YouthLink Scotland (The National Agency for Youth Work).

The Scottish Government are committed to tackling climate change in a way that is fair and equitable to everyone and are currently developing new plans. They were seeking the opinions of young people to help create policy proposals and ensure they are at the forefront of a 'just transition' to 'net zero'.

This provided an ideal platform where young people could meaningfully engage with the Scottish Government's Climate Change and Policy Plan for three polluting industries that contribute Transport, Land and our buildings

The topics generated some lively discussion and offered an excellent youth voice opportunity where young people were asked to share their ideas and hopes for what the future of Scotland might look like whilst reflecting on their own experiences of using public transport, buildings, and green spaces.

Their valuable input on how we can redesign public transport, green spaces and our homes and buildings to work better is being fed back and analysed so young people are involved in the codesign of plans and will be used by the Scottish Government to create policy proposals.



PTA News

Lenzie Academy PTA is a very small & friendly group of parents & teachers who work hard organising fundraising events to raise much needed funds for all our children at Lenzie Academy. All the money raised from these events goes directly to the school. Meetings are up and running and organising of events for this session have begun. We would really appreciate more help from parents and carers. Please join the fun and help raise funds. Meetings are posted on the school website and details are emailed home, they take place in the wellbeing hub in the school. For more information the PTA Contact Details are:

Website - <https://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/>

Facebook - Lenzie Academy PTA

Email - lenzieacademypta@gmail.com

Twitter - @PTA_LenzieAcad