

Welcome to the October newsletter. As you will see from the contents within the newsletter it has been another very busy and highly productive month for the school. We've included some of the highlights across the month within the newsletter. Our main family event was our 'Family Open Evening' for parents/carers of our new S1 and our associated primary 7s. We also had our annual Young Musician of the Year competition, which it was an absolute pleasure to attend. For the school we had an East Dunbartonshire Council Quality Visit where we had external visitors spend a few days with us to look at the quality of provision offered to young people and their families within Lenzie Academy and of course we celebrated Halloween in various ways.

I hope you enjoy the content of the newsletter.

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### New School Update

On Monday 30 October we received confirmation from EDC that the bid for LEIP Funding (Learning Estates Improvement Programme) had been successful. There now has to be some work done the council's Assets team before they can engage with the school on how things will be taken forward. At this stage we are all just delighted that the Scottish Government funding has been approved. As plans develop regarding the new school we will keep all parents/carers up to date on any significant news in relation to the new school.

### Quality Visit

On Monday 30 October until Thursday 2 November a team of eight staff from out with the school spent time with us to observe and evaluate the quality of learning, teaching and support provided by the school. The process is collaborative in nature and designed to highlight strengths of the school and any areas where we would need to focus on prior to an inspection by Education Scotland.

The team consisted of:

- Three senior officers of the council.
- Two secondary Head Teachers from other EDC schools.
- Three Depute Head Teachers from other EDC secondary schools.

The team engaged in a highly productive meeting with the Senior Leadership Team on Monday 30 October to discuss the 'scoping paper' devised by the school that highlighted the school's strengths under the four Quality Indicators used by Education Scotland.

Over the next three days the team observed 50 lessons that incorporated all year groups and all subject departments and met with a range of pupil and staff focus groups. They also met with representatives from groups of 'Partner Organisations' as well as discussing the school's SQA Attainment Profile.

It was a very busy time for the school but I'm delighted to inform you that the visiting team were hugely impressed by the quality of provision on offer within the school; by the high quality learning and teaching and by the wide range of supports offered to young people. The school will receive a written report in a couple of weeks' time but some of the highline messages included:

1. Hugely positive relationships within the school were cited as a real strength.
2. The school's ethos and culture were viewed as outstanding.
3. The main strengths of the school cited in our 'scoping paper' at the beginning of the visit were evidenced very quickly on Day One and were evident throughout the duration of the visit.
4. Very high quality learning & teaching was observed across the three days with a large number of lessons viewed as 'excellent' or very good' – the two highest levels of Education Scotland's six point scale. All lessons were good or better and none were viewed as satisfactory, weak or unsatisfactory – the three lowest grades.
5. The team commended the commitment and skills of our teachers and support staff.
6. Young people were very focused and engaged in their learning and had a great pride in their school.
7. All young people felt included and well supported within the school.
8. The school's support systems for young people with additional support needs or those who faced short-term challenges were highly commended.
9. The school's SQA Attainment Profile was very strong and our plans for future development were commended.

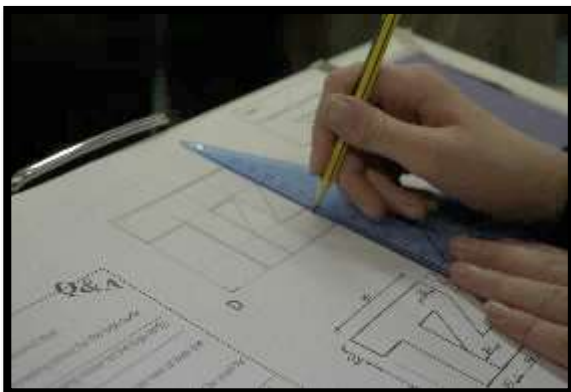
Overall, the process was a highly supportive one and we are very grateful that senior officers within the council and other secondary schools gave up a considerable amount of their time to work with us. It is always good to hear very positive validation of our work from an external source and it reinforced to us that we offer very high quality provision for the young people within the school.

## S1 Family Open Evening

On Thursday 12 October we held our annual S1 'Family Open Evening' where parents/carers of our current S1 and our associated primary schools visit the school and tour all departments within the school. They can see first-hand how our S1 pupils learn in their various subjects, whether this be doing various experiments in Science; cooking tasty treats in Health Food Technology; working with Computer Technology or a wide variety of other curriculum inputs. Below you will see some of the photographs taken during what was a hugely successful evening. We had 187 evaluation sheets returned on the evening and the feedback was universally positive. A special thanks is due to all staff who gave up their time to support the event and to all our S1 pupils who gave up their time to come in and show parents/carers and P7 pupils how learning takes place for S1 pupils in the school.







## School Parking

The school is very busy at the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. Recently we have had a number of issues at the back entrance to the school where parents/carers are dropping their children off inside the school gates. This is leading to traffic problems as parents/carers try to leave the school as teachers and support staff are trying to come in at the start of the day. This has led to some staff being subjected to inappropriate gesticulations that really are not necessary. More importantly it creates an unsafe traffic situation when lots of pupils are coming in to school in the morning. For the health and safety of all concerned I would ask that parents/carers do not come into the school in the mornings but instead drop their children off further away from the school building to ensure that it minimises traffic problems at the school.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation on this matter.

## Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

October has been a busy and exciting month for DYW. We have had a variety of events for pupils to give them an insight into the world of work.



We started the month by welcoming AG Barr to the school. Rachel and Lauren from the HR department ran a CV and interview workshop with a group of targeted pupils. The students heard first-hand about the dos and don'ts of putting together a CV and attending an interview. All of the pupils were then invited to create a CV which could then be submitted to AG Barr. The best CVs will be selected for an interview and if their interview skills impress the lucky pupils will be invited for a weeklong work placement. The interviews are taking place in November. We are looking forward to seeing our students put their expertise into practice.



We then offered a group of students the chance to attend a construction work taster at the Engine Shed in Stirling. This was a fantastic experience with many interactive workshops for the students to take part in. They learned about making buildings more sustainable and environmentally friendly, using VR to design buildings, the ins and outs of being a quantity surveyor and they even got the opportunity to try their hand at building a wall and stone carving. Some of the big construction companies such as McLaughlin and Harvey and Keir Construction attended and were able to give advice and tips to our students who are interested in a career in construction. This was an invaluable opportunity for many of our pupils and has encouraged students to consider careers pathways they did not previously know about.

We were then lucky enough to welcome Andy Torbet from Jacobs to speak to 40 of our pupils who are interested in a career in civil engineering. Mr Torbet delivered a fascinating presentation about what is involved in being a civil engineer and gave our students advice on the different routes they can take to become a civil engineer. Our students got the chance to ask Mr Torbet a range of questions about the intricacies of his work. We would like to thank him for giving up his time to come to the school to speak to our students.

We also had several online experiences take place within school. Modern Languages offered their pupils the opportunity to attend an online talk by a journalist speaking about how languages have opened up opportunities within media and broadcasting for him. Biology also offered our students who are interested in nursing the chance to attend an online talk organised by the NHS about careers and pathways into nursing.



Finally, I would like to congratulate two of our pupils, Rose and Easa, for being accepted onto Morgan Stanley's high school work insight week. Rose and Easa both passed Morgan Stanley's tough selection process and enjoyed a week at their offices in Glasgow learning about the work that takes place there. Well done!

We are looking forward to continue to offer a range of opportunities for our pupils. All year groups have a DYW tab on their year group team. The students can monitor any upcoming opportunities by checking this tab. If anyone would like to discuss anything DYW related, please contact Miss Gibbons at the school.

## PEF – Equity

### 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.

Additionally, we continue to run our 'Blazer Swap Shop'. 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.

Recycled blazers can be ordered at any time 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.

### 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](mailto:office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

## Library

### Halloween Quiz

An exciting lunch break for S1 pupils who took part in the Halloween quiz. Everyone enjoyed answering spooky questions and eating some spooky sweets.

Thanks goes to the wonderful S6 Library Assistants. Francesca for creating and hosting the quiz.

Hannah and Rose for managing the event.



The PTA has generously funded the updating of the library's Dyslexic friendly collection. This has enhanced our existing collection with exciting new books, many of which have been borrowed as soon as they were added to the stock.



## Composition Masterclass

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, pupils studying Music in S4-6 attended a composition masterclass with musician and composer Marco Cafolla from the band 'Mama Terra'. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn more about composition, which they are all currently working on as part of their National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. Well done to Logan O (S5) and Eva F (S4) who performed their compositions and thank you to Marco for a very informative and enjoyable session!



## Young Musician of the Year Competition

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Lenzie Academy held its annual Young Musician of the Year competition. Staff and pupils enjoyed a varied programme of music played by 13 talented musicians from S4-S6. Sue Franks accompanied some of the musicians and the competition was adjudicated by Jennifer Lindsay and Matt Howells, thank you to both. Well done to Evans C. (S6), piano and Eilidh R. (S6), voice who won the competition in the instrumental and vocal categories. Evans and Eilidh will now proceed to the next round of the competition, which will take place later on in the school year. Another well done to all the musicians who performed and thank you to Mr McEwan for organising the event.



The young musicians pictured with Mr Paterson.



Winners Eilidh R. (S6) and Evans C. (S6) pictured with Mr Paterson.

## BGE Musician of the Year

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our very first BGE Musician of the Year competition! Pupils from S1-S3 will perform and the competition will be adjudicated by S6 pupils from our Advanced Higher Music class. We are really looking forward to hearing all of the pupils perform!

## Christmas Concerts

Come along to the **Lenzie Academy Christmas Concert** on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** at **7:00pm** in the Assembly Hall. Pupils have been working hard to prepare a fun-filled evening of Music to enjoy and get you into the Christmas spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Many of our pupils are also performing in the **East Dunbartonshire Christmas Gala Concert** on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** in the **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall!**



## Halloween

On Friday the 3rd of November S6 got into Halloween character (literally) to raise money to go towards their prom.

With 4 categories for awards the pressure was on and the variety of costumes was spooktacular. The individual category was won by Cammy J as Lord Farquaad with the best duo going to Aimee J/Jessica G as Black Swan and White Swan. Best group went to Zoe P, Eilidh R, Lucy M, Megan M, Ivy B and Grace C for their amazing Mario Kart costumes. Most creative was a tie between Arran N and the Subway Surfers group with Ada C being the undisputed winner of funniest for her all-out Lorax costume. In total we raised over £100 towards the prom and a fantastic day was had by everyone.

## Pupil Success

Some of the young people involved in Columba 1400 were featured on Scotland Sacred Islands with Ben Fogle when the series visited Skye. Dylan (S3) took part in a week of values activities during the summer and it is now featured on the BBC Scotland programme. You can catch up on BBCiplayer to find out more.



## Cycling Success

Congratulations to Rohan (S2) who has been selected for Scottish Cycling RACE Programme. The programme is designed to push athletes through to the Great Britain Cycling Team

## Football Success

Congratulations to Ava (S2) who has been selected for U15 Scottish School Football Central Girls Team.

## The Lego Club

The Lego History Club is a new club within Lenzie Academy this year and have been meeting every Wednesday lunchtime, building some big moments from history using Lego! Pupils have been working in small groups to build different historical moments and we are running a competition for other pupils (and adults) to guess what the historical moment is every month. A winner will be selected at random with a great prize available! So, if you recognise the Lego historical moment from the photo - or you want to take a guess - have a go! See Mr. Murray in history for details of how to enter. Good Luck!"



## PTA News

Lenzie Academy PTA are back and to kick off the new school year, we have organised a QUIZ NIGHT on **FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER** at **LENZIE RUGBY CLUB**.

We will be running a raffle during the event so are appealing donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help? For example we are looking for vouchers, toys, games, fancy foodstuffs, boxes of chocolates, biscuits, sweets, toiletries, beauty products, bottles of wine or spirits.

Or do you have any contacts with local businesses who might be able to donate a prize?

Children can bring in donations to the school in the PI classroom (B8) any time from now until Friday 24th November, however donations of alcohol into the school has to be handed in by an adult to the school office or it can be brought along on the night.

The MORE donations we receive the MORE prizes can be WON & the MORE we can raise for our kids at Lenzie Academy.




Tickets are available online for the Quiz night and you can purchase your raffle tickets online too.

Quiz Night Tickets – [www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/quiz-night-2023/](http://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/quiz-night-2023/)

Raffle Tickets – [www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/pta-quiz-night-raffle-2023](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/pta-quiz-night-raffle-2023)

Thank you for your help.

Lenzie Academy PTA



The poster features a blue background with a pink diagonal banner in the top left corner that reads "Buy Raffle Tickets Online Now!". The main title "Lenzie Academy PTA Quiz Night" is in large, bold, blue and black letters. Below the title, the text "BUY RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE NOW!" is written in large, bold, red letters. A cartoon character of an elderly man with white hair and a beard is positioned in the center, holding a sign that says "TICKETS ONLY £1". Surrounding the character are several yellow stars, each containing a prize: "E100 Voucher for The Ivy", "Cineworld Voucher", "Clubbersize Class", "Beauty Treatment", "And Much, Much More", "Cookery Classes", "Basketball Tickets", "Taste Indian Cuisine Meal", "Moss Flowers Voucher", and "E100 Voucher for The Ivy". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. The Lenzie Academy PTA logo is in the top right corner.

Lenzie Academy PTA's QUIZ NIGHT is FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER at LENZIE RUGBY CLUB, 7pm till Late.  
We have organised a raffle with some AMAZING PRIZES!!!  
But don't worry, even if you can't make Quiz Night, you can still buy tickets for the raffle for a chance to WIN & HELP RAISE MONEY FOR ALL OUR KIDS at Lenzie Academy.  
Buy your raffle tickets now at [www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/pta-quiz-night-raffle-2023](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/pta-quiz-night-raffle-2023)  
Or scan the QR code  
The draw will take place on the night.  
There are lots of tickets left too for Quiz Night, so please buy your ticket now at [www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/quiz-night-2023/](http://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/quiz-night-2023/)  
All money raised goes directly to buying resources, enhancing our kids's education & experiences at Lenzie Academy.  
This year we are raising money to help to buy a new LEZ Friendly School Bus, donate to the Football & Dance Breakfast Clubs, buy Physics Equipment, Laptop & Editing Software, Library Books, provide a donation to the Science Club & much, much more...  
We can't do this without you. So please help by coming along to Quiz Night & by buying Raffle Tickets.  
Thank you so much for your help. Lenzie Academy PTA