

Welcome to a combined December / January Newsletter.

It has been a very challenging couple of months for everyone with various storms battering the west coast of Scotland. The school hasn't been particularly warm so we have relaxed the requirement for our pupils to remove external jackets when in the building. Whilst this has been necessary as a short-term measure it has not helped with school uniform nor our desire to see our pupils as proud and inclusive members of our school community wearing full school uniform. As we move towards spring we will need to reinforce our uniform policy more stringently.

Across December we had a wonderful range of events leading up the winter break and many of these are detailed within this newsletter – Christmas dances, the Christmas Concert, the end of term staff-pupils singalong / karaoke, the Santa Dash for our S1 pupils, our Christmas fayre and our inaugural end of term House quiz, organised by our L.A.C.E Team.

January is traditionally when we engage in our most important blocks of assessments for our S4 and S5/6 year groups. This year our Senior Phase pupils will also be engaging in their various assignments and projects now that SQA has brought all of these back as integral parts of coursework for SQA qualifications.

In January we always hold our Holocaust Memorial Day assemblies. This year's assemblies were led by two of our S6 Ethics Ambassadors, Olivia N and Jason MacM, who had visited Auschwitz late last year as part of the Holocaust Memorial Trust education programme. Our S6 pupils were ably assisted by a number of S2 and S3 House representatives. The presentations were well researched and expertly delivered by the young people who demonstrated great confidence and assuredness in their delivery.

As a school we have now gained a Vision Schools Scotland Level 2 Award from the Holocaust Educational Trust. This formerly recognises the school's commitment to the ongoing education of its students to remember the horrors of the Holocaust. Ms Byres in our History department has led on this initiative for a number of years now and I want to formally recognise and thank her for her ongoing commitment in this area.

This combined newsletter contains a wide variety of interesting articles that demonstrate the successes of our pupils in a wide variety of areas. We hope you enjoy this latest edition.

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## Staffing news

Mrs Hutton, formerly PT Mathematics for the past 10 years within the school, has been working as an Acting Depute Head Teacher for the past year or so. She was successful at interview recently and is now substantive Depute Head Teacher within the school. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Hutton on her recent promotion.

## School Roll

It is expected that the school roll will grow again next year. Last year we started the year with 1380 pupils and the roll settled around 1350. It will be nearer 1400 in August and is likely to settle at about 1370.

## Health Food Technology

At a recent Parent Council meeting I outlined some of the challenges we've been having in HFT. There has been a long-standing issue related to the supply of hot water within the department. East Dunbartonshire Council are aware of the issue and have tried a number of approaches to solve the problem. These have not been as effective as anticipated and we are awaiting the installation of a separate boiler system for the department. Hopefully this will be installed over the Easter break.

There was a separate issue whereby a burst pipe in January led to water discoloration in one kitchen. EDC took water samples from all kitchens and these were sent off to a lab for testing and this took 10 days to analyse and get back to EDC so the department could not cook until the tests results confirmed the water was suitable for use once again.

Allied to the problems cited above we have also had some unexpected staffing issues where one of our permanent teachers left to work in a school much nearer to where they live. We advertised for a permanent position but we were unsuccessful in attracting any qualified applicants for the position. As a result we have had to take some short-term measures to alleviate the staffing problems. This has involved taking a period of S1 and S2 from the department. This has enabled us to trial some work which we are planning to introduce into our Broad General Education curriculum over the next couple of years.

We are confident that the technical issues affecting the kitchens will be resolved by the installation of the new boiler system. We will re-advertise the permanent HFT teacher post in the spring term and are confident this will attract a suitable number of qualified candidates to allow us to appoint into the position.

## New school update

Now that approval from the Scottish Government on LEIP Funding has been secured we will re-engage with the EDC Education and Assets teams and with the appointed architects (Holmes Miller) and construction company (McLaughlin Harvey) to discuss the initial design process for the new school. We have a meeting scheduled for Friday 16 February and hopefully I will be able to update all parents/carers on where we are at this early stage of the process in due course.

## Christmas Concert



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, pupils from S1-6 performed in the school's annual Christmas concert. The audience enjoyed a festive filled programme performed by the Wind Band, String Group, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Jazz Band, Ceilidh Band, Percussion Ensemble, Senior Vocal Ensemble and Band Club before enjoying a mince pie in the school dining hall! Thank you to the Performing Arts Department and the East Dunbartonshire Instrumental Music Service Instructors for all of their hard work. Thank you also to the school office, facilities management and school staff for their support.





## End of Term Christmas Sing-Along

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the last day of term before the Christmas holidays, pupils and staff attended a Christmas sing along in the Assembly Hall. The Lenzie Academy Windband, S6 Instrumental Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble performed some festive tunes. Pupils and staff also enjoyed singing along to some popular Christmas songs to get into the festive spirit!



*Wind Band*



*S6 Instrumental Ensemble*



*Percussion Ensemble*



*Mr Arnott leading the Sing Along*



*Pupils and Staff  
enjoying the Christmas  
Sing Along!*

## LA Cricut Club



Just before Christmas, pupils from the S1 Cricut Club took some of their chocolate tree decorations to Lillyburn Care Home to decorate the residents' Christmas trees. They spent time decorating the trees and talking to some of the residents. Everyone enjoyed the visit.



## Santa Dash Sponsored Fundraiser

In December, the PE Department organised a Santa Dash for S1/2 pupils. All pupils ran, jogged, or walked a 5k course with their Santa hats on and raised £3,473!! They went inside after for a hot chocolate and a pastry.



## Christmas Fayre

As part of the Planning and Implementing Event Unit of the National 5 Retail course, classes in the Business Education Department worked hard to produce a variety of products for the Christmas Fayre. Princes Trust and Design technology were also involved in selling products at the fayre. Pupils had the opportunity to develop their communication skills by working as part of a group in class in the weeks leading up to the Fayre. The event took place on Friday 8 December 2023 on the Bridge. Each group had a stall where they displayed their products attractively and pupils decorated the Bridge to create a festive atmosphere. Customer service skills were developed on the day when giving information on the products and the National 5 Retail pupils worked hard to convince other students and staff to buy their products. The event was a huge success which raised £288 for the charity Smile Train Smile. This is a charity which provides corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates.





## PE Dance

The dancers at Lenzie Academy put on a fabulous show for 3 of our local primary schools. They performed lyrical, jazz, contemporary and hip hop dance styles with a mixture of group dances and duos. All pupils had a blast and were excellent. Well done dancers!!



## Rugby

Three boys from Lenzie Academy, Corey, Harvey and Ashton, were part of the Glasgow & West U17s Rugby team were triumphant in the FOSROC Academy U17 Festival at Oriam 14 January, beating Edinburgh U17 49-29 in the final winning Scotland's elite level rugby competition at this age grade. . A parent commented *"Given all the schools in Scotland, and perhaps also those known more for their rugby pedigree, this is impressive for the school."* 🤝🤝🤝

Below is the link to the Scottish Rugby website giving more information

<https://scottishrugby.org/glasgow-win-fosroc-academy-u17-festival-at-oriam/>

## Performing Arts News!

### Kirkintilloch Rotary Young Musician of the Year

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, Eilidh R. (Voice) and Evans C (Violin), both S6, took part in the Kirkintilloch Rotary Young Musician of the Year, competing against pupils from St Ninian's High School. Eilidh and Evans won both the vocal and instrumental categories with outstanding performances! 🎵

Eilidh and Evans go through to the next round at the end of January to compete against winners from other Rotaries in the West of Scotland.

A huge congratulations to both Eilidh and Evans!



### Rotary Young Musician of the Year

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Eilidh R. (Voice) and Evans C. (Violin), both S6, took part in the next heat of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year. Eilidh and Evans performed at the Renfield Centre in Glasgow and were competing against musicians from other rotaries in the West of Scotland. Both musicians performed two pieces with Eilidh singing *Mister Snow* from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Carousel' and *Someone Else's Story* from the 1984 musical 'Chess' and Evans performing *Adoration* by Borowski and *Souvenir de Sarasate* by Potstock.

Eilidh and Evans were two of the four musicians chosen to compete in the next round which will take place in February at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Thank you to accompanist Michael Barnett and a huge congratulations to both Eilidh and Evans, this is a fantastic achievement!



## Holocaust Memorial Day

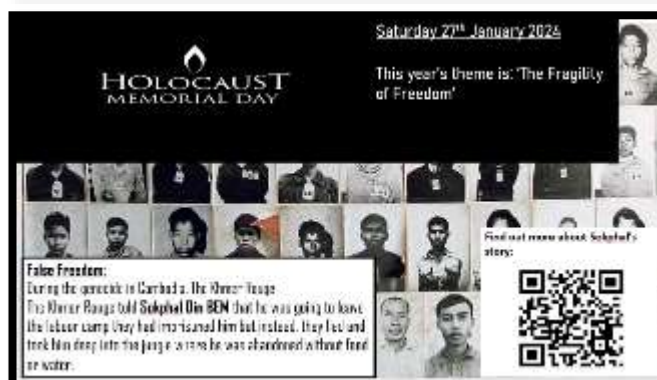
**COMING UP: – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Holocaust Memorial Day is on Saturday 27th January 2024 and will mark the 79th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and then end of the Holocaust that ran under the Nazi regime, 1941-1945.

It also marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, 44 years since the genocide in Cambodia and 29 years since the Bosnian genocide – the biggest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust. We will be marking the day here at Lenzie Academy, with our annual Holocaust Memorial Day Assembly on Friday 26th January 2024. This year's theme is the 'Fragility of Freedom' and will explore how freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process. The ten stages of genocide, as identified by Professor Gregory Stanton, demonstrate that genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they are targeting.

House assemblies will take place in the morning and will be led by Mr Paterson, the S6 Ethics Ambassadors and S2 pupils from each house group. All pupils at Lenzie Academy will learn about the Holocaust in S1 History and S2 RME as well as having input in English. Additionally, posters have been displayed around the school to inform pupils about how they can mark the event and to provide more information on this year's theme. The library have also displayed a number of posters that recommend suitable books for pupils to read.

Please see some examples of the posters if you would like to find out more. Feel free to contact Ms Byres in the History department if you would like to find out more about Lenzie Academy's approach to Holocaust Education.





## "This is Me" - Young Writers competition winners

Well done to our international poetry competition winners!

Young writers in S1 and Creative Writing Club took part in an international poetry competition, organised by Young Writers. The task was to write a poem about what makes them unique.

The judges were really impressed by the high quality of our submissions. Many of our entrants were successful in having their articles selected for publication in an anthology, due for publication in February 2024.



So a big congratulations to our (soon-to-be) published authors!

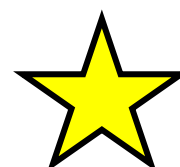
Rosie A (S1)	Jonas B (S1)	Max F (S1)
William G (S1)	Alagu K(S1)	Max McQ (S1)
Andy M (S1)	Joel O (S1)	Mohammed R (S1)
Noah S (S1)	Glorious S (S1)	Shuman Z (S1)
Ryan F (S1)	Jett T (S1)	Isla McL (S1)
Rowan McQ (S1)	Ava T (S1)	Arianna A (S2)

*And a shout-out to everyone who got involved - well done!*

More information about the competition, and how to order a copy of the book, can be found on the Young Writers website.

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions>

## Celtic Connections Piping Star!



Flynn P in S5 was hand-picked to represent the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland recently during the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow. Flynn played alongside a handful of other pipers at the Carlos Nunez concert, a world famous folk musician in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. A huge well done to Flynn for all his hard work and super performance – we look forward to seeing you in more Celtic Connections over the years!



## DYW Developing the Young Workforce



### **DYW Pathways Evening – 15<sup>th</sup> of February – 6.30pm to 8pm**

I am very excited to announce our upcoming Pathways Evening. This will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February from 6.30pm to 8pm. This event will be open to the pupils and parents of S3 – S6.

At Lenzie Academy, we strive to ensure that all of our students achieve a positive destination. We want them to end up in a career that they are passionate about and follow a career path that suits them as an individual. Our Pathways Evening is the perfect opportunity to get students thinking about what comes after school. This could be the much-needed inspiration if they do not know what they would like to do or they could get advice and tips from people who are doing the job that they are interested in.

There will be a huge range of employers attending on the night with stalls and you will have the opportunity to chat with them about their career and any hints of tips they might have for the future.

Some of the companies in attendance are listed below –

Morgan Stanley	JP Morgan
Lloyds	Daiwa Sports (CAD Design)
Institute of Civil Engineers	BAE Systems
Northern Forklift	Anderson Legal
Mast Architects	Cameron House
Volvo	Martin Vets
Blue Giraffe Imaging	Police
Software Engineer	Strathclyde University Engineering Department
Hair and Beauty (New College Lanarkshire)	Medicine (Both doctors and nurses will be present)
Business Gateway	Translator and Outdoor Guide
Morgan Sindall	Geophysicist and many more....

There will also be a number of talks on the evening so that you can find out more about the different pathways that you can take in senior phase and beyond. We will have talks from the following –

University of Glasgow
City of Glasgow College
Skills Development Scotland
(Information about the different types of apprenticeships and how to go about securing an apprenticeship)
Mr Curran – Senior Phase Partnerships
Mrs McNab – Work Experience at Lenzie Academy

If you would like to attend this event. Keep an eye out for an email from the school, as we will send out a registration form before the event. This registration form will also be available on your child's year group team.

We hope to see as many pupils and parents there as possible to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. If anyone would like more information, please contact Miss Gibbons at the school.

K Gibbons

PT of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

## Gurdwara Trip

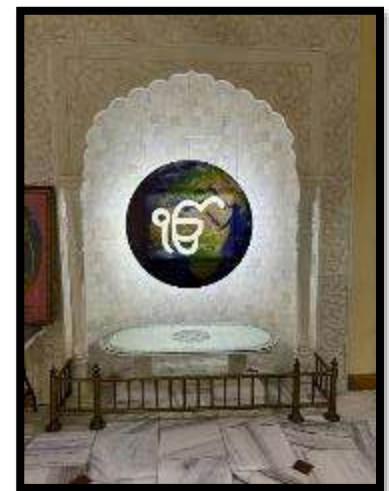
On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January a group of 45 S1 pupils attended a RMPS trip to the Glasgow Gurdwara. We were welcomed warmly by members of the Gurdwara who provided head scarfs for all pupils and staff to wear during this visit.



The guide explained at the start of the visit how the Gurdwara is open to everyone at any time to come in for a safe space and food as part of the religion is compassion for those less fortunate. We then continued through and learned about how the Sikh religion was founded and some of their core beliefs. We were then asked to remove our shoes when heading upstairs to their prayer and worship area where their holy book the guru granth sabith was displayed under a beautiful canopy. There we mediated and asked any other questions to the guide about Sikhism and the Gurdwara.



After this we were guided to the canteen where we were served vegetarian curry and chapati and ate this on the floor as they normally would, all the pupils were very open and respectful to trying this food and custom. We then thanked our guide and returned our head scarfs. The pupils on this trip were example Lenzie pupils who were well-behaved, polite and enthusiastic to learn about the Sikh religion.





## TEAM Platinum's inaugural Interhouse Quiz

Zoe from the Platinum Youth Achievement award group was responsible for leading the LACE events in devising, organising and running the Great Interhouse Christmas Quiz on the last day of term for all S1 & S2.



Members of LACE helped her devise the questions and organise the plan for enabling many House teams to compete in this quiz ensuring both our school values of ambition and inclusion were at the forefront of the activities. There were prizes for the best team and an overall trophy for the winning house which created the ambition. However, each team had to consist of members from the same house but from different classes so that the mix was conducive to inclusion. Every House Captain or nominated senior leader, had to canvas their house for volunteers willing to perform for 1 minute in order for their house to play their joker card and gain double points for that round.

The overall experience was busy and light-hearted and the drawing teams with most points were The McKay Ultras from McKay and Curly Fries from Fleming.

This year Fleming won the overall trophy which was presented to their senior House representative by Zoe on behalf of LACE. This trophy has red ribbons for the rest of the year but will be presented again at the next annual interhouse quiz.



### LACE - Come and Sing Dementia friendly singing



This term members of our S5/6 pupils have restarted the intergenerational links with Lenzie Old Parish dementia friendly singing group. The last meeting of the year involved Christmas songs and a visit from Santa. Come & Sing has been an integral part of our volunteering opportunities and we look forward to many more occasions as well as our annual Spring Fling where LACE events hosts the older members of the Lenzie Community who spend the afternoon at school enjoying afternoon tea and participating with the music.

## WiSTEM Careers Event – Physics

A group of our S3 Physics pupils were involved in a fantastic careers workshop organised by WiSTEM from the University of Glasgow. The focus of this event was career pathways and resilience. The presenters gave a detailed 'day in the life' account of several STEM careers. They also shared their own personal journey from school to working life, making pupils aware of the role that resilience and wellbeing play in success. Our pupils had lots of excellent questions and felt "inspired and motivated" by what they had heard.

We would like to thank the WiSTEM team for providing this opportunity. We look forward to continuing this partnership and in the future.



## 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.

### 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>

### Blazer Swap Shop

We continue to run our 'Blazer Swap Shop'. We accept donations of blazers that no longer fit at any time throughout the academic year. 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.

### 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)