

Welcome the latest newsletter.

This newsletter covers school activities and events across February. The months of February and March are incredibly busy ones in the school year. For our senior pupils it is full steam ahead to get their SQA courses completed – this year with added pressure of assignments being reintroduced into courses in most subjects. In addition to this, preparations for the next academic year begin. In February, I had my annual meeting with our Workforce Planning Team to sketch out staffing requirements for 2024-25. Our guidance team start the intensive process of course choice for S2-3 pupils, S3-4 pupils and S5-6 pupils. We also start planning with our primary colleagues the P7-S1 transition process. This has been ongoing through the year but starts to be much more intensive from February onwards.

For our S4-6 pupils we also provide additional support in the following ways:

1. **Supported Study** - after school supported study sessions take place in subjects to help with revision and revisiting of more complex aspects of SQA courses from Jan-March.
2. **Tuesday study support** - for S5-6 pupils we use our Tuesday afternoon slots (P6 + 7) for either generic private study or where the timetable allows subjects specific private study where the pupils can work on a particular subject e.g. Chemistry or History. A teacher of those departments supervises these sessions and is available to support any young person in the class who is struggling with a particular aspect of their course.
3. **S5/6 Mentoring programme** – for those young people who are struggling across a number of subjects we allocate a mentor to help support them with approaches to study, the setting of specific targets and so on.
4. **Easter school** – we will operate a supported study programme across the first week of the Easter break.

Despite a lot of intensive work focused on academic endeavours for our senior pupils, the school still engaged in many wider achievement activities and events. I hope you enjoy the content of this latest newsletter.

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## Staffing update

On 6 February, Mrs Hutton was appointed to the substantive post of Depute Head Teacher within the school. Mrs Hutton has been doing the job in an acting capacity for the past 18 months and her appointment to the substantive position is very welcome and well deserved.

## S4 Skills Development

All S4 pupils were off timetable for a day in February to experience a full day immersion course on 'Emergency First Aid at Work' with an external provider. This was primarily as part of our development of skills for life and work for our pupils and they all get an SCQF Level 6 Award that is valid for three years. Ms Sinclair spoke to quite a number of our pupils and the vast majority enjoyed the experience and found the day very useful.

## Parent Council

At the Parent Council meeting in February we asked the parent representatives present to evaluate and feedback on a parental questionnaire that we intend to put out in March. Further details will be issued in due course.

## New school update

We are re-engaging once again with the EDC Education and Assets teams along with the construction company, McLaughlin & Harvey, and the architects Holmes Miller to look at initial designs for the new school. These meetings have just started but our initial meeting was productive and there are further meetings scheduled in March. When I can provide any meaningful update for parents/carers I will do so.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of March - S2-S3 Course Choice Information Evening.

## Holocaust Memorial Day House assemblies

Holocaust Memorial Day was on Saturday 27th January 2024 and marked 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 marked 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 marked this significant day at Lenzie Academy, with our annual Holocaust Memorial Day Assembly on Friday 26th January 2024 – our first in-person HMD assembly since before the pandemic. This year's theme was the 'Fragility of Freedom' and explored 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.



House assemblies took place in the morning and were led by Mr Paterson, the S6 Ethics Ambassadors and S2 pupils from each house group. Behaviour was excellent with pupils showing respect and reflection throughout. Below are some photographs from the day and you can access a video recording of the assembly through our school's youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBgQ\\_gF\\_kuY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBgQ_gF_kuY)



Lenzie Academy has a Level 1 Vision School's Award which recognises excellence in Holocaust Education. This was recently renewed in November 2023 and we are working towards achieving Level 2. 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

## Vision Schools Award Ceremony – January 2024

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Lenzie Academy received their Level 1 Vision Schools Award renewal at an awards ceremony held in Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh S6 Ethics Ambassadors, Olivia and Jason, who were also involved in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme, attended along with Ms Byres.

This award recognises excellence in Holocaust Education and was originally awarded to Lenzie Academy in 2019. We have managed to maintain this standard, even through the restrictions of the pandemic. There is now a staff working group to work towards our Level 2 Award.

The awards ceremony was a great experience with the awards being presented by Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Jenny Gilruth. Guest speaker, author Maria Chamberlain gave a fascinating presentations about her late mother and father, who were both Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust. Broadcaster Rachel Riley MBE also sent a powerful video message to schools.

You can view the youtube video of the event at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EA4UD4q44k>

## Cultural Heritage Week

This February we held our inaugural Celebration of Cultural Heritage week at Lenzie Academy. The week long events were organised by students with a little help from Mrs Edwards, Ms Shearer, Ms Ross, Mrs Davidson, Ms Shirreffs, Miss Munro and the LACE events team.

During the week we had a scavenger hunt, students brought in food, we played a playlist which represented most of our students and on Friday we had a dress in clothes which represent your cultural heritage day.

On the Thursday evening we invited parents and carers to join our celebrations and share food together. We had the most wonderful array of food from around the world such as biltong from South Africa, jollof rice from Nigeria and Ghana, breads and pancakes from Eritrea and Somalia and pakora and onion bhaji from India and Pakistan to name but a few. The students in HFT also made wonderful snacks and cakes which represented France, Greece and Thailand.

Sveta ably guided us through the evening's events introducing a wonderful array of music and dance. We heard from Flynn on the bagpipes, Matt on the Spanish guitar, the Jazz Band, the Choir, Gagandip and Gursewak on harmonium and tabla and the evening closed with the Ceilidh Band. Dance was very important and we had three amazing dance numbers which were choreographed by the students. Our first dance Afro/Asian Fusion performed three dances from India, Nigeria and Eritrea. Then we had a Bhangra inspired dance representing the Punjab and finally a Bollywood inspired number.

The array of fashions on the night was delightful and students came on stage and talked about how their clothes represented their cultural heritage and why this was important to who they were. Our evening closed with a vote of thanks from Dilraj and Mr Paterson. A big thank you to everyone who came to our evening and we hope to see you all next year.

Alana, Alishba, Barakha, Dilraj, Grace, Kaku, Nfemi and Sveta



Cultural Heritage Evening photos



## PE Cultural Heritage lesson

As part of Lenzie Academy's Celebration of Culture and Heritage week, the PE department have provided pupils the opportunity to experience various activities from around the world. Our S1 pupils have had the choice to participate in Gaelic football, yoga, kabaddi, pickleball and dance whilst learning about the origins and cultural heritage of the activity.

ProJudo have also visited the school over 3 days and provided taster sessions to classes across all cohorts in the school.

This experience has been widely received by our young people. Our visitors have been very impressed with the levels of engagement and participation.





## Performing Arts News!

### Celebration of Culture Evening



On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Lenzie Academy hosted its first Celebration of Culture Evening. Thank you to Flynn P. (Bagpipes) and the Lenzie Academy Jazz Band who provided music as the event began. The school choir performed 'Babethandaza', a traditional African song and the Ceilidh Band performed a set of traditional Scottish dances. Well done to Matt S. who performed a Spanish piece called 'Carmen Flamenco' on the guitar as well as Gagandip and Gursewak C. who performed traditional Indian music on the Harmonium and Tabla. This was a fantastic event which celebrated music, dance, clothes and food from different cultures around the world. Well done to everyone involved!



## Rotary Young Musician of the Year

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 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 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and were competing against musicians from other rotaries in the South of Scotland. Both Eilidh and Evans gave outstanding performances and received excellent feedback! Unfortunately, neither pupils have progressed to the next round however it is a fantastic achievement to have made it this far – well done to both!



## EDC Dance Fest 2024

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February we took part in the EDC dance festival competition hosted at Douglas Academy. The standard of dance performances was really high and our pupils all did us proud! They have worked for weeks to perfect their routines showing great ambition. We came away with the following:

1st place senior hip hop team

1st place senior jazz team

1st place junior jazz trio (Brooke, Kim & Amelia)

Well done to the whole team and to the groups who placed! Miss MacNicol & Mrs Rae





## Higher Photography success

Congratulations to Jennifer in 6IG1 who recently won the Kirkintilloch Rotary Young Photographer Competition of the Year senior competition. Her entry is now entered into the District - Scotland South competition. Well done Jennifer and good luck in the next round!



Titled: Rebuilding

## Library News

February the Month of Falling in Love with Reading

Mrs Barry ran “Blind Date with a Book” during the month of February, and the junior pupils have fallen in love with the idea! Many pupils have borrowed a wrapped book, and have since been introduced to a variety of different genres and authors. It has been a enjoyable way to mark Valentine’s day this month, and provide readers with a good book to read over the long February weekend. Additionally, the junior and senior book groups have made a vibrant display about why they love reading, and their passion for diving into good book is very clear. **Rose**



## Show Racism the Red Card

On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February all of S3 pupils took part in Show Racism the Red Card workshops. The company delivered six very informative workshops over the two days. The pupils really enjoyed having an opportunity to participate in the workshop and now have a better understanding of what racism is and how it impacts on individuals and society. They also have an increased awareness of the responsibility to challenge racism and how this can be done.





## SKI TRIP

60 pupils and 6 staff had the pleasure of one week skiing in Austria. This was a fantastic trip which involved staying in a small town of Werfen and having 6 hours skiing each day in the resort of Sportwelt. All the pupils attending improved their skiing immensely - with many skiing red and black runs on a daily basis. In addition to skiing the group took part in apres-ski events of bowling, crazy golf, Lucky Flitzer Mountain Rollercoaster and a Pizza night out!

We will hopefully be running another ski trip next year!!





## DYW Pathways Evening

On the 15th of February we hosted our annual 'Developing the Young Workforce Pathways Evening' in the school. This was a wonderful night which gave students and parents the opportunity to find out about what pathways are available on leaving school and to find out more about a range of different careers.

We had a huge turn out from the students and parents of S3 to S6. It was lovely to see so many people in attendance and come together as a school community. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come along and we really hope that you enjoyed getting the opportunity to discuss careers with our experts who had their own stalls. I hope that it has given the students some food for thought and might even have encouraged someone to consider a pathway that they might never have thought possible.

We must say a huge thank you to all of the professionals who attended on the evening. We had over 40 professions and businesses represented and each person gave up their own time to support our students and help them to make the most informed decisions possible about their future. We have received a range of positive feedback to tell us how much they enjoyed engaging with our school community.

Lastly, events like these take a huge amount of preparation and organisation and it would not have been possible without the support of the wider staff. Thank you to all staff who supported this event either through supervision or opening the café to ensure that everything went smoothly.

We look forward to welcoming you to our event next year.



## 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.

### Well-being Questionnaires

By the end of February, all year groups will have completed their Well-being Questionnaire for this academic year. Well-being scores are collated and used to inform any targeted supports needed to help improve the well-being of our pupils.

### 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)