

Welcome to the newsletter covering the month of March and the two weeks in April. March /April are traditionally the most challenging months of the year for schools. It is when all our course choice interviews take place to get pupils into their curricular pathways for the following year and we are getting our Senior Phase pupils prepared for their SQA examinations. This year has been more stressful than normal as SQA have re-introduced assignments for courses so more work to do for pupils and teachers.

On Friday 19 April, we said farewell to our current S6 cohort of pupils. It was a super day for all concerned. The pupils were signing each other's shirts and we as a staff were signing huge numbers of shirts as well. I lost count of the number of shirts I signed on that day. The pupils received their leavers' hoodies. We broke for lunch and the young people enjoyed a vast array of pizzas and pakora / dip. All concerned had a lovely day. It was a fitting tribute to the pupils for they have been without doubt fantastic role models this year. We wish them (and our S4 and S5 pupils) every success in the SQA exams and we hope they go on to have great careers ahead of them. We look forward with anticipation to their formal graduation on Friday 31 May within the school and then on to their Leavers' Ball at the Crowne Plaza hotel. Large numbers of staff have signed up to attend and this is indicative of the high regard we have for them as a year group.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter.

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New School Update

East Dunbartonshire Council launched the statutory consultation for the new Lenzie Academy on Tuesday 7 May. The closing date for the consultation will be Wednesday 19 June. Details of how all stakeholders can participate in the consultation and send written feedback will be issued in mid- May. The school will also have special assemblies for our pupils and they will be involved in the consultation process itself, as will young people and their families from our associated primary schools. On Tuesday 11 June there will be a drop in session from 3.30pm until 7.00pm in the school assembly hall where plans can be viewed.

Staffing update

We have appointed a number of new staff in recent weeks:

1. **Mathematics:** Ms Ness, who has been Acting PT Mathematics for a year, was successful and now takes the job on a permanent basis.
2. **Health Food Technology:** Ms Walls has been appointed to the post of PT Health Food Technology to replace Mrs Fairman who will leave us in late May to become head of department in Paisley Grammar School.
3. **Music:** Ms Donaldson, who has been working with us on a temporary basis this year was successful at interview and is now a permanent member of staff.
4. **Health Food Technology:** Ms Walker will join us in August from St Roch's in Glasgow as a replacement for Ms Heron who left for a post nearer to home in West Dunbartonshire.
5. **Business Education:** Mr Friel, who was an NQT with us four years ago, re-joins the school in August as a permanent member of staff from Park Mains High School, Renfrewshire and replaces Ms Canning who left last year.
6. **Design Technology:** Mr Reid, our current NQT in Design Technology, joins us on a permanent basis in August.
7. **Chemistry:** Dr Sood, who is a permanent 0.6 FTE with us now will join us a 1.0 FTE to cover Ms McComb's maternity leave from August.
8. **Modern Languages:** Ms Verrane –Faichney will join us in August from Calderglen High School, South Lanarkshire and replaces Mrs Hall who left for a position nearer home in Inverclyde Council.

Mrs Buchanan, PT Guidance, left us in April to work in Graeme High School in Falkirk. We will be interviewing for her replacement in due course.

There are also a number of other posts still to be appointed before the end of June to ensure that we have a full staffing compliment for the new session.

School uniform

In previous newsletters I have outlined our concerns regarding a deterioration in the standard of school uniform by a minority of young people. Whilst the majority of pupils are proudly wearing their uniform, a small but increasing number of pupils are not wearing appropriate school uniform. This is becoming an increasing concern. We intend to engage with stakeholders regarding school uniform next session after discussing with our Parent Council.

In the meantime, we will be conducting regular uniform checks and will send a brief email to you as parents/carers where young people are not appropriate dressed to make you aware of it. There is no need to contact the school regarding this it is just a courtesy to make you aware and to allow you to engage with your child to ensure they are wearing appropriate school uniform. If there is no improvement thereafter, your child's year guidance teacher or year head will contact you to discuss the situation further.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on 7 March, Mrs Barry (librarian) ran a “Guess which fictional characters was coming to dinner”. Pupils and teachers had to guess the characters from the clues on their placemats. Junior classes keenly participated in the competition and were excited to find out the answers. In addition, some staff joined in the fun, dressing up as popular book characters like Sherlock Holmes and Miss Trunchbull.



To top everything off, there was a collection of new books in the library for readers to borrow and enjoy. (Rose)



Lenzie Academy pupils back “Families Outside” charity



Lenzie Academy pupils Gabriella and Annaliese met with East Dunbartonshire Council Provost Gillian Renwick to celebrate a charity partnership that they and a fellow classmate helped to facilitate.

A school challenge and a national charity have come together – in this case, the Wood Foundation’s Young Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) and Families Outside, the only national charity in Scotland working solely to support people with a family member in prison – all thanks to the work of a few high school students.

Easter Egg Donations



On behalf of East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid, I'd like to say a massive thank you for the very kind donation of Easter eggs that were handed in to us today.(28 March)

We have a family Easter party on Wednesday so they will be put to very good use.

We very much appreciate the continued support from Lenzie Academy. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who donated or was involved.

With kindest regards

Gail

Office Coordinator

East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid SCIO

Address: McGregor House, 10 Donaldson Crescent, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XF

Telephone: 0141 776 0864

Email: edwomensaid@aol.com

A registered charity providing information, support and refuge to women and children affected by domestic abuse.

Scottish Charity number SC047155

Maxwell Cay Cup

This took place on Tuesday 12 March P6/7 and involved S5 and S6. They played in football and netball tournaments and raised £250.00 for the British Heart Foundation. Maxwell's younger brother Fraser presented the cup to the winning team and cheered on the competitors.

Spring Fling



On Tuesday 19th March LACE hosted their annual Spring Fling. Many of our senior pupils take part intergenerational volunteering with Lenzie Old Parish church and having spent a number of Tuesday afternoons with the dementia friendly singing group and Thursday afternoons with the senior games club, they like to invite the older members of our community to school for an afternoon tea with music.

The performing arts department not only provided a variety of musical performances from a large talent pool from all years, but for the first time also gave the audience a special rendition of "The Steamie" which was a real trip down memory lane. The hospitality was provided, hosted and organised by the Lace events team and the

afternoon was rounded off with community singing which everybody thoroughly enjoyed.

The school's ongoing relationship with older members of the Lenzie community continues to grow with some members of S4 volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays during study leave.



Pupil Success

East Dunbartonshire Young Musician of the Year



On Tuesday 16th April, S6 violinist Evans C. competed in the East Dunbartonshire Young Musician of the Year held at Bocclair Academy. Evans gave a fantastic performance and was the runner up! Well done Evans!



Girls U18 Caledonia cup

I played in the Girls Rugby U18 Caledonia cup final on the 24th of March, we won 40-24 against Garioch despite only have 13 players which is the minimum to be able to play. We played 70 minutes with no subs so it was quite a proud moment. (Zoe)

Junior White Water Racing Scottish Champaign K1

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/216485560525/>

S6 pupil, Adam at the end of April completed in the GB selection and the Scottish championship (they do them at the same time) and was able to become second Jr in GB and first Jr in Scotland for K1 which was a very pleasing result for him. Congratulations





S6 Language Ambassadors Programme



Over February and March, some of our S6 pupils embraced the opportunity to take on the role as Language Ambassadors and visited with P6 and P7 classes across our cluster primary schools – Auchinloch Primary School, Lenzie Meadow Primary School, Millersneuk Primary School, Lennoxtown Primary School and Lairdsland Primary School.

This proved to be a hugely successful endeavour, with our senior linguists enjoying the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone, develop their language skills and gain invaluable experience in the world of work.

The pupils did, Miss McLean (teacher of French and Spanish and programme leader), the Modern Languages Department and the wider school community proud by working together to develop their own French lessons, which featured colourful and engaging visuals, carefully prepared worksheets, as well as lots of fun, interactive games and activities to enhance the learning experience for younger pupils within the school community.

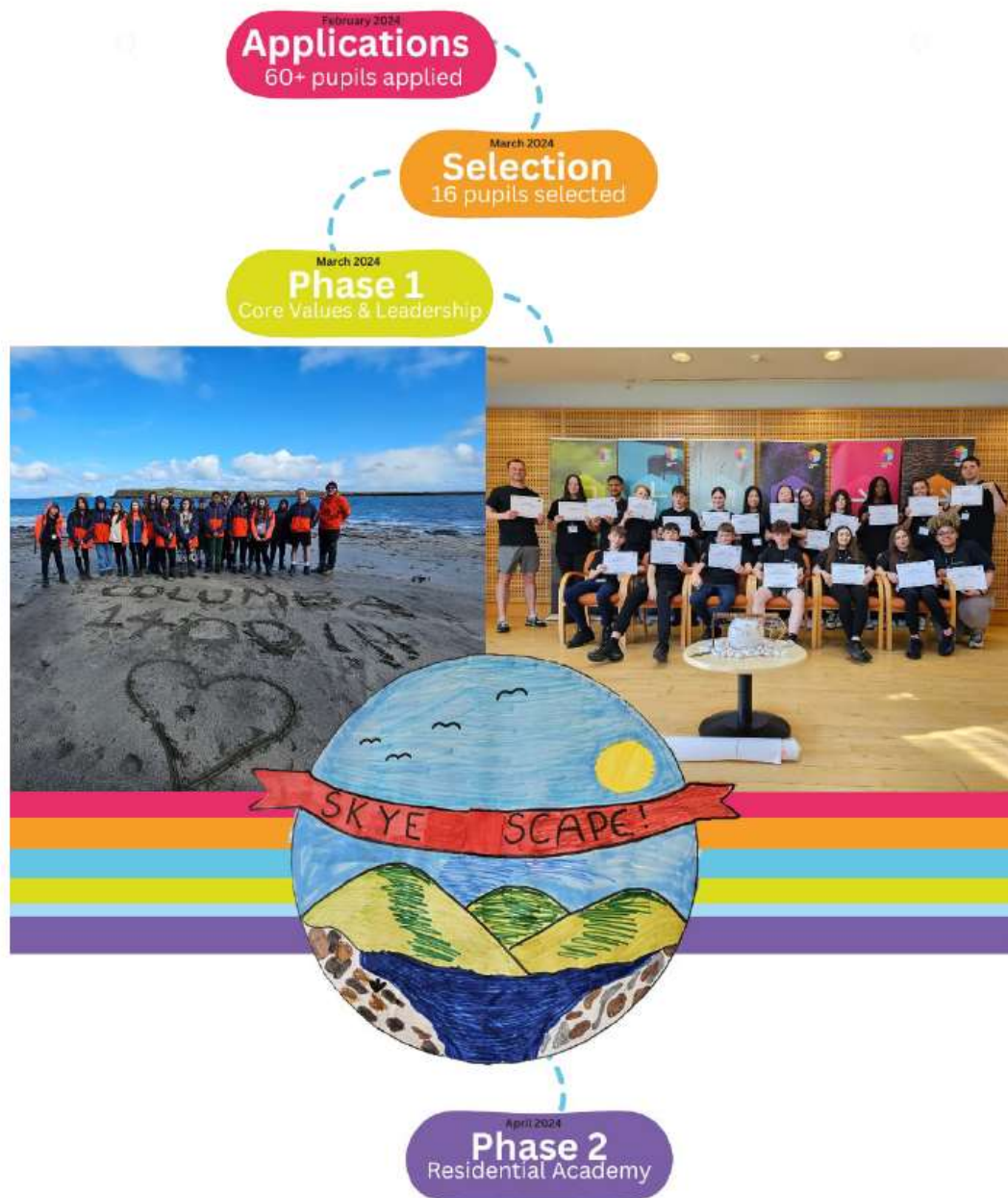
The P6 and P7 classes thoroughly enjoyed the visits from our Language Ambassadors and demonstrated excellent language skills, as well as exemplary behaviour throughout the programme. The visits also proved to be the perfect opportunity for P7 pupils to ask all about life as a pupil at Lenzie Academy and did much to settle any fears about their future transition to secondary school!



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Bien joué tout le monde!



Columba 1400

Our amazing S2 leaders are soaring through the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy!

On 22nd April, they embarked on a challenging and rewarding residential trip to the Columba 1400 Centre on the Isle of Skye.

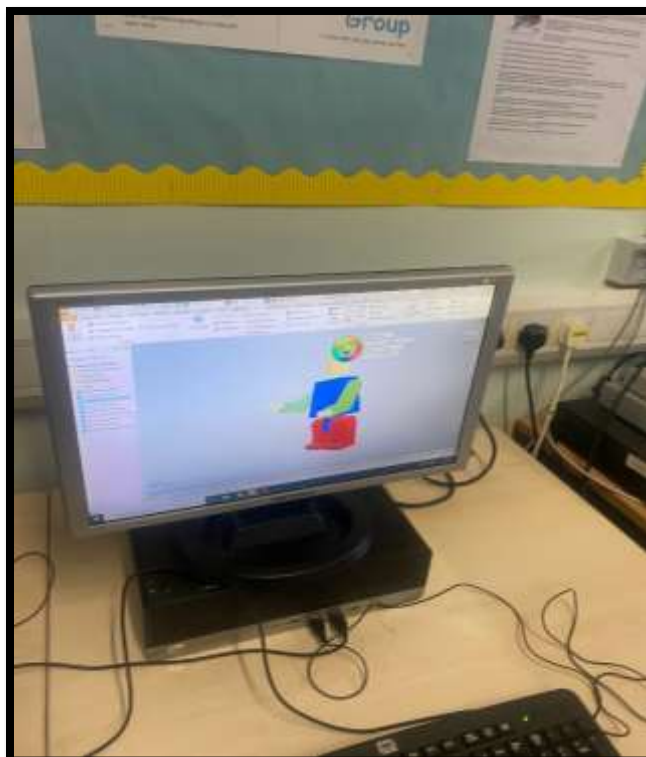
They delved deeper into their own personal values by exploring them with the help of Columba 1400's core values (Awareness, Focus, Creativity, Integrity, Perseverance, and Service). Through a variety of activities, such as **Search and Rescue** and **Find Your Greatness** - They were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, share their voices, and reflect on their values.

We've seen incredible growth in these pupils since the program began. They've developed greater confidence, honed their leadership skills and styles, and gained a deeper understanding of self-efficacy.

We can't wait to see how they use these newfound skills to benefit our community in Phase 3 and beyond!

S3 Elective

From the 23rd of April until the 31st of May S3 will be focussing on the 6 subjects that they are taking forward into S4 and three subjects that they will not continue with. All pupils will take part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) for 3 periods per week which allows them to work on skills such as teamwork, research, communication, practical skills, and ICT. Pupils then have two elective courses to enjoy, this year we have provided even more choice with the addition of Barista, Sociology, Printmaking in Art, Criminology, Physics in the Movies and Media. This is a great opportunity for S3 to have an experience of some of the options available to them to study in the senior school. We have continued to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Elective class and 25 pupils are participating in this and can start working towards their accreditation just now.



S3 Chocolatarium Trip

On Tuesday 23 April we headed off to a micro chocolate factory called the Chocolatarium in Edinburgh. We were on the bus for just over an hour and then walked a short two minutes down to the chocolate factory where the staff politely welcomed us and explained what our visit would entail. We were split into two groups.

My group were first to design and make our own chocolate bar. We were asked to choose a template for our design, some of us chose the Scotland flag, others the unicorn template and many more. We were asked what our favourite chocolate bar was as well as which chocolate we would like to use, milk, dark or white chocolate for our own chocolate bars. We both chose milk chocolate to fill our templates and were told we could use any of the toppings on our table. Toppings included white chocolate flakes, gold sugar, smarties, chili flakes and so much more. After we finished making our chocolate, it was put in the fridge to fully form, and our guide took us through the process of how to make chocolate from the cacao beans to the finished bar.



After we made our chocolate, we swapped with the other group and went into the tasting room where we learned about the history and evolution of chocolate from colonial times to the modern 21st century. Miss Macdonald volunteered Daniel to help Fraser make a very old-style cold chocolate drink with chili flakes. We were all given a small tester to see and taste what chocolate people used to drink. Let's say it wasn't very nice.

Fraser also spoke to us about their biggest target market and asked us all to guess who it would be whether it was international tourists, UK wide or local people. It turns out post-covid it was UK wide, that's where most of their sales come from. He also asked us how they market themselves and most of us said social media or billboards. He told us it was a mix of social media and paid advertisements on Google to ensure they are seen by a big audience. Their tours are where they make the most profits.



We then spoke about the operations and running of the business, how they attract people to work for them, how they keep them loyal to the business and meet customer demands. We all discussed ways he could attract the best possible people to the business by offering free chocolate and good benefits. We ended the tasting room by finally trying different chocolates including some chocolate from centuries ago which wasn't the nicest to ruby chocolate which tasted like strawberry milk chocolate to their best seller, Mackies Salted Caramel which was everyone's favourite.



Finally, we moved into The Cacao Jungle where we got to see the fruit of the chocolate tree and learn all about the cacao farmers and how they grow this fruit with the beans inside. We also got to taste a range of chocolate with different cacao %'s and the 100% cacao from Belize was not our favourite, we all liked the milk chocolate



from Ecuador. Following the end of the tour, we were given our chocolate bars and headed back to school.

Kaine & Fergus

Volvo/Rokbak Visit

A group of S5/6 Engineering Science and Practical Metalworking pupils visited the Volvo/Rokbak manufacturing plant in Motherwell to learn about the design, manufacture and testing of their very impressive million pound trucks! Pupils were taken through the complex manufacturing processes, from raw materials to completed vehicles and all of the stringent quality control activities the company did to ensure their trucks were perfect for customers.

As well as the factory tour, pupils had the opportunity to take part in test drives around a purpose built test track. They also heard detailed presentations from current staff about many different careers and opportunities within the company, from machining, design and engineering to finance and sales.



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 remain 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