



Welcome to this combined October / November newsletter. The combined newsletter is due to the October break and also staff were preparing for our Education Scotland Inspection in the last two weeks of October and were fully engaged in the inspection week from Monday 4 November until Friday 8 November. This will be the last Newsletter of the 2024 so I hope you enjoy the contents of this issue.

I will provide a brief overview of the inspection in this newsletter along with many other items that highlight a lot of the positive work that goes on within the school on a daily basis. As well as a range of individual pupil successes in various fields, we also have details on one of my personal highlights of the session, our annual Young Musician of the Year competition. In addition, there are some examples of departmental work, in this edition from Art and Business Education along with updates from our Columba 1400 project and a DYW update.

I hope you enjoy the content of this newsletter.

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Education Scotland Inspection

Two weeks prior to an Education Scotland inspection the school receives notification that it will take place. This allows the school to prepare a wide array of documentation required by the inspection team before they visit the school and to issue pre-inspection questionnaires to staff, parents/carers, pupils and the various partners that the school works with. In the two weeks leading up to inspection I met over Teams with the Managing Inspector a few times to discuss and agree and timetable for the inspection team during w/b Monday 4 November.

It is fair to say that the two weeks leading up to the inspection and particularly the inspection week itself are incredibly busy for all staff within the school. I met with all pupil year groups to prepare them for inspection week and to re-assure them. Our young people are an absolute credit to the school so I had no concerns but wanted to explain that we should be going into the inspection in a very positive frame of mind as we have a very positive story to tell to the inspectors.

The parental letter on the inspection will not be issued for quite some time as Education Scotland have a variety of internal quality assurance processes to go through and we need to engage with them on various things post-inspection. It is likely that it will be well into the New Year before our inspection letter is published but the Deputies did take extensive notes at the sharing of findings meeting on the Friday and this was very positive. I've cited below a few examples to give all parents/carers a flavour of the feedback received, this is the detail I gave to all House Assemblies last week:

- *Young people, feel happy at school.*
- *The school's values of AMBITION and INCLUSION underpin all the work that goes on within the school.*
- *There is a positive, caring ethos that reflect school values in terms of behaviours, expectations and relationships.*
- *There is a motivating and supportive learning environment within the school.*
- *Young people within the school are positive about the school and mutually respectful.*
- *Young people feel included and supported in their learning and in all aspects of the school.*
- *Young people feel valued and comfortable to celebrate their achievements and can express their views with confidence. Their views and opinions are welcomed by staff.*
- *Young people talk confidently about being a learner within the school.*
- *Young people are developing their skills as responsible citizens.*
- *Young people value the breadth of extra-curricular activities and trips the school offers.*
- *The school recognises and celebrates equalities and diversity in the widest sense.*

This list is by necessity a very brief overview as the positive comments of the inspection team were very extensive but it gives you a sense of the how they viewed our school.

Staffing update

In early October we appointed a new Principal Teacher of Design Technology & Computing following Mr McClune's elevation to Depute Head Teacher earlier this year. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Louise Campbell was successful and has taken up post with immediate effect. Mrs Campbell has been Acting PT whilst Mr McClune was Acting DHT. Ms Sheridan, our Drama teacher, who had been unwell for a long time has now left the school and we will seek a replacement teacher in Drama for the new academic session in 2025-26.

Late coming

Over the past few months, we have become increasingly concerned with the number of young people who are coming in late to the school. Last week I counted the number of pupils coming in late through the front door AFTER the second bell at 08.45am and there were over 150 each day. Those coming in late through the back door was over 100 each day. Combined that equates to 18% + of the school population coming in late most days. We have a warning bell at 08.43am and pupils should be in school as this bell indicates that they should start to make their way to class. At 08.45am a second bell goes to begin the school day.

If high numbers of young people are coming in late to school this impacts negatively on their own learning but also on the learning of others due to lessons being interrupted. We had an issue with late coming a number of years ago and had to put in place a system to address the matter and this worked so we will reintroduce this system. I will issue a letter to all parents/carers in December about the new system for late coming which will begin in January. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you could remind your child of the importance of arriving on time, not just as a school issue but as a life skill that will be important when young people are in employment.

It is important to stress that some young people coming in late every so often is understandable and sometimes unavoidable but the situation we are dealing with is becoming a significant and needs to be addressed. The system we will introduce takes account of a young person coming in late very occasionally and addresses the issue of regular late coming by a minority of youngsters. I thank you in advance in anticipation of your cooperation on this important matter.

S6-S1 Buddy System

On Wednesday 6 November, all our S6 pupils engaged in their latest session with our S1 pupils. All S6 help to support our youngest pupils throughout the year by meeting with them at various points. This session coincided with our Education Scotland inspection visit and the inspectors were highly complementary of the programme, its aims and the impact of the programme on S1 and S6 pupils. Thanks are due to Mrs Sutherland, PT Guidance, who oversees and organises the programme and did so whilst also in the middle of preparing for an inspection. Yours Sincerely,



B Paterson,
Head Teacher

Pupil Success

Scottish Schools Swimming

Seventeen pupils from Lenzie Academy took part in the Scottish Schools Swimming time trials this month. The swimmers were up against the clock in an attempt to qualify for the finals in January 2025. We look forward to hearing how they got on.

Football - Girls U15 Central Region Scotland Football Team

Congratulations to Ava G S3, who has been selected for the Girls U15 Central Region Scotland Football Team. Ava has made it down to the last 16 players out of 100's of nominees. Ava will now play out a series of matches against the other regions to try and make it into the National U15 School team.

We have had 3 girls achieve this in the past; L Davidson, L McCartney and L Barclay.

Rugby – S2 success

Congratulation to Lenzie S2 rugby elective who travelled to Larkhall Academy for a friendly rugby match. Lenzie were strong winners with an impressive 81-10 scoreline! Well done.

Columba 1400

S2 were visited in November and offered an exciting opportunity by Columba 1400, a young person's leadership academy. The Columba 1400 retreat in Skye takes place in March, where attendees will develop their leadership skills and return to Lenzie ready to independently plan and carry out an initiative of their choosing to help the local community.

This is our school's third year of working with Columba 1400 and both staff and pupils have found it transformative. Following the upcoming applications process sixteen pupils will be selected to visit Skye. Taster sessions took place on Tuesday 16 November. S2 should look out for details of when to apply and where, coming soon!



Young Musician of the Year Competition

On Wednesday 30th October, Lenzie Academy held its annual Young Musician of the Year competition. Staff and pupils enjoyed a varied programme of music played by talented musicians from S4-S6. The competition was adjudicated by Dr. Una MacGlone from the University of Edinburgh and Mrs Edwards and Mr McEwan accompanied some of the musicians, thank you to all. Well done to Matt S. (S5), guitar and Aditi D. (S6), voice who won the competition in the instrumental and vocal categories. Matt and Aditi 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 Mrs Edwards for organising the event.



BGE Musician of the Year Competition

On Tuesday 12th November, Lenzie Academy held its BGE Musician of the Year competition. Staff and pupils enjoyed a varied programme of music played by talented musicians from S1-S3. Well done to Rory G (S2), piano who won the competition and Isaac Pritchard (S1), drum kit who was the runner up. Thank you to Matt S, (S5), Aditi D, Katherine T, and Rafferty M (S6) for adjudicating the competition. Another well done to all the musicians who performed!

Christmas Concerts

Come along to the Lenzie Academy Christmas Concert on Monday 9th 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 2nd December in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall!



Family Learning – The S1 Open Evening

On Thursday 12 October, the school hosted its annual family-learning event for the parents / carers of P7 and S1 pupils. This is always a very successful evening that allows parents / carers to wander the school and visit all curricular departments to see how young people learn. In all curricular areas young people demonstrated how they learn and the techniques they use. Young people demonstrate their cooking skills, musical skills, mathematical skills, PE skills and much more besides.

The feedback from parents / carers is always very positive and this year was no different with over 300 parents / carers in attendance and with almost universal positive feedback on the event. Well done to all our S1 pupils for assisting on the evening and to our captains and prefects for being on hand, to assist with directions and help when required.

The S1 Open Evening pictures;





Modern Studies School trips

Scottish Parliament

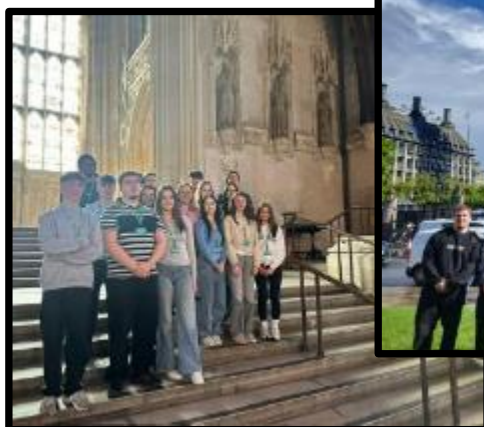
Earlier this session 42 Higher Modern Studies pupils headed to the Scottish Parliament for a learning session on how the Parliament holds the Government to account. We had recently covered this topic in class and so we were pleased to get a chance to see it in practice. We were also really lucky that our session coincided with the first Convenors' Committee for the new First Minister, John Swinney. We were able to go into this session and see the First Minister questioned by the Convenors of all Scottish Parliament committees. After this, we took part in a learning session and were joined by three of the MSPs serving the local community. Rona Mackay, Pam Gosal and Paul O'Kane were all able to come along and answer questions about their roles in Parliament as MSPs, as well as their specific roles within their own party. Finally, we went to the Debating Chamber to watch the Parliament in session where we witnessed a spirited debate on the pros and cons of independence. We're really grateful to all three MSPs who gave up their time so willingly to come meet us and answer our questions about the parliament.



UK Parliament

On the 26th September, 15 Higher Politics pupils went to London for the day to further their knowledge of the UK and US political systems. We were able to secure an education place at the UK Parliament. With over 33,000 schools applying and only 1000 places available, we were really pleased to be able to take up the offer! It was an early start at Edinburgh Airport, flying down to London in time for a tour of the Parliament building, including the Houses of Commons and Lords, before engaging in a session on the role of political parties within the political system. After a short break for lunch, we headed to the London Victoria Theatre for the matinee performance of Hamilton. Having just studied the origins of the US Constitution, this was a chance to put this learning into practice.

Afterwards, there was an opportunity for some shopping or sightseeing, with some of the class choosing to go see Buckingham Palace. After this, we headed back to the airport and home. It was a long day, but a really informative one. All the pupils who took part were a credit to the school.



S1 Art

In art and design we have an ongoing exhibition celebrating the individuality of our S1 cohort. Each young person has designed a flag which shows their interests and the huge range of cultures in our school community.

This generated lots of excitement and enthusiasm during our opening evening as everyone hunted for young people they knew.



Fundraising

Halloween Fun Run

On Tuesday 29th of October, the S1 year group put in a fantastic effort to dress up and participate in a Halloween Sponsored Fun run to raise funds for the PTA and celebrate Halloween! The afternoon consisted of a 5K run, jog or walk around Lenzie Moss followed by hot chocolate, cakes and a disco in the assembly hall.

The year group danced until the bell and celebrated the fastest runner in the spooky sprint – congratulations Brooke D! Further prizes were presented by Mr. McClune and Mr Imrie to Olivia C for the best dressed and Lily D for raising a whopping £330!!!

Well done to all the S1 pupils and all staff who helped on the afternoon. **Approximately £3000 was raised.**

1. The top 3 runners were;
Brooke D
Josh P
Beth W

Please enjoy some images of some of the S6 pupils who dressed up to raise money for S6 funds.





Children in Need

Our annual Children in Need week, organised by the school's House Captains, included Staff V Pupils Netball, Staff V Pupils football, Bakes sales and of course our dress down day on the Friday of the Children in Need week. Through these activities the school raised an amazing **total £1424.43 for Children in Need.**



Wear it Pink!

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Friday 25 October staff and students were encouraged to wear a pink item. There was also a bake sale in the canteen. Thank you for all the donations, we raised **£496.12!**



HOPE

OCTOBER IS
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH

BGE LA Connects

Our BGE LA Connects group have helped set up our new school Instagram page and have been working hard creating and editing videos to highlight pupils and events going on within the school.

We are slowly transitioning from X to Instagram as our primary social media platform alongside YouTube for longer videos. Follow our accounts for updates by using the QR codes below;



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/wearelenzieacademy>



X

<https://x.com/lenzieacad>



YouTube

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



Website

<http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/>



Work Experience success

Bethel T, S6 has been gaining work experience at The Herald newspaper and has had success at printing her first news piece titled ***'MSYPs at first Holyrood session in a decade'*** on

Wednesday 6th November. Congratulations! You can find full article on the Herald Website.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24702694.msyps-enjoy-first-holyrood-session-nearly-decade/>

You can enjoy her second article titled ***'Why a peer – mentoring scheme can make women feel safer in society.'*** here; <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24752380.peer-mentoring-scheme-can-make-women-safer-society/>

The Herald

Developing the Young Workforce

Since the beginning of the school year, we have had a range of exciting DYW opportunities. Our aim is to give our students an insight into the world of work and to do our best to ensure that students are making informed decisions about their future and choosing the pathway that is right for them.

In September, our S2 pupils attended a career afternoon in the style of a speed-dating event. They got the chance to spend five minutes with a guest representing a specific career before moving around as many guests as possible in one afternoon. They heard about their career journey and got the opportunity to ask questions about their job and career pathway. We had a wide range of careers represented including journalism, creative industries, medicine, nursing, engineering and hairdressing.



I received some fantastic feedback from our pupils about how much they enjoyed the afternoon and that it made them more aware of what careers are out there. We also had some lovely feedback from the guests that visited the school that afternoon that complimented our young people's attitude and behaviour. I would personally like to thank any of our parents who gave up their time to participate that afternoon. It was a fantastic event and something that we hope to do again next year.



There have also been trips organised to events such as 'Step Into Stem' (S2) and 'Step Into Finance' (S3 – S6). These events have given students with an interest in these sectors a chance to meet with a range of different companies and participate in activities that gave them a real flavour of what jobs there are in these sectors. They also received relevant, up-to-date advice from people who are currently working in these sectors.

We also had a guest speaker from the Institution of Civil Engineering. Surekha Tangutoori is a principal civil engineer at Amey. She kindly volunteered her time to speak with a group of S3 to S6 pupils about what civil engineering is. She

also gave advice about the different routes that you can take to successfully become a civil engineer. I would like to thank Ms Tangutoori for taking the time to speak with our pupils and answer their questions about civil engineering.

Furthermore, a group of 10 S4 – S6 students have been participating in monthly site visits with Morgan Sindall at their project in Twechar. The students have had the opportunity to watch the project progress. Each month they do a tour and get the opportunity to speak with a different trade represented on site. In November, they even got the opportunity to participate in a brick-laying workshop. They learned the skills necessary to build a wall which all students really enjoyed.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate one of our S6 pupils Matthew Short who was accepted onto the Morgan Stanley insight week during the October break. Matthew spent the week shadowing different professionals

within Morgan Stanley. Matthew went through both an application and interview process to get this opportunity. Well done!

I will continue to update the relevant teams pages and issue communications when necessary when we have upcoming opportunities. We welcomed ABRDN to the school on Tuesday 03 December to talk about managing investments and we will be having our annual S3 to S6 Career Fair next year. This will take place on the 6th of March (more details to follow).

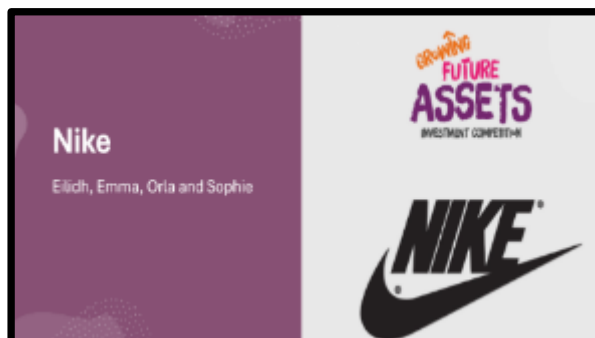
If you would like to discuss any aspect of Developing the Young Workforce further, please contact Mrs McDonald (Modern Languages) at the school.



Future Assets

The LA Dream Team (Eilidh W, Emma H, Orla W and Sophie D) have been working extremely hard for the past 10 weeks working on their investment pitch and presentation for the Future Assets Competition. Future Assets is a competition that is intended to help girls get into finance and investment banking. Future Assets then pair teams with an industry specialist to help them investigate a company and decide if they are worthy of future investment.

The LA Dream Team were partnered up with Kathleen from ABRDN. The girls have met with Kathleen on a biweekly basis to discuss their findings on Nike. Kathleen has helped the girls delve deeper into Nike's operations, sustainability and profitability. Endless lunch times have been spent in D15 creating an informative and aesthetic PowerPoint which they hope will get them into the Finals in March 2025. With Orla as the editor the LA Dream Team have created a funny, light-hearted and innovative pitch to showcase why Investment Bankers should invest into Nike.



S6 Mentors for Violence Prevention

The S6 MVP mentors have been delivering lessons to our S1 pupils over the last 3 week on gender-based violence and gender inequality. They have also been working hard organising several events for the 16 days of action from 25th Nov - 10th December.

The 16 Days of Action is a campaign that raise awareness about Against Gender-Based Violence and calls for changes in communities across the world to prevent and end violence against women and girls.



Our sixteen days of action include;

White Ribbon day on the 25th November

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wrd24>

We would like everyone to wear a white ribbon for the duration of the 16 days.

'Bold Voices' Find out more about gender-based violence, gender equality and ways to challenge problematic gender norms in our society. Every day for 16 days a thought for the day will be read out during communications and the MVP mentors will come around classes to deliver the message. The thought for the day will also be posted on the screens, twitter and Instagram.

Use Your Voice Make a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about gender-based violence. Using a hand template all classes in PSE will make their own pledge and display them on the walls of the classroom.

S3 Mental Health Ambassadors

We now have an enthusiastic group of S3 pupils who will now represent Lenzie Academy as Mental Health Ambassadors. The key purpose of the Ambassadors are to support our younger pupils to develop their mental health.

Our ambassadors have been provided with the key training to support younger pupils and are now in the process of opening up their clinic called 'Snack and Yap'. This will be a safe space for younger pupils to attend during lunchtime to learn strategies to support their mental health and build on their confidence.



Anehita O, Isla I, Emma H, Abigail S, Sophie D, Keira M, Ailsa , Annalena B, Evan S & Leon H, Chloe M, Fern C, Alanna K, Cristina F, Sofia O & Jordy M.

Health and Food Technology

Master Chef the Professionals winner Gary Maclean visit

We were thrilled to welcome Gary Maclean, MasterChef: The Professionals winner and Scotland's National Chef, to the HFT department for an exciting cookery workshop and demonstration. Gary worked with pupils from S2 to S6, showcasing his culinary skills and sharing his inspiring journey as a world-travelled chef. The students gained valuable insights into the hospitality industry and had the chance to taste his delicious creations. This hands-on experience was an amazing opportunity for our young people, sparking interest in the HFT Ambassadors Programme and encouraging them to explore potential careers and further study options in hospitality.

