



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025. I hope everyone had a pleasant Christmas and New Year and that 2025 started well. The month of January is a long and challenging month for young people, especially for our senior pupils who undertake their January assessment block. As we move into February so the busy schedule in the life of a school continues. There is the finalising of SQA courses prior to the exam schedule for S4-6 pupils and we start the cycle of preparing for the session 2025-26 with S2 pupils going through the personalisation and choice programme for their S3 curriculum whilst Senior Phase pupils choose their SQA subjects for S4-6. In addition, there continues to be a wide array of trips, sporting events, charity fundraising events and other opportunities taking place, many of which are included in the newsletter, and preparations for various events in February. For example, in mid-February we will have our 'Celebration of Cultural Heritage' week. This took place for the first time last year and was such a huge success that we have decided to make it an annual event. Details of this event will be given in the February newsletter.

As I write this introduction to the newsletter, I can hear the Dance Showcase taking place in the assembly hall beneath my office and this is another great opportunity for many of our young people to demonstrate their talents and skills. Again, details will follow in the February newsletter.

As usual, our young people have been involved in a wide array of activities offered by our teachers and many of these activities are in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy the content herein.

Yours Sincerely,

B Paterson,

Head Teacher

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Senior Phase SQA supports

Now that our S4-6 pupils have completed their January assessments, the school has a clearer picture of how well every young person has performed across their subjects. The January assessments form an important part of the system for generating SQA estimates, albeit we also have data from October assessments and a number of subject areas engage in further assessments in March. We put in place a number of supports for young people to assist them with the final push towards the SQA diet in April-May:

- **Supported study** - there is a supported study programme running from the February break until the Spring break in April.
- **General study periods** - for S5-6 we have Tuesday afternoon (P6+7) general study slots to allow young people to study within school for their SQA exams.
- **Subject specific study periods** - we also have subject specific study on a Tuesday P6+7, when the timetable allows. This enables young people to study one of their SQA subjects and get help assistance from a teacher in that subject e.g. Mathematics, Biology, Geography, and Modern Studies.
- **Academic mentor programme** – for some young people who are struggling across a number of their subjects we can provide a mentor to assist them with details on approaches to study, time management skills, organisational approaches and so on.
- **Masterclasses** – during the SQA diet, we will provide masterclasses for S4-6 pupils the day prior to the exam. This means that a number of departmental staff will be available during the day to help and assist any young person with last minute issues/concerns related to their exams.
- **Online support** – as well as many subject based revision aids issued by teachers and departments within the school, we offer an online support tool called 'Achieve' that provides excellent revision materials for all N5 and H Grade courses.
- **Bespoke arrangements** – a number of departments will offer a range of bespoke arrangements for young people studying their subjects.
- **Lunchtime drop in** – A number of curricular departments offer a drop-in service at lunchtime where young people can come along and get individual help and support on any areas of concern. Class teachers make their pupils aware of where and when they can access additional support.
- **SQA Family Learning Event** – On Tuesday 28 January, most curricular departments gave interested S4-6 parents/carers an overview of how they can assist their child with the various subjects they are studying for SQA exams. Those parents/carers present on the evening gave very positive feedback on the supports available. Any parent/carer unable to attend can access the notes issued on the evening by asking their child to speak to their class teacher.

Staffing update

Further to interviews held in January, Ms Alyson Steel was appointed to the substantive depute head teacher post, having been Acting DHT for the past 18 months. We are delighted that Ms Steel joins the Senior Leadership Team on a permanent basis. She will continue to look after our S2 year group.

Lenzie Academy Dance Academy visits local primary schools

The Lenzie Academy dancers visited Lairdsland and Lenzie Meadow primary schools and put on a dance performance in December, with now over 100 dancers wanting to perform!! The primary schools loved it and gave really positive feedback to active schools. So positive in fact, Lenzie Meadow have invited us to do two shows next Christmas so all their pupils can watch it and have asked if we would consider doing a May/summer performance too! Well done to the pupils who performed their hearts out and did Lenzie Academy proud.



S3 Physics Pupils Take Flight at Glasgow Science Centre

In the final week of last term, our S3 Physics pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a full day trip to the Newton Flight Academy at the Glasgow Science Centre.

Throughout the day, the students used their teamwork and problem-solving skills to complete an immersive air rescue mission. As part of the experience, they learned about the fundamentals of aviation, calculated their own flight plans, and even had the chance to pilot a full-motion flight simulator. Some pupils proved to be natural aviators, impressing everyone with their flying skills!

In addition to the flight academy activities, pupils also explored the many exhibits at the Science Centre, further expanding their knowledge and sparking curiosity in science and technology.

The trip was a great success, and everyone involved had a fantastic time. A huge thank you to the staff at the Glasgow Science Centre for running the workshop and making the experience possible for our students.



School Dances

S1 and S2 Christmas Dances

The Christmas dances before the school holidays had an amazing turnout with everyone looking very Christmassy. Pupils danced, played games, won prizes before having pizza and juice. Pupils were showing off some of their amazing tricks and dance moves while others got snapped by the photography team at the photo booth. The day was rounded up by a Christmas conga and some more dancing!



School Trips

Columba 1400

Congratulations to the following fourteen S2 pupils have been selected as part of this year's Columba 1400 project:

Sriram B
Craig N
Glorious S
Christopher S
Tilly M
Gregor T
Calum G
Naira B
Ryan F
Connie M
Emily W
Cici L
Jonas B
Yi Chen W
Caelyn C
Luc Lafitte-C



Columba 1400

Ski Trip 2025 – Alpe D’Huez

During the final week of January, 50 pupils along with Mr McDowell, Mr Metcalfe, Ms McLean, Mr Wadham and Ms MacNicol arrived in the amazing ski resort of Alpe D’Huez, France for a week of skiing. The group of S2 and S3 pupils were given the opportunity to learn and improve on their skiing skills through the instruction of the renowned French Ski School, ESF.

Each day was packed with skiing in the morning and afternoon with a variety of evening activities. The evening activities included ice-skating, Winter Olympics, Invertigo (indoor ropes course), and a disco to finish off the week.

It was a fantastic experience for the pupils which allowed them to gain new skills, become more independent and forge new friendships.

Throughout the trip, the group were commended by airport staff, airline staff, hotel staff and the ski instructors on their behaviour and manners.

It was an amazing time had by all!



Pupil success stories

Rugby

Keira was selected for the under 16's Scotland women's team this summer and represented Scotland against Holland and Wales. Keira was also a key player for Stirling County under 18's girls' team who won the National Cup Final 2024. Keira played very well in her first game back from injury scoring two tries.



Swimming

Rose McD, James S and Aimee R were all invited to represent Lenzie in the Scottish Schools Swimming Finals on Friday 23rd January in Aberdeen. Qualifying for these finals is an amazing achievement!

Aimee (pictured) achieved a very respectable PB of 1:16:79 for the 100m fly event. She placed 10th in her 13-14 age category. James finished in 10th place in his category. It was a great event for all swimmers at National level. Unfortunately, due the red weather warning Rose was not able to take part.



Golf It Final

Lenzie Academy were invited to participate alongside 9 other schools in the live final on Wednesday 22 January. The top 5 teams on the night would win £1000 credit for their school at *Golf It*.

I am delighted to report the 5-pupil Lenzie Academy team of Cammie P, Cammy A, Adam C, Alexander R and Max McB topped the leader board and won the event and the £1000 credit for *Golf It*. The pupils were a credit to the school and this prize will be used to give more Lenzie pupils opportunities to visit *Golf It* regularly...watch this space!



3v3 Basketball Tournament

On Wednesday 29th January, the PE department hosted a 3v3 Basketball tournament. The schools involved were Lenzie Academy, Turnbull High School, Bishopbriggs Academy, St Ninians High School, The Glasgow Academy and Belmont House School. All pupils representing Lenzie performed very well and we finished up in 7th place, 6th place and 3rd place. We look forward to welcoming the schools back in April for another tournament.



Taekwondo taster sessions

On the last Wednesday of term, the PE department were lucky to have visitors from Raw Taekwondo come in to run fun taster sessions for all year groups in the school. Head Coach, Master Robertson lead the classes through sessions that included partner activities to develop their kicking techniques. Master Robertson brought along Raw Taekwondo student and GB Junior athlete, Lauren who supported the pupils by giving help and advice with their techniques.

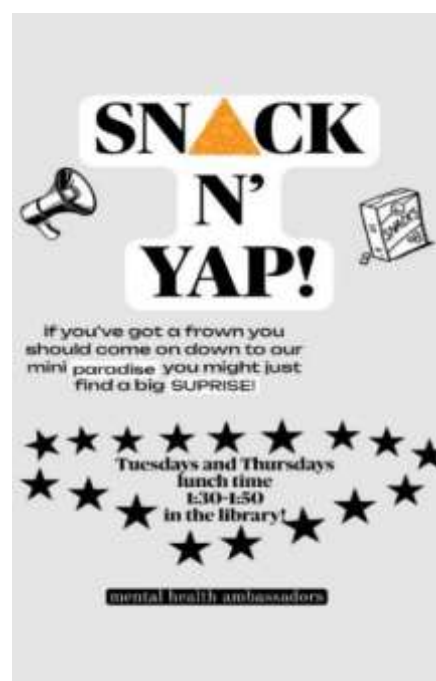
Raw Taekwondo is a World Taekwondo Federation club with team GB pathways for those interested in the Olympic sport of Taekwondo. For information on classes and how to join you can email Mater Robertson at: instructor@rawtaekwondo.co.uk or Direct Message the club on their Instagram page: @rawtkd



S3 Mental Health Ambassadors

Our S3 Mental Health Ambassadors have created a safe space in the library where they will be offering sessions to support pupils who may be suffering from mental health related issues. The service is called; "Snack N' Yap". The library will be open on Tuesday's and Thursday's at lunchtime from 1:30 - 1:50 and pupils will have the opportunity to speak to our ambassadors, play some games, and engage in some activities.

If this is something you feel your child would benefit from, please encourage them to speak to their guidance teacher or come along to some of the sessions. We look forward to welcoming many pupils.



Fundraising

I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out Of Here!

At lunch on the last Tuesday of term, pupils gathered to the assembly hall to watch *I'm a Teacher, Get me Out of Here!* Volunteers; Ms MacNicol, Miss Kay, Mr McDowell, Miss Crawford, Miss Giona, Mr Smylie and Mr Reid braved the stage to participate in *bushtucker trials* that consisted of a roulette for a tasty dish or revolting bite. This was an amazing turnout with lots of laughs. Money raised was put towards the school funds

Treats for Teenagers

A massive thank you to all who contributed to this year's Treats for Teenagers! The donations were overwhelming - so much so that I just could not fit everything into one photo. Women's Aid and the Food bank have asked me to pass on their gratitude - these gifts made such a difference.



Equity Initiatives

In Lenzie Academy, we are wholly committed to supporting our pupils and the wider school community. This is particularly important right now given the cost of living crisis. As a result of this, many families are experiencing financial hardship for the first time, and financial circumstances remain tough for many. We offer wide variety of supports within the school and nationally out with the school. We will always ensure that we are acting with discretion when issuing pupils with equity resources. You can contact your child's guidance teacher, year head or myself at any time if you wish to request any of these resources.

To ensure we are doing everything we can to support our school community, I will be reaching out to all parents/carers to get a clearer picture of what supports you know are available to you and your family and how we can best support families moving forward. In the meantime, here are some of the supports we have available in the school.

We have a number of initiatives in place to support pupils day to day from uniform, stationary items and hygiene products. Pupils can speak to guidance teachers if they feel they need some support. Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the school directly and pupils will be issued with items discreetly.

We offer a recycled blazer scheme in the school, which is an initiative designed to work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

It also allows us to remove a financial burden from families and provide support to help reduce the cost of the school day. We will continue to accept donations of blazers that no longer fit. These blazers can be handed into the school office at any time. This initiative relies on blazers being donated to the school when they are no longer of use to pupils.

As part of our programme of sustainability, we hope to encourage young people to reuse and recycle. Donations of prom/dance clothing (dresses, suits, kilts etc.) no longer needed can be handed into the school office at any time to support this programme.



EQUITY INITIATIVES 2024/2025

LENZIE ACADEMY

1

UNIFORM HUB

Trousers, skirts, tights, shirts, jumpers, tie, blazers & PE kit are available for pupils who need it.



2

STATIONARY HUB

Pens, pencils, folders, scientific calculators, pencil cases, rulers, notepads are all available to pupils who need it.



3

HYGINE HUB

Soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner & sanitary products are all available for pupils who need it.



4

BREAKFAST CLUBS

Within the school we offer a breakfast provision from our school canteen. This consists of toast, cereal, fruit and juice/water. The canteen is open from 8.55-9.45am. Pupils can access this provision in the same way they access the lunchtime provision - pupils can use their PIN number and whatever they purchase will come off their available account balance.



5

FOOD AID

We can refer families to East Dunbartonshire Foodbanks if food support is needed.




If you require any support, please speak to Miss Marshall, guidance staff or a member of SLT.

PROM POP-UP SHOP

As part of our programme of sustainability, we hope to encourage young people to reuse and recycle. Donations of prom/dance clothing (dresses, suits) no longer needed can be handed in to the school office at any time to support this programme.

Keep an eye out for more information regarding our 'Prom Pop-Up Shop' as we approach school dance and prom season throughout this academic year!








**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

YOU ARE INVITED TO
LENZIE ACADEMY
PTA
MEETING

LET'S DISCUSS OUR GOALS & OUR EVENT:
MASTERCHEF DEMO NIGHT - FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

LENZIE ACADEMY, WELLBEING HUB
TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025
6:30 - 8PM

 WWW.LENZIEACADEMYPTA.ORG.UK
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AWARD WINNING CHEF, WINNER OF MASTERCHEF
THE PROFESSIONALS**

**JOIN US: FRIDAY 14TH MARCH, 7PM - ONWARDS,
LENZIE ACADEMY**