



Welcome to the February newsletter. As we move into the spring term there has been a lot happening in the school.

The February / March months are critically important for our S4-6 pupils as they finalise their SQA courses and complete the various assignments, projects and dissertations that form an integral part of their work for N5, H Grade and AH Grade courses. These elements of the courses can make the difference between a pass and a fail and can differentiate an 'A' pass from a 'B' pass so it is vital that young people take them very serious and endeavour to do their very best to maximise their potential. Our teachers are ambitious for our young people, want them to do well and will support them as much as they can through their assignments and by having comprehensive revision programmes in place. These allied to our supported study programme, mentoring programmes and Tuesday afternoon general or subject specific study sessions will help our pupils achieve well. During study leave we will deliver a series of masterclasses the day before various exams to make sure our pupils are as prepared as they can be.

Our S4-6 tracker indicates that many of our pupils have achieved well in their January assessments with many on track to pass all their courses. For many who are off track in one or more of their subjects there is still plenty of time to remedy the situation.

As usual, there has been a vast array of pupil opportunities provided by our staff and the pupils have warmly embrace these. There was our annual Celebration of Cultural Heritage week; successes in sporting endeavours; successes in various competitions; careers related events and a variety of other interesting opportunities. This newsletter gives an insight into some of these but by no means all of them.

I hope you enjoy the contents of the February newsletter.

Yours Sincerely,

B Paterson,

Head Teacher

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Staffing update

After many months, we have now appointed a new librarian for the school. There had been a delay for a variety of reasons but in February, Mr Robin Dunlop joined us and he is a very welcome addition to our team.

The annual preparations for staffing requirements for next session begin in February and there will be some vacancies to fill soon as well as helping our NQTs try and secure employment for next session having spent a productive year with us.

HMie Inspection

On Tuesday 4 March our inspection report from HMie will be published on their website and I’ll send a copy of the parental letter to all parents / carers. From our perspective, the inspection process was interesting but somewhat superficial as they were only really in the school for two and a half days engaging with us. They arrived on Monday at lunchtime and had largely finished their inspection processes by the end of the day on Wednesday. Thursday was to allow some tidying up and team meetings for them to write up their draft findings, whilst Friday morning was a sharing of their findings with the senior leadership team and representatives from the local authority.

We felt that whilst it was a very intense process overall, the general view in the school was that they skimmed the surface on many things and missed a lot of the very positive work going on across the school. At the end of the process, the inspection feedback was largely positive and we are grateful to the inspection team for their work over the week. As a school (and at local authority level) we feel that on two of the evaluative grades allocated, they were off the mark and we did challenge them on these. This led to a delay in getting the report published. After careful reflection HMie did not change the evaluative grades for 1.3 Leadership of change and 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. We disagreed with that and we remain of that view. Overall, in a national context it remains a strong report. There are some areas where HMie would like the school and local authority to address and we will do that over the coming months.

Senior phase curriculum

Over the past few months, we have been consulting with the parent council, teaching staff, pupils and parents on proposed changes to our senior phase curriculum structure. The parent council were broadly supportive of the proposed change from a 6:6 model across S4/5 to a 7:5 model across S4/5 as were our teaching staff. The view amongst our senior pupils was more mixed but most were supportive of the change. We outlined the rationale behind the change in a detailed letter to all parents/carers and gave further detail to the parents/carers of the current S4 along with a GLOW form to allow them a vehicle to express their views and outline any concerns that they may have. Less than 5% expressed any opposition to the change. Of those who expressed concern it was more about the timing of the change rather than the nature of the change itself and this is understandable.

In light of the consultation, we will progress with the change to our senior phase curriculum for 2025/6. We would like to thank our parent council for their input into the consultation process and their views on how best to consult with the wider parent forum. Similarly, we would like to express our thanks to all parents/carers for their views on this important change.

Celebration of Cultural Heritage Week

This February we held our second Celebration of Cultural Heritage week at Lenzie Academy. The week-long events were organised by students with a little help from Mrs Edwards, Mrs Black, Ms Ross, Mrs Davidson, Ms Sherrifs, Miss Munro, Ms MacNicol, Ms Leishman and the LACE events team. An extra special thanks to Flynn, Arran and Calvin who came back to school, after leaving last year, to help. During the week, we had lessons in junior classes which celebrated the diverse cultural heritage we have within our school.

On 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 - joll of rice from Nigeria and Ghana, pakora and onion bhaji from India and Pakistan and Cullen skink from Scotland to name but a few. The students in HFT also made wonderful snacks and cakes, which represented France, Greece and Thailand.

Elsie, Bethel, Waseem and Ewan ably guided us through the evening's events introducing a wonderful array of music and dance. The Junior Choir sang an African song "Si Si Si" and then accompanied our Ceilidh Band by singing along to the "Skye Boat Song". The evening started with some Jazz from our very own Jazz Band and several pupils took improvisation solos during their pieces – bravo! Carla Leslie in S4 and Jessica Chen in S2 performed solos – Carla played "Mas Que Nada" on the guitar and Jessica played a piano piece called "Nuvole Bianche" by **Einaudi**. Well done and thank you to all our star performers for contributing to a wonderful evening. Well done to all musicians from S1-6 who performed!

The array of fashions on the night was delightful. Some 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 Elsie, Bethel and Miss Munro. A big thank you to everyone who came to our evening celebration of cultural heritage, and we hope to see you all next year.



Lenzie Academy has become a CyberFirst school!

On the 28th February, Lenzie Academy was awarded a Bronze Award from CyberFirst – a collaboration between the National Cyber Security Centre and Education Scotland. Our introduction of CyberSkills to our S1 Digital Skills Academy, along with plans to extend this into our S2 Digital Skills Academy, with potential to introduce Cyber Security qualifications in the Senior Phase were instrumental to our award.



Our Action Plan, combined with 16 of our S2 girls participating in the CyberFirst Girls' competition, with one group of four pupils placing 11th in Scotland, has demonstrated our commitment to digital learning. As a result of this award, there will be greater opportunities for Lenzie Academy students to learn about Cyber Security and to progress into careers in this field.

Use your Voice Competition

Congratulations to a group of our S3 pupils that won the 'Use Your Voice' competition! The competition was open to schools across the UK, pupils were asked to use digital media to create videos that would raise awareness around climate change and drive positive action to address the climate crisis. The competition organisers were particularly impressed with our pupils' creativity and clear messaging. The school has been awarded a £1,000 grant that will be spent on installing an apiary - bee hive. The pupils also now have an exciting opportunity to take part in an online Q&A session with a Team GB sailor.

"We encouraged our pupils to enter this competition to drive positive change in our community. We felt the 'Use Your Voice' concept was very empowering and helped highlight the impact an individual can have. The project provided an innovative and engaging way for them to learn about climate change, allowing learners to explore environment and social impacts while developing creative solutions for a sustainable future." **Mrs Ellis**

"I wanted to use my ICT skills to encourage others to get involved in fighting the climate crisis. It is a global problem and we need to work together to combat it." **Matthieu L**

"I made the video on 'Climate Change' to help raise awareness and show the effects it is having on our planet. I think it is important for people to understand the issues we face. I am glad my school won because we can use the prize money to make our school more eco-friendly!" **Adam M**



Library Update

We are delighted to welcome our new Librarian Mr Dunlop and be able to enjoy the Library at its full potential once again. He has shared a new and interactive link to help explore the Library.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/y45HNTP15Pxx0ycx?ref=email>

Pupil success stories

U18 Glasgow Warriors selection

Ashton Y, Harvey P and Max M all played for U18 Glasgow warriors. They supported the team win the 1872 Cup at the Hive Edinburgh. Fantastic achievement, well done.

Juniors Rugby

The SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship.

The first round of SP Energy Networks Warriors Championships kicked off with Alva, Girvan/Carrick, St. Thomas Aquinas and Lenzie.

There was great participation with almost every school bringing the full squad size of 15 per team. All teams played some fast-flowing, exciting rugby with some great tries on show with the winner emerging with two more games won than those who finished second.

Lenzie were today's winners and demonstrated some great evasive running with ball in hand as well as being physical in defence. Our u13 boys, u14 boys and u14 girls overcame the competition to reach the next round and will return to Scotstoun for the semi-finals in April. The players also got the chance to meet and talk to Scotland internationals Sione Tuipulotu and Scott Cummings. Well done to all involved!





Football fixture results

- The S2 football team progressed to the quarter finals of the Scottish Cup this Month!
- After a great contest, they beat Cathkin 2-2 (3-0 pens).
- They will go on to play either St Ninians (Giffnock) or Lasswade in the next round.

Scottish Schools Cheerleading Competition.

On Wednesday 26 February Lenzie Academy took part in the Scottish Schools Cheerleading Competition. Our Pom team coached by ex-pupil Jenni placed 4th out of 10 teams and came home with a trophy.

Our Hip Hop team came 2nd out of 28 teams beating schools of dance and brought home a trophy as well. This was a huge success as the competition was really tough. Well done to all the pupils who took part in this event.



Danceathon

On Friday 28th February we hosted our first ever Danceathon fundraiser at Lenzie Academy. The pupils who participated rotated around numerous workshops, dancing from 4:30pm-10pm. They explored a variety of different dance styles with the workshops being led by some of the S3 dance leaders, senior pupils and local dance schools. In total we managed to raise a huge £886.

The energy was fantastic from all pupils for the full evening. We also had some award winners for pupils who demonstrated excellent leadership, enthusiasm and passion. Thank you to all pupils who participated, staff who supervised, local dance schools who lead sessions and everyone who donated money.

Dancer of the Day - Fern C (S3)

Spirit Award - Esme L (S2)

Top Fundraiser - Orla W (S3)

Leadership Award - Lauren R (S5), Emma H (S3), Naomi S (S3), Orla W (S3)



HFT Ambassador Programme

We're thrilled to highlight the outstanding work of our HFT Ambassador Programme!

These dedicated students have demonstrated exceptional teamwork and culinary talent by catering for our recent Cultural Heritage Evening and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) night. Their commitment to excellence is truly inspiring. They are currently applying their leadership skills to develop exciting plans for the upcoming Spring Fling. We commend their hard work and are delighted to see pupil leadership thriving within the HFT department.



WiSTEM Careers Event – Physics

In February, a group of our S3 Physics pupils participated in a career presentation organised by WiSTEM from the University of Glasgow. The focus of this year's event was career pathways and skills for learning, life and work. The presenters gave an insightful 'day in the life' account of several STEM degrees, including civil engineering, neuroscience, and immunology. They also shared their own personal journeys from school to their current degrees/careers, highlighting the importance of resilience in achieving success.

Our pupils had many excellent questions about university life, various career paths, and the realities of working in STEM fields.

We would like to extend our thanks to the WiSTEM team for providing this valuable opportunity. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



S3 Future Assets – Abrdn Investment Management Event

On Friday 28 February, we attended Abrdn's Edinburgh offices to participate in their investment management careers open day alongside other schools. We heard about fantastic opportunities available with Abrdn including their investment 20/20 programmes which allows school leavers to get straight into industry without university qualifications.

We heard from a senior marketing executive who walked us through her career path, and she told us "It's ok to try new things and realise this isn't for you." It was interesting to hear how she climbed the ladder, networked and that Abrdn put her through university qualifications whilst gaining invaluable industry experience. The next speaker was from Future Assets who had listened and reviewed our investment pitch on Nike. She talked to us about career pathways and the importance of investment, even personal investments. In our school groups, we were given £10 and \$500 with a decision on which company to invest in to ensure Scottish Teacher's Pensions were in a safe and growing money pot. We heard from the CEO's from each company and had to make a justified decision on our post it note. It was fascinating to hear about everyone's reasoning as to why they invested in each company.

We also heard from Abrdn's sustainable investment team who chatted to us about the importance of investing in initiatives which will positively impact our environment. Kate walked us through the pillars that they use to decide which companies are leading change companies. She told us about a recent business decision her team made regarding investing in Apple, Microsoft or Walmart – huge companies! She then asked all the groups to read through their pitches for investment and decide who to reject, who to enquire more information from and who was the definite investment. Kate gave us great pointers on things to look out for including ambitious goals and credible actions that would allow the achievement of their goals. We had 10 minutes to make our decision and feedback to the rest of the group.

Moreover, we heard Abrdn's lead AI director who told us that the investment management industry is changing, and we will need to work even harder to compete with robots.

However, he also told us stories about how a lawyer had used AI to create his defense and AI (Chat GPT) had actually created cases that he referenced in court. When the judge asked more about the cases and they turned out not to be true. This emphasized to us that yes Chat GPT can make our lives a lot easier, but you also need to fact check the results!

We finished the day hearing from all the current investment 20/20 trainees who gave us insights into their roles, the importance of networking and all the cool benefits you get from working in Abrdn – they all love it there! We had a great day in Edinburgh, all thanks to Abrdn and our mentor Kathleen who arranged our visit!

Emma, Sophie, Orla & Eilidh



Family Learning

On Tuesday 28th January we hosted our annual senior phase event 'Supporting your child through SQA exams'. This year we had many staff delivering subject specific workshops on how best parents can support their child during the build up to exams.

The workshops provided vital information on assessment dates, a variety of effective study techniques appropriate to their subject and ways parents can support their child at home when studying key subject knowledge. We also had a variety of external companies/charities such as *Sleep Scotland*, *Leckie and Leckie* and *Dyslexia Scotland* who were available to provide support and advice to parents. The event was well attended and the feedback we received from parents was very positive. We hope to see even more parents attending this event next year.



A View From the Bridge – Tron Theatre

The Higher Drama class took part in a workshop with Lisa and Kat from the Tron Theatre, Glasgow prior to their class trip to see "A View from the Bridge". Pupils explored characters and props related to the play and discussed some of the social and historical context. They were asked to think about the role of parents/guardians in the life of a 17-year-old and this led to a lot of discussion!

The class reflected on why the play was still relevant now, and students had the opportunity to perform some scenes from the play and try out some Brooklyn accents. This was lots of fun and gave us some things to think about when we go to see the play in March.



Thera-Pet session

These visits provided a therapeutic environment, helping to promote positive mental health. It was a wonderful way for students to disconnect from the pressures of academics and focus on their mental wellness.



During Children's Mental Health Week, the S3 boys had the opportunity to engage with the charity *Men With Issues* (M.W.I.), who led a series of interactive sessions aimed at encouraging open dialogue and helping them feel comfortable speaking out about their thoughts and emotions. These sessions were designed to foster a supportive environment where the boys could explore their mental health, develop coping strategies, and understand the importance of expressing their feelings in a healthy and constructive manner.

The Health and Wellbeing Committee organised for Women's Aid Scotland to come in to speak to S3 Girls to tie in with the week of ***International Women's Day***. They presented an engaging and informative pupil-led session to celebrate International Women's day. Pupils worked in small groups to discuss the role of women in society and raised awareness of the challenges they face in the modern world.

This year's IWD 2025 campaign theme is '**Accelerate Action**'.

Columba 1400 Update

Columba 1400 is a transformational leadership programme that empowers young people to develop confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose. Through engaging workshops and discussions with visiting Columba 1400 facilitators, our pupils have been encouraged to reflect on their values, explore their leadership potential, and consider how they can positively impact their community.

The upcoming residential experience in Skye will be a defining moment for our young leaders, offering them the opportunity to challenge themselves, build strong connections, and gain new perspectives. On their return, they will put their learning into action by leading a meaningful community project, using their skills to make a lasting difference.

A huge thank you to Scott Reid, Chris Quinn, Megan Crawford and Kirsty Donaldson for their dedication to this initiative. We look forward to seeing the incredible impact our young people will make!



PTA Fundraiser

Don't miss out! There is still time to buy tickets for this fantastic evening. Make sure you don't miss out and get yours by using the QR code.



The poster features a central circular portrait of a smiling chef, Gary Maclean, wearing a white chef's coat with a MasterChef logo. The background is white with green brushstroke accents and green leaves. The text is in various colors and fonts, including red, green, and black. A QR code is located in the upper right, and a list of activities is on the right side. The bottom section contains the event details and website link.

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