



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the November newsletter looking back over the range of activities and events that took place across what many view as the hardest month in the school year. I say this due to the fact that it gets darker and colder as the month progresses and the young people and staff have no holiday to break up the month. It is also quite an intense month where a lot of the hard work required for the SQA exams takes place so it is difficult for our pupils, especially our seniors, many of whom are also finishing off their UCAS applications for university entry in 2026.

Notwithstanding the challenges evident in November there has been a lot of really interesting activities and events taking place across the month. We hosted the Thomas Muir Symposium on Wednesday 5 November and had our inaugural BGE Family Learning event as well as engaging in various school trips and participating in competitions. We had a week of events for Children in Need and the school is gearing up for the festive season through preparations in PE with social dancing and in Music preparing for the Christmas Concert that takes place on Monday 8 December at 7.00pm.

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Staffing update

1. Mr Imrie has taken up the position of Acting DHT responsible for all matters relating to S5 whilst Mr Farquhar is absent from school.
2. Mr Smylie has taken up the position of Acting PT PE whilst Mr Imrie is in his new role within the Senior Leadership Team.
3. Ms Robertson has joined the PE Department on a temporary basis.
4. Ms Bannerman took up her permanent role as a teacher of Business Education on 23 November.
5. Dr Kirdoda took up her temporary role as a teacher of Science on 16 November.
6. Mrs Murdoch has joined the School Office as Administration Assistant.

We welcome all new staff and hope they enjoy their time with us, whether this be for a few months or on a permanent basis.

Thomas Muir Symposium

On Wednesday 5 November we hosted the annual Thomas Muir Symposium organised by the 'Friends of Thomas Muir' Society. This year the theme was 'Thomas Muir in the 21st Century' with a focus on recent challenges to democracy. The day included a number of very notable speakers who attracted a sizeable audience to the event. The main speakers were:

- Professor Colin Kydd, St Andrew's University
- Professor John Curtice, Strathclyde University
- Jane O'Donnell, Chief Executive of CoSLA.

The event was chaired by Professor Gerard Carruthers, from the University of Glasgow, and was introduced by Councillor Gillian Renwick, Provost of East Dunbartonshire with a vote of thanks being given by Council Leader, Councillor Gordon Low.

The input of our young people was outstanding. This included a range of superb art work; input from a variety of musicians and singers and two of our S6 pupils contributed to the main focus of the debate through their insightful contribution on the challenges of navigating the social media world and delineating evidence and fact from social media disinformation and the plague of unhelpful algorithms feeding this.

The organisers were hugely impressed by the contributions from our pupils and I received a letter from Professor Kydd shortly afterwards saying how impressed he was with not just the pupil contributions to the event but also the politeness and helpfulness of all pupils that he encountered. He stressed that the media often portrays young people in secondary education in a negative light and he was so impressed by our pupils that he wanted to write and congratulate them.



Senior Leadership Team

Meet our Vice Captains

Rose McD – Vice Captain

As a Vice Captain at Lenzie Academy, I hope to be a positive role model for all years to look up to and inspire. I will work with the other Vice Captains to help create a fun prom for the S6s with lasting memories. We also will be a part of making a memorable yearbook that will help summarise our enjoyable experience at Lenzie. I want to ensure that everyone from all year groups feel included, safe and enjoys school as much as they can and gets the most of their time at Lenzie like I have.

Abhay K – Vice Captain

This year as a Vice Captain, I'll be helping to organise the prom and the yearbook, and I want to make sure both are as special and memorable for everyone as I can. My goal is to create experiences that bring everyone together and will give us many positive memories. I'm committed to making this a fun and inclusive year where everyone feels involved and proud to be part of our school community.

Zara D - Vice captain

As a Vice Captain at Lenzie Academy, I hope to be a positive and inspiring role model and work together with my fellow vice captains to create a very enjoyable and memorable S6 prom. With an unforgettable yearbook too. I hope to make every pupil's voice heard so they feel safe, secure and supported within our school, just like I have throughout all my years here.

Luke J - Vice Captain

As Vice Captain of Lenzie Academy, I take pride in setting a strong example for others around the school and demonstrating the school values in everything I do. I will work closely with the other Vice Captains and the S6 Leadership Team as a whole to ensure that we create a memorable school year for all students. I will be a familiar face that pupils can approach to share ideas, and I will ensure everyone's voices are heard. Myself, and the other Vice Captains will work hard to plan an amazing prom and an outstanding yearbook.

BGE Family Learning Event: A Resounding Success!

Lenzie Academy was delighted to welcome parents and carers to our BGE Family Learning Event on Thursday, November 13th for an evening focused on strengthening the partnership between home and school.

The evening offered a fantastic and wide-ranging selection of workshops, allowing parents to personalize their experience based on their child's specific learning and development needs.

Broadening Horizons with our External Partners

A key highlight of the event was the generous support and expertise offered by a range of external charities and organisations. We were incredibly grateful to these partners who helped us offer such a diverse curriculum:

- **Sleep Action** provided "How to Improve Your Teen's Sleep," sharing practical, evidence-based tools to support healthy sleep, which is essential for mood, focus, memory, and overall wellbeing.
- The **Local Area Coordination Team** and **Social Work Day Services** presented on "Parental Supports of Autistic Children," outlining statutory, non-statutory, and third-sector supports available to families in East Dunbartonshire, including those waiting for a neurodevelopmental diagnosis.
- **East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid** delivered an essential session on "Online Misogyny and the effects on our young people," exploring the growing influence of the "manosphere" and equipping parents with strategies to engage in meaningful conversations that challenge harmful ideologies.
- **Cyrenians - Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution (SCCR)** led a workshop, "Understanding the Teenage Brain and Conflict," which helped bust common myths and provided insight into how the teenage brain develops and responds to emotionally charged situations.

Feedback from Our Community

The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating the value of the diverse sessions:

- "I learned a lot about study techniques, it was a fantastic night."
- "So useful to get such a range of workshops, learning all about the teenage brain was so insightful."

Internal Expertise and Study Skills

Lenzie Academy staff also provided high-impact sessions, including:

- **Flashcard Fortitude**, which introduced parents to evidence-based study techniques like the Leitner System and spaced repetition to dramatically improve long-term retention.
- **Calm and Confident: Managing Exam Anxiety**, where our Educational Psychologist shared strategies for regulating stress and building emotional resilience during the study period.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the incredible external partners and in-house staff who so generously shared their time and expertise, enriching the variety of options available to our families.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who attended and supported this event, making it such a successful and valuable way to connect with the school and the wider support network available to your family.

Digital Library

The Library celebrated Book Week Scotland in November, with a host of S1 and S2 pupils gathering for a Book Club Cafe - sharing and recommending reads amongst each other.

A Digital Library has also gone live - providing pupils and staff access to over 3,000 audio and eBooks. Pupils can download eBooks and edit reading preferences (e.g. immersive reader, typeface, colour background etc.) and audio books are all read aloud in character.

See our Librarian, Mr Dunlop for login details.



Exciting news! Introducing 'The Lighthouse'

'The Lighthouse' is our new support facility and will be opening on Monday, 8th December. This is a multipurpose space found in room A21, and it is dedicated to working towards attainment and wider achievement for targeted pupils.

Academic Support

We have a number of pupils currently not able to attend school and we are hopeful that this will encourage attendance and open pathways for our young people to access a bright and successful future. Pupils will work on literacy and numeracy qualifications along with other tailored learning opportunities.

Uniform Bank and Resources

The space will house our uniform bank and resources area, ensuring essential items are readily available to families. Pupils can access toiletries and stationary also through this service. Items can be requested using the QR Code over leaf or click on the picture to access. Items can be picked up or sent home with your child.

Family Workshops

It will host small, targeted workshops for parents, offering critical support in key areas. For example, parents can access sessions focused on supporting their child's mental health or learning strategies for supporting ASD young people.

Reintegrating Pupils

The aim of 'The Lighthouse' is to reintegrate pupils who have been off long-term or need support with attendance. We intend this space to be a safe and supportive base to aid the transition back into school life.



Please see the before and after pictures to appreciate the transformation A21 has undergone to become 'The Lighthouse'! **All staff are invited to visit the space after school on Wednesday 10th December**, to see where pupils will be working and to find out more about what the space will offer.



PEF update

Breakfast Club

With support from PEF funding, supermarket partnerships, and our PTA we are soon to be hosting a morning Breakfast Club for BGE pupils to fuel for the day ahead. This will include toast, drinks, and fresh fruit.



Food Parcels

With help from our local supermarkets and staff, we provide pupils in need with a weekly food parcel with a mix of fresh and non-perishable food. Speak to your Guidance Teacher if this is something you could benefit from.

Higher Politics UK Parliament Trip

By Georgia W, S6

My Higher Politics class and I took a day trip to London, to visit Parliament and do some sightseeing. To start the trip off, we met at Central Station around 10pm to get the sleeper train down to London Euston. We all shared a room with one other classmate. We all gathered in the central carriage and played card games, this was a great opportunity for us to bond as a class. Once it hit around 11:30pm we all called it a night. We arrived into Euston Station around 7am. Once we had gathered all of our belongings we set off. We headed to get breakfast at the Breakfast Club in Soho. The staff were amazing and we all had an amazing breakfast.

Once we had finished our breakfast, we made our way to Parliament. We arrived at the Education Centre, where we were met by our tour guide who showed us around Parliament. He told us a lot about the history of the Parliament building, which was surreal after seeing this on TV. We went into the House of Commons and watched a debate.



We then went back to the Education Center, where we met up with another member of staff who took us for an hour long class. In this class we made up our own political parties, giving them names, logos, policies and slogans. This was a great opportunity for us to use our political knowledge and show our creative sides. After this we got to meet our MP, Susan Murray, we had the opportunity to ask her a variety of questions. She was generous with her time and we are grateful to her for coming to meet us.

Once we had our tour of Parliament and time in the Education Centre, we headed to Victoria Palace for food and went shopping before a show. A group of us went to Zizzi's for lunch, which was a good treat after a long night on the train. We then went round the shops to do our nousey.

We then had to meet up to with everyone again to get into the theatre to watch Hamilton. This was a great play, very well constructed and it was so entertaining and all of the songs were amazing.

This gave all of us a great understanding of how the American Constitution came about in different scenery in comparison to in the classroom.

After the play, we had to dash for the tube to Euston, to get the train back home. After a few delays, we got on the train to head home. It was a very long night due to the delays, however we kept the spirits high by playing cards and talking the whole night.

I think this was a great opportunity to experience a different sense of learning. It was in a different setting and we were being educated by other people rather than our teacher.

I would 100% recommend this to anyone who is interested in politics, it was one of the best trips I have been on with the school as we were given a great sense of responsibility and independence which many of us haven't experienced on a trip like this before.



S3 Geographers Map Urban Change on Glasgow

In early November, all five of our S3 Geography classes took part in essential urban fieldwork across the City of Glasgow. This practical experience is a vital contribution to our curriculum and is designed to bring key geographical concepts to life.

Over several days, students travelled across the city to collect critical data points needed to create a transect of changes that occur as one moves from the Central Business District (CBD), through the Inner City, and into the Suburbs.

Data Collection and Academic Impact

The students diligently gathered data on several key urban indicators:

- Building height
- Traffic congestion
- Environmental quality
- Noise levels
- Footfall (pedestrian count)

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to two groups who were instrumental in the success of this large-scale fieldwork:

1. The staff who accompanied the students, providing supervision, guidance, and expertise to ensure the learning was effective and the trip ran smoothly and safely.
2. The parents and carers whose financial contributions covered the cost of the coach transport, enabling us to run this valuable educational experience for all S3 Geography students.

This outdoor learning experience was a tremendous success, providing our students with practical skills and a deeper understanding of urban geography.

Sriram B- "I absolutely enjoyed the Geography trip to Glasgow! The data collection allowed us to use skills such as critical thinking and decision making in a real world setting. Visiting Silverburn highlighted the benefits in edge of City shopping and showed the level of popularity it held to customers.

Overall the trip linked to the main topics of the urban geography unit and supported our knowledge. I found it really fun!"



Liverpool and Manchester City Football trip

Our recent football trip was a great experience for everyone involved and a real highlight of the term. We started the day with a visit to Anfield Stadium, where pupils took part in a guided tour covering key areas such as the players tunnel, dressing rooms and pitch-side. It was a valuable chance to see behind the scenes and learn more about the history of the club.

After leaving Liverpool, we travelled to Manchester to watch the Manchester City vs. Borussia Dortmund match. The atmosphere in the stadium was incredible, and pupils really enjoyed the fast-paced game and the chance to see top-level football up close.

Overall, the trip was a successful mix of learning and sport. Our pupils represented the school very well throughout the day, showing enthusiasm, good behaviour and respect at each stop. It was a worthwhile experience outside the classroom, and we look forward to offering more opportunities like this in future.



Work Placement success stories

Hilton Work Experience

Last week we got the fantastic opportunity to spend Monday to Thursday at the Hilton offices in Glasgow for an engaging and enjoyable work experience week. We explored a wide range of departments across the business. We enjoyed meeting teams from HRCC, Marketing Operations, Shared Service Strategy, and Financial Systems, as well as learning from Hilton Accounting & Financial Services — Revenue Accounting, Hilton Accounting & Financial Services – order to cash and Hotel Accounting. The week also included insightful sessions with Corporate Accounting, Content Design, and Content Orchestration, which helped us understand how each area contributes to Hilton's overall success. Overall, it was an enjoyable and eye-opening experience that gave us a deeper appreciation for the collaborative work happening across the organisation and helped us to think about our own career pathways in the future. We would highly recommend a work experience placement with Hilton to anyone interested in careers in this sector.

Julia, Layla and Lily.

Work Placement Donations Request

As part of preparing our students for work placements, we are seeking donations of essential protective items such as **steel toe cap boots, hi-vis vests, and lab coats**. These items help ensure that every student is properly equipped and safe while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

If you have any spare or gently used items at home, we would be incredibly grateful for your contribution. Donations can be handed in at the school office. Thank you for supporting our young people as they take their first steps into the world of work!

K McDonald, PT of Developing the Young Workforce.



Cake Craft

Our Practical Cake Craft pupils received an inspiring visit from local bakery, Three Sisters Bake. The purpose of the workshop was to provide hands-on experience and valuable career insights. The practical session focused on essential tray bake skills crucial for high-volume catering. Nicola led the class in perfecting a popular cookie slice, demonstrating techniques for achieving consistent texture, uniform baking depth, and precise cutting and presentation. This focus was highly relevant for pupils currently preparing for their practical assessments.

In addition to the practical application, Nicola from Three Sisters Bake shared her experience working in the industry. She discussed the requirements for running a successful, high-quality food business, including managing consistency, high-volume production, and adapting to industry trends. This discussion provided excellent guidance for students considering vocational pathways after leaving school.

The connection between classroom theory and commercial practice is invaluable, and we thank Nicola and Three Sisters Bake for their time and for inspiring our students with genuinely useful skills and career advice.



WoSPEG Competiton runners up

A huge congratulations to Alex M, Daniel D, and James M in S5 for their excellent performance in the annual West of Scotland Physics Education Group (WoSPEG) Physics Competition. This competition challenges students from across the West of Scotland in a quiz combining general knowledge, problem solving, and Physics questions. The team was quick on the buzzer and demonstrated strong knowledge and teamwork, winning both their heats and semi-finals against tough opposition.

In the final, they represented Lenzie Academy brilliantly, securing second place overall out of 20 schools. Their success is notable, marking only the third time in thirty years that Lenzie Academy has reached the competition final. We are very proud of their efforts - well done to the team for their dedication and achievement!



Sporting Success

Gymnastics Competition

What a fantastic day! Lenzie Academy was thrilled to welcome numerous schools from East Dunbartonshire on Monday, November 24th for our Beginner Level Gymnastics Competition! The pupils shone in both the floor and vault events, performing the excellent routines they have perfected at the Monday after-school club. The atmosphere was truly special—full of encouragement and team spirit from all the schools. A massive well done to every gymnast!

International Men's Mental Health Day

Lenzie Academy took action to support men's mental health through two important initiatives. We arranged for the **Men With Issues** Charity to run beneficial mental health workshops tailored specifically for our S3 boys. Furthermore, to support the Movember movement, our Sports Council Members held a successful fundraising drive on 19th November, selling moustaches to students and staff. The money raised from the moustaches was £71.66!

Dance Performances – Thursday 13th November

All pupils engaged in dance, whether through the curriculum or extracurricular clubs, stayed after school to participate in a vibrant showcase of their progress. The event featured a diverse range of performances, including routines from all competition teams, both dance academies, and every curriculum dance class. It was a fantastic display of talent, and every pupil presented their work confidently on the stage.

Young Musician Competition

Senior Competition

Our annual competition was held at the start of November with pupils in S4/5/6 performing one piece of Grade 5 Standard or Higher, to a small audience of parents/carers and Kirkintilloch Rotary Members. Our competition was judged by Miss Beth Seggie, Principal Teacher of Music from Douglas Academy.

Congratulations to **Matt S** S6 for winning on guitar.

He played a grade 8 piece called *“Tango en Skai”* and will go forward to represent Lenzie Academy in the Kirkintilloch Round of the *Young Musician of the Year*, early January. Our vocal winner was **Sofia O** in S4 who sang *“Memory”* from Cats.

Sofia will join Matt at the Rotary Competition – we wish them all the best!





Junior Competition

We had 16 pupils across S1/2/3 come forward to audition for a place in our BGE Young Musician and they were all great! All 16 pupils were entered into the competition and we had pianists, singers, drummers, brass and woodwind players and a piper and a harmonium player! The variety and standard was excellent. Two senior pupils – Fraser and Harry who had performed in the Senior Competition were our judges and had a tricky decision to make. Well done to Daniel R S3 for winning on guitar with Donna L and runner up Rory G who played the famous “Maple Leaf Rag” on piano. Thank you to Fraser and Harry for their feedback and presentation of certificates.

Children in Need Singing success

On Friday Autumn G (2IG2) was been interviewed for the Children in Need Show and travelled to Manchester to take part in the choir. She was thrilled to be selected out of a large number of applicants. Well done!

Children in Need Total

Across our recent fundraising effort we raised a fabulous total of **£1124.21** Thank you for all your donations and help!

Teenage Treats for Christmas

Once again, the Support for Learning department are looking for donations of festive treats or small stocking fillers such as gift sets for teenagers and women to be donated to those in our local community at Christmas time. We are supporting our local Foodbank and Women's Aid. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations by Tuesday the 16th December to the PI Room – B8 Thank you!

S4-6 January Assessment Supports

Mrs. Lennox, Principal Teacher of Support for Pupils and Mr Imrie our SQA Coordinator have completed meetings with all departments to finalise the assessment requirements for S4, S5, and S6 pupils in January. Mrs. Lennox will begin meeting with individual pupils from December 1st to confirm their specific arrangements.

- Once these arrangements are confirmed, rooming assignments will be finalised.
- Pupils will then receive their individual assessment timetables before the Christmas break.

The January assessments will serve as a trial run. The arrangements and results will be reviewed and updated before the main SQA exams.

UCAS update

We are continuing to make progress with our university applicants, and at time of writing almost two-thirds of our applicants have submitted their application to UCAS for consideration. We have 149 applicants, and already a number of those who applied early have received at least one offer. We're very proud of all our applicants - they all have excellent applications and have put a lot of time and effort into their personal statements.

Over the next week, we will finalise applications for our remaining applicants and would ask for parent support to ensure that pupils have paid and sent their applications to school in good time for us to do our final checks. Thanks to all who have supported young people with their applications, we know that this is a big step for many of them but one that they have done confidently!

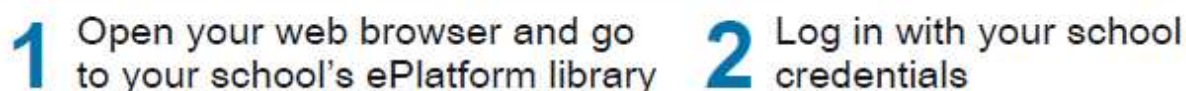
S6 Halloween Dress up

Our S6 pupils went all out to raise funds for their prom by dressing up on Friday 31st October. Here are some of their fantastic efforts.





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