

## ***Newsletter January 2026***



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the January newsletter and I hope the New Year has started well for you.

January is an important month for our Senior Phase pupils (S4, S5 and S6) as they sit their January assessments which, whilst not the only basis for SQA estimates, is the most important factor used by most subjects in determining the grade that they think young people are most likely to achieve in their SQA exam. It is not an exact science and we are assessing young people in January – many months before they sit their SQA examinations in May – and a range of other factors can come into play depending upon the subject and the level of presentation. Nonetheless, the January assessments are important and we hope that pupils achieve well at this stage. It is important to note that, for a variety of reasons, traditionally young peoples' performance across the year tends to be very positive in the October assessment block before dipping in January and then improving again in May. As I write this we have yet to review the performance of our S4-6 pupils across their range of subjects as curricular departments have to mark the assessments; engage in a range of moderation exercises to ensure consistency of standards and thereafter enter the assessment information into our Senior Phase tracker to allow us to review how each young person is doing across all the subjects they are studying this year.

As you will see from the content of this month's newsletter our pupils have been engaged in a wide range of activities, competitions, events and trips and many have achieved exceptionally well. I must point out and praise our HFT Ambassadors who prepared the catering for a recent Secondary Head Teachers meeting held within the school on Thursday 29 January. The young people stayed on after school on the Wednesday to bake a wide array of scones and cakes for our invited guests. All of my HT colleagues, the Chief Education Officer and other local authority central team staff, commented very positively on the quality of the catering provision so well done to our HFT Ambassadors.

I hope you enjoy the content of the January newsletter. We have devised it as a SWAY document. We did use SWAY as a communication forum in previous years for the newsletter but moved away from this for a while. Hopefully the SWAY format meets with your approval.

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## School refurbishment update

Over the last few weeks there have been several refurbishments and enhancements to the school building e.g. new flooring in various areas, internal doors being repaired and the main entry doors to the school at the front back and side have all been repaired and are now operational. This refurbishment will continue over the next few weeks with the school corridors being re-painted. This has already begun and will continue at weekends to avoid impacting upon learning and teaching. The school playground area and driveway, which is affected by many potholes, will be re-surfaced over the February break and a new roof will be put in place on the wing before the summer break. All of these enhancements are most welcome.

## Holocaust Memorial assemblies

Thursday 27 January was Holocaust Memorial day. As a school we mark this through House assemblies, led by our pupils. This year a number of our S3 pupils, working with Mrs Davidson, researched and prepared a very powerful presentation and delivered this with compassion and authority. The pupils in the audience listened intently and with appropriate solemnity considering the nature of the topic. Overall, it was a highly appropriate reminder to our pupils of the horrors of the holocaust and meets the aims of the Holocaust Memorial Trust to ensure that future generations are reminded of the Holocaust.

## Mobile phone pilot

In February we will be sending out details of a small revision to our mobile phone policy within the school, in light of East Dunbartonshire's new mobile phone policy. All parents / carers will receive a letter with details of the minor changes in due course.

## Meet our BGE Ambassadors

### *Senior Leadership Team*

**Sarah N Ambassador for S1** My aim is to give all the S1s the best start to high school possible! I want to encourage the school values and give them a sense of community within their house, year group and within the whole school. It's also important to me that the first years take full advantage of all the opportunities they have which will help them develop many important skills they can use throughout their life. Throughout school I have got to develop many skills as well as discovering many new subjects which I have really enjoyed. Being at Lenzie Academy has also helped me meet loads of new people and make amazing friends!

**Callum McB Ambassador for S1** I'm a BGE Ambassador for S1 and I hope to make them feel welcome to the school and alongside Sarah, help run events for the S1's letting them get used to high school whilst having fun and making friends. I hope the S1's will feel comfortable with coming to me about concerns they might have as I want them to feel welcome. I am also a Captain of the HFT Ambassadors, we help with catering for school events such as the Celebration of Culture and Celebration of Character.

**Chloe W Ambassador S2** Hi, my name is Chloe and this year I'm one of three BGE ambassadors for S2! With my position, I aim to provide guidance and extra support to the S2's as they make important decisions such as choosing what subjects they want to pursue at Lenzie. I'd like to get the whole year group involved in more activities together throughout the school year to create a welcoming and safe environment where everyone feels included. I'd also like to encourage the extracurricular activities more as Lenzie does have so many to choose from!

**Hannah R Ambassador S2** As a BGE Ambassador, my role in the school is to be a good role model to the S2 pupils and motivate them through this important year. Subjects are picked which set up pupils for their career and I hope to be able to provide guidance to them in this important decision as it can affect the rest of their time in school. I also would like to organise events within the school that involve everyone, to create a stronger community in Lenzie Academy.

**Melny M Ambassador S2** Hello, my name is Melny and I am a BGE Ambassador for S2. With my role as BGE Ambassador I am going to make s2 an enjoyable experience. I want to use this opportunity to encourage others to get involved, share their ideas, and make sure every student feels supported and included. Through this role, I hope to develop my confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills while giving something back to the school community. My school has done a lot for me by helping me grow as a person, supporting my learning, and giving me chances to take on new challenges like this one.

**Megan L Ambassador S3** As a BGE Ambassador for S3 I hope to help provide exam advice from senior phase pupils as the year group goes through their first formal practice assessments December. This can hopefully help to make the transition go smoothly as I know how nervous this was from personal experience. I hope this can help them get used to the formal exam setting providing more help before they sit their National 5 exams next year.

**Isabella S Ambassador S3** I wanted to become BGE Ambassador for third years because I want to help build a stronger, more connected school community. I am also excited to work with others, share ideas, and get everyone involved, so I'm really looking forward to helping create better links between different year groups. My goal is to make sure everyone feels included, supported, and proud to be part of our school.



## Kirkintilloch Rotary Club – Young Musician Competition

On Wednesday 7th January, Sofia O in S4 (Voice) and Matt S in S6 (Guitar), took part in the first heat of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year. The competition was held here at Lenzie Academy and the pupils competed against pupils from St Ninain's and Kirkintilloch High Schools. Both musicians performed two pieces with Sofia singing *Part of Your World* from 'The Little Mermaid' and *Maybe* from 'Annie' and Matt performing *Sons de Carrilhoes* and *Tango en Skai*.



## Modern Studies Association/Scottish Sentencing Council Competition

In October last year, the Scottish Sentencing Council and the Modern Studies Association posed the question of students in Scottish schools: **Is sentencing in Scotland fair?**

This essay competition was open to S4 - S6 students at secondary schools, and entrants were tasked with providing an evidence-based argument in answer to the question.

Two Lenzie Academy pupils entered the competition, with both entries achieving success. Alexa McL (S6) was Highly Commended by the judges for her entry and Jasmine McL (S5) was one of six finalists from across Scotland. They are pictured here with their certificates. In addition, Jasmine also received a small financial award from the Modern Studies Educational Trust for her success as a finalists.



## Vocal Master Class with Karen Cargill

The Music Department were lucky to host a masterclass with Karen Cargill, a Scottish operatic mezzo-soprano, at the end of January. Karen frequently travels abroad to perform and has an impressive career to date performing recently in New York and now China for her next performance. Karen lead a masterclass at Lenzie which was attended by vocal pupils across EDC. Each pupil was given the opportunity to perform a song and receive feedback and advice on aspects of their performance to improve. Our SQA singers attended and principal cast members from our up-coming school show "The Little Mermaid".

A very enjoyable morning for all involved! A big thank you to Karen for her time and Jane Ferguson, Team Leader of the IMS for organising.



## Creative writing club - competition winners!

A massive congratulations to the following pupils, whose poems were chosen for publication as part of Young Writers' "I Have A Dream" international poetry competition!

Ava S (S1)

Sadie B (S1)

Morolayo A (S2)

The 'I Have A Dream' anthology is due to be published later this year. Well done to our writers! To find out more about forthcoming competitions, come along to Creative Writing club (every Tuesday lunchtime in A1).

## Sweet Success in the Kitchen

Our National 5 Practical Cake Craft students have truly risen to the occasion! The HFT department are delighted to share the fantastic results of our recent festive celebration cakes where learners showcased their growth in precision, creativity, and technical skill. The kitchen was a hub of focus as students applied a variety of advanced techniques to bring their designs to life. From designing to achieving a smooth external finish with sugar paste to the delicate art of crimping, embossing, texturing and stencilling. The attention to detail was exceptional. Well done!



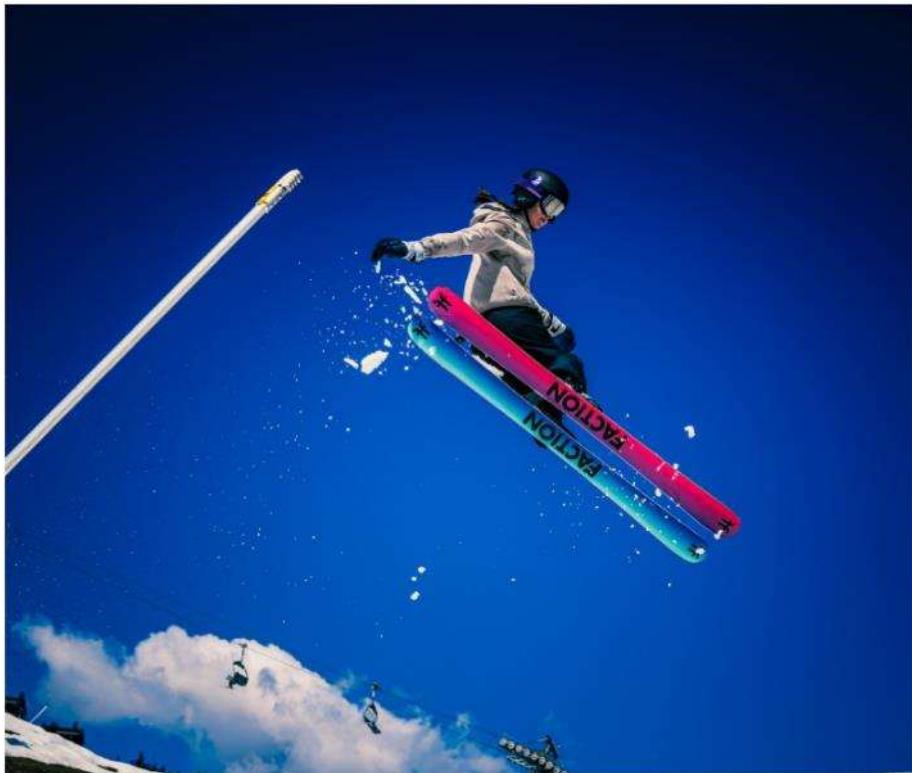


## Freestyle Ski awards

We are delighted to celebrate Melissa M's (S4) recent freestyle ski achievements across 2025.

Melissa has recently been awarded with two trophies for overall female freestyle ski performance in 2025, as well as achieving a number of gold medals in national competitions throughout the year.

We are pleased to offer our continued support in 2026, as Melissa travels to Austria in coming months, and prepares to participate in international events. Congratulations Melissa on recent your achievements, and we wish you every success in the up-and-coming events.





## Girls S1 and S2 Football

Huge congratulations to the girls S1/S2 football team who took part in the East Dunbartonshire Cup. The girls finished an excellent second place, just missing out on first place by goal difference. An amazing effort and a result to be really proud of.

Well done girls and good luck with future games!!

## National 5 and Higher Media Studies trip

Our recent trip to **Sky Up Studios** was a great opportunity for our National 5 and Higher pupils to get hands on experience in a filming studio. Pupils worked together in groups to produce, direct and star in their own movie trailers.

Students created films from a range of genres, from science-fiction romances to action thrillers. They enjoyed the chance to work with quality editing software and filming equipment and to work with the very helpful staff at Sky. It was brilliant to see pupils working in teams to support each other and have fun being creative.



## Ski Trip 2026 – Alpe D'Huez

During the second week of January, 60 pupils along with Mr McDowell, Mr Metcalfe, Ms McLean, Mr Wadham, Ms Marshall 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, Crepe Night, *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!



## Work Experience updates

We had a busy and eventful work Experience for our S4's this time and we are delighted to have a run down from some pupils who took part this time.

### Ciara F, S4

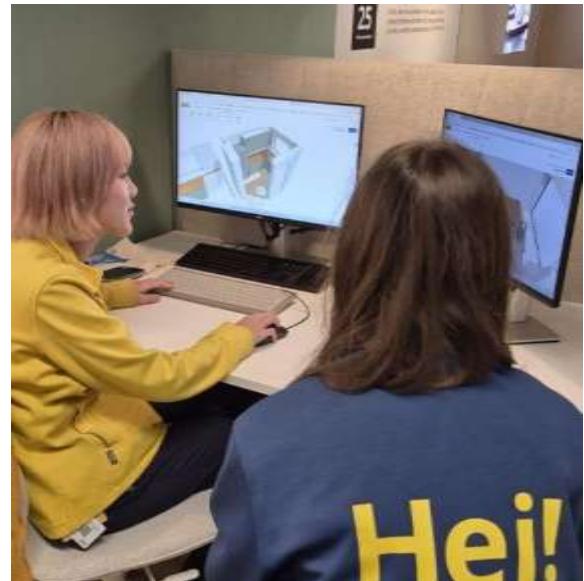
At the start of my day, I learned that merchandising is a key aspect for any retailer as it makes it easier for the customer to shop. Therefore, I was tasked with putting various items on the shelves like the glasses seen in the photos as well toys and linens. I enjoyed this as it was fun, and I would say I'm a very organized person so I enjoyed the organization aspect as well I like helping others so this is meant I could help others indirectly.

Pricing is important as it directly affects how customers perceive value, fairness and whether they decide to buy a product at all. During my work experience at IKEA, practicing pricing helped me understand how carefully prices are set to balance affordability for customers with costs and profit for the business. I learned that even small price changes can influence demand and customer behaviour. Good housekeeping is essential to a tidy and clean shop shoppers will enjoy shopping in as well as keeping it safe for customers too.

At the end of my day, I was lucky enough to get an opportunity to talk to a CAD designer who makes 3D models of kitchens and bedrooms so that customers can visualize their spaces. This was interesting as I was able to see and understand how virtual designers can show customers what they want, were as a drawing may mean the customer may not be get the desired effect.

Overall, my work experience was highly informative. Personally, despite having a lack of interest in retail, I found my day of work at Ikea to be fun, entertaining and informative.

Please enjoy some images of **Ben McE S4** and **Ethan M's S4** work experience at *Porter and Rye*. Well done boys, the food looks delicious!



S4 Work Experience Day - Commis Chef



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Cranachan Tart, Crème Anglaise & Toasted Oat Ice Cream





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## Respect me - anti bullying

**Respectme** are working with schools across Scotland to combat bullying. This is a topic we will be covering in PSE classes across the year. *"Established in 2007, respectme is Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service. We work with all adults involved in the lives of children and young people to build their practical skills, competence and confidence to prevent and respond to bullying."*

Please find more information via the link below;  
[bullying-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-2025.pdf](https://www.respectme.scot/assets/documents/bullying-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-2025.pdf)



<i>FORWARDS</i>	<i>BACKS</i>	
OLIE ANDERSON	×	FELIX CHAMPAIN
ALFIE BLACKETT		HARRY CLARK
SAM BYRD*	×	JAKE DALZIEL
OLIVER FINLAYSON-RUSSELL		CALUM JESSOP
CHRISTIAN LINDSAY*	×	GREGOR JOHNSTON
JACK MARSHALL		HENRY KESTERTON*
JAMIE MCAUGHTRIE	×	HAMISH MACARTHUR*
OLIVER MCKENNA*		RORY MCHAFFIE*
AIDAN ORR	×	ADAM MCKENZIE
WILL PEARCE		NAIRN MONCRIEFF*
RORY PURVIS*		MITCHELL NEWELL
HARVEY PRESTON		CAMPBELL WAUGH
JACKSON RENNIE*		HENRY WIDDOWSON*
JOE ROBERTS*		ROSS WOLFENDEN* (C)
FIN RONNIE		
JAMIE STEWART*		
JACK UTTERSON*		

\*Denotes Scottish Rugby Academy Player

**SCOTLAND**  
*U20 SQUAD*  
U20 Six Nations 2026

The logo for the Scottish Rugby Union, featuring a stylized "S" and "R" intertwined within a circular emblem.

**1 Well done to Alumni Harvey Preston!**

## Rail Safe

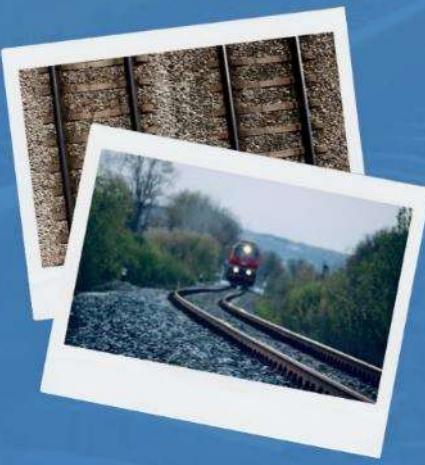
We are pleased to report we have been awarded a bronze Rail Safety badge from the RSF. Classes will be learning about Rail Safety awareness in PSE classes over the year, and parents can find out more information from the links below.



# THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

**Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting [railsafefriendly.com](http://railsafefriendly.com)**



**SCAN ME**



**"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"**

Simon Frazer, Principal, Gulsborough Academy

**DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC**

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

<b>12</b> people died in accidents while trespassing	<b>58%</b> were struck by a train or tram	<b>42%</b> were electrocuted
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According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

<b>120+</b> companies support the programme	<b>11,000+</b> schools in the UK have engaged	<b>20,000+</b> UK schools still need to be reached
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