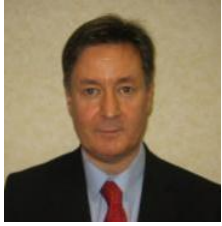




## LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

**SESSION 2017- 2018**

**August 2017**



Welcome to the new session and I hope all parents/carers and pupils had a pleasant summer holiday. The term has started very well and our new S1 pupils have now familiarised themselves with the layout of the building and are finding their way around without much trouble. There is always a very positive buzz in the first few weeks of term as young people meet up with their friends and many form new friendships with people in new classes. It's very nice to see so many young people laughing and joking with friends at intervals and lunch and we are pleased that so many of our young people feel happy and safe within the school.

The content of this newsletter demonstrates that we as a school value the education of your children in the widest sense through exposure to various trips, extra-curricular activities and recognising young peoples' achievements in many diverse fields.

I would like to thank all parents/carers who completed the parental survey that was issued last term. The results of this survey are really positive and give our teachers and support staff a welcome boost that you, as key stakeholders, value the contributions that they make to your children when they attend the school. I will provide more comprehensive feedback to all parents/carers in the next school newsletter.

### SQA results

Over the past few years we have enhanced our attainment profile very effectively and I am pleased to say that our S4, S5 and S6 pupils once again achieved excellent SQA results. Our S4 pupils have maintained our three year rolling average of 72% achieving five or more National 5 qualifications, whilst in S5 we had more than 1/3 of the cohort achieving five Higher Grade qualifications whilst 53% achieved four or more Higher Grades and 2/3 of S5 pupils achieved three or more Higher Grades. Overall, nearly 90% of pupils achieved a Higher Grade qualification in S5 and this is to be commended. These results have led to more incremental improvements in our three year rolling average figures so we are all delighted with the continued progress made by our pupils. In S6 we had yet another increase in the number of our pupils achieving one or more Advanced Higher Grade qualifications – the fourth year of consecutive improvement with a record number of pupils achieving three Advanced Higher Grades. Well done to all of our young people.

### Staffing Update

We have had quite a few changes to staffing this year for a variety of reasons and I outline these below:

- Mrs McCracken, PT Guidance and teacher of Mathematics secured a Deputy Head Teacher post in Glasgow. Mrs McClure (Biology) has taken up the Acting PT Guidance post.
- Mr Dunsmuir, PT Guidance and teacher of PE has moved to Douglas Academy to fill an Acting Deputy Head Teacher post. Ms Shearer (PE) has taken up the Acting PT Guidance post.
- Mr Fraser, PT Computing, has retired and Mr McClune, PT Design Technology, will look after the Computing Department on an acting basis.

- Mrs Priester, PT Curriculum Support and teacher of Business Education has retired and Mrs Davidson (RE) has taken up the Acting PT Curriculum Support post.
- Our new probationer teachers have taken up post in various departments – Ms Campbell (English), Ms Edwards (Modern Languages), Ms Kielty (Chemistry), Mr Merton (Physics), Ms Sampaio (Art & Design), Mr Chainey (Modern Studies) and Ms McFadden (History)
- We have appointed Mr McGovern (English) and Mr Southcott (Biology) as Acting PTs of Raising Attainment.
- We welcome back Ms Carty, Principal Teacher of Religious and Moral Education, who returns to us after having a two year career break and Ms Baxter (History) who returns from maternity leave.
- Mr McCaffrey (Computing) has joined us as a part-time member of the Computing Department.
- We also have a number of temporary staff with us at the moment – Ms Dewar (Mathematics), Ms Ihsan (Biology) and Mr Brown (Business Education).
- We also welcome Ms O’Keefe and Ms Blair who join our office staff to ensure that we are back up to our full complement of support staff.

### School refurbishments

We have had a number of improvements made to the school over the holiday period –

1. **Roofing-** we are currently having a replacement roof put on the original building to ensure it is wind and watertight. This is unfortunately causing some short-term inconvenience at the moment for pupils and teachers due to the noise but hopefully this work will be completed shortly.
2. **Front doors** – we have had a new front doors installed which enables us to make this one of the main entrance and exit points to the school building. This saves the young people having to walk all the way around to the side entrance to gain access. This is a most welcome development.
3. **Biology base** – after many years of having a working area that was not fit for purpose our Biology staff now have a new, much improved staff base and this is a welcome addition to the school.
4. **Technician’s base** – due to the creation of a new Biology base we have had to reconfigure our technicians’ base. This has been upgraded and also is much improved from what was previously there.

We will be progressing with some more improvements over the coming year with each improvement enhancing the quality of provision for our pupils. We thank East Dunbartonshire Council for their continued investment in the school estate.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this month’s newsletter.

## Paris-Alps Trip – “an unforgettable week”

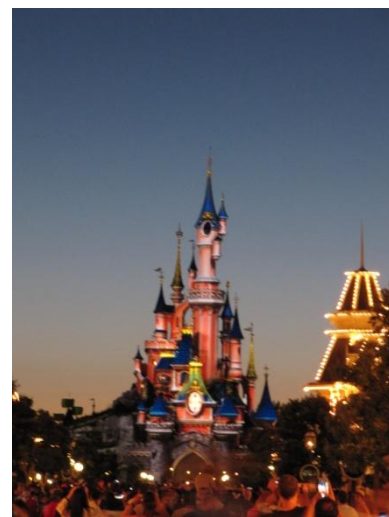
Thirty seven S1 and S2 pupils began the annual Paris-Alps trip with an overnight coach journey from Lenzie Academy to Dover on Friday 23rd June. Early the next morning we boarded a ferry named the Spirit of Kent and sailed across the English Channel to Calais. We continued our journey from there to Disneyland Paris where we spent the remainder of the day at Disneyland village.



During our time at the there we had the opportunity to go on a variety of rides, such as the Tower of Terror and the Rock ‘n’ Rollercoaster. After a tiring day we arrived at the B&B Hotel near Disneyland that was to be our bed for the night. The next morning we took a shuttle bus from the hotel to Disneyland and spent the whole day, from opening time to closing time, in the Magic Kingdom. This was one of my favourite days as we were given the opportunity to go on so many of the rides, such as Big Thunder Mountain, Phantom Manor and of course who could forget, It’s a Small World?! At about 11pm we watched the magnificent fireworks display before getting back on our coach to head overnight down to the French Alps.

The next morning we awoke in the village of Les Contamines-Montjoie in Haute-Savoie. We had breakfast in our hotel and spent the next few hours exploring the village and having some free time. Later in the day, we went to an adventure park where we spent time on pedalos and trampolines which were

great fun. The next day we had our first day out. In the morning we took the coach to the very picturesque old city of Annecy. We



spent the morning looking round the old town and its shops. After that we went swimming in Lake Annecy which was definitely a lot warmer than any of the lochs in Scotland! The next day we had another day out, this time to Chamonix where we were rewarded with spectacular views of glaciers and Mont Blanc. We were going to go to another adventure park but due to the weather, it rained constantly, we went to an indoor swimming pool instead. That night we took part in a quiz which was great fun as we tried to beat each other and win the prizes which were sweets bought in Disneyland.

All too soon it was our final day in France and we all took part in a treasure hunt based on clues around the village of Les Contamines-Montjoie. At about 8 o’clock that evening we said farewell to the Alps and set off on our twenty four hour journey back to Lenzie. After the long coach journey and the ferry we finally arrived back in Lenzie after an amazing week ready to begin our summer holidays.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we thank the teachers, Ms Shaw, Mr Hughes, Ms Fordyce and Mr Ortiz, who made it possible.

By Ross Donaldson

## Alton Towers



A group of S2-S4 pupils enjoyed a trip to Alton Towers theme park on the last day of term before the summer holidays. Having arrived early and ready to tackle the rides, all pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip

and to top it all off the weather stayed dried for us all day.

Returning to Lenzie Academy around 11.30pm it was a long, exhausting but fun and thrilling day.



## Sports Tour

At the end of June eighty-seven pupils from S2-S4 and eight staff went to Marbella, for five days, for an action packed Sports Tour. This was the largest overseas trip at Lenzie Academy for several years.

5 different sports went on tour which included two rugby teams, 2 football teams, and a netball, basketball and hockey team. Each team took part in 2 fixtures against local



Spanish opposition. There were some very competitive fixtures taking place at excellent facilities and in extremely hot conditions. All our teams did exceptionally well and there were some hard-earned victories.

We stayed at a 4 star hotel where pupils could relax at the pool or beach and take part in more sporting activities such as volleyball, tennis and crazy golf. As a reward and for a day off pupils had the opportunity to visit one of Spain's famous water parks!

It was a fantastic trip and all pupils were a credit to the school. The next tour is planned for Summer 2019 and will be open to current pupils in S1-S4.

## Achievements

There have been lots of pupil achievements outwith school at the end of June and over the summer here are just a few of them

### **Scottish Athletics National U13/U20 Championships**

Holly Kirkwood (new 2MR) won double gold at the recent National age group championships at Scotstoun Stadium on the 19th August.

Holly won gold in the 800m and gold in the long jump with a pb of 4.93m taking her to no1 in Scotland for this event in the u13 category.





## Karate

The Glasgow Karate Academy affiliated to the Japan Karate Shoto Federation (JKS), presents Aliya Brear (New S2) with her 1st Dan grading certificate that arrived from Japan.



Congratulations to Lewis Graham who came 2nd at the North East Open Karate Championships, Darlington, England



## BMX

Austin Goldberg - BMX- finished in 3rd place at the North Region Champs (England). And 1st place for Male 13 in Scotland



Cameron Reid- BMX- Scottish Champion for 5th time, 2nd in U.K. And qualifies for team GB at European and World Champs!



## FOLA (Friends of Lenzie Academy)

FOLA is a group of parents and staff who work throughout the year to raise funds which allow the school to obtain additional resources that otherwise could not be budgeted for. Each of these purchases enhances the wider school life and experiences of pupils in a range of activities

and opportunities within the curriculum, in extra-curricular activities and wider achievement.

Significant bids thus far have included new temporary staging used at concerts, shows and prize giving. Successful bids also facilitated and resourced a pupil Lego club, Bounce back day, Science Fair and supported the team that represented Lenzie Academy in the UKMT maths challenge in London. Over the past few years they have provided a vast array of kit for Lenzie Academy sports clubs and teams, they have funded the school photography club and provided a substantial sum to assist us with the purchase of the school mini-bus.

The 500 club organised by FOLA provides a regular input to fundraising. However, this is at present supported by a small band of 80 people. This gives a greater chance of winning one of the two cash prizes awarded each month but would contribute a lot more if we could encourage more parents to take a number in this draw. Please consider this if you will.

The group's next fundraising event will be a "Prezzies and Presecco" evening on the 17th of November. The venue will be local but is yet to be confirmed. All will be made welcome.

The group are looking for more people to come on board and assist. It's a friendly bunch and many hands make lighter work. Please come along if you feel you can help. If you can't commit to the group then please consider supporting the fundraising events. If time is limited enter the 500 club. Forms are available from Mr Farquhar or the FOLA website [www.fola125.co.uk](http://www.fola125.co.uk).

## \*HELP NEEDED\*

Can you help, please? We have a group of young people from our German partner school coming over from 26th September until 4th October. This is part of an annual exchange visit for some Scottish and German pupils, during which they take experience school life, family life and working life in each other's country. However, five of the boys who are about to visit do not yet have host families to accommodate them and we really would like them to have the experience of living in a family here, as the rest of their group will be doing.

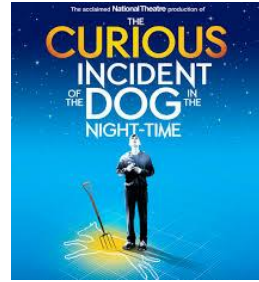
They are all aged 14 and will be taking part in organised activities during the week days and on some of the evenings, so their main needs are just a bed and food. Their English is very good considering their age and families who host generally find it a very positive experience to have one of these young people in their home. Pupils from our school who are their hosts would also be able to take part in two day excursions with the entire Scottish / German group and could attend evening events with them eg our disco and the family farewell ceilidh. There would be no cost involved other than an extra body to feed!

If you can help us or would like further information, please contact Ms Shaw in the Modern Languages Department.

Your assistance would be VERY much appreciated.



## The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time



Lenzie Academy's Higher Drama class recently went to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time' at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. The play is set in Swindon and is about a 15-year-old amateur detective named Christopher John Francis Boone who is a math genius. He appears to have an unspecified autism spectrum disorder, although the condition is never explicitly stated in the play. The curious incident is the mystery surrounding the death of a neighbour's dog found speared by a garden fork.

Everyone in the class really enjoyed the performance. They used lots of technology and projections to enhance the story and our favourite part was the live dog onstage!! In particular the lighting was really striking as they used a mix of LEDs and traditional theatrical lanterns. The production has definitely given us lots to write about in the final exam.



## Teenage Cancer Trust

Adam Niven and Iain MacDonald, both new S3 pupils, have raised money by visiting 180 train stations in eight days. So far they have raised £410 through cash and online donations. All money will be donated between Teenage Cancer Trust and Lenzie Academy Malawi Fund. The boys were inspired to do their challenge when two Londoners visited all 2563 stations in the UK and felt this was a different way to raise money and chose to visit stations in the Glasgow and Strathclyde area.



A visitor from Teenage Cancer Trust came to the school to raise awareness and to tell pupils about the new facilities at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and how it provides care for young people with cancer aged 13 to 16 across the West of Scotland. The Malawi fund goes towards our Global School Partnership with Nansomba Secondary School and is helping to build new facilities for school children under the age of 12, current projects includes building a much needed toilet block for the Disabled Children who attend Mendulo Early Childhood Development Centre (Nursery) but also to provided learning facilities including books, pens and pencils etc. To donate to Adam and Iain's fund please visit:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Allthestationsglasgowstrathclyde](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Allthestationsglasgowstrathclyde).

### Need to Contact the School?

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Absence Line: 0141 955 2380

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**FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page**

[www.fola125.co.uk](http://www.fola125.co.uk)