



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2017- 2018 October 2017



Welcome to the October newsletter.

Despite the holiday during the month October has been an extremely busy month for the school with a wide array of activities and events going on. Our S1 Open Evening was a huge success and an excellent example of 'Family Learning' whereby parents/carers can see not just what their children are learning but just as importantly how they are learning. More details are inside as are details of our very first S1 Residential Trip. This trip was organised to allow young people to widen their friendship circle whilst developing our 'House' identity and enhancing a wide range of important skills for learning, life and work. Thanks to Ms Quearns in Business Education for organising and coordinating the programme. We will build upon these skills through our S1 Bounce back day which you will hear more about in the November newsletter.

In this newsletter you will also read a very poignant and thoughtful contribution from Heather Cunningham (6SL) who, along with Jenny Burr, visited to Auschwitz as part of the Holocaust Memorial programme.

We were lucky enough to have had a visit from Jo Swinson to the Modern Studies department. Ms Swinson is very supportive of Modern Studies and helps bring the subject to life in a very meaningful way for our young people so we thank her for her ongoing commitment to our pupils.

It is also worth noting that two of our pupils have been awarded the prestigious Diana Award for services to their wider community. Iona Smith (S5) for taking a lead role in the Rights Respecting Schools Award within Lenzie Academy and Emma Mahon (S6) for her role a part of the Sports Council for Scotland. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Also in this edition you will learn about our European Sports Day; our Spooky Sevens Rugby competition and a range of other events and activities that our young people have been involved in.

Staffing News

Mathematics - In October we welcomed back Mr Mark Jarman to our Mathematics department after he had been away in St Ninian's High School for 18 months as Acting PT. We have also appointed Ms Gillian Ness to the Mathematics department from Queensferry High School and she will start with us on Monday 4 December

Biology – In October Ms Sarah Gantly re-joined the school as a permanent teacher in the Biology department. Ms Gantly had been a probationer teacher with us two years ago so we are delighted that she has re-joined the school.

School Captains

This year we are blessed with an outstanding captaincy team and from this group we have appointed Arron Greig and Beth Gilmour as the school captains for 2017-18. I am sure Arran and Beth will do an excellent job and they will be assisted by a first rate captaincy team – Jonathan Bryce, Kirsty Donaldson, Euan Ferguson, Connor Gray, Jaims McIntyre, Holly Richmond, Beth Seggie and Nina Sosna.

Supporting our pupils

As you will be aware we support our pupils in a variety of ways, especially those pupils in the Senior Phase who have important SQA exams coming up later on in the session. Some of the supports we put in place are outlined below:

- **LA Launch** – open to all pupils this programme operates on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 3.30 – 4.30. It allows pupils to work together on projects, research and complete homework tasks assigned to them. There is no requirement to sign up pupils just turn up to classroom B8.
- **Counselling** – we operate a counselling service for young people who feel that they require some support to help them at various points in their schooling. This can be requested via our guidance staff.
- **After school assessments** – for young people in S3-6 who miss assessments or need to re-sit assessments we offer this after school opportunity on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3.30-5.00. This ensures young people can complete assessments in controlled conditions and that they don't need to miss important class work.
- **Supported study** – As a school we will be offering a much more comprehensive and wide-ranging supported study programme for our S4-6 pupils to help them enhance their skills to hopefully enable them to secure the best possible qualifications that they can achieve. Details have already been put on our website and pupil have been given details of what is on offer each night between now and the Christmas holidays. This is an

important support for our pupils and I would urge parents/carers to engage with their children to make the most of this opportunity.

- **Mentoring** – We will be assigning staff mentors to those young people in S5-6 who we feel, in light of the recent monitoring and tracking report, need some extra help and support. Letters will be issued to parents whose children will be involved in due course.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter.

Need to Contact the School?

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FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page

www.fola125.co.uk

Advanced Higher Music Pupils



A group of four advanced higher music pupils recently performed at a concert in St David's Memorial Park Church to raise money for the Kelvinside Talking Newspaper. The concert

was organised by the Paisley Philharmonic Choir and the pupils performed solo items in-between choral items. Zoe Mair performed "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" on flute and "To A Wild Rose" on piano, Beth Seggie performed "Forcing The Pace" on piano, Kirsty Donaldson performed the first movement of a Sonata by LeFevre on clarinet and then "The Little Shepherd" on piano, and Lauryn Pepper sang "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Well Done to all girls who performed admirably and thanks to parents and friends who came along to support them!



Performing Arts 'Hairspray' Trip

On Tuesday 3rd November, The Performing Arts Department took pupils involved in extra-curricular clubs to see 'Hairspray' at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. In 1960s Baltimore, dance-loving teen Tracy Turnblad (Nikki Blonsky) auditions for a spot on "The



Corny Collins Show" and wins. She becomes an overnight celebrity, a trendsetter in dance, fun and fashion. Tracy is keen to use her new status as a teen sensation is enough to topple Corny's reigning dance queen and bring racial integration to the show. Everyone that went really enjoyed the performance – we were even singing the songs the next day. They used lots of technology and projections to enhance the story and our favourite part was the amazing choreography and large ensemble numbers. Another exciting part of the production was that the band was onstage during the performance. This meant that it was the perfect trip for Music and Drama! Everyone left the theatre feeling great. 'Hairspray' is definitely not a musical to be missed!



Swimming



In September's newsletter we mentioned Greg Lawrie was representing Scotland Army Cadets at the British Army Cadet

National Swimming Championships in Altershot in October. Greg and Liam Farrell (also S2) won gold in the junior boys 4x50 freestyle relay for Scotland.

Greg also won silver in the 100m individual medley, bronze in the 50m butterfly and fourth in the 50m breaststroke.

Liam and Greg helped Scotland Junior boys to win the National trophy against the English districts, Wales and Northern Ireland and also Scotland were runner up overall across all age groups. Congratulations!

MacMillan Coffee Morning

The National 5 Retail Class hosted a MacMillan Coffee Morning for teachers and staff during the morning interval prior to the October break. A selection of hot drinks as well as cakes, buns and other sweet treats were available for sale. A Cake Sale for pupils was also held during lunchtime.



In total we raised £356.68 with all profits made from the events being donated to MacMillan Cancer Support. Macmillan Cancer Support is one of the largest British charities and provides specialist health care, information and financial support to people affected by cancer – every penny donated was contributed to this great cause which will hopefully help to make a difference.

Feedback since the events has been very positive; with the majority of responses, from both staff and pupils, praising the smooth planning of the events, which we, as a class, particularly enjoyed along with implementing the actual event. We would also like to thank all those who donated money, and cakes, which helped make this event such a huge success.

By David Thornton

Secondary Road Relay.

All the pupils who took part on the day gave it their all and behaviour was fantastic.

S2 Boys achieved gold, S3/S4 achieved bronze and in the S2 girls race Valencia Wright placed 2nd picking up silver.



S2 Boys Race -

Russell Barnett,
Ross Donald
Jamie Coleman,
Reuben Macintyre



S3/S4 Boys Race

Brodie Young,
Blayne Wright
Adam Cassidy,
Dylan Elliot

Modern Studies Department welcomes

Jo Swinson MP



S4 and Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils were pleased to welcome Jo Swinson, Member of

Parliament for East Dunbartonshire, to Lenzie Academy on Wednesday 27th September. We got to ask Jo lots of questions, covering a wide range of issues, and her answers will be very useful for exam preparation and for Advanced Higher dissertations.

Specific issues covered during the Q&A with her included party leadership; the relationship between the media and politicians; the growth of social media's influence on voting; electoral reform; constitutional reform, including Brexit, Independence and the House of Lords; and, finally, the President of the USA.

We thank Jo for giving of her time to come along to Lenzie Academy to answer our questions.

S1 Residential

As part of our S1 residential trip we went to Lochgoilhead and Ardroy in our house groups - Fleming and Mackintosh went to Lochgoilhead and Inglis and McKay went to Ardroy. This took place during the week of 23rd October with 2 houses going at the start of the week, and 2 at the end of the week. The aim of this trip was to develop our skills as well as helping to build a house identity within our year group.



McKay House

During our time at the residential we completed many activities. To be successful in these activities we needed to use a vast variety of skills. One activity we did was abseiling; this involved being focused on the task to try to get over the edge. It also involved flexibility because some groups had to change from rock climbing to abseiling because of the weather. We also did raft building which involved two teams building a raft to hold 6 people. This required creativity to design the raft and team skills to build the raft as well as perseverance to keep going.



Mackintosh House

Another activity we took part in was canoeing this involved team skills to, communicate between each other in the canoe and to keep it going straight.



We also did Jacobs's ladder

in which we had to climb up a massive 10 meter ladder, we had to rely on the person at the bottom to do our Belaying. After Jacobs Ladder we did Archery where we had to focus on the target and have perseverance in case we missed the board. Some other activities included: Squeeze, Quest, Climbing Wall and low ropes. Our evening activities involved Nightline, Scavenger hunt and Initiative Games. When doing Nightline one person was blindfolded and the other had to talk to their partner to guide them, this involved team work and communication skills. The initiative games meant we had to work as a team to complete the task.



Overall, we really enjoyed our experience

and would highly recommend for next year's S1 pupils.

Inglis House

By Douglas Lande & Ramsay Meek (1MC)

For more pictures of the Residential trip check out our twitter page @LenzieAcad

Auschwitz visit



In September I was lucky enough to be chosen, along with Jenny Burr in my year by the history department, to

take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project where I got to listen to a Holocaust survivor and visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Holocaust Educational Trust which was established in 1988 works with schools, universities and in communities to provide an understanding of the Holocaust and raise awareness of its importance to younger generations.

We arrived at Auschwitz 1 with the infamous sign looming above - Arbeit Macht Frei meaning "work makes you free." The bitter irony being that less than 10% of people who walked through these gates survived. What really stood out for me was the mass of hair and shoes that was on display. There was so much of it yet it was only a fraction of what belonged to those who died and the thought of it made my throat tighten. Auschwitz-Birkenau was even more eerie to be at. As I walked in silence down the railway track the deafening sound of lost hopes, futures and dreams echoed all around. I suddenly lost the urge to complain about the bad weather or how wet my feet were. I was numb, I couldn't feel anything. Everything was unbelievably surreal to say the least.

It is hard to comprehend the suffering and mass extermination that occurred. Six million Jewish people died. But this is not just a number; this is six million individuals whose families lost mothers, daughters, fathers and sons. Six million people who were just like you and me but were tortured, abused and ultimately killed for their religion. Putting it into perspective, the whole of Scotland would have been wiped out.

However it is easy to forget that the perpetrators were individual human beings too. They had their own lives and families who they loved. Many of the collaborators such as the Women's Auxiliary Unit joined not to kill Jews, but for the ability to travel countries and even find a husband. But I think this makes it all the more frightening. We have the capacity to be both good and evil. We can switch of our emotions and perform horrendous acts against people, without blinking an eye, and return home like nothing ever happened.

The philosopher George Santayana said "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." And unfortunately, we do not learn from history. Anti-Semitic attacks hit record high in the UK, with 767 incidents in the first six months of 2017. The Holocaust teaches us that if we stay silent and allow people to carry out these acts, it only encourages problems to grow stronger and escalate into something much worse. If we are ignorant to the world around us, evil will always triumph.

After our visit we attended a follow-up seminar where we discussed our feelings about the trip and our next steps. As part of the course, we are expected to teach others what we learned through this experience to ensure the true horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten or repeated. To spread our message, we will deliver a presentation in front of our school on Holocaust Memorial Day as well as prepare an interactive class with another school in the local area.



Heather
Cunningham
6SL

Enterprising Team Maths Challenge

On Wednesday the 18th of October, four Lenzie Academy pupils (Sarah Graham, Sandy MacDonald, Richard Bautista and Eleanor Haseler) were accompanied by Mr Sutherland to take part in the East Dunbartonshire Enterprising Team Maths Challenge at Bearsden Academy. The pupils worked well as a team and had a very enjoyable day completing some very difficult puzzles and problem solving questions which included a relay round. The team achieved third place which unfortunately meant that they just missed out on qualifying for the next round.



Well done to the pupils involved!

European School Sports Day

European School Sports Day (ESSD) is a Pan-European initiative of which, Scotland officially took part in for the first time this year. Lenzie Academy being one of the first schools to officially register with the event in Scotland, joined 23 countries around the continent, involving thousands of schools and a staggering 1.5 million young people being active in a wide array of physical activity and sport.

ESSD is a school day dedicated to having fun, playing together and promoting physical activity and health for everyone. It is a celebration which provides the opportunity for schools to

- Connect with other European Countries
- Raise the profile of physical education (PE) and school sport (...right at the start of the school year)
- Create fun and enjoyment through physical activity initiatives for young people
- Promote health and wellbeing for lifelong learning
- Foster social inclusion and develop social competences among whole school/cluster communities.

Lenzie Academy S1 pupils took part in a full day of sport. Throughout the day there was football, gymnastics, benchball, tug of war, badminton, table tennis, netball. The day was finalised with a huge running relay for all S1 pupils for a full period.



The PE department used the ESSD to launch the school interhouse programme, where pupils compete against each other representing their associated school house team. The winners on the day were Fleming House gaining 200 house points, 2nd place was MacKintosh gaining 100 house points and joint 3rd place to Inglis and McKay House each being awarded 50 points.



AH Biology trip to Arran

12 pupils, with Mrs McClure and Miss Steel set off for Lochranza in Arran in the school minibus. After a smooth sailing and a long drive, we arrived at the Field Centre where we were greeted by the owner, Chris. We changed into our waterproofs and headed to the classroom to learn about some of the plants and animals we would find on the seashore before taking the minibus to the beach. Once we were there, we examined seaweed – who knew there were so many types?! – and Kyle even caught a butterfish in his hands! After dinner, we were back in the classroom examining some of our findings. The next day, we were back outside sampling the local river water and catching all manner of insects in our nets while trying not to fall in. We warmed up by drinking hot chocolate and coffee at the distillery cafe before some statistics and lunch. Another trip to the beach saw a group of seals observing us from nearby rocks while we measured limpets on the shore. It was a long, cold afternoon and afterwards we walked back to the centre past some bellowing stags and tried to find a badger sett. We were all very tired that night, but it didn't stop us playing darts and pool in the games room. On our final morning, we were back in the classroom preparing for our final study looking at succession in a hydrosere before heading outdoors again. Once we were all cleared up, it was back to the minibus (and Miss Steel's singing!) to get the ferry home. We were all very tired, but had lots of fun together finding out about sampling ecology.



P7/S1 Open Evening



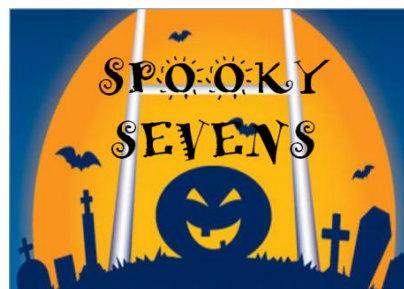
On Thursday 5th October Lenzie Academy welcomed parents of P7 and S1 pupils for our Open Evening. P7 pupils attended from a range of primary schools including our associated primaries and from further afield, such as Steps, Robroyston and Cumbernauld. Parents were welcomed into the school to music provided by Lenzie Academy's Jazz Band having a live rehearsal in the diner and were able to tour the school, visiting displays and presentations from individual departments. We showcased information about our numerous extra-curricular clubs and trips, school events such as Bounce Back and were even treated to a lesson in Chichewa by pupils representing our links with Malawi. Parents were able to see S1 pupils at work in numerous subjects including science experiments, cooking in HFT and paper sculpting in Art and Design. Pupils also demonstrated the wide range of activities available in PE, interactive resources used in Maths and how to use equipment in DT to make keyrings, plus many others. Our prefects and captains were also on hand to talk to parents about their experiences at Lenzie Academy. We received lots of positive feedback from parents including the following comments: 'friendly and helpful pupils and staff' and 'excellent evening. Made us excited for moving to the academy'. Thanks to all the staff and pupils who helped make the evening such a success.

Sports Fayre

The Sports Council, supported by Active Schools and the PE department held a 'Sports Fayre' on Friday 6th October. This was a great opportunity for pupils to find out about extra-curricular sports clubs taking place each week within Lenzie Academy. Local sports clubs were also invited to promote their sessions as well as volunteering opportunities available for pupils in S3+. We were joined by Lenzie Golf Club, Lenzie Rugby Club and Chung Yong Taekwondo. Football Development and The Gym from East Dunbartonshire's Leisure and Culture Trust also promoted opportunities. Pupils came down in their year groups to find out about the opportunities and could sign up to school and community clubs. The day also coincided with Active Girl's day where every girl was encouraged to sign our Active Girl and tell us what makes a #unstoppablegirl Lenny the Lion also made an appearance and was excited to see so many pupils engage in sport. We were also supported by two Active Schools volunteers, Stuart and Cara who encouraged pupils to sign up for the school clubs. The Sports Council did a great job in planning and delivering the event and are looking forward to developing more events this year.



Spooky Sevens



The interhouse touch rugby tournament, better known as spooky sevens returned for its second year in a row. The tournament runs during lunch times and pits each house against each other in a fast based display of skill and teamwork. Teams try to score tries against one another by running past the defence to score. The defending team tries to make a two handed touch to stop them. When touched they place the ball back between their legs for a teammate to pick up. Players can pass in open play, every pass must go back towards that team's line. These rules proved a little complicated for some of the younger new comers but it was all played in good spirits.

S1 started the competition with a very strong showing from Mackintosh house allowing them to pull away in to first place on day 1 and hold that position for their three day period. Many non rugby players competed against them and made them work hard to secure their position. S1 is the age group which has the most engagement with non rugby players and as such builds the schools S1 team the most. S2 followed with a much more structured game of rugby. McKay were the top dogs here; showing tremendous teamwork and skill to score more tries than every other house. It was Inglis time to shine when S3 took the field. Despite Mackintosh pulling in close to 20 players; Inglis were too much to overcome as they still won with

fewer players. This was thanks to tremendous effort in defence and very savvy attack. S4 provided the closest contest as McKay and Fleming battled it out for top spot down to the wire with McKay taking it in the final game. S5/6 numbers were smaller but provided sparks of their own due to players having to improvise and try new things to score.



The event was capped off with a teachers vs pupils game. The teachers started well; controlling the ball and playing keep away from the speedy and skilled pupils. However it couldn't last as the pupils capitalised on a teacher mistake that cost a try and opened the flood gates. The pupils showed amazing confidence in attack and showcased what playing rugby from a young age can do!

The whole event is geared towards increasing participation in the school rugby teams as well as collecting money for charity. S5/6 pupils helped hugely with the running of the event from refereeing to fundraising. Players always played with a smile on their face and as a result has shown rugby in a fun and entertaining light while raising money for a good cause.

Scotland Women's U21 Waterpolo EU Nations Manchester 17

Christy Simons 5MH has been selected to represent Scotland in the above international tournament against England; Denmark and the Czech Republic next month. The Tournament takes place at Manchester Aquatics Centre on November 18 and 19.



House News

Fleming DM/MC



Fleming house have already had a great start this year by coming first in the S1 European Sports Day. We're really glad to see that the first years are keen to get involved and hope to see the other years following their good example.

Big thanks to Alexander Ewing and Sarah Millar in third year for representing us in the Lip Sync Battle, we really appreciate it.

We hope that everyone enjoyed their trip to Lochgoilhead, we're glad you took the opportunity and tried some new activities.

Upcoming events include benchball and dodgeball tournaments – find one of your house prefect team members or house leaders if you want to sign up.

Inglis – MR/MB



Congratulations to Roselina Lim (S1) and Sean Thornton (S2) on their participation in the Lip Sync battle and on representing Inglis house. Their performances being well received by the audience with people singing along with them. Roselina was singing "How far I'll go" from Disney's Moana and Sean singing "Way too big for your boots" by Stormzy. In the end Roselina came 3rd earning 50 points for Inglis.

McKay – MH/CN



It's been an amazing start of the year for McKay house! A huge well done to Angus McLean Boyle for winning the Lip Sync Battle. Thank you to all the S1's who got involved and competed in the European sports day. It's your involvement in these events that will win us more points to then hopefully, win the house trophy at the end of the year and help us raise money for our charity.

Speaking of S1, I hope the residential trip was an exciting and worthwhile experience, our liaison prefect Kyle accompanied S1 for one of their days away and had an excellent time.

Upcoming events to look forward to getting involved in include netball and dodge ball tournaments. For more information on how to get involved please see Mr McEwan in the PE department.

When more events are organised we will be sure to let you know through the upcoming newsletters and period 3 communications. Here's to continuing our success!



Mackintosh – RA/SL

It's been a busy few months for the school. There have been a number of activities which the house teams have organised, including the lip sync battle where unfortunately, Macintosh did not win but their involvement can't go unnoticed. Robyn Drain and Reece Murphy did a great job in representing us through their performances.

The S1 residential trip was a huge success and the first years really enjoyed meeting people in their house. They also developed their team building as a lot of the tasks involved working together, for example raft building which S1 really enjoyed. This also gave the first year an opportunity to meet their liaison house prefect and the staff in their house. Being on the trip myself I witnessed the team building first hand and the first years getting more comfortable and confident around their peers.