



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2017- 2018

December 2017



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018.

I hope that you have had a peaceful and relaxing break. This newsletter reflects back on what was a very busy and productive month for the school in December 2017 as well as looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead in 2018.

The month of December was sprinkled with a number of highlights including a visit to the pantomime for S1 pupils; a wonderful Christmas Concert and excellent school dances for S1/2, S3/4 and S5/6. The dances were very well attended and all pupils seemed to have a great time. We are very fortunate that so many of our teachers give up their own free time at a very busy time of the year to ensure that these events go ahead for our young people.

On 21 December we held our first Santa Dash for S1-3 pupils. Our Sports Council came up with this idea and organised the event whereby pupils (and staff) participated in a running event that incorporated various laps of the school.

In December we also send off a large number of university and college applications for our senior pupils, approximately 140 this year, and many of them have already received unconditional and conditional offers. We wish

them the very best in achieving their aspirations.

Of course achieving a place at university or college will be contingent upon further academic success and as I write this piece our S4-6 pupils are just about to embark upon study leave for their preliminary examinations. These exams are of crucial importance and form the basis of any estimates that we submit to SQA in March. Should any young person be unable to sit their SQA exams in May (e.g. due to illness) or under-perform relative to expectations in these exams we cannot submit a marker review for them unless we have evidence of performance at a higher level than they achieved in the SQA in May. This is where the evidence from preliminary examinations becomes critical. We have explained this to all S4-6 pupils and I would appreciate it if all parents/carers reinforce our message of the importance of studying hard for and hopefully doing well in the preliminary examinations.

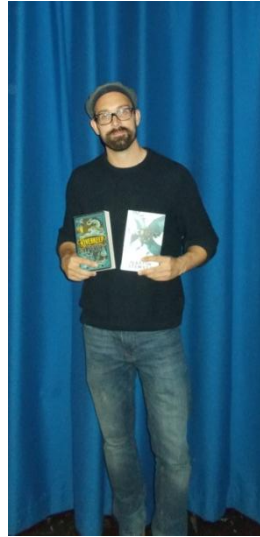
In this newsletter you can also read about the community engagement activities of our young people, either through social enterprise activities; the Princes Trust or our S6 pupils giving up their Christmas Day to ensure that other people enjoyed their Christmas Day celebrations.

There is a House Update for you and a special mention should go to the Modern Languages Spelling Bee. This event generates a huge amount of excitement and tension and was won this year by McKay House so well done to them.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this brief newsletter.

Book Week

In November to celebrate Book Week Scotland the children's author Martin Stewart visited our school to give a presentation to all our S2 pupils. His first book "Riverkeep" was published last year to critical acclaim and his second book "The Sacrifice Box" is due out on 11 January 2018 so we were delighted he had the time to come and talk to our pupils. He gave a very entertaining and informative talk demonstrating how he got his ideas and how this evolves into characters or events in his books. He also valiantly answered a barrage of questions from S2 pupils about his work. We would like to give a big thank you to Martin for making this event a great success.



Maths Workout

The Maths Department have recently purchased a subscription to an online interactive software package called Maths Workout. There are over 3600 differentiated interactive tasks covering a range of levels, starting from the numeracy and maths experiences and outcomes within the BGE through to National 5. The Department will be making use of the materials in class to aid in the delivery of lessons but also for pupils to access interactive materials on the tablets. This is the ideal tool for your child to use at home for revision and consolidation purposes as instant feedback is given on their performance. All of the materials are organised into topics making it easy for users to navigate their way around. The login details have been issued to your child via Show My Homework.



Britannia Rules – S3 pupil



Lenzie Academy's S3 Drama class recently performed 'Britannia Rules' to the associated

Primary 7 pupils. 'Britannia Rules' follows the story of three children who are evacuated from Clydebank to the country during the Second World War. They go to live with Emily and her family in a large country estate and the play follows their reactions to the war and their struggle to fit in and adapt to life in the country. We have been rehearsing these scenes for two months as part of our Production Skills Unit. When we found out that we were to perform them to an audience

of over 200 people some of us were very nervous!! However, on the day everyone performed really well and it wasn't as bad as we thought it was going to be. We got a good reaction from the audience and we worked as a team backstage to ensure that the show went smoothly. I am already looking forward to our next performance.



Debating

On Tuesday 5th December, four of our pupils - Ross Donaldson (2MR), James Mackie (3DM), Rachel de Bliet (3MR), and Lucas Higham (3CN) - took part in Round One of the ESU Junior Debating Competition held at Bearsden Academy. The motion was 'This House Would Introduce Compulsory Community Service for School Leavers' and after engaging speeches and heated discussion, both of our teams (Ross with James and Rachel with Lucas) were sent through to the next round by the judges. Well done to all pupils!

Social Enterprise Group Double the Love this Christmas for Mary's Meals

One of the many groups under the umbrella organisation of LACE (Lenzie Academy Community Engagement) is the social enterprise group. This small collection of pupils from across the year groups meet together weekly to find ways to raise money for their chosen charity Mary's Meals.

S2 RMPS classes use Mary's Meals as an example of ways Christian moral principles are put into action in the global context and some pupils continue to support them after their presentations through individual and group voluntary action.



In the past the social enterprise group have filled rucksacks full of essential stationery for their counterparts in Africa. This term they have been concentrating on raising as much money as they can to take part in the #DoubleTheLove campaign where all the money that is donated before the end of December is price matched. Their first action was to follow the hash tag #BeLikeStAndrew and run a sale of Scottish food and drink

sourced from Scottish industry or created in their own kitchens. This successful enterprise raised £85 and was then supplemented by their creative Christmas fayre this week where pupils and staff were able to buy festive tree decorations and handmade gifts and cards for friends and family.

The final total of 2017 means at least £500 will be providing children with meals.



The activities that LACE involves illustrates that

the Scottish Year of Young People 2018 is not just about what young people need from their country but what they can give to the world. This is another example of fulfilling our #iwill pledge of encouraging as many pupils as we can to work with others and for others. You can follow us on twitter @LACELenzAc.

Visit to CMS Windows

Following a successful working relationship with CMS Windows last year, whereby 3 pupils were offered an interview and one is now employed, 15 pupils from S4-6 visited the CMS Windows head office in Cumbernauld on Tuesday 12th December.

The day was set-up to allow pupils who are considering apprenticeships in areas such as: joinery, fabrication, administration to find out more about what CMS Windows has to offer as a potential employer. A company that pays a living wage to all ages and has won awards for investing in young people, the pupils were able to hear first-hand the

opportunities within the business and, what skills CMS look for in potential employees.

Mr McClure PT of Design & Technology attended the visit and was delighted to see the very skills the pupils in Lenzie Academy gain in subjects such as Design & Manufacturing, being of great benefit to the apprentices at CMS Windows.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit and those particularly interested, will have the opportunity to gain work experience later in the year.

Lenzie Academy would like to thank CMS Windows for their continued support.

2017 Spelling Bee



S1 students took part in the 2017 Spelling Bee. All pupils attended this hair raising event. Everyone was ecstatic, cheering and rooting for their House. The eight finalists had to learn a series of French words. This comprised of animals; family members, materials and many more! Ms Edwards was a tough judge, not letting anything past her. The atmosphere was spectacular! Make sure to participate in the 2018 Spelling Bee! Au revoir!

By Orla Muir S1

Congratulations to McKay House on winning this event



STEM

“Showing the next generation that girls do Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) too...”

S2 Lenzie Academy pupil, Soundarya Bhaskar, recently attended a Stemettes event at the SECC for S1 – S4 age pupils. Stemettes is an award-winning social enterprise which works across the UK and Ireland, and beyond, to inspire and support young women into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths careers; known collectively as STEM. Soundarya registered herself online for this event and was able to attend with her mum. She was keen to attend as she wanted to gain more experience in the STEM fields as these are areas she is particularly interested in.

The day consisted of registration time then the attendees were placed into groups for ice-breaker challenges which were aimed at helping them get to know the other people who were attending from a number of different schools. The main challenge of the day was to work in pairs to develop computer programming about burglary. After working on their coding, each pair had to do a presentation to the whole group. Soundarya and her partner won an award for their presentation as voted for by the other attendees.

Soundarya continues to be interested in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and has already registered to be notified of similar events in the future. At the moment she is still deciding her future career path but knows that it will involve these subjects.



Well done Soundarya!

Princes Trust

Lenzie Academy's Princes Trust Achieve group spent this term developing their skills for work and life through project based learning. Having agreed that they would engage with The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow they researched the relevant social issues and prepared a Christmas coffee morning for the school staff. On Friday 15th December they demonstrated their hospitality, customer care, enterprise, team work and presentation skills to the staff. Home baking, refreshments



and gifts for Christmas and Hogmanay were all on offer together with conversations about the importance of the hospital to children in our community and why the group chose this charity. The morning raised £95 and the subsequent hamper raffle hopes to more than double this. However for the pupils involved, community engagement is more than just asking people to donate money to charity. They look forward to actually working with the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity as part of LACE's year of young people 2018 activities and #iwill pledge.

LACE (Lenzie Academy Community Engagement)

Three S6 pupils chose to volunteer on Christmas Day to help reduce isolation in East Dunbartonshire over the Christmas period.

Working as part of East Dunbartonshire's Generations working Together organisation together with support from Stand International these young people joined others from neighbouring schools to act as hosts for a Christmas Day lunch for isolated members of their community. After enjoying Christmas Lunch at Smiths Restaurant in Kirkintilloch the whole group had chance to chat with their neighbours before Santa arrived with gifts for the younger guests.

Martin Brickley the chairman of East Dunbartonshire Generations Working Together committee said the three pupils were a credit to the school in terms of their commitment and behaviour on the day. The pupils themselves enjoyed their voluntary experience and are considering returning next Christmas Day once they have left school. It is this continued volunteering habit that Lenzie Academy Community Engagement seeks to encourage in our pupils.

House News



Fleming DM/MC

The Fleming house team are very glad to see the vast amount of Fleming house members getting involved in the events that have been going on, and would like to thank you all. Make sure to continue in order to push us towards winning house points.

The Inglis charity event - 'I'm a teacher get me out of here' - was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who contributed.

We have an upcoming event which involves members of staff singing a line of 'Do they know it's Christmas' and pupils shall try to guess who is singing each line. House reps will submit an entry for their guidance group and points will be awarded for the most correct answers. Winners and singers will be announced at the sing-a-long on Friday, so make sure to come along!

There is also a Santa Dash for S1-S3 where points will be awarded for the best costumes and also the highest number of laps.

The Fleming house team would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Inglis – MR/MB



This past week has been eventful for Inglis house and the next couple of weeks will be even more so. First of all, congratulations to Seoras MacKay (1.5) and Victoria Reid (1.6) on becoming S1 scientist of the month, both earning 50 points each for our house.

Our house charity event, "I'm a teacher, get me out of here" also had a huge turnout, receiving a lot of support from the junior classes. During this event, teachers were asked general knowledge questions and if they answered incorrectly they would have to eat a variety of insects from dried crickets to scorpions. During this we managed to raise £100 for our charity and we could've have done it without the support of the pupils and teachers at Lenzie Academy. As a result Inglis won the most points in November's inter-house class of the month.

In the following weeks there will be a Christmas Video Challenge as well as a Santa Dash. During the Christmas Video Challenge, teachers will dress up and conceal their identity whilst singing a line from Band Aids, "Do they know it's Christmas". Classes will then have to guess what teacher sang what line and points will be awarded for each correct answer. The Santa Dash will involve S1-S3 students dressing up and running laps around the school. Points will be awarded for each lap completed as well as best costume and pupils who wear tinsel of their houses colour.

At the moment Inglis house is sitting at 4th place with 3013 points.



It's been another great month for McKay! For this year's Children in Need, each house was awarded a point for every pound that was donated with our house coming in second earning an amazing 170 points.

S1 McKay house members have been getting involved in house events including a recent Spelling Bee. Pupils from McKay house were successful and came in first winning 200 points for our house. Upcoming events for everyone to take part in will be coming up soon. These events include a Christmas Video Challenge where the staff Christmas video of 'Do they know it's Christmas' will be revealed. The staff are all disguised in the video and students are to guess which staff member is singing each line of the song. House representatives will submit the entry for their guidance group and points will be awarded for the most correct answers. The winners and singers will be unveiled at the Christmas Sing-a-long this Friday so make sure to attend. Huge thanks to all the staff participating in the video.

Those in S1, S2 and S3 will also be participating in a Santa Dash where they should be wearing our house colour, blue. The points will be awarded on the day to those wearing the best costume and completing the highest number of laps. This event was made possible by Mr Imrie and the Sports Council.

Overall, in terms of House Points McKay are in the lead with an extraordinary 3655 points. Great work this year from McKay, keep up the amazing work!



This month has been busy for Mackintosh as we are raising money for our charity; the house team is putting on a photo booth at each one of the Christmas dances. We managed to raise over £60 from the S1 and S2 and we hope to make even more at the other dances. Remember to bring £1 for unlimited photos. At this moment we are sitting in second place with 3487 points just behind McKay. Well done to everyone who is helping to raise money and gain points, keep up the good work!

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