



Welcome to the January newsletter and I hope that all parents/carers have had a positive start to the New Year.

Preliminary examinations

This month all S4-6 pupils undertook their preliminary examinations. We brought these forward this year for a variety of reasons and yet with all National 5 and Higher Grade exams the pupils could, for the first time, sit a full prelim in most subjects. This makes the prelims more challenging and gives young people and their teachers a clearer picture of where they are and what they need to do to improve before the SQA exams in May. Having met with all principal teachers it is clear that our pupils have, on the whole, performed well and with most courses due for completion earlier than in previous years there is much more time for revision and practice to fine tune the skills required to achieve success.

We have more time available to us now to put in place support strategies to help young people improve on their current performance. For example, we have an external company coming into the school to work with all S4, S5 and S6 pupils and we have very specific supported study sessions across February and March as well as Easter school revision classes in a number of subjects. We will be helping all S4 pupils with two additional sessions of personal support and we have in place mentoring for those pupils that need most help.

School refurbishments

East Dunbartonshire continues to invest in the school and the ongoing work at the front of the school is now complete. We have been told that we should get new doors fitted at the back entrance to the school over the spring break and there should be some additional internal re-modelling work going on to enhance the learning and teaching environment for our pupils.

When we undertook a comprehensive survey of all parents/carers into various aspects of the service we provide the one area where they expressed concern was in relation to the school building. It may be that this is due to the fact that the school was not a new build and thus parents/carers feel that our facilities are lacking relative to other schools. This is undeniable but we have to make the best of what we have and over the past few years East Dunbartonshire has invested significant sums of money into improving various aspects of the school and continues to do so. Throughout my seven year tenure as head teacher of the school there have been improvements every year and I know that this will continue. The continued focus of the Parent Council has ensured that we are improving the school's facilities for the benefit of the young people here and I am very grateful to the Parent Council and East Dunbartonshire Council for their continued support in developing the school.

S3 Assessments

All S3 pupils engaged, for the first time, in January with the new S3 SNSA assessments introduced by the Scottish Government across all schools in Scotland. It affects P1, P4, P7 and S3 pupils. In late February / early March we will be embarking upon our S3 assessment block and we will use the information from this allied to ongoing class work and the results from the new S3 SNSA assessments to ensure that all S3 make the right curricular choices for their Senior Phase in S4.

In this edition of the newsletter you will see once again many of pupils' successes in wider achievements such as debating, community engagement and volunteering. I would like to thank two of our S6 pupils – Jenny Burr and Heather Cunningham – who delivered this year's Holocaust Memorial Assemblies outlining their experiences from their visit to Auschwitz in a suitably poignant and reflective address. They were assisted by various younger pupils who delivered aspects of the programme for each of House Assembly.

I hope you enjoy the content of this month's newsletter.

Need to Contact the School?

Telephone: 0141 955 2379

Absence Line: 0141 955 2380

Email:

office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Website

www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Twitter

@lenzieacad

Address

Lenzie Academy, Myrtle Avenue,
Lenzie G66 4HR

FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page
www.fola125.co.uk

Donald Dewar Debating Competition

Many congratulations to Lucas Higham and Sandy Macdonald (S3) on progressing to the semi-final round of this competition organised by the Law Society.

Their motion was 'This house believes that all democratic countries should boycott the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia'. The boys performed brilliantly on the night and saw off opposition from senior pupils from other schools to progress to the next round where they will face an unseen motion and have just one hour to prepare!



Well done!

Advanced Higher Chemistry Pupils Visit Glasgow Caledonian University



The Advanced Higher Chemistry pupils were provided with an amazing experience by Glasgow Caledonian University. The pupils attended the University for a full day to learn about various analytical chemistry techniques

and their relation to forensic science. These techniques will also benefit them greatly in their studies.

Dr Mahesh Uttamlal, Lecturer at the University, put together a schedule which allowed the pupils to gain great practical experience using the high-tech equipment to explore techniques such as HPLC, TLC and FT-IR.



The whole day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils including Mr McDowell, Mr Mackenzie and Miss Steel who accompanied the pupils. The staff at the University gave great feedback about the pupils' enthusiasm and ability to carry out experimental work. We hope to continue the partnership with the University in the future to allow more of Lenzie Academy's pupils to gain such a great experience.

We would like to thank Dr Uttamlal and his colleagues who put together a fantastic day for our pupils, Thank you!



Developing Links and recognising Achievement in Community Engagement

There has been a strong link between Campsie View school and Lenzie Academy for many years and this was one of the reasons that Campsie View PTA were the winners of Lenzie Academy's Youth Philanthropy Initiative in 2016. Many of the Senior pupils in the Lenzie Academy Community Engagement team choose to spend some of their non teaching time volunteering at Campsie View. This year's volunteers have been rather special as they contain an ex pupil from the school itself. Siobhan Young began her education at Campsie View Nursery before moving to mainstream schools and as a S6 pupil wanted to give something back. So in addition to attending Kelvin College twice a week to study Childcare and early years education, Siobhan volunteers at Campsie View where she was recently awarded The Peter Buchanan award as part of EDC positive achievements programme. Siobhan is a credit to Lenzie Academy and epitomises our school values of ambition, inclusiveness, respect and compassion.



Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Work Experience



In January 2018, 95 S4 pupils participated in a day's work experience. Pupils were given the opportunity to source a placement suitable to their needs. It was a

huge success with many employers and businesses taking part such as Law Firms, Hairdressers, Universities, Opticians and Construction Companies.

The aim was to introduce pupils to the world of work and help them understand the work environment, prepare for employment or plan for future careers. Work experience allows pupils to develop employability skills, clarify career aspirations and help prepare them for the transition from school to work. This was a valuable day for the pupils with many great and fascinating experiences. We hope that more pupils will be encouraged to take advantage of the SQA examination leave to participate again or for the first time in work experience.

As part of our DYW agenda we were delighted that so many employers and businesses assisted our S4 pupils with their work experience placements. If your business would like to work in partnership with Lenzie Academy we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this.

Holocaust Memorial Day House assemblies

On Friday 26th January, all House groups gathered for special assemblies to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (Saturday 27th January). This day marks the liberation of the notorious Nazi concentration and extermination camp, Auschwitz in Poland. Two of our S6 pupils, Jenny Burr and Heather Cunningham, visited the camp in October, as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, with the Holocaust Memorial Trust, so they were well placed to explain the atrocities which occurred in Auschwitz to Lenzie Academy's younger year groups.

S2 House representatives also read the poem 'Auschwitz Remembered' by Nikki van der Zyl which was a touching reflection on survivor testimony. During the assemblies, there was also an opportunity for pupils to reflect on more recent conflicts and genocides, such the Rwandan genocide in the 1990s to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s. At the end, everybody participated in a moment's silence to reflect on what they heard during the assembly.



'Auschwitz Remembered'

by Nikki van der Zyl

*When all around them died, those few
survived.
Their skeletal bones were then revived;
Auschwitz memories that they carried, lived
with,
(Which denialists say are just a Jewish myth),
Have shadowed, burdened them their whole
life long,
To live when others died, they felt was wrong.
They wondered why they lived, why them,
what for?
Their loved ones gone; for them an open door.*

*They married, they had children, all of that,
But two dimensional. Zombie-like and flat
Has for the most part been their daily lot.
These are the ones the world so soon forgot.
Unable to express their deepest fears,
Their blackest memories kept inside for years.
They wrapped them round themselves with
steel;
Are only now revealing how they feel.*

*For fifty years they waited to unload
This horror that was waiting to explode.
Let no one say 'It never was so bad',
Or, 'It was just like so-and-so, how sad.'
Six million Jews were killed, was it just fate
That prejudice turned into monstrous hate?
Let's learn from this; we know Man can be
cruel,
But doesn't he need help his craze to fuel?*



Dementia Informed S5 Volunteers

On 30th January 16 pupils undertook 2 hours of Dementia Informed training provided by Karen Heath from Ceartas Advocacy on behalf of the East Dunbartonshire Dementia network.

This is the first step of the Dementia Informed Practice Levels as set out by the Scottish Government in their framework for all health and social services staff working with people with dementia, their families and carers. The pupils were able to learn about the different types of dementia, its effects and its particular relevance to their local community due to the number of older people that live in Lenzie.

They watched interviews of people who have a dementia diagnosis and learned how these individuals are on a personal dementia journey which effects not only themselves but those around them. They explored the way language can be used to stigmatise and inhibit people who have been diagnosed with dementia but they also gained insight into how these people can live well with dementia in a supportive environment.

Many of these volunteers have no prior experience of people with dementia or in volunteering but have made the decision to take a full part in the Intergenerational project that is being run during the Spring Elective. This will enable them to develop skills both for work and for life and will help to make Lenzie a dementia friendly neighbourhood

Members of Lenzie Old Parish Church asked LACE if they could join them in their Come and Sing Dementia Friendly Singing group which is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Being able to respond to a request from the local community is the way

that Lenzie Academy Community Engagement hopes to grow.

The Intergenerational project will enable these dementia informed volunteers to attend 3 Tuesdays and also organise the annual Spring Fling as an intergenerational music event on 20th March at school. The Come and Sing members will be invited along with other senior members of the community and will be entertained by the volunteers and the music department. However this year the Come and Sing group will be able to participate in the singing section of the afternoon with their S5 friends.



Need to Contact the School?

Telephone: 0141 955 2379

Absence Line: 0141 955 2380

Email:

office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Website

www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Twitter

@lenzieacad

Address

Lenzie Academy, Myrtle Avenue,
Lenzie G66 4HR

FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page

www.fola125.co.uk