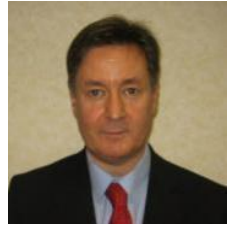




## LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

### **SESSION 2017- 2018 February 2018**

Welcome to the February newsletter.



It would have been our intention to get this newsletter out to you in the first week of March outlining the activities and events that took place throughout the month of February. Alas, the 'beast from the east' ensured that the newsletter would have to be put back, as would everything else. As I write the vast majority of the snow has now melted and we are nearly back on track again.

### **New Pitch**

I had the pleasure of informing our Parent Council on Tuesday 20 February that East Dunbartonshire Council plan to replace our grass rugby pitch with a new 4G pitch in the near future. The development of a 4G pitch allows both rugby and football to be played on this surface and it is expected that the new pitch will have floodlighting facilities. This will be a huge benefit to the school and indeed the wider Lenzie community as there will be year round high quality facilities available that can be used in the evenings and at weekends. Our pupils can now play some of their matches at home between October and March and we can continue with training sessions after school throughout the year.

### **Visits/Activities**

Throughout February we have had a number of visits for curricular purposes e.g. Police Scotland representatives have visited the Modern Studies department to talk about aspects of their job related to the 'Crime and the Law' unit. I took some Advanced Higher Grade French pupils to an 'immersion' day at Boclair Academy on 5 February and our pupils organised a staff coffee morning on behalf of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

With the senior phase prelims just having been completed and with SQA exams on the horizon we had an external organisation called 'Live N' Learn' come in to work with our S4, S5 and S6 pupils. The focus of this work was on a concept called 'Growth Mindset'. Without going into too much detail on this, it is based on the work of Professor Carol Dweck at Stanford University in the USA. Professor Dweck is a psychologist, not an educationalist but her work has received significant attention from the education community around the world. The basic premise is that intelligence is not 'fixed' and thus young people can develop their intellectual capacities through hard work and smart approaches to learning and revising. The initial feedback from pupils was positive and we will wait and see if the key messages from the sessions, added to those from their teachers, their year heads and me makes a difference to them and helps them maximise their potential. We added in a 'family learning' event for the parents of our S4-6 pupils to enable them to see the work that pupils were receiving to enable them to better understand and assist their children with their learning. It was disappointing that so few parents/carers managed to make it along to the event but the feedback from those who did make was very positive.

## SQA

The months of February and March are traditionally the busiest in the year for teachers and pupils. It is when N4, N5, Higher Grade and Advanced Higher Grade assignments are due for completion. These need to be the best they can be as they make up 20-25% of the overall course work and in some cases even more. We have SQA Oral exams in Modern Languages and practical exams in Music, PE, Hospitality, Practical Woodwork and many other subjects too.

February and March is traditionally when SQA courses are nearing completion and pupils and parents/carers start to think about next year with up and coming parental course choice consultation evenings for S2-3 and S3-4 and S5-6 meetings as well as parent-teacher consultation meetings.

It is because of the high priority for teachers on finishing off assignments and working hard to ensure course completion that this February newsletter is less busy that would normally be the case. Nevertheless, there are still quite a few things going on and we have included these herein. It has a distinctly musical theme as we had our young people achieving success in the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition and three of our most musically talented pupils being successful in their applications to the Royal Conservatoire. This is hugely well deserved as anyone who heard the girls perform at the recent Christmas Concert can attest to. Well done to Mrs Edwards and the Music Department here for their contributions in developing the excellent musical skills of these lovely young ladies. Also included this month is a visit from an author (and a member of our Parent Council no less– they really are a talented bunch!) and more detail on how our pupils are making a difference to the lives of others through our work with the local community and with our links in Malawi.

Enjoy the contents of this month's newsletter.

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### **FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page**

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

## Author Visit

Claire Miller a newly published local author came to our school to talk to our S6 pupils studying for their Advanced Higher English. She has already published "Pure Human City" and is currently finishing off her latest book "I Can Create Stories". Claire enthusiastically explained how she started writing and how this grew into her new career. She talked about how she got her ideas and how this evolved into characters and events in her book. All our pupils appreciated and enjoyed her presentation and will hopefully use some of Claire's advice to start writing their own stories.



## LENZIE ACADEMY AT OUR WORLD 2018

We would like to thank Ava Graham-Wilson, Iain Macdonald, Olivia McWilliam, Kate Tierney, Miss Campbell & Miss Edwards for taking time out of their busy weekend schedules to attend the "Our World" foreign film-making event in Edinburgh.

This January event was the regional stage of the competition and as such, it was attended by not only Lenzie Academy but by another four schools from across Scotland too.

With so much needing to be accomplished in just one day, time passed all too quickly! Each student contributed to the making of the foreign film in their own way. Olivia spoke Slovak, both Kate and Ava spoke French and Iain was responsible for both filming and directing. We would like to take this

opportunity to congratulate all of the pupils involved!

Lenzie Academy's film showed a Slovakian girl arriving at a French school and it described her experience there....the good, the bad and the ugly. On the positive side, she made friends but on the negative side, she was bullied because she was different and due to jealousy. Don't worry though, we can assure you of a happy ending!

Although a happy ending may seem a little cheesy to some, the students all felt that this storyline had a powerful underlying message because even if people are horrible to and/or bully you, they can change!

The grand premier of the 18 films from throughout Scotland will be aired in Glasgow at the end of March.

Here's hoping that "Our World's" version of the BAFTA's means that Lenzie Academy will be leaving with one of the coveted awards whether it be for best acting, film-making etc. However, no matter what happens, more importantly all pupils agreed that it was both an enjoyable and educational experience. Remember to sign up for 2018's year's "Our World" film-making event, entries open in November.

Written by Iain Macdonald

## Leaders of Learning in a Global Context

The Malawi Connections group have been running in Lenzie Academy since 2011. In past years groups have visited Malawi and made a connection with a variety of young people in the country and especially in our associated school Nansomba Secondary in the beautiful area of Mulanje,

This year their focus is awareness raising and encouraging younger pupils to make a connection with Malawi which can be developed as they progress throughout the school. Over this session the Malawi connections group have been involved in

Lenzie's Fair Trade Bake off, Primary school Christmas fayres and Lenzie Academy's Primary 7 and family's open evening where they flew the flag for Malawi and encourage members of our local community to support their fundraising by buying goods and learn a little about the language and culture of the country.

This week was Malawi Week at school and two of the senior leaders of the group attended a national conference at Hampden to learn all about the different ways in which schools in Scotland have made a connection with Malawi and to meet pupils who had flown over to Scotland to represent Malawi. These senior pupils were then able to feedback current issues and developments to their junior members before the launch of the S1 awareness raising programme demonstrating leadership skills and encouraging others to contribute.

It is often daunting to speak in front of your peers and more so when you are only in S1 but three members of the Malawi connections group did just that on Tuesday when they explained the connections that Lenzie Academy has and launched the annual S1 change challenge to involve their peers in the cause that has become so important to them since they joined the group.

The group then ran a successful bake sale on Wednesday and have made special Scotland/Malawi badges which they intend to sell throughout the school

All S1 are to be given bottles of water next Tuesday in their social subjects lesson with which they are challenged to fill with small change before they are collected in their English class on 19th March. It is hoped that this small practical activity will encourage each S1 pupil to have a dialogue with their family on the importance of money and clean drinking water in countries like Malawi and will help to make the connections between Lenzie Academy and Nansomba Secondary School even stronger.

## Kirkintilloch Rotary

### Young Musician of the Year

The winners from our own Young Musician of the Year competition went on to compete against pupils from Kirkintilloch High School and St. Ninian's High School for a place in the next round. Kevin Chan performed "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and "Gymnopedie" on the piano and Mollie Ward sang "Tomorrow" and "Hallelujah". Both pupils performed a really varied programme and to an excellent standard. Well done to Kevin Chan who now goes forward to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to compete amongst West of Scotland Rotary candidates. All the best Kevin and good luck!



## SCOTTISH SCHOOLS INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Congratulations to the following:

S3 **Brodie Young** placed 4th in the final of the U16 300m in 38.45sec.

S4 **Dylan Elliot** who was placed 4th in the U16 800m A Final in 2.06.54.

S6 **Hamish Coutts** was placed 6th in the B Final of the O16 800m in 2.15.91 (2.03.84 in his heat)

S2 **Holly Kirkwood** finished in 12th place in the U16 Long Jump with 4.73m and 4th in the semi-final of the 300m in 46.37.

S2 **Valencia Wright** competed in the U16 800m which is not usually her event as she runs 1500m and above. She was placed 4th in the B Final in 2.28.52.

S3 **Stella Coutts** was placed 15th in the U16 Shot Put with 8.39m.

## S5 Intergenerational Elective –

Helping to make Lenzie dementia friendly 18 pupils from S5 have been putting the schools values of compassion, inclusiveness, tolerance and respect into action in the Lenzie community by volunteering at Lenzie Old Parish Church's dementia friendly Come and Sing group during February.

The pupils arrived at the church hall on 6th February with little prior knowledge of what they were about to undertake but by the end of the afternoon every person in the hall had enjoyed the experience.

The pupils volunteered in every way they could from moving furniture, chatting to the Lenzie residents that had come to the group, helping with the refreshments and clearing up. They were so efficient in collecting and distributing the words for the songs that Lorna Hall the organiser had to add a few more to the planned schedule.



At the end of the first February meeting Lorna asked if any of the volunteers could play a musical instrument and if so would they like to perform at the later meeting. Two of the pupils were eager to contribute so there were two musical interludes on 20th February – a guitar solo where the whole hall joined in the chorus and a rendition of the tune from the Great Escape on the saxophone which had everybody humming along.



This project is drawing together many community partners to create a learning environment in the field of wider achievement. **Caroline Shirreffs** Lenzie Academy's on site youth worker is helping to pilot Youth Scotland's Achievement awards. **Karen Heath** is a dementia informed mentor from Ceartas Advocacy who provides expert support to the pupils in their own learning journey. **Rev Louise McClements** the minister of Lenzie Old Parish Church and **Lorna Hall** of the church's "Come and Sing" group, welcoming the young people into their established community group to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue. **Martin Brickley** the chair of East Dunbartonshire's Generations Working Together Committee and the leader of East Dunbartonshire's Senior Forum who is encouraging the development of more sustained opportunities for different generations to engage in mutual activities; **Leslie Currie** our local Tesco Community Champion is providing support to many aspects of the project from facilitating the bakery class' home baking for The Spring Fling to encouraging members of the local community to join the project. East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action who encourage the development of youth volunteering and Saltire Awards. Members of the local community have applauded these senior pupils for their efforts in volunteering alongside many of the local residents, some of which have a dementia diagnosis. Their enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour has already encouraged feelings of trust and value in the group. Although many of the S5 pupils had no experience of anyone with a dementia diagnosis before electing to join this group they were inspired by a desire to help people and they all believe the experience is helping them to develop their skills for life as well as work. Their next big challenge will be organising and hosting The Spring Fling at school on 20th March.

## Head of Scottish Instrumental Tuition Conference – Cumbernauld

A group of Lenzie Academy Music pupils recently performed at the Westerwood Hotel and Spa in Cumbernauld at the HITS Conference. After the performance, MSP Tom Arthur congratulated the pupils on their musicianship.



Well done to Kirsty Donaldson, Beth Seggie, Zoe Mair, Ella Harrison, Ross Donaldson, Douglas Lande and Oliver Baird. Thank you to Mr McEwan for taking the pupils to this event.



## Royal Conservatoire of Scotland – new undergraduates!



Royal Conservatoire  
of Scotland

Three of our senior S6 pupils; Kirsty Donaldson, Beth Seggie and Zoe Mair have achieved a place on the Bachelor of Music Education course at the Royal Conservatoire next session. The three girls have been fully committed to music since day one of S1 and have worked very hard to get where they are

today. This is a tremendous achievement and we are so proud of them! All the very best girls for an exciting musical future!

Kirsty Donaldson is a first study clarinettist who is also an accomplished violinist and pianist. Kirsty has been a regular member of the Lenzie Academy Ceilidh Band, Choir, Wind Band, String Group and Jazz Band. Kirsty also performs in the EDC ensembles including Senior Orchestra. Kirsty has successfully auditioned for the West of Scotland School's Orchestra after having been a member in their wind band last year.



Beth Seggie is a first study pianist and talented singer who has also recently taken up the flute! Beth has been a regular member of the Lenzie Academy Ceilidh Band, Choir, Vocal Group and now the Wind Band. Beth has enjoyed being part of the recent school shows and played the lead "Morticia" in the Addams Family last year.



Zoe Mair is a first study flautist who is also an accomplished pianist. Zoe has been a regular member of the Lenzie Academy Ceilidh Band, Choir, Wind Band, and Jazz Band. Zoe also performs in the EDC ensembles including Senior Orchestra. Zoe has successfully auditioned for the West of Scotland School's Orchestra after having been a member in their wind band last year.



## Supporting Charities that we value

Lenzie Academy allocates four specific charities as the house charities each year following the S3 Youth Philanthropy Initiative. This year's house charities are Creative Care Scotland, Bi Polar Scotland, G.R.A.C.E and Glasgow Panthers Wheelchair rugby. This gives all pupils the opportunity to develop the values of compassion and respect which helps to develop the inclusive character of the school.

In addition to these four charities pupils often encourage their peers to support charities which have a particular meaning to them. So when the School Captains presented assemblies for Teenage Cancer Trust to all year groups this year, one class took the initiative to help their senior pupils raise money as well as awareness for the charity. 2RA Mrs Rae's Guidance group have a number of personal connections with those affected by a cancer diagnosis and were eager to contribute to the school captain's staff coffee morning that was arranged to raise funds for the charity. They helped to set out the staff room and canvassed support from pupils and staff alike by selling badges and wrist bands around the school on Friday 9th February.

The senior pupils were then able to take the lead in encouraging staff to buy a ticket for the homemade cakes and refreshments at Friday interval. In total the pupils raised over £250 for the charity and thanks to both the school captains and Mrs Rae's second years many more people are aware of the vital work that Teenage Cancer Trust does.

## Geography and Antarctica

In 1B's second block of Geography we were very lucky because our teacher Mr Cameron contacted a researcher called Dr Derek Fabel. Whilst we were learning about the Tundra, Rainforests and Deserts, Derek and his crew were exploring the Antarctica.



In particular Derek and his crew were looking at nunataks, the rock which made them and evidence of climate change. Nunataks are like mountains that peak above the ice and snow creating brilliant views and a more challenging terrain. In class we kept in contact with them by using WhatsApp. We found out lots of information such as how threatening the climate is and the dangers they face, what the food is like and what their living conditions were. Also, we found out how they travel in the unique conditions and how tall and challenging the nunataks were. After finishing the second block, I found the topic and especially Derek and his team's work very interesting and I'm sure my classmates did too. My favourite part was when we realised how hard and different life was there compared to here.

Gregor Paul (1MC)

