



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the March newsletter.

The month of March is traditionally the busiest in the school year due to the completion of SQA assignments, units, portfolios and practical performances in many subjects. It is also the time when we have to be preparing for next year and thus young people in S2 reduce their curriculum through personalisation and choice for the final year of their BGE whilst S3 pupils select their subjects for their Senior Phase. In this regard we have had our annual UKANDOIT2 Conference for second year pupils to inform them about possible future careers and the requisite skills and qualities that are required in various occupations and professions. We are eternally grateful to the many business partners who give up their time to help inform our pupils of what the key skills for work are and how this links with the skills they are learning in schools.

Staffing news

In March Miss Fordyce was appointed to the substantive position of Principal Teacher of Modern Studies and Citizenship having been serving in an acting capacity for more than two years. We welcome her appointment and I am sure Miss Fordyce will continue to make a very positive impact in her new substantive role. In this edition of the newsletter you will find details of our success in being recognised with a Rights Respecting Schools Award. It was Miss Fordyce who has taken the lead strategic role in coordinating the work of the school in developing our capacities to meet

the requirements of this prestigious award. The role of the pupils in developing our capacities has also been fundamental to our success and Miss Fordyce has worked tirelessly with many of our pupils to achieve the award and the recognition is a testament to their continued hard work.

School refurbishment

In the last edition of the newsletter I informed all parents/carers of the fantastic news that we will be getting a new 4G pitch with floodlighting. Over the Spring break we will also be getting new back doors installed and in the near future there will be a remodelling of our guidance base to ensure it is a much more effective space for guidance staff to work with pupils and their parents/carers. I will update you on this when I have more information related to the development.

In this edition of the newsletter there are a wide range of interesting articles highlighting the positive work and impact that our pupils and staff are having both locally and as global citizens. The inter-generational Spring Fling was a huge success and thanks go to Mrs Davidson, Acting PT Wider Achievement, and her team of focused young people who made the event possible.

Of course the newsletter also has details of the many successes that our young people have had individually and as teams over the past month. In this edition examples include in Mathematics, Sports, Art, Music, Modern Studies and important charity work.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this month's newsletter and on behalf of the teachers and support staff within the school may I wish you an enjoyable holiday when it comes.

Shelf help- the book that saved my life

Shelf help. It's a catchy title, but what does it actually mean?

The new scheme directed at young people aims to raise awareness about teen mental health and

wellbeing through a selection of books, some fiction and some non-fiction. Those chosen cover a range of subjects and have been picked by a team of mental health experts and young people.

The books can be found in any of the eight high school libraries in East Dunbartonshire, and there is also a competition to write about "The Book That Saved My Life". In 300 words or less, people should write about a book that helped them through a difficult time. In November, eight pupils contributions will be selected and published as a booklet. Expert on teen mental health, Natasha Devon MBE, is also coming to talk to future S3s in the high schools about mental health awareness and resilience.



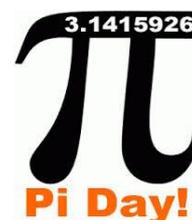
Examples of popular books in the Shelf Help series include 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio and 'The Perks of being a Wallflower' by Stephen Chbosky.

By Rachel de Blicke

National Pi Day

On 14 March the Maths department organised an event to celebrate National Pi day. Matthew Billcliff (S5) recalled the value of pi to an unbelievable 700 decimal places. This was an improvement from the school record set last year by Matthew of 500 decimal places.

A huge achievement that left the maths department suitably impressed. Well done Matthew!



Cross Country news

Valencia Wright (S2) came second overall in The British Athletics Cross Challenge. {Under 13 Girls} She has competed in Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Liverpool, Antrim and Loughborough and been in a top three position for all events including a 1st place in Antrim in January.

In between these events Valencia won the Scottish West Districts Under 13 Cross Country Championships in December and was selected to run for the Scotland West Team at the Inter Districts in Edinburgh in January, where she won a silver individual medal and was part of the team which won silver medals.

In February she ran at the Scottish National Cross Country Championships in Falkirk and came away with a silver medal.

More recently she won Gold at the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships. Group D girls. Our first ever gold medal at the event!!! Congratulations to Valencia fantastic talent.



Intergenerational Spring Fling on the International Day of Happiness



Lenzie Academy pupils welcomed older people from their community to their annual Spring Fling on 20th March, the International Day of Happiness. The S5 dementia informed volunteers had invited their friends from Lenzie Old Parish Church's Come and Sing group to join them in listening to the various music groups of their peers. In addition, members of other Lenzie church groups, Campsie neurological unit and Kirkintilloch seniors forum took the total guests at school up to 70 with over 100 pupils involved in making the afternoon a happy occasion.



The music on offer ranged from jazz, film themes, choral and string groups. This meant that the audience always had something to entertain them and evoke memories, which was seen by spontaneous bursts of singing and tapping along by the older guests. Each section of the musical repertoire was organised by a different music teacher or instrumental specialist and it was great to see all year groups represented by the talented musicians.

The entertainment was rounded off by the two S5 volunteers who had previously played solos at an earlier Come and Sing event. Jack's

saxophone solo encouraged the audience to hum along and Michael asked them to sing along to the chorus whilst he played the guitar. The older generation enthusiastically responded with members of Lenzie Union choir providing harmonies. The final songs were familiar to the dementia friendly singing group but all the musicians were asked to follow the lead of Lorna Hall and her colleagues and the whole assembly hall thronged with an acapella version of "Sailing", made famous originally by Rod Stewart way before any of the pupils had been born.



The hospitality on offer came from the home baking of the volunteers, supplemented by the delicacies created by the Baking students in the Home Economics department, which was sponsored by Tesco in Kirkintilloch. Leslie Currie the Tesco community champion has been a great supporter of the pupils' intergenerational work alongside Caroline Shireffs, Lenzie Academy's youth worker. Some of the Malawi connections group provided a raffle and Lenzie's Fair Trade representatives and Janice Kerr from Contact Teas demonstrated other ways to engage with the Lenzie community. The volunteers enjoyed the tea and chat with their new community friends whilst some of the S3 pupils organised the refreshments.

The afternoon was enjoyed by pupils, teachers and invited guests alike. The event clearly demonstrated that Lenzie pupils enjoy being part of their community and the school values of inclusiveness, respect and compassion are as important to them as ambition and achievement.

Art

Congratulations to Alistair Donaghey (S1) who won the John Byrne Art competition. (The photograph shows the artist selecting his work)

Alistair is to attend an award ceremony on Wednesday 28th in Paisley



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.

Week commencing 19 February 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 pupils were given bottles of water in their social subject's lesson with which they were 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.

Compassion For Others – The Princes Trust Achieve Group

The aim of The Princes Trust Achieve group is to connect young people with the world of work and equip them with the transferrable skills and knowledge they need to succeed. The S4/5 group at Lenzie Academy have been working on a multi skilled team project this year to demonstrate the school values of compassion, respect and inclusiveness.



This project has seen them identifying a charity that they considered significant, researching and preparing a presentation on this charity and organising an enterprise activity to raise money for the charity.

Glasgow Children's hospital was chosen as their charity as many of the pupils considered the hospital provided an essential role for children in our community. Having raised £200 earlier this session through selling handmade gifts at their Christmas coffee morning, this week they completed the final part of the project by visiting the charity and seeing where their money would be used.



This visit not only gave them insight into the

experience of many children who are forced to spend considerable amounts of time as inpatients of the hospital or regularly visit in order to receive ongoing treatment but also gave them an insight to possible future areas of work.

Lara Macdonald the Community Campaigns fundraiser was delighted to meet the group from her former school. Although she left Lenzie Academy 6 years ago she has fond memories of being a pupil and was able to discuss her role in the hospital as well as the various ways in which Glasgow Children's hospital charity works to make the experience of their patients as positive as possible. The emphasis of caring for each child as an individual was clearly seen in all aspects of the hospital.

Girls to KLC

All S2 and S3 girls were given the opportunity to attend Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre over the last few weeks to get an induction in the Gym or experience a fitness class. The main aim was to inspire more girls to get involved in fitness and to be comfortable attending the gym.



All girls who attended the gym thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all girls have been given a complimentary ticket to give them access to the gym over the month of March

Developing our Young Workforce

On 8th March all Lenzie Academy Second year pupils engaged in their first business networking event when they were given the chance to interview 27 members of our local companies about the work they do and the career path they chose. This is an annual event at Lenzie entitled UKANDOIT2 and its aim is to encourage all pupils to explore a variety of careers that are possible once they enter the workforce in the future.



The event is run like a speed date with groups of pupils asking their own questions to an invited guest for a short period of time before the guest moves onto a new group and the pupils are able to explore the next career being represented. This year there was a diverse range of careers being represented from the public, private and third sector and the event's date was chosen carefully to be on International women's day during National Apprenticeship week. Many of the guests brought objects that they use at work for pupils to see firsthand like a lawyer's gown and a police officer's baton.

With the focus of Lenzie Academy being to develop its Rights respecting schools path beyond the Bronze award that it recently received, it was interesting to hear how one of our junior pupils Abigail Hall became the poster girl for the recent Schiehallion Appeal in September 2017. Lara praised both Abigail's determination and encouraged the

pupils visiting on Monday to continue to see Glasgow Children's Hospital as a place where they would always be welcome now that they have clearly established the link between their school and the charity. The pupils were impressed with everything they saw and were pleased that the money they raised will have a positive impact on other children's lives.

As Lenzie continues to recognise Scotland's Year of Young People there was a greater sense of pupil leadership in this year's event. The newly selected S5 World of Work ambassadors were on hand to help the afternoon run smoothly and to provide the younger pupils with advice on how to access career information online. They enjoyed this peer mentoring role and gave their younger colleagues the benefit of their experience in choosing subjects to study for accreditation.

The master of ceremonies was Ben Stewart, one of Lenzie's Team Platinum (pupils who have already achieved Saltire Summit awards and are now developing their leadership skills in the Youth Achievement Award at Platinum level). He directed the whole operation and took the role as official photographer.

The invited guests left the occasion with an individual certificate of attendance as a memento of their engagement with the young people. The whole afternoon was a great success with both pupils and adults commenting favourably about the learning experience.



Lenzie win Carrick S3 Sevens tournament

Salver

Lenzie Academy joined up with St Ninian's to form the S3 sevens team that would represent Lenzie in the annual Carrick 7s tournament. The team was made up of 8 from Lenzie Academy and 2 St Ninian players that often play together on a Saturday morning. The team battled through a strong group and in to the Salver play offs where they emerged victorious against stiff opposition.

Lenzie were slated in a group with Glasgow Academy, Queen Victoria School and St Aloysius. The first game proved a learning experience against Glasgow Academy as the opposition jumped out to a quick start scoring 4 unanswered tries. Lenzie struggled to adjust to the fast paced and isolated game that 7s is. The second half was a different story as Lenzie started to click and scored 2 unanswered tries. The unfamiliarity of 7s was in evidence again against QVS as both sides engaged in an arm wrestle style of match which suited the opposition much better. Lenzie were not able to put their structure together as they tried to out muscle a physically strong team. The final game proved similar to the first as Lenzie won the second half and narrowly lost 22-21 with Brodie Young scoring the try of the tournament. 6 perfect passes from Lenzie put him down the touchline before kicking past the final chasing defender to recover and score. Despite not winning in the group stages; Lenzie had their tales up as they finished playing great rugby and only losing every game by 7 points or fewer. Not bad in the group of death! Glasgow Academy won the tournament shield and St Aloysius were runners up for the cup, showing the strength of the group.

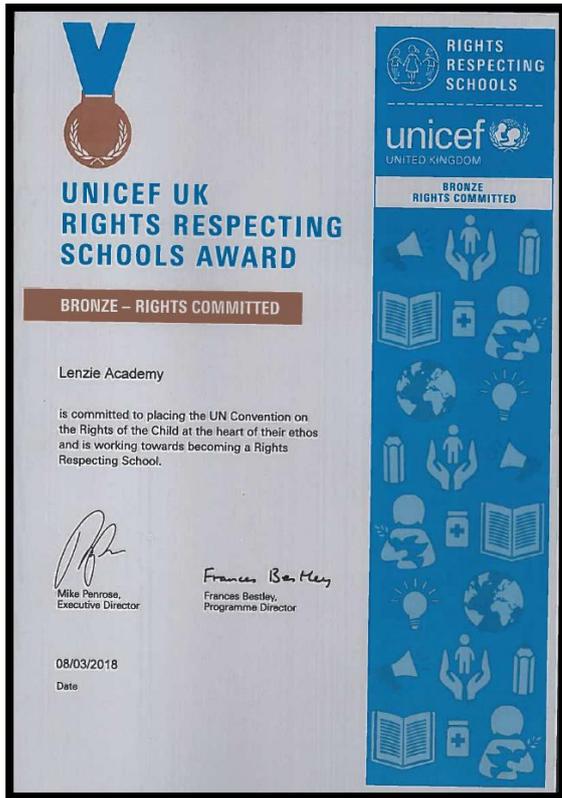
We met St Columba's in the semi final of the Salver and came out firing. Despite the great play, the boys were getting tired; now on to

their fourth game of sevens with only 10 players; they had to dig deep to not only play the structure of rugby that had the best results; but just to keep running! Drew Cruickshanks provided an exceptional dummy pass to confuse the entire opposition team before finally passing to Christopher Spence to score another great Lenzie try. Lenzie progressed to the Salver final with desire and confidence to finish off the tournament with some silverware. Waiting in the final were the hosts Carrick, who had the same thought! Both teams were now exhausted but desperately pushing their limits to try and pull out the win. Another quick start from Lenzie saw a two try advantage early. Carrick had some strong runners that started to find ways through the Lenzie defence which was tiring. Carrick scored, Lenzie scored, Carrick scored, Lenzie scored, Carrick scored meaning Lenzie were out in front but not comfortably! As the final whistle came closer, both coaching teams were nervous as the game could still go either way. It was at this moment Lenzie dug deep once more and moved the ball wide to score the silverware sealing try in the corner.

It was a well deserved finish for a team that had given everything and developed their skills during the day. The squad was made up Drew Cruickshanks (c) Kiendi Searle – Mbulu (vc), Callum Lipp, Adam McAuley, Sam McIntyre, Max Stewart, Brodie Young, Christopher Spence, Luka Morrison and Christopher Simpson.



Rights Respecting Schools Award



We are delighted to announce that we recently received our Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award from Unicef UK. This is the first of three levels on the road to the Gold 'Rights Respecting' Award. The Awards revolve around embedding the rights set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into a school's everyday practice and policies.

To achieve the Bronze Award Lenzie Academy had to show that it was 'Rights Committed'. For example a pupil led RRSA group was set up to review the school's practice against the RRSA standard for accreditation. The pupil group was led by Iona Smith (S5) and, last session's Girls' Captain, Catriona Bradley. Amongst a host of other things, we created an action plan designed to set out what our next steps on the rights journey to achieving the Silver 'Rights Aware' Award would be. Steven Kidd, RRSA West of Scotland Professional Advisor, said we had achieved our Bronze Award, "...on the back of a really clear plan for how the school will take children's rights to the next level – well done!"

We also received congratulations from our local MP, Jo Swinson, our constituency MSP, Rona Mackay, and the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney, amongst others. West of Scotland Green MSP Ross Greer even lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament in praise of the school's achievement.

He said in a letter received by our Head Teacher, Mr Paterson, *"I write to congratulate you all.... You are setting a brilliant example for other schools across the country with the progress you have made. Human rights and the rights of children and young people, in particular, are what underpin a civilised society and we can never do enough to protect and enhance them, as you have been, making the school a safer, more tolerant and respectful place in the process."*

Mr Paterson also praised *"...the hard work put in by the team of pupils and Ms Fordyce to achieve the award"*.

Ms Fordyce, PT Modern Studies and Citizenship, said *"The pupils were instrumental in delivering awareness raising assemblies, creating posters and generally spreading the rights message across the school. Lenzie Academy wants every one of our pupils to be happy, safe and achieving their potential and this Award affirms a lot of what we already do in the school to achieve this. We aim to improve the lives of all of our young people by embedding the principles of the CRC into our practice whilst helping our pupils to feel more valued and safe and consequently improving their attainment."*

We will shortly start the hard work for accreditation of the Silver Award, 'Rights Aware'.



BBC News School Report



S3 Modern Studies pupils have been honing their journalistic skills this term as part of BBC News School Report. The initiative gives school pupils across the UK the chance to

develop their own news stories, utilising a range of skills and media, with stories being linked to the BBC News website and its various media channels.

Led by Modern Studies teacher Mr Chainey, pupils in S3 Modern Studies classes have been writing and producing news stories, developing knowledge and skills in ensuring truth and accuracy and considering a range of audiences. Lenzie Academy pupils also benefitted from the support of an expert in the field, with BBC broadcaster and journalist Graham Stewart joining pupils in school for a mentoring session. Graham shared his experiences as a BBC Scotland news reporter and led pupils through key steps in producing news across various media platforms.



Pupils appeared somewhat awe-struck to see the national newscaster presenting that morning from their own Lenzie Academy Library. However; Mr Stewart, as he was known for the day, modestly quipped that none of them would have heard of him!

Graham supported pupils, delivering specially developed resources and insights to build their knowledge of key skills in journalistic production and presentation. All agreed this mentoring opportunity for the pupils has been first class and we sincerely thank Graham for his commitment to the project.

With pupils developing their own news stories ahead of News Day on 15 March, recent developments in the Lenzie community have come under the noses of our own S3 School Reporters, with International Women's Day and the recent extreme weather conditions hitting the headlines. Well done to all S3 Modern Studies participants!

Debating News

On Tuesday 20th March, Sandy MacDonald and Lucas Higham took part in the semi-final round of the Law Society's Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition. The motion was 'short prep' so they only had an hour to prepare for the debate.

Despite the tricky nature of the motion (This house would introduce gender quotas for parliament) Lucas and Sandy won through and progressed to the final against some very good opposition.

The final will be on Thursday 7th June in the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament. This is a huge achievement for both boys and we wish them all the best in the final.

In other news, Lucas and Rachel de Blicke took part in the third round of the ESU Juniors competition at the High School of Glasgow on Wednesday 21st March. The motion was 'This house would subsidise newspapers' and despite a good performance they narrowly lost out on going through to the semi-final round of this competition.

Trinity Drum Kit Exams

Lenzie Academy became the centre for Trinity Drum Kit exams last week with a full day of drum kit exams for pupils from EDC Secondary Schools. Amongst these pupils were 4 of Lenzie Academy's finest drummers and all pupils passed their individual exams! Well done to all!



Pupil Achievements

We have been collating information from pupils with wider achievements in Music and Drama this month. Many pupils sit external music exams or compete in competitions/festivals – if your name does not appear below please see your music teacher to get your name added for next time! Well done to:

- **Jack Beattie** in S1 who passed Grade 3 Guitar with Merit
- **Lucy Friel** in S2 who passed Grade 1 Drum Kit with Merit
- **Liam Farrell** in S2 who passed Grade 2 Drum Kit
- **Ross Macaulay** in S3 who passed Grade 3 Drum Kit
- **Ross MacRitchie** in S3 who passed Grade 4 Drum Kit
- **Leon Lau** in S6 who passed Grade 6 Drum Kit with Merit
- **Ross Donaldson** in S2 who has performed in a wide variety of events this session including a Kirkintilloch Brass Band concert, WSSO Training Band alongside his EDC and school musical commitments!
- **Beth Seggie** in S6 who performed in the Glasgow Music Festival
- **Sonia Mattu** S1 Grade 1 piano with Merit
- **Tracey Jiang** S1 Grade 6 violin
- **Yushi Lin** S1 Grade 2 piano
- **Naomi Giffen** Grade 4 Piano with Distinction
- **Gavin Melrose** Grade 5 Guitar with Distinction

Young Musician of the Year – Rotary

Kevin Chan in S5 attended the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to take part in the second round of the Young Musician of the Year competition hosted by the Rotary. Kevin performed "**Somewhere Over The Rainbow**" by Arlen and "**Jazzy**" by Copland on piano. Kevin performed admirably and received some positive feedback in his report from the judges. A certificate of performance was issued to all competitors on the day – a total of 32!



During the day in-between the performances, Kevin managed to find time to play a quick game of table tennis! The Royal Conservatoire happened to have a table tennis table and two bats next to the auditorium. When Kevin asked the steward if he could play the steward replied, "Only if you have a ping pong ball!" Unbelievably, Kevin pulled out such an item from his school bag and enjoyed a match with an accompanist there who was waiting to perform between competitors!

