



## LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Session 2017-2018

Welcome to the April Newsletter. This newsletter is necessarily brief as it only captures two weeks in the life of the school due to the spring break.

### **S6 Leavers**

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking our S6 pupils for their fantastic contributions to the school over the past six years, particularly this year where they have been outstanding role models for the rest of our school. We had a wonderful last day with all our S6 on Thursday 26 April and we celebrated their time with us coming to an end with an excellent S6 Leavers Ceremony on the evening of the 26th which was very well attended by the pupils and their parents/carers.

### **SQA Study Leave**

Of course S6 are now on SQA study leave along with our S4 and S5 pupils and we wish them all every success in their upcoming exams. We feel we have prepared them well and as long as they apply themselves in the last few weeks with a systematic and comprehensive study routine I'm sure they will maximise their chances of achieving success.

At the moment we are processing the S2-3, S3-4 and S5-6 pupil course choices for next year and we will be organising next year's timetable across the month of May. It is anticipated that we will start our new timetable for our new S2-4 pupils on Monday 4 June whilst S5/6 pupils will come and collect their timetables on Monday 5 June with a

view to starting their timetable on Tuesday 5 June.

### **P7 Induction days**

Our new S1 pupils for 2018-19 will be visiting the school for two induction days on Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June. The young people have been up visiting the school on a number of occasions in recent months for various curricular inserts e.g. for lessons in Design Technology and Health and Food Technology as well as participating in our Maths challenge (more details inside) and much more besides. On these two induction days they will be all together as a new S1 and follow a secondary school timetable for two days. It will be their first opportunity to spend time with their guidance teacher and meet new friends from other schools. The two induction days are always a highlight of the year for me and I look forward to meeting our new pupils towards the end of May.

In this newsletter you can read about our Battlefields trip; find out how our rugby team is progressing (very well as it happens); be informed about what our Modern Studies pupils asked Ken Mackintosh MSP (Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament) who visited us a couple of weeks ago. You will also find out about our S3 Entrepreneur Me event for all S3 pupils.

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

## Great War Battlefields Trip 2018

Forty S4 pupils became 'Battlefoldians' when they participated on this year's Great War Battlefields trip to France and Belgium. The trip aimed to give us a greater insight and deeper understanding of the events of the Great War, as well as its effects and consequences; nothing compares to actually being where an event took place to get a better understanding and appreciation of what actually happened.

After an overnight coach and ferry journey from Lenzie to Calais, we visited Faubourg D'Amiens British Cemetery near Arras to pay our respects to former pupil 2nd Lieutenant Harry Asher Hayworth who is buried there. Alix Davidson and Lewis McCracken placed a plaque at his grave to mark our visit. We are grateful to Mr Devine of DET for, once again, making the plaque for us.



On the way to the hotel, we stopped at Vimy Ridge, the Canadian National Memorial. Here we explored the trench system that still exists there. This allowed us to see the layout of the trenches and also appreciate just how close the Canadian and German trenches were to each other. We also took time to visit the Loos Memorial where many Scots lost their lives during the Battle of Loos in 1915. One of our group, Sophie Rear, has a relative commemorated on the memorial wall so she was able to pay her respects to him.

During day two we visited a number of sites, including the Heart of Midlothian FC memorial at Contalmaison which linked to what we had learned about Pals Battalions and their role in recruitment during the early years of the War; La Boisselle, an enormous crater which was the result of a number of huge mines being exploded on the first day of the infamous Battle of the Somme; and Newfoundland Memorial Park where the trench lines remain preserved and look very different to those we had seen the day before at Vimy Ridge. We also visited the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum in Péronne which was very interesting and informative as the exhibits take visitors through the War in chronological order. The exhibits are also not in glass cases like most museums, they're in sunken displays in the floor. This allowed us to look directly down on the artifacts and consequently see them better.

Later in the day, at the very imposing Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, we remembered the six former pupils of Lenzie Academy whose names are recorded on this memorial. Kyle Marr, Alix Smith and Sophie Smith placed a small poppy cross near the Stone of Remembrance for our former pupils and one of our group, Ben Street, also has a relative commemorated on the memorial and so he was able to pay his respects to him.

On day three, we visited sites in the Passchendaele area. These included the Passchendaele 1917 Museum; Frezenberg Ridge, where the Frezenberg Scottish Monument is located. The group, led by Kell Maloney, Rachel McIntyre and Victoria McGrotty, paused here for a moment to remember all those of Scots decent who gave their lives in the Great War. We also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, where John McCrae wrote the poem, In Flanders Fields, and Valentine Strudwick, one of the youngest soldiers to die in the War is buried – he was just 15 which is roundabout most of our ages. We then travelled on to the town of Ypres

where we visited St George's Memorial Church, to view the Lenzie Academy plaque which was installed there during a special remembrance service during the 2010 Battlefields Trip, and the Leonidas chocolate shop where we met Hans and Stephanie, the very welcoming and entertaining couple who own the shop. It was then on to the In Flanders Fields Museum which was also very interesting and informative.



After dinner we attended the extremely moving Last Post Ceremony at The Menin Gate. This ceremony takes place every night of the year at 8pm. Three pupils, Dylan Elliott, Caitie Mak and Gabrielle Singh, laid a wreath in remembrance of the sixty seven former pupils and staff of Lenzie Academy who died in the War. Caitie also had the honour of saying the Kohima Epitaph: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow, we gave our today."



On the last day, before we headed to the picturesque city of Brugges, we visited the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, Tyne Cot. It was an awesome and very humbling sight. The cemetery contains the graves of nearly 12,000 servicemen and the memorial wall includes the names of approximately 35,000 British and New Zealand servicemen who died in the Ypres Salient area and have no known grave.

Johnny Clark, Ebony Gangel and Craig Stevenson led our brief act of remembrance here, at the Cross of Sacrifice. Thereafter, in the spirit of reconciliation, we went to Langemarck, one of the largest German cemeteries in Belgium. Here Avril Cosh, Amy Dalrymple, Caitlin Galloway, Christopher Paul, Eva Sutherland and Luke Wilson laid a wreath in remembrance of the German soldiers who also made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In Brugges we were given free time to explore and buy even more Belgian chocolate to bring home to friends and family.

On the drive from Brugges to Calais we were entertained by the annual 'Bunny Awards' ceremony. This was a great laugh and we thoroughly enjoyed the banter and the prizes, which were, of course, chocolate bunnies. The Battlefields trip was educational, thought provoking, sad, and humbling because so many people gave their lives for our freedom. We really did get an awful lot from participating on this trip and would highly recommend it. We had a fab time and we're very glad we got to have this experience. We want to say a huge "thank you" to our teachers, Ms Fordyce, Ms Shaw, Mr Park, Ms Byres and Mr Ion for making the trip possible.

By the 2018 'Battlefoldians'



## SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship

Lenzie Academy secured their place in the semi-finals of the 2018 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship after a dramatic final round of qualifying at Scotstoun on Wednesday 18 April.



Kyle Academy and Lenzie finished joint top of the table ahead of Boclair Academy and Maxwelltown High School following 18 matches between S1 and S2 level boys' teams and an under-15s girls' team from each school.

Courtesy of their superior try count of 55 compared to Kyle Academy's 40, it was Lenzie who progressed to the next round of the Championship which takes place on Tuesday 24 April.

Lenzie Academy are joined in the next round of the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship by defending champions Shawlands Academy, Wallace High School, Jordanhill School and Balfron High School with two schools progressing to May's showpiece final at Scotstoun.

Lenzie Academy rugby coach, Colin Gemmill, said: "The kids were all ecstatic at the end when it was announced we had won. "It was so exciting, especially in the last few games when we realised certain things had to go our way.

It was a great day of rugby and a great tournament.

For our girls it was their first competitive game of rugby so it was a baptism of fire for them but they did the school proud.

The kids don't play rugby together very often so to see them cheering for each other on the touchline was great.

If we keep that bond between our three teams next week it will be another great day of rugby."

He added: "Rugby has grown hugely in the last couple of years at Lenzie Academy and our players will learn a lot from a day like this. It's our first time playing in the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship and as soon as we were able to get a girls team together, we wanted to be involved."

Across the 18 matches in Q5, 128 players took part with 164 tries being scored, helped by favourable overhead conditions.

Glen Tippett, Schools and Youth Development Manager for Glasgow South, watched some of the action and was delighted to see the quality of rugby and enthusiasm on show. He said: "There was a lot of passion on display and pride in playing for their schools which is fantastic to see.



"The Scotstoun-factor will be a great experience for the players and hopefully this encourages them to come and watch Glasgow Warriors and keep playing rugby.

"We have partnerships with a number of schools in this competition and one of our Regional Development Officers initially got

involved in rugby as a kid through the Maxwelltown School of Rugby Programme. "He came from a background where they didn't play rugby so to see him now actively promoting rugby in the community is a great story."

Former Glasgow Warriors captain Al Kellock, now a Scottish Rugby Ambassador and Commercial Operations Manager at the club added: "This tournament is about getting a rugby ball into the hands of as many girls and boys as possible and there has been some brilliant rugby on display in all five qualifying rounds."

- At the beginning of this season Glasgow Warriors announced a landmark three-year partnership with SP Energy Networks which saw them become the club's Official Community Partner.

SP Energy Networks, which operates across central and southern Scotland, are working with Glasgow Warriors on a wide-range of community initiatives, including the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship.

25 schools from across the west, central and southern Scotland will take part in the tournament.

The 2018 champions will take home the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship trophy and brand new rugby kit for their school.

### **Rathbones / Pigeonhole Publishing Pilot**

The English department have become involved in an exciting pilot project designed to promote personal reading through smart devices. Five books were available to choose from and, once their choice was made, students downloaded the app, logged in and started reading.

Sections of the novels will be released over time and the aim is to encourage students not only to read, but also to engage with others about their reading, so there is the opportunity for them to comment on what

they've read and look at comments from students in other schools across the country.

Students will be able to access all five books (provided free by publisher Hodder Gibson) over the summer too.

A class in each of S1, S2 and S3 has been nominated by their teacher to take part. Happy Reading!

### **Presiding Officer visits Modern Studies pupils**

On Friday 20th April, S3 and S6 Modern Studies pupils welcomed the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Ken Macintosh MSP, to Lenzie Academy for a very informative and interesting Q&A session.



The S3 pupils have been studying a unit entitled 'Democracy in Scotland' and so the answers Mr Macintosh was able to give them to their questions will enhance their understanding of how the Scottish Parliament functions and his role as PO. His very detailed answers will also give S6 pupils additional information relevant to their upcoming SQA Advanced Higher exam which takes place on Wednesday 9th May.

We are grateful to Mr Macintosh for coming along to speak with our pupils and for helping enhance their political literacy.

### S3 Lenzie Academy Skills for Life



As part of their Broad General Education S3 pupils at Lenzie Academy were introduced the world of the entrepreneur. Matt Stewart from @EntrepreneurMe gave them a master class in the approaches entrepreneurs take to problem solving and how developing their life skills can lead to very profitable careers. Pupils were encouraged to seize opportunities and put all their effort into creating their own futures. This is part of the values based approach to developing our young workforce that gives young people a chance to see their future in terms of their contributions to society and not just as a process towards future employment. The personal and team work skills they were encouraged to use complement the information being given to them by all subject departments prior to making their first option choices. These skills will be further developed during May in various ways, including the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, before they move into the Senior Phase in of their education in S4 – S6.

The afternoon was a chance for individuals to show how committed they are to improving not just their learning but also their community and many pupils put a lot of effort into creating stories of their future life's success. The winners on the two afternoons that the event was run not only demonstrated creativity and compassion for others but also showed their level of self belief when they returned the following day to claim that they had the winning account. The winners were Arran Mair and Kate Tierney.

### French Spelling Bee

In March, our beginner (S1) and intermediate (S2) level pupils attended the regional event of the Word Wizard in Glasgow. We are delighted to announce that Soundarya Bhaskar has worked very hard and has now qualified for the Final of the Word Wizard French Spelling Bee at Intermediate level which takes place in May what a fantastic achievement. Good Luck Soundarya!



### German Exchange



We are well underway with plans to welcome staff and young people from Pfullendorf, Germany this autumn for the 30th successive year. Over that time hundreds of young people have enjoyed learning about each other's way of life and making lasting friendships.

Would anyone be able to help us out by offering accommodation to one of the German boys when they are here from 25th September - 3rd October?

If so, or if you would like to find out more information, please contact Ms Shaw in the Modern Languages Department.

Danke!"



## Inter-Primary Mathematics Quiz



Thursday 26th April saw the hosting of the annual P7 Maths Challenge. Pupils from Auchinloch,

Lenzie Meadow, Lairdsland and Millersneuk primaries completed against each other to try and win the coveted trophy and individual prizes!

The competition consisted of two rounds: team questions and a practical round. Teams were awarded points based on the difficulty of each question and the team with the most points after the two rounds won. Questions ranged from problem solving Sudoku style to pattern making with straws and creating rocket shapes from paper! The teams all worked really hard through both rounds and were well deserving of their juice and crisps in between rounds.

After a closely fought battle, Millersneuk Primary came out on top, retaining the trophy for a second year running. Lenzie Meadow teams secured second and third places. The morning was a great showcase of mathematical talent and was enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to the S3 markers for their help on the day.

## Hockey Festival

The S1-S2 Lenzie Academy Annual Hockey Festival took place on Wednesday 25th April. 15 teams entered the tournament including 3 teams from Lenzie Academy. School's travelled from EDC and other councils to attend the event: McLaren High School, Preston Lodge High School, Hermitage Academy, Boclair Academy, Douglas Academy, Bearsden Academy and Dumbarton High School were all involved. The day was a huge success despite the weather conditions with

McLaren High School taking home the trophy with an impressive debut.



Miss Shearer would like to thank S4/S5 Pupils (Sally McAuley, Holly Allen, Olivia Finlay, Rachel McGhee, Hannah Wallace, Erin Thomson, Emma Moir, Stephanie Lindsay, Emma Wilson), Miss McFadden, Mrs MacGuire, Miss Hysett and former pupil Reece Chan who helped with the event by coaching and umpiring.

## 'Street Law: Social Media and The Law' – A Skills and Character development event



Last month S2 pupils took part in a new skills development event entitled 'Street Law: Social Media and the Law'. The event was presented to pupils by Open

University Law students and was very well received by all present. In addition to the very informative presentations, pupils participated in-group activities considering very contemporary issues surrounding social media use and their legal rights and responsibilities when on-line.

Staff at Lenzie are now collaborating with the Open University to help them further develop 'Street Law' with the hope that the event will be presented to pupils again in coming years.

*'In a society where social media use is becoming ever more prevalent and common place, it is more important than ever to ensure our young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to manage themselves on-line. The Street Law event highlights to the pupils, not only their rights and responsibilities, but some of the dangers to look out for when using the plethora of web apps and services available to them'.*

## Lenzie Academy Community Engagement does The Big Walk



With May being National Walking month Lenzie Academy Community Engagement together with

Active Schools has agreed to take part in The Big Walk.

The Big Walk is an Eden Project idea made possible by the National Lottery with the purpose of shining a light on ordinary folk going the extra mile to bring people in their community together, while walking up an appetite for The Big Lunch

The Big Walk begins the 16th May 2018 in



Morecombe where four

walkers will embark on four routes across Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales, covering more than 250 miles over 21 days across the UK to shine a light on amazing groups and events that bring people together.

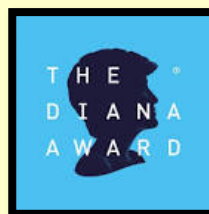
On 24th April Sandra Brown from Eden Communities Scotland came to school to discuss with staff and pupils how the Scottish Big Walk will leave from Lenzie Academy on 22 May 2018 for a day's walking finishing in Stirling. We have been chosen as a focal point because of the amount of community work in which Lenzie Academy pupils are involved.

The official walker for Scotland has been invited to breakfast in our Health and Wellbeing base where he will meet the breakfast club and Leslie Currie the Tesco Kirkintilloch Community Champion and discuss the way the school supports charities and local community action. He will then be joined by Sports ambassadors who will walk with him to meet up with representatives from our local primary schools.

As this is the Year of Young People, ambassador and Diana Award winner, Iona Smith will be able to explain the various ways that our pupils help

to coach younger pupils in sport and mentor them as they transition to the S1 cohort for the following year. Iona is one of the leaders of Rights Respecting Schools group which are working towards our Silver award. Leaving the primary pupils after a coaching session at Lairdsland primary the walking group will then pass the marina before stopping at the Edva offices to meet the development officers who work with our volunteers. The group will then make a couple more stops on their walk around Lenzie before being met by the Intergenerational volunteers and their singing companions at Lenzie Old Parish Church Come & Sing for lunch.

The Big Walk is an opportunity for Lenzie to demonstrate both its community involvement and the campaign to get the country walking. Although our Big Lunch is not until 16th June, the Big Walk in Lenzie in the middle of Walk to School week should encourage us all to get involved. Feel free to come out and support us.



### **Need to Contact the School?**

Telephone: 0141 955 2379

Absence Line: 0141 955 2380

#### **Email:**

[office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

#### **Website**

[www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

#### **Twitter**

@lenzieacad

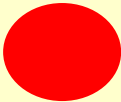
#### **Address**

Lenzie Academy, Myrtle Avenue,  
Lenzie G66 4HR



## House news

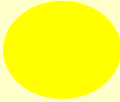
### Fleming



It's been a fantastic year this year for Fleming and we are currently in the lead with 10,108 points. There have been so many events and opportunities run by the house system and we would like to thank anyone who got involved with these. Some highlights for Fleming this year include winning 200 points for coming first in the S1 European Sports Day, Sarah Millar and Alexander Ewing representing us in the Lip Sync Battle, and winning points in the Staff Christmas Video Challenge and also the Easter Egg Hunt. Our house event, the Teachers vs Pupils Sing-off was a huge success and we raised £216.16! Thanks to all the teachers and pupils who performed and anyone who came along or donated money.

The year isn't over yet and whilst the House Team is on exam leave, S1-S3 can still win Fleming points through S1/S2 reading, S1 Scientist of the month and being invited to prize giving. The big reveal of which house has won the trophy this year will be at prize giving so we hope everyone's efforts this year have been enough. A special thanks to our House Leaders Mr McDowell and Miss Marshall and also Ms Sinclair for helping us through it this year, we really appreciate it. Thanks again from your Fleming House Team – Rebecca, Robyn, Meg and Ellie.

### Inglis



This is Inglis' last newsletter and looks to highlight all the House Group has achieved in the last year. Our main goal from the start was to raise as much money as possible for our four YPI charities – G.R.A.C.E, Glasgow Panthers, BiPolar Scotland and Creative Care. Thanks to our Charity Event, I'm A Teacher Get Me Out Of Here we raised over £100 for our charities and at the same time got to enjoy watching teachers eat crispy crickets, mealworms and bug lollies during

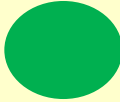
a Bushtucker trial. Thanks to all the teachers who took part as without them it wouldn't have been possible.

We also managed to raise £88 in donations for Children in Need as well – meaning we reached over £200 in total in terms of charity contributions!

We're also proud that we've been able to promote the image of the House system making it more recognisable and present throughout the school – from 1st year – 6th year with activities now becoming more frequent with more people being involved.


Overall we feel it's been a great year and we – David, Catherine, Colm and Ellie – would like to thank everyone for taking part, contributing or donating to the House system in some way or another. Looking to the future, if you feel you've got the qualities to be a House Prefect or Captain – get in touch with Mr Imrie, Ms Quearns or Ms Sinclair for more information!

### Mackintosh



Hello Mackintosh, this is our final newsletter for this year. We would like to thank everyone in Mackintosh for working so hard all year to make sure that we did as well as last year. This year the 4 Houses raised over £650 for charity which is a lot to be proud of. There were a lot of great house events throughout the year like the lip-sync battle, Santa dash and the Easter egg hunt, we want to say well done for trying your hardest to get points for Mackintosh. From all of the house team we wish you good luck next year and hope everyone has a fun summer. Thanks from Jamie, Emma, Laura and Rebecca.

### McKay House



A final newsletter from McKay House will be issued in the next edition.