



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Session 2017-2018

Welcome to the May Newsletter. The month of May is traditionally a preparation month for staff within the school. Whilst S4-6 pupils are on SQA examination leave, as well as teaching S1, S2 and S3 classes, we are busily preparing for the start of the new timetable in June. This involves the timetable being constructed by senior leaders and departmental heads deploying their teachers to various classes. All curricular areas are upgrading their courses as SQA have made changes to National 5 courses in 2017 and will do so for Higher Grade courses in 2018 and Advanced Higher courses the following year. Many of our teachers are out of school working for the SQA as examiners and markers and a significant amount of curriculum development takes place for both the Broad General Education courses in S1-3 and the Senior Phase courses in S4-6. We prepare for the P7 Induction days and various whole school events have to be prepared for e.g. the annual Prize Giving and much more besides.

Staffing

There are traditionally a few changes to staffing at this point in the session as people retire or move on to pastures new. This year we will be saying farewell to Mr McLaren in the Mathematics department who has served the school loyally during two stints, the latter over the past six years. We have already appointed a successor to Mr McLaren and Mr Fraser McKenzie will join the school in August.

We have appointed Ms Marshall as a permanent member of staff in PE. She was an NQT with us in 2016-17 and we managed to retain her services as a temporary teacher throughout 2017-18 so we are delighted that we are able to secure her on a permanent basis.

Our NQTs have been most welcome this year and they will be leaving us in June. They are now in the process of trying to find jobs for next year and already some have been successful in doing that. We have been given our allocation of NQTs for 2018-19 and we hope that they settle in well to the school.

SQA Exams

Despite some challenging papers this year the pupils and teachers have been generally happy with the examination papers overall and we will await the outcome of our pupils' efforts in August.

P7 Induction

Our new S1 pupils for 2018-19 visited the school on Thursday 31 May and Friday 1 June as part of their induction programme. The pupils who attend our associated primaries have been up to the school throughout P6 and P7 at a wide variety of events and have been involved in many subjects over the past two years but this is the first time that the entire year group are together. We have in excess of 230 pupils from more than 20 primary schools registered to come up to S1 next year and the two days were a very positive experience for the youngsters with teachers reporting very high levels of enthusiasm and engagement. I visited some science classes, social subjects classes and design technology classes and was impressed by the desire to learn and the clear work ethic of the young people.

Validated Self-Evaluation

We were visited by officers from East Dunbartonshire Council as part of their procedures into reviewing the impact of the incorporation of wellbeing/nurture bases with secondary schools. As part of the process they met with senior leaders; teachers and pupils who work in the wellbeing base; other teachers and pupils who do not work in the base and reviewed a range of materials. The officers were very impressed with the quality of the work being undertaken within the school and with the impact the development of the base is having on the educational opportunities and outcomes for some of our more vulnerable young people. The team will now write up a report based upon their visits to secondary schools for the council.

Uniforms

This is early notification for your diaries that Academy Uniforms will visit the school on Thursday 21 June at 6.00pm. I will ensure that we send out a group call to all parents/carers nearer the time as a reminder. At this time you can have your child measured for a blazer. We will also be selling school ties on the evening in case parents/carers need to purchase new ones for the new session. Ties of course are always available from the school office and you can come in and purchase these during the summer break if you prefer.

Blazer re-cycling scheme

As young people physically develop they outgrow their old blazers. I would urge you not to throw out any old blazers that you may have but instead hand them into the school. We keep a stock bank of blazers in school which we can provide to young people who may not have a blazer for a variety of reasons. There are always cases when a young person has forgotten their blazer or they may have lost it and it will take a week or so to order a

new one and we can provide a blazer for them for a few days if required. I will send out a reminder email to all parents/carers towards the end of term as a reminder.

In this month's newsletter you will see more individual and collective successes of our young people e.g. the Youth Philanthropy Initiative Grand Final; the Word Wizard Final and the Big Walk amongst others. There are also a number of visits outlined and successes in writing competitions. I hope you enjoy the content of this month's newsletter.

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FOLA 125- Lenzie Academy fundraising page

www.fola125.co.uk

S4 Writing Success

Several S4 pupils entered a Young Writers competition earlier this year, writing flash fiction based on the theme of 'Stranger Sagas'. As a result Dylan McCabe, Aiden Glasswell, Aaron Wilkie, Jack Cullen, Sean McLaughlin and Robbie Goodfellow have all had their stories accepted and published in an anthology for the Scottish region of the competition.



Well done, boys!

S2 Edinburgh Trip

"In May over 100 S2 pupils enjoyed a visit to Edinburgh city centre. The pupils visited the 'Dynamic Earth' centre, an interactive exhibition that focuses on plate tectonics and the forces that shaped the Scottish landscape. After the pupils then completed a hill walk to the top of Arthur's Seat, amazing weather allowed for an outstanding view over the city. The pupils had a great day and were a credit to the school."



Pupil quote "I really liked the Geography Edinburgh trip because in Dynamic Earth we got to see how life has evolved and how the earth got to the way it is. Going up Arthur's Seat was great because it had an amazing view from the top and the walk up was fun."

Lenzie Academy's own Heritage Heroes!

S2 pupils from the Architects of History elective class achieved Heritage Hero Awards from Archaeology Scotland.

To gain this award, each pupil successfully completed a First World War trenches project, which involved researching the design and construction of trenches. Their research was supported by an informative presentation from Lyndsay Farquharson from Northlight Heritage's Digging In project. The class particularly enjoyed examining the artefacts she brought along to highlight the experience of soldiers during the Great War. To demonstrate their learning and share their knowledge with others, pupils were responsible for planning, designing and building model trenches from craft materials. A very well done to the pupils who achieved this award



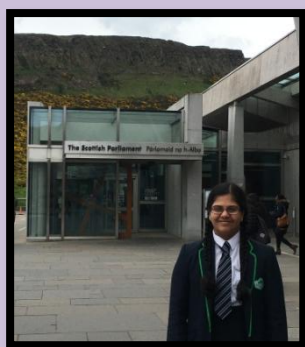
Senior Writing Success

Reyah Martin, who has just left S6, has been shortlisted for the Robert Louis Stevenson Writing Competition for senior school pupils run by Edinburgh Napier University. Reyah entered a poem based on the theme of travel, a concept closely related to Stevenson's life and work. The winner will be announced at an event on Friday 15th June in Edinburgh. Well done, Reyah!

Word Wizard Final 2018: Motivating young people in their language learning

In March 2018, 190 pupils from 14 local authorities and independent schools competed in semi-finals in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh to battle it out for a place at the prestigious final.

S1-S3 pupils from across Scotland took part in the national final of Word Wizard at the Scottish Parliament on 11 May 2018. Word Wizard is a multilingual spelling competition for pupils learning French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin and Spanish. Forty-eight learners from ten local authorities and independent schools competed in the final in front of an audience of teachers, supporters and guests.



As previously mentioned in our April newsletter S2 pupil, Soundarya Bhaskar, qualified for the final of this competition here is her take on the day:

“On 11th May 2018, I represented Lenzie Academy in the finals, of the Word Wizard 2018 Intermediate French Spelling Bee, run by SCILT and CISS. It took place in the Scottish parliament, where I and my teacher, Ms Edwards, had the opportunity to visit the gallery tour which described the history of the parliament and its unique architecture. The tour proved to be an educational experience. It was a tough competition. I was very pleased to have come third, and to have received a glass shield. Overall, it was a very good experience, and all the hard work had paid off!!”

- **Soundarya Bhaskar 2RA.**

This is a National event and to gain third place in the whole of Scotland is a fantastic achievement, well done Soundarya!



Word Wizard is organised by SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages based at University of Strathclyde, in partnership with the University Council for Modern Languages Scotland.

Lenzie Academy Community Engagement

May was a very busy month for pupils involved in LACE. At the start of the month 26 representatives from local charities took part in a massive networking event with third year pupils known as the Charity Speed Date.

Teams of pupils interviewed them for 5 minutes each to learn about the scope and range of the third sector.



All pupils in S3 then worked in teams over the month to investigate social issues that are a concern to our community and identified charities that help to overcome these issues. Pupils created powerful presentations to convince people of why their chosen charity deserved the £3000 that the Wood Foundation gives to the winning team.

The 5 finalists presented again in front of an invited audience of family, friends and charity representatives in The Grand final on 30th May. This event was completely run by S3 pupils who clearly demonstrated their skills for life and work, ensuring the evening went smoothly.

Last year's winners returned to the stage but this time Eilidh Howie and Tyler Hogg were the masters of ceremony ensuring continuity and clearly announcing the different presentations and the creative interludes from a script they had created that day.

Both the ukulele solo by Alex Crawford and the dramatized poetry recital by the S3 dramatists were expertly performed. Last

year's charity representatives came to watch this year's presentations and to receive their share of the House charity fund. Rona McKay MSP joined them as an invited guest having enjoyed the final last year.

The judging team of Mr Paterson, Megan MacPherson, PC Alexander Moore, Martin Brinkley (chair of the Seniors Forum) and Matt Stewart (@EntrepreneurMe) spent time deliberating the performance of the 5 teams whilst everyone else enjoyed the home baking of the S3 Hospitality and Support for Pupils volunteers and listened to the music of the S3 ensemble

The winning team were Lucas Higham and Edward Quince's presentation on behalf of Kirkintilloch Men's Shed. The men from the charity were ecstatic at the boost to their funds but there were no losers as the remaining four charities have become our new House Charities.



Each charity representative expressed their appreciation on twitter before the end of the evening. A special mention must go to Kirsty-Lee McDonald and Isla Johnston who took the role of Mrs Davidson's PAs enthusiastically and efficiently.

Lenzie Academy is visited by The Big Walk

When Eden Communities Scotland planned this year's Big Walk they decided to visit Lenzie to see how LACE is delivering its pledge to "encourage as many pupils as possible to work with others and for others."



This year's walker Angus MacLeod was invited into the Hub to meet the Breakfast Club and discussed how important personal relationships can be in moving from Primary to Secondary school.



He met Iona Smith and Emma Mahon who escorted him to Lenzie Meadows where pupils from there and Millersneuk Primary were ready to walk him across to Lairdsland primary. The sports leaders then listened to Iona and Emma's presentation. One of the audience members was Emma's younger sister "mini Mahon" who like Iona is an ambassador for the Year of Young people.



After a joint walk around the playground at Lairdsland, LACE's walkers were met by Refuweegee who had taken part in last year's Big Walk. The next stage of the walk was to EDVA's offices where a snack stop enabled the group to meet Ivor from one of our house charities GRACE. It was a great opportunity to discuss the different ways in which members of Lenzie Academy have engaged with different parts of our community and also encourage them to work together. Before the walk continued GRACE and Refuweegee had begun a plan to encourage members of the Hillhead group to write letters to go into the welcome packs created for new refugees.

The final stop was where LACE's intergenerational dementia friendly project has been taking place. The organisers of Lenzie Old Parish church's Come and Sing project had organised a piper to welcome the walkers into lunch. Some of the dementia informed



55 volunteers were already busy talking to their singing colleagues and before the singing started everyone enjoyed a mini Big Lunch of soup and sandwiches whilst various people were interviewed for the official Big Walk film of the day.

After lunch everyone joined in the singing and Angus felt both welcome and a little overwhelmed by the friendly inclusive nature of the group. As he left on his way to Stirlingshire he commented that his day in Lenzie was one of the most memorable walks of this



year. (Check out the video below) <https://youtu.be/KKp4Tneg2-U>

Angus' Big walk finishes on June 3rd in his hometown of Dundee but Lenzie's Big Lunch will not be until June 16th when as well as joining pupils, families and the community for a shared food and story sharing there will be a Saltire award ceremony for any pupil wishing to have their award presented by a Paralympic swimming medallist.



National 5 Fashion and Textile Technology

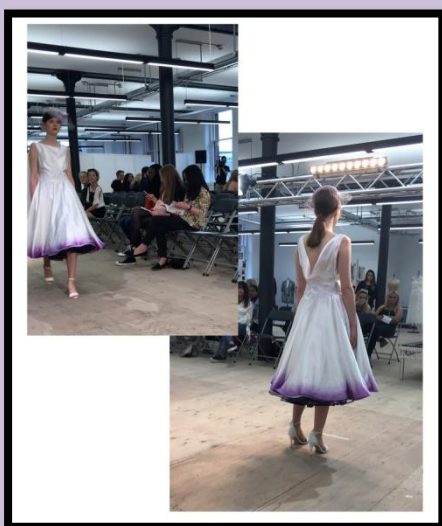
On Thursday the 31st of May the National 5 Textile and Technology were invited to attend the Glasgow Clyde College fashion show and exhibition.



This was held in the Garment Factory in the city centre. 8 pupils attended the trip with 2 class teachers Mrs McAdam and Mrs Kerr. The exhibition of work was displayed by HND Fashion Design students and HND Fashion Manufacture students.

The pupils were very interested in the pieces of work displayed as this gave them an insight into the course and what can be produced by students.

After the exhibition the fashion show started and this was spectacular it ran for over an hour displaying pupils work from a variety of themes and trends. Overall this trip was very enjoyable for the pupils and staff it gave the pupils insight into The World of Work and Skills for Life.



Glasgow Science Centre

In May, many S1 pupils attended a trip to the Glasgow Science Centre and we enjoyed it very much. We took part in a World of Work workshop where we programmed a robot to drive around a track. We also learned about the skills needed to work in this industry and the advantages of driverless cars. As well as the workshop, we had time to explore the exhibits on each floor, go to the science shop and some of us even went to Starbucks!

Our favourite exhibit was the giant hamster wheel on the top floor. We had lots of fun during the workshop and learned a lot about programming and driverless cars. We would definitely recommend this trip to other pupils!

We really enjoyed the trip and we would like to thank FOLA for their very generous contribution. We would also like to thank the teachers for organising this excursion.



By Jocelyn McKenzie, Kirsty Dunbar and Lucy Cochrane (S1)

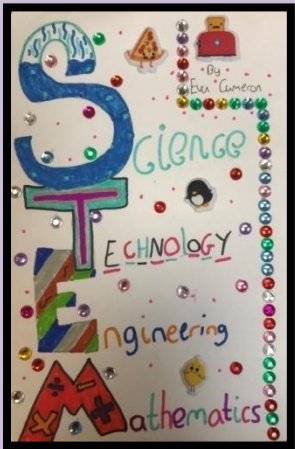
Glasgow Clyde College



Ten first and second year pupils attended a SMART STEM trip to Glasgow Clyde College and it was very fun! First, we got

split into groups to go around the different workshops. Before we went to the workshops, we went to lots of different stalls, which showed a variety of different things that were related to science, technology, engineering or maths. They even had virtual reality headsets!

Our first workshop was wiring, where we learned how to wire a plug which was very interesting. Our second workshop was robotics where we had to program the robots using a system on the computer. Our final workshop was machinery, where we put co-ordinates into big machines to make it cut shapes into wood, metal and plastic.



Overall, the SMART STEMS trip was a great experience to see how science, technology, engineering and maths can be used to improve our everyday lives.

By Eva Cameron (S1)

School of Rugby Spartan Project finishes with a bang at Lenzie Academy

Over the last two months; Lairdsland, Lenzie Meadow and Millersneuk have been involved in the school of rugby Spartan project. This involved touch rugby with sessions with all P7s before inviting them to do try contact rugby for three weeks. The kids all loved the touch rugby and over 56 signed up for contact across the three schools. Those doing contact were given free gumshields as they learned

their new skills. They were all eager to throw each other to the ground so it was great to teach them proper and safe rugby technique!

All those doing contact rugby at their school were invited to Lenzie Academy for a festival in June. The schools played against each other in friendly competition with terrific sportsmanship shown by each team. The kids loved playing the games and showed some terrific rugby skill; especially for most being brand new to the sport. The vast majority of those involved in the festival coming to Lenzie Academy next year and are keen to continue their rugby skills as they will bolster the growing school of rugby at Lenzie Academy.

This was the second year of the festival and produced a much greater number. Last year had 2 matches running with 4 teams, this year saw 4 games and 8 teams. Thank to EDLC for helping with staffing and to our own volunteers as it was all hands on deck for the numbers we had. A great start to next year's school of rugby pupils. The day could not have been the success it was without the help of volunteers Alisdair Sinclair, Glenn Barnett, Gavin Cruickshanks, Karlyn Bernard, Brooklyn Braeger, Kiera Mortimer, Brent Martin, Ben Jarvie, and of course the active schools coordinator who helped make the whole thing possible Katie Clucas.

