



# LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Session 2018-2019



Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2018-19 school term. The school is now in full swing with lots of new staff settling in to the school and 235 new S1 pupils now better able to navigate the school corridors with confidence to get to their classes. Our S1 pupils have settled in very well and now feel that they are fully part of our school community.

There are wide variety of extra-curricular clubs up and running and we look forward to taking our pupils on their residential trip to Whithaugh Country Park in Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders on 22 October. Many other school trips are already being planned for later in the year and we welcome our German guests who are here with us at the moment as part of our exchange programme which has now reached its 30th year.

## New Staff

- English – Mr Owens
- Mathematics – Mr McKenzie and Mr Green
- Modern Languages – Mrs Mclean
- History – Ms Wade
- Modern Studies – Mr Mathers
- Biology – Ms Carlin
- Chemistry – Mrs Spence
- Music – Mr Irwin
- Art – Mrs Jones
- PE – Mr Aubrey
- Business Education – Mrs Canning and Ms Parsons
- Wellbeing – Ms Wilson

We welcome all of our new staff who have already made a hugely positive start with us.

## SQA Results 2018

This year the school has continued to achieve very well with many of our young people excelling with some outstanding SQA performances. 68% of our S4 cohort achieved 5 or more awards at National 5 this year. This is slightly down on previous years and reflects a downward trend across the country as SQA have made some significant changes to National 5 courses as a result of the removal of units as part of the National 5 courses. This has meant that many of the exams are now longer and the weighting given to the exam element of courses has been increased. In some subjects where traditionally there was not an exam as part of the course these have now been introduced e.g. Practical Woodwork, Fashion and Textile Technology and Hospitality.

Our S5 cohort achieved 40% 5 or more Higher Grade awards. This is the second highest in the history of the school so our teachers were delighted for their pupils. In S5 the following results were achieved:

- 6 H Grades = 46 pupils (24% of the year)
- 5+ H Grades = 75 pupils (40% of the year)
- 3+ H Grades = 106 pupils (61% of the year)
- 1+ H Grades = 129 pupils (78% of the year)

At Advanced Higher Grade the results were some fantastic overall with some pupils achieving stunning successes e.g. 3As or more at Advanced Higher level. The overall situation was:

- 3+ AH Grades = 25 pupils
- 2+ AH Grades = 49 pupils
- 1+ AH Grades = 84 pupils

Overall, we are very pleased with the SQA results achieved by our pupils in 2018.

## School refurbishments

The investment in the school continues with a new roof being put on the last section of the old building and there should be work starting very soon on the development of a new guidance suite in the coming months. We await further detail on when the new 4G pitch will be developed and as soon as I have further details of an implementation plan I will let all parents/carers know about this.

## Traffic issues

I would ask that all parents/carers work with us to reinforce the work that we do in schools to make sure our pupils are safe as they come to school, at lunchtimes and at the end of the school day. The geographical location of the school is such that two busy roads are near the front of the school (Kirkintilloch Road) and the rear entrance to the school (Gallowhill Road/Boghead Road). Please ensure that you discuss with your child the importance of road safety and sensible conduct when they are going to and from school. Every year we have car users phone the school concerned with the conduct of some of our young people who can walk on the road rather than the pavements or who run out across the road resulting in cars braking heavily.

Young people can often forget the dangers as they are so engaged with their friends that they often forget the fundamentals with regard to road safety. It would be appreciated if you could discuss this with them and reinforce what we are telling them in school.

I hope you enjoy the contents of the brief August newsletter.

## Absences

If you are calling to report a child's absence can we ask that you leave a message on our **Attendance Line** to report the details of the absence. Please give the child's name, registration group, a brief reason for the absence and your relationship to the child.  
Thank you

**Attendance line: 0141 955 2380**

### **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

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

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

# Talented Musicians!



One of our talented S3 pupils, Ross D had an exciting summer holiday being part of the

Edinburgh Youth Orchestra. Ross successfully auditioned beforehand on French Horn and travelled to Edinburgh for the duration of the course. Here is what Ross said about his experience...

***During the summer holidays I had the privilege of playing the French Horn in the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra. This involved seven days of full rehearsals followed by three concerts, one at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen and two at Greyfriar's Kirk in Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. At the concert we performed four pieces; Carnival Overture by Dvorak, Metal by Graham Fitkin, Weber Bassoon concerto and A London Symphony by Vaughan Williams. The Dvorak overture got the concert off to a flying start, this was followed by Metal which is a contemporary piece and we were lucky enough to have a rehearsal with the compose himself! After Metal we played the bassoon concerto and the soloist was Rhiannon Carmichael – a former pupil of Lenzie Academy. The final piece was the London Symphony. I really enjoyed this experience and will look forward to playing in the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra again in the future."***

Ross was also part of the West of Scotland Schools' Concert Band and performed at the City Halls in Glasgow at the beginning of September.



Ross is a valued member of the extra-curricular activities within the Music Department playing French Horn in the windband and Saxophone in the Jazz Band! Keep up the excellent work Ross!



Stella H in S2 recently took part in a



residential trip to Gartmore as part of the West of Scotland's String Orchestra. Stella plays the violin and is fully

involved in the musical extra-curricular groups within the school – ceilidh band and string group and is also a member of the EDC String Ensemble. Her studies continue each Saturday at the RCS where Stella is a member of the Junior Conservatoire. The programme was performed in the City Halls at the beginning of September and the music included a medley of La La Land and Viva La Vida. Well done Stella and keep up the super work!





On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June a group of S3 pupils were lucky to attend a trip to London organised by the History and Modern Studies Departments. The trip involved us travelling by coach overnight both there and back as well as staying for 2 nights in a hotel in London. During the 3 days spent in London we were able to visit many places which were very beneficial to our learning in both History and Modern Studies.

We boarded the bus on a dark and very rainy Tuesday evening. As the bus left the school car park it didn't take long before both students and teaching staff began to nod off. After an overnight coach journey, we arrived in sunny London, where we then went on a boat tour along the Thames. The tour guide on the boat told us a lot of fascinating facts about the city and its famous buildings. For example, we learned that the River Thames is 215 miles long and has been an important trade route throughout its history. During the boat trip we saw a number of iconic landmarks of the city including Big Ben and the Westminster Parliament buildings.



Following the river cruise we headed for the Imperial War Museum. It was very interesting and we learned a lot about World War One. We got to look all

around the museum and see lots of different artefacts and models. Over 1300 objects were on display which included weapons, uniforms, diaries, keepsakes, film and art from the Great War. During the visit we also learned more about the Battle of the Somme which lasted for nearly five months and is viewed as the costliest battle of the First

World War. This visit was probably one of my favourite highlights of the whole trip as I love history! I enjoyed reading and listening to the stories of both the soldiers and the ordinary civilians who witnessed the horrors of the war.

The next morning, we went to the Westminster Parliament. We got taken on a tour all around the Parliament buildings and learned



lots about the history of the building. In the Palace of Westminster there are 100 staircases, more than 1,000 rooms and three miles of passages! The building is very much steeped in history with lots of artefacts displayed such as the scarf which the Suffragette Emily Davison carried on the day she was killed after stepping out in front of the King's horse at the 1913 Epsom Derby. During our trip to Westminster we were lucky enough to be able to watch a debate which was just like the debates which you often see on the TV!

Following this we went to the Tower of London. We got to walk around and see all the different parts of the tower. Today in the Tower of London there are over 23,500 jewels stored with a value which exceeds £20 billion! One of the facts which I remember from the Tower of London visit is that 22 executions took place in the Tower – the last one taking place in 1941. Afterwards we went to Boulevard Brasserie for dinner, and then walked to the theatre to see the Lion King. It was absolutely amazing! The costumes, masks and puppets were eye-catching and the music was fantastic!

On the last day we went to the London Dungeons which was very scary. We were locked in a cages and told stories in the dark – most of us were absolutely petrified including the teachers! At the end of the dungeons tour was a drop ride. Once it was finished my friends and I kept saying that it was literally nothing, but the picture that the ride took of us during it would say otherwise.

After our escape from the Dungeons we walked to 10 Downing Street where we got to go right up to the door and have our pictures taken. It seemed very busy inside 10 Downing Street, with lots of people going in and out of the building. We were very lucky to be able to get onto the street as security is very tight and often groups are refused access.



Afterwards, we walked to Regent Street and Oxford Street for some free time at the shops. My friends and I headed straight to the world famous M&M shop - some students saw the actress Elle Fanning in the store but I missed her. Following a successful shopping trip (in other words after spending all our money) - we had dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp and then we got on the coach to go back home.

It was an absolutely amazing trip – on behalf of the students who attended I would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Byres for organising the trip and the staff who attended – Mr Park, Ms Holland and Mr Jarman. We all

had a fantastic time and I would recommend this trip to any student! It was my first time away on a school trip as a Lenzie Academy student and it truly was a very memorable experience!

Katy F – Class 3SL

## English Department Film and Theatre Excursion



In June, twenty-seven pupils from S4 to S6 attended a trip to London with Mr. Keeley, Miss

MacInnes and Mrs Clark from the English Department. Pupils saw two West-End shows - The Woman in Black and Matilda the Musical - and took part in backstage tours at the National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre as well as the Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter.



Pupils' behaviour was exemplary and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## Writing Success

Former pupil Reyah M, who left S6 in June 2018 and achieved an A in Advanced Higher English, has been shortlisted for a BBC Young Writers' Award 2018. A recording of her short story 'Footprints in the Far Field' is available on iPlayer Radio and Reyah was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland about her achievement. The overall winner will be announced at the beginning of October. Well done!