



## LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Session 2018-2019



Welcome to our November newsletter.

Apologies for the belated nature of this month's newsletter. We have had

some technical issues and we are also running behind for reasons I outlined in a previous newsletter.

The month of November is traditionally a very demanding one for pupils and staff. It's a long month with no holidays for the young people and as it gets darker and colder there is an adjustment period which some find difficult. In terms of learning and teaching we need to get through a lot of work and I have been impressed by the overall picture emerging from our S4 and S5/6 tracking data which shows the vast majority of young people are achieving well in their courses and are on track for success later in the year. We tend to see patterns whereby our pupils cope well in the early part of the year and there can be a dip when the results of the preliminary examinations are known in late January and early February. This is generally not worrying for us as we finish the courses in good time to facilitate a comprehensive revision programme to reinforce prior learning and develop the necessary skills required by our pupils in many subject areas which enables them to achieve really well.

### **EDC Attainment Review**

In mid-November officers from East Dunbartonshire Council visited the school to discuss our attainment data from the 2018 SQA diet of examinations. The officers were hugely impressed by the overall picture, which remains one of very high attainment, and they commended the 'quality' of passes achieved by our pupils with significantly high

number of pupils achieving As and Bs in their National 5, Higher Grade and Advanced Higher Grade exams. They were also very complimentary with regard to the school's position in relation to the Scottish Government's national agenda related to 'closing the poverty related attainment gap' and this is pleasing. We have made an increasing number of vocationally orientated courses available in recent years to ensure that we provide options and progression for all pupils to enable them to achieve success and this is clearly happening.

### **Character Education**

In November the school was visited by two researchers from the University of Glasgow – Professor K. Livingston and Dr V. Corry – in relation to our pathfinder status as a school determined to enhance the character of our young people. They interviewed me as head teacher of the school; a group of teaching staff who will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of aspects of Character Education and a group of young people from S1-6. The feedback from the researchers to me was highly commendable. They were hugely impressed by the enthusiasm of our teaching staff and they thought the quality of engagement with our pupils was truly outstanding.

By way of some background Character Education has been developed around the principles of Aristotelean Virtue Ethics – intellectual virtues, performance virtues, civic virtues and moral virtues. As a school, we feel that we are already doing much of what is required e.g. we are already a Rights Respecting School and a Sports Scotland Gold Award School. We have the highest engagement in EDC of pupils engaged in extra-curricular activities as has been evidenced by the last four years of reports from Active Schools Scotland. In addition, we value Pupil Voice and every department engages with young people on discussions

about their learning and our pupil councils are consulted on many areas of our provision.

The researchers will return in about a year's time to see how we have developed our provision even further to benefit the quality of the provision and engagement that we offer our pupils.

### **School Refurbishment**

The work on our new roof is now almost complete and we have had some preliminary work done on our rugby pitch to check various technical aspects before work on developing it into a 4G pitch begins. Other aspects of school refurbishment I will keep you up to date with as and when work begins.

### **Parental Contact**

In light of some recent incidents I would like to remind all parents/carers of our communication protocols when contacting the school. The first point of contact for all parents/carers is your child's guidance teacher. The guidance staff know the children very well and will know you also either through contact this year or through contact when working with an older sibling. After communication with guidance you may then feel that contact the year head would be more appropriate and this should be discussed with your child's guidance teacher.

In terms of how to communicate, you should either phone or email the school office and leave your name and the name of your child and the guidance teacher and/or year head will get back to you. If they are available when you phone they may be able to deal with your issue(s) there and then but, more often than not, they will not be able to do so as they will have teaching commitments or meetings either within school or outside of school.

Please do not turn up at the school demanding to speak to a guidance teacher, depute head or myself without an appointment as this will not be facilitated due

to reasons outlined above. I would like to thank all parents/carers in advance for their cooperation in this matter.

### **School Events**

As well as all the ongoing learning and teaching that goes on in November there are also a wide variety of events and activities, some of which are included in this newsletter. The 100th anniversary of the end of the First World war was commemorated very well through poignant Remembrance Assemblies led by our pupils. One of my annual highlights is our Young Musician of the Year competition – this year with 18 competitors. The quality of the musicianship was, once again, outstanding and I commend all the pupils for providing such an excellent competition. I would also pay tribute to our music teachers and instrumental tutors for their hard work in ensuring such high standards are maintained.

The annual Art Exhibition and Dance Showcase were again of a very high standard. We also hosted the primary dance festival which was well attended and showed off the talent of many of our primary youngsters. Add to the mix our Senior Phase Pathways events; various DYW events; our S4 Personal Support Sessions; our S1 Bounceback Day; Dog Digital Day; Top of the Bench heats (Chemistry); a visit by the Blood Transfusion Service to take much needed blood from staff and senior pupils and the annual Children in Need week and you'll appreciate just how busy the school has been.

Enclosed there is much more detail on the issues cited above and much more besides. I hope you enjoy the content of the November Newsletter and since you will not receive the December Newsletter until January may I wish all parents/carers and pupils a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

## 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**

## Dyslexia Awareness



The first week in November was Dyslexia Awareness Week. The theme for the week was Dyslexia: My Wider World which allowed us to focus on strengths skills and links to careers.

A group of S2 and S3 pupils from Lenzie Academy visited our associated primaries to talk to all the classes about Dyslexia and help the pupils to make "Ellie's Blue Ribbons" which are the symbol for Dyslexia Awareness. Our Dyslexia mentors enjoyed having the opportunity to work with younger pupils. In addition to visits to the primary schools, some P7 pupils visited the Support for Pupils Department in Lenzie where they enjoyed lunch in our HUB and had the opportunity to work as a group to make an information board about Dyslexia. This board was used at assemblies and parent's evenings in the associated primaries.

For more information on Dyslexia Awareness Week Scotland, please visit

<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/dyslexia-awareness-week>

## 'A Comedy About a Bank Robbery'

On Thursday 8th November the Higher Drama class went to see 'A Comedy About a Bank Robbery' at the Theatre Royal.



As the name suggests this play was a comedy and was set in the 1950s. The plot followed a robber and two conmen who attempted to steal a large diamond from a bank. This production was outrageously funny and used lots of props and costumes to create comedy.



A lot of jokes also came from misinterpretation of language and use of puns. The most exciting moment was when the set 'flipped' and the floor was on the back wall of the stage, this meant the actors had to use harnesses to create the illusion that they were moving around the floor despite being horizontal. When we got back to class we had to create mind maps about everything we had seen in the production, lots of us were laughing as we remembered the performance. This has certainly given us lots to write about in our exam!





## Remembering

Lenzie School of Rugby U16 team observed a minute's silence before the match on Saturday 3 November in memory of Kornelia.



The boys requested this themselves and should be commended for their very touching and poignant gesture.

All the coaches are honoured to be involved with such a fine group of young men.

## Lenzie Young People Celebrate Making a Difference at the Diana Awards.

In the Year of Young people East Dunbartonshire has continue to demonstrate how it recognises the positive impact young people have on their community. On 5th November the Scottish Diana Awards Ceremony recognised two Lenzie individuals who have volunteered their time and experience in making a difference to other's lives.



Louise has been a key representative of East Dunbartonshire's Young Adult Carers giving presentations to various groups on what it means to be a carer whilst also attending school/college and working towards qualifications. However, her personal volunteering journey has also included time at the local Cancer Research shop and attending the East Dunbartonshire Generations Working Together Christmas Day

Lunch where she volunteered alongside Stand International.

Siobhan worked hard within Lenzie Academy to provide support within the pupil support department and also volunteered at Campsie View School where she had attended nursery many years before. Her cerebral palsy and epilepsy diagnosis did not hold her back from trying to make a difference to others' lives.

The two young people were supported by their families as well as Lenzie



Academy at the Diana Award Ceremony where they were celebrated as role models in living up to Princes Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better.

## Modern Studies Department welcomes Ross Greer MSP

S3 Modern Studies pupils were pleased to welcome Ross Greer MSP, Green Party West of Scotland, to Lenzie Academy on Monday 5th November.

We got to ask Ross lots of questions, covering a wide range of issues, and his answers will be very useful for exam preparation.

Specific issues covered during the Q&A with him included Brexit, the AMS electoral system, the work of an MSP, etc.



We thank Ross for giving of his time to come along to Lenzie Academy to answer our questions.

## Remembrance Assemblies

On the morning of 9th November Lenzie Academy pupils and staff paused to remember those who gave their lives during the Great War and subsequent conflicts.

House assemblies were held led by senior students, Dylan, Caitie, Gabrielle and Alix. All four had participated on this year's Battlefields Trip and spoke movingly about that experience and how it relates to the themes of remembrance and reconciliation, especially in this the centenary year of the signing of the Armistice.



Thereafter a period of respectful silence was observed, and a wreath was laid by School Captains, Freya and Grant. Helena, Emily, Abbie and Kate played a beautiful rendition of I Vow to Thee My Country to bring the assemblies to their conclusion.

*"We will remember them".*

## Lenzie Academy Community Engagement leading social action and community involvement.

A year after the establishment of LACe with its #iwill pledge" to encourage as many pupils to work with others and for others" Lenzie pupils are creating and being involved in more opportunities to develop themselves and their community. During the week beginning 12th November members of Team Platinum helped to collate the variety of different examples of social action in which

senior pupils were involved, as part of their contribution to the national #iwill week.

Over 90% of S6 were able to give an example of volunteering in which they were regularly involved with at least 20 % volunteering weekly in a number of school based and community based groups. This sets a great example to pupils in the junior years as many of the S6 have been volunteering for a considerable time and have gained 100+ hour Saltire awards. This means that quite a number will be nominated for Summit awards before they leave school this summer.



Volunteering ranges from representing pupils in various school, local and national forum, helping in junior classes, local nurseries, schools and animal shelters as well as many sports leaders who work with Katie Clucas our Active Schools co-ordinator.



Ben is one of our most well-known senior pupils who gained his Summit Award a few years ago. He has regularly been involved in community events representing the Malawi Connection group at gala days

and community fayres and this year is leading the new combined Malawi Connections, social enterprise group.

Having also been involved in the S5 Come and Sing Dementia Friendly Community project at Lenzie Old Parish Church last year; he has taken the intergenerational project to a new level of community engagement by becoming the school facilitator for Playlist for Life. Together with his volunteer team Ross and Abby, Ben is encouraging everyone to look in their cupboards and dust off any old mp3 players that could be used by the charity 'Playlist for Life' to create personal playlists for people who have a dementia diagnosis. Collections are being taken in the school lower office and all donated players will be completely rebooted before being ready to hold someone's musical memories. With the new group of S5 joining the project in February of next year, Ben and his team are working hard towards making Lenzie dementia friendly.

It has been widely recognised that music helps to unlock memories of happy times in the past and it is recommended that everyone should think of compiling their own personal playlist. With many old mp3 players being seen as too basic for younger people used to sophisticated streaming and downloading, these are ideal to use by the charity.

## **S4 Directing Workshop**

On Wednesday 14th November a member of the Tron Theatre came in to work with our class on a Directing Workshop. In the workshop we were able to learn about how important the little details in a script can be and how the blocking from the Director can determine the meaning of a certain moment. In the workshop the Leader showed us examples of what limited script directions can do; it can leave the audience lost or they don't know what's happening. She gave us papers with stage directions but we had to make our own story only with those stage

directions. Then we were given lines from a script and we had to make a story to go along with the script with our own stage directions. We got to present our work to the rest of the class and evaluated each performance saying the strengths of the piece and what could be changed/added to improve the work. We are currently rehearsing our pieces for our Practical Exam so this workshop helped us to think about the meaning behind all our choices onstage.

By Kirstie-Lee 4SL

## **Awards Aware**



Above is a photo of our Awards Aware certificate recognising that we recognise a variety of youth awards at Lenzie.

These include but are not all: Saltire Awards at Approach, Ascent & Summit level, The Diana Award and The Diana Award anti bullying ambassadors, Dynamic youth awards, Youth Achievement awards and Princes Trust Aspire Awards. We are constantly updating the range of youth awards for which we present pupils at this school in order to not only recognise attainment and achievement but also to develop character and reflect all our school values.



## Debating News

On Thursday 15th November, Lenzie Academy hosted the first round of the Law Society's Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition. Stella (S2) and Ross (S3) faced a senior team from Bishopbriggs Academy while last year's national finalists Sandy (S4) and Lucas (S4) competed against Kelvinside Academy. The motion for each heat was 'This House Believes Google Does More Harm Than Good' and after two excellent debates, both of the Lenzie teams won through to the next round! The judges praised our speakers and were impressed with the structure of their speeches and their ability to engage with the arguments from the other teams. The next round will take place in the new year.

## Enterprising Mathematics



Well done to our mathletes Ross, Sarah, Ciaran and Jade who finished 22nd in Scotland at the Enterprising Mathematics competition.

## AG Barr visit



We were given the opportunity in Business Management to help AG Barr design a new limited addition product. Last year, we attended a focus group to come up with ideas and flavours of the drink. We then completed some taste tests and helped decide on the packaging for the products.



Once the product was finalised we were then given the opportunity to attend AG Barr Factory in Cumbernauld to see the factory and the product we helped create being produced. We also got to try some samples of the products which were Sherbet Lemon and Rhubarb & Custard flavoured soft drinks, Mmm Yum!



## Top of the Bench



Lenzie Academy were pleased to enter a team into the West of Scotland heats for 'Top of the Bench', a UK-wide Chemistry

competition. Naomi (S2), Greg (S3), Kenzie (S3) and Sandy (S4) visited the Royal College Building at Strathclyde University and took part in a series of challenges.

The teams were asked to create a poster based on a text describing some "Chemistry in the news", identify chemicals in the lab using techniques like electrolysis and answer a 20-question multiple choice quiz requiring the pupils to use their problem solving skills.

Overall, the team finished 3rd out of 22, an excellent result, but unfortunately, it wasn't enough to see them through into the next round in Loughborough. However, the competition was enjoyed by those involved – well done, Naomi, Greg, Kenzie and Sandy!

## The Residential 2018

Twenty eighteen is soon to end, bringing a new year with it and with a new year comes new opportunities, like the residential. My residential experience was incredible and I would definitely encourage all S1's to go! In fact, that's what I'm here to talk about so let's begin!

On the day we were leaving I was so excited! One of the good things about the day was that we got to wear casual clothes. So when I'd done my last minute packing and got ready for school, I went straight there! I decided to get to school a bit early, so I could drop my bag off. We all still had to go to our period 1 classes but we didn't have to bring our folders. After what seemed like forever

the class ended and we went down to the hall. We had a long bus ride ahead of us. Although the bus ride was long, there was lots of sights to see and beautiful countryside to look at but if that's not your thing then you and your friends can chat to each other. When we got there we went straight to our dorms. Another great thing about the trip is we got to pick our own dorms and I was in with my friends!



There was a map inside every dorm so we knew where to go and inside the lunch hall

there was a timetable telling us what activity we were doing and when it was. My first activity was team building which was full of games and puzzles for us to solve. Here are some of my favourite activities and a bit about them.

The zip-wire is definitely a favourite as you feel like you're flying over a forest. Swimming was amazing because it's time for you to just relax and have fun. There were lots of



activities in high ropes like the leap of faith where you jump off a high platform. The canoeing was incredible as we got to explore an island and play some fun games.

In conclusion, the week was so much fun and I've learned new skills. My teambuilding has improved, I've overcome a large part of my fear of heights, my leadership skills have improved and more! Overall the week has not only been beneficial to me but it has been a really fun experience for me and my friends!

**-Written by Lucy (1CN)**



## **Bounce Back Day**

Bounce Back Day took place for all of S1 on Friday 23rd November 2018. S1 were off timetable all day and we were able to dress down for the day in clothes we felt most comfortable in. Bounce Back Day allowed us to focus on how to be resilient in difficult situations. We learned how to think positive and to 'keep on going' through difficult circumstances. We were also reminded that bad experiences do not last forever and were given lots of information to help us deal with the bad times.

On Bounce Back Day, we took part in many different activities throughout the day. Firstly, in our guidance classes we learned all about 'Bounce Back' and did work with our partners to find out how they had coped after a difficult time. We also heard how celebrities and other famous people e.g. Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela had bounced back. We then split up and met other people from different classes to complete activities, such as problem solving work and working in teams to create a parachute. In Science, we had to make a parachute and drop it and the team with the longest drop time to the floor won the competition. This activity consisted of using a lot of teamwork and thinking skills. In the end, our team won and got the most points! We also solved puzzles in Social Subjects to figure out which famous person had used Bounce Back skills. We then completed an exercise to sort cards with everyday items written on them into 'needs' and 'wants' to show us what is important and highlight the things that we do not really need.

We both really enjoyed Bounce Back Day. The best parts were the fun activities in subjects and mixing with the other classes. We also enjoyed listening to the assembly to learn about how other people, such as celebrities had bounced back, so we can

remember this for dealing with any difficult times we may face in the future.

Alishba (1MB) & Rose (1MC)



Making balloon sculptures in Art.



Researching famous people who have 'bounced back' in Social Subjects.



Making pasta in HFT.



Working in teams to build gummy bear structures and parachutes in Science.

## Young Musician of the Year 2018/19

This year, we opened the competition up to pupils in S3-6 who are studying Music at Lenzie Academy and pupils could enter as a vocalist or as an instrumentalist. The criteria was for pupils to be at a minimum standard of Grade 5 level and what a lot of entrants applied! Well done to all who came forward to audition for the competition.

The final 17 pupils performed to a small audience of family members, music staff and Mr Paterson. Our judge this year was Mrs Ferguson, Team Leader of the East Dunbartonshire Instrumental Music Service.



All pupils performed exceptionally well in their field; jazz, classical, traditional, rock and we were treated to a lovely afternoon of different music styles. The vocal winner this year was Mollie Ward in S5 who sang "On My Own" from Les Miserables, and our instrumental winner was Ross Donaldson in S3 who played the French Horn and performed the first movement of a Mozart Horn Concerto.

Well done to both of you!

Both pupils will go forward to compete in the Kirkintilloch Rotary Competition on the 6th February where they will perform alongside pupils from St. Ninians High School and Kirkintilloch High School. Good luck Ross and Mollie!

## Music Exam

Well done to Aimee Panchal in S4 who recently passed her Grade 5 exam with distinction through the London College of Music. A fantastic result!



## Developing the Young Workforce @ LA

November was a busy month for both visiting local businesses, and welcoming speakers to the Academy, all as part of the DYW initiative:

On Thursday 15th Travis George, a civil engineer with ARCADIS, visited the school to discuss the many different aspects and potential pathways of engineering. 50 pupils across S4-6 who had indicated an interest in engineering as a future career, attended the presentations. They were able to hear first-hand from someone working in industry, the skills required to succeed in this field.

Lenzie Academy once again welcomed representatives from the Armed Forces, to speak to 16 pupils who were intrigued and keen to find out more about the opportunities that exist within the Army, Navy and RAF.

Ronnie Burrows director for Fleming Buildings in conjunction with Jill Brown media and PR, invited pupils from the Academy to visit their head office here in Lenzie. Ten pupils were given a tour, and enlightened to the many different roles within Fleming including: design, quantity surveying, marketing, business development and joinery.

Throughout all of the visits in and out of school the key message the pupils took away was, the importance of developing their skills in as many different ways both in and out of school