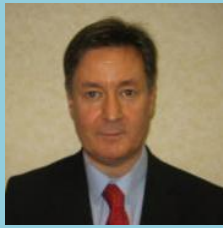




## LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Session 2018-2019



Welcome to our December newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter the school will be back in full swing. I hope you

had a pleasant and relaxing Winter break. Our Senior Phase pupils in S4-6 are currently be engaged in their preliminary examinations which, thus far, have been mercifully free from disruption due to adverse weather. I hope our pupils do as well as they hope for in these exams but, as I made clear in the last newsletter, whilst we are very happy with the progress on our pupils after the October assessment block there can be a dip in performance at prelim time and this is a trend across most schools in the country, for a whole variety of reasons. I am currently meeting with the departmental heads to discuss post-prelim intervention strategies to aid those youngsters who may be struggling in one or more subject areas. As parents/carers of young people in S4, S5 or S6 what I would say to you is do not be overly concerned should your child not achieve as highly as they thought they might in the preliminary examinations. Our curricular structure ensures that we finish the N5 and H Grade courses in good time to facilitate a very comprehensive consolidation and revision programme where the key skills required for success in the SQA examinations are developed and enhanced. It is for this reason that over the last two years the quality of passes has been exceptionally high and we anticipate a continuation of this trend later in the year when the SQA results are released. We will continue to offer supported study sessions across the February/March period and we will probably run classes in the first week of the Spring break. Details will follow about these programmes in due course.

### Christmas Events

The annual Christmas Concert was a splendid success and there was certainly a 1980s feel to a lot of the pieces that were played e.g. the theme from 'Rocky', Lypsync's 'Funky Town' and much more besides as well as the standard and expected Christmas music. Since the 1980s is my era of music I perhaps enjoyed the evening more than most. Our Christmas Dances were very well attended and although we had to move the venue, due to the problems with our assembly hall floor, this did not detract from the enjoyment of the events for our pupils whose behaviour was exemplary. The S1 Panto 'Aladdin' was a great night for our S1 pupils. The only negative in the Christmas events programme was the fact that we had to cancel the 'Santa dash' due to inclement weather

### Class Visits

During December my senior leadership colleagues and I visited all departments across the school to observe a number of lessons focused on the teaching and learning of skills for learning, life and work. It was a privilege to see some excellent lessons and it reinforced for me the high quality of teaching and learning that goes on within the school day in and day out.

In this newsletter you will find the usual array of excellent articles showing how our young people are developing their skills, whether this be in musicianship, mathematics, public speaking or finding out more about the world of work. I hope you enjoy the contents of this brief December Newsletter.

## Mathematics Challenge

Congratulations to Matthew B who has achieved a Gold award in the UKMT Senior Challenge. He is now through the next round.

## Bounce Back

On Thursday 13th December the S3 Drama class performed a drama called 'Bounce Back' to S1 pupils. The play depicted two pupils who were being bullied and showed how they resolved the situation. It also highlighted people who could help if someone found themselves being bullied. The S3 class had been working on this for 4 weeks and they all performed very confidently. Despite the fact some of them were quite nervous beforehand, they all really enjoyed performing to the S1s. Well done S3 Drama!

## Public Speaking Success

On Tuesday 4th December, Jade S (S3) and Stella H (S2) competed in the first round of the Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition at John Paul Academy. The topic centred on school uniforms and each of the girls spoke from opposing perspectives. The judges praised their confident delivery and the structure of their speeches and ultimately awarded them first place! They will compete in the semi-final of the competition next year. Well done, girls!

## 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 G (S2), Greg O (S3), Kenzie S (S3) and Sandy M (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!



## Music News!

What a busy term the pupils in Music have had! We've had the Young Musician of the Year Competition, Christmas Concert, a trip to Cumbernauld College and the Sing-a-long on the last day!



## 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 Ensemble 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!



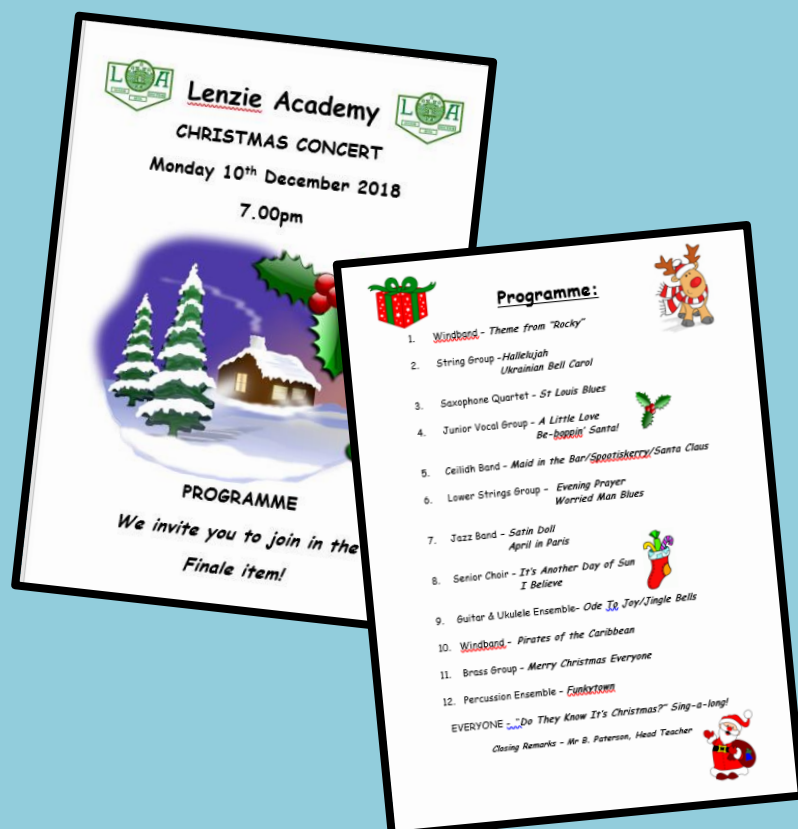
## Christmas Concert

A big well done and thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Concert this year. We had a large number of performers this year including lots of new S1 pupils.



The audience heard the theme from Rocky, some Christmas pieces, a jazz saxophone quartet, the guitar & ukulele group and the finale piece at the end for everyone to join in!

We were so busy rehearsing, we didn't manage to take any photos!





## 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!



## Trip to New College Lanarkshire in Cumbernauld



The S2 elective pupils studying Music Technology enjoyed a morning trip to New College Lanarkshire in Cumbernauld to see what Music Technology courses are on offer there. Pupils and staff were greeted with a warm welcome from Ronnie Gilmour, the Assistant Head of Faculty. Our trip started with a tour of the facilities and look at the studios and equipment the college students use – we were very impressed and a bit envious!



The S2 pupils then worked with the HND students and observed / helped with recording some drum kit tracks. Pupils learned how to set up a mic stand, where to place the microphone and then observed the students operate the software from the studio whilst talking to the drummer in the live room in-between takes.

*“The best bit was watching people use the mixing desk – I don’t know how they knew what all the buttons did!”*

*“I liked watching them test the drum kit”*

*“I enjoyed watching the students use the synthesisers”*

*“I liked seeing the College – it’s very different from school!”*

*“Seeing what the recording rooms and live rooms are like with my own eyes. And seeing the recording being done in action.”*

We hope will be able to visit the College again as the facilities they have are superb. Many thanks to the College staff and their students for our fantastic first visit!





## Developing the Young Workforce @ LA



Developing the Young Workforce is about giving our young people the opportunity to learn from those in industry. December saw us continue our close

working partnership with CMS Windows. 12 pupils visited their head office in Cumbernauld to find out more about the apprenticeships on offer, and gained some knowledge and experience around interview skills and technique. During the visit, the pupils were given a tour of the factory and observed the manufacturing of PVC and aluminium windows.

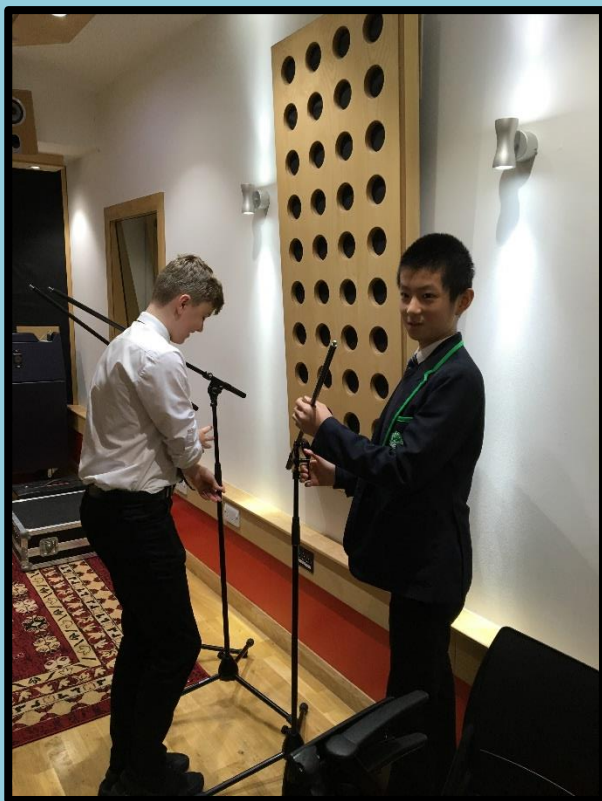
Throughout all of the visits in and out of school the key message the pupils took away was, the importance of developing their skills in as many different ways both in and out of school. Moreover, it was highlighted to the pupils the many different pathways to reach their long term goals, whether that be apprenticeships, college or university.



## Christmas Day Lunch

For the second year members of Lenzie Academy Community Engagement volunteers at East Dunbartonshire's Intergenerational Christmas Day Lunch which was held at Smith's Restaurant. The S5 pupils were there to act as table hosts and keep the invited guests full of Christmas spirit.

The event is organised by East Dunbartonshire's Generations Working Together Committee in conjunction with Stand International, a local charity which encourages and support people to make a difference to other's lives. The Christmas Day lunch is attended by people from the area who may otherwise feel isolated and forgotten on this day. From older people to young family groups the Christmas Day lunch



gives everyone the chance to share in the joy of the celebration and our volunteers are always great examples of putting our school values into action.

## **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:**

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