



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Session 2019-2020
Welcome to the first
newsletter of the new
session which covers
the months of August
and September. It has

been a very busy and productive start to
the new term and all our new S1 pupils
are focused and well-mannered young
people who have settled in very well
indeed.

We have many really positive
achievements to inform you about but
pride of place goes to six of our pupils
who won the UK wide Faraday
Engineering Challenge for the school. We
are the only Scottish school ever to have
won this award, having previously won it
in 2009 with an all-male team. This time
we've won it again with an all-female
team to balance things up and also to
smash the stereotypical perception
amongst some people that engineering is
a 'male' profession. Well done girls, a
tremendous achievement!

Staffing

We have a number of new staff who have
joined the school this session and they
have all settled in very well and are fully
engaged in the life of the school and are
all contributing positively to the ethos of
our school community.

- **Biology** – Dr Sambi
- **Business Education** – Ms MacLeod
- **Chemistry** – Mr McGinley
- **Design Technology** – Mr Cumming
& Ms Lockwood

- **English** – Mr Hall
- **History** – Ms Archibald
- **Health Food Technology** –
Mr Hendry
- **Modern Languages** – Ms Courbon,
Ms Gibbons, Ms McLean
- **Modern Studies** – Ms Connon,
Ms Provan
- **Performing Arts** – Ms Primrose
- **Physical Education** – Mr Hunter,
Mr McNeil, Ms MacNicol
- **Physics** – Mr McInnes

Other important staffing updates include:

- Ms Baxter has been appointed as
Principal Teacher of History (0.2) as
Mr Park has gone from full time to
four days.
- In August Mrs Curran, PT Support
for Pupils, was appointed to a 23
month secondment as Acting
Depute Head Teacher in Boclair
Academy. We wish her well in her
new appointment. Mrs Lennox,
who teaches Mathematics within
the school, was successful in
securing the Acting PT Support for
Pupils position whilst Mrs Curran is
at Boclair Academy and we will be
interviewing for a temporary
teacher of Mathematics after the
October break.
- Mrs Lindsay, teacher of Computing,
retires from the school in October
and we wish her well in her
retirement.
- Mrs Fabiani, one of our Support for
Learning Assistants, has secured a
new post with Glasgow City Council
and will leave us in October. We
wish her every success.

We wish all staff who are leaving us every
success and we thank them for their
many years of unstinting service to the
young people of Lenzie Academy.

SQA Attainment Data

This year we came back in August to a really strong set of SQA results achieved by our young people. The raw data demonstrated that we had achieved, when taken in the round, the best set of results that we have ever had based upon data from the previous 20 years. The Scottish Government evaluates certain key measures and in all of these measures we have equalled or surpassed previous results for the school. I outline these results below in terms of the Scottish Government's key performance measures:

- **S4 5+ at National 5 – 74%** of pupils achieved this, the second highest achieved over the past 20 years.
- **S5 5+ at H Grade – 44%** of pupils achieved this, the highest achieved over the past 20 years.
- **S5 3+ at H Grade – 65%** of pupils achieved this, the highest achieved over the past 20 years.
- **S5 1+ at H Grade – 85%** of pupils achieved this, the highest achieved over the past 20 years.
- **S6 1+ at AH Grade – 38%** of pupils achieved this, the highest achieved over the past 20 years

These results are absolutely outstanding and the raw data is backed up in the statistical package used by the Scottish Government called 'Insight'. The data available from this source re-affirms the high quality of attainment achieved by our young people when compared to the national average; the local authority average and what they term our 'virtual comparator' (schools with a similar socio-economic background to us). In all the key measures used by the Scottish Government we were ahead of the national average; the local authority average and also against our virtual

comparators (school with a similar socio-economic pupil composition with our school). This is testament to the hard work of our young people; the strong support of our parents/carers and the ongoing commitment, support and high quality of teaching provided by our teachers and support staff within the school. Well done to all!

School Uniform

The standard of school uniform this session has been very good and we want this to continue. As we approach the Autumn/Winter months there can be a tendency for pupils to wear external jackets to school. This is perfectly acceptable so long as these are removed upon entering the building and replaced by their blazer. Young people can wear their blazer under their external jacket, as many already do, or they can keep their blazer in a locker and change into the blazer at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day put on their external jacket for the journey home.

A small number of pupils we know inform their parents/carers that when they reach S3 onwards they don't need to wear their blazer or that the blazer is optional during the winter months. These are incorrect statements. We expect all of our pupils to wear full school uniform when they are in school and we would appreciate the support of parents/carers in this regard.

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

Parking

It would be appreciated if all parents/carers would desist from parking along the driveway at the Myrtle Avenue entrance. There are signs on the road indicating that this area is for authorised vehicles only. The school population is in excess of 1200 and there are many hundreds of pupils walking down the drive at the end of the day. The sheer volume of traffic allied to hundreds of young people walking makes it a health and safety concern. If parents/carers could arrange to pick up their child a few streets away from the school that would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Lennoxtown Re-zoning

East Dunbartonshire Council has embarked upon a formal consultation to offer pupils from Lennoxtown Primary School the right to come to Lenzie Academy as a zoned non-denominational school should their parents wish to do so. We already have a number of young people from Lennoxtown who attend the school but they do so as a result of a successful placing request.

As part of the statutory consultation all parents/carers were issued with full details of the proposal in August. There was a parental consultation evening in September and an educational consultant came into the school to meet with all pupils

The consultation closes on 30 October. Should any parent/carer wish to contribute their views they can access details on the East Dunbartonshire Council website.

Inside this newsletter we have 'some' of the activities and events that have been

taking place through the summer and across August-September. It does not include other activities such as our 'Celebration of Character Evening where we formally recognised the contribution of many of our pupils in helping others. This was an excellent evening of celebration for the young people involved and demonstrated how much good work is going on across the year by many pupils over and above their school commitments to help others and improve their lives. This aspect of volunteering is a major strength in the school as so many of our pupils are actively involved.

I hope you enjoy the contents of the newsletter.

Metacognition in Lenzie Academy

In August Lenzie Academy embarked on a long-term programme to implement metacognitive practices throughout the school. The first phase of the programme involves staff building a solid foundation of metacognitive knowledge. This is currently being achieved through expert led seminars during in-service days and the ongoing work of the Learning & Teaching committee.

Later in the year, during the second phase, we will introduce our pupils to the Plan, Monitor & Evaluate cycle. We will work to increase the number of learning strategies pupils are confident using such as Retrieval Practice, Concept Mapping and Self-Regulation. Ultimately, our aim is to foster self-awareness, truly independent learning and resilience in the face of challenge in our young people. Our metacognition journey is only beginning but we are already excited about the positive impact it will have on staff and pupils alike.

Sports Tour

128 pupils and 13 staff travelled to Marbella Spain in June to take part in a multi-sport trip. Pupils competed in either basketball, rugby, football, or netball against local opposition or other travelling teams. Lenzie teams did exceptionally well winning 60% of their fixtures overall. As well as competing in sporting events, pupils also got to visit some tourist attractions such as Gibraltar and Alhambra. Many of the pupils tour highlight was the rest day, where a full day was spent at AQUALAND!



The PE department are already planning their next sports tour which will likely be a watersports trip to the south of France in June 2021.

The Faraday Challenge

At 1 o'clock on the 9th of July we went to Lenzie Station where we met up with the rest of the Faraday Challenge Team from Lenzie Academy - Emma Coffey, Juliet Mone, Eve Wells and Winnie Wong. We had previously won our Regional competition and had got into the UK Final! We arrived at The Mercure Hotel, checked in and spent the afternoon in the National Museum of Scotland.

Afterwards we were given our Challenge Brief

which was to design something to help with the transportation of the James Webb Space Telescope. We spent several hours coming up with ideas and disregarding each one in turn for various reasons however, we kept coming back to the idea of keeping people and the telescope safe – which we all wanted to focus on. After much discussion and a thorough search of the items available to us we decided to make a small vehicle that would go ahead of the telescope and sweep things out of the way. It also had a pressure pad so that if anything was too heavy a light would be activated, alerting the driver of the truck. The next morning we got up at 7 o'clock to plan what materials we would buy and what roles everyone would have. Then we had breakfast and packed up before getting a taxi to the Royal Observatory. We had a tour around before starting the actual challenge. We had about 2 hours to buy all our materials and create a functioning prototype. We worked as a team, delegating jobs to everyone. After lunch, we listened to the designs of the 4 other teams and then it was our turn to present. We had to explain what it did, how our electronic circuit worked, how we had worked as a team and how we budgeted etc. That was really nerve wracking. When the judges left to make their decision we felt nervous and agitated. It felt like we were waiting a long time for them to deliberate however, it was only 10 minutes! When the judges came out and announced we had won we were amazed and excited because we hadn't expected it. It felt like a really big achievement! It was a great day all round.

*Naomi
and
Rachel
Giffen*



The Crucible

On Wednesday 11th September, 42 Higher English students and their teachers visited the Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see a performance of their class text, 'The Crucible'.

The performance was highly engaging with an interesting interpretation at times - often with a small nod to modern times inserted into a play that is set in 1692.

The tragic nature of the Salem witch trials certainly came across strongly through the actor's representation of Miller's characters.

Overall, a thoroughly enjoyable and educational visit.

EDC girls football tournament.

On the 11th of September, Lenzie Academy hosted the first EDC girls football tournament with around 60 pupils from 7 neighboring schools participating. On the night the competition was fierce with Lenzie Academy facing Turnbull High in the final match. The girls from Lenzie Academy played 6 games, winning 5 and conceding 1 goal the full night. Considering the girls were only able to train twice before the tournament, they performed outstandingly and done the school proud.



Young Enterprise

We have joined the S6 Young Enterprise team, which involves setting up and running our own business, coming up with ideas for products, manufacturing, and eventually selling them at a later date.



To understand how we would go about doing this, we went to the Doubletree by Hilton hotel in Glasgow City Centre to partake in the Young Enterprise masterclass. After the initial introduction from the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Chairman and a talk from the Keynote Speaker Harry Miller from Forty Clothing, we were given a timetable to follow. It consisted of 3 different classes and workshops, these included digital marketing, innovation, growing sales, environmental awareness, business planning, and more.

After which, we then were put into groups and introduced to a manufacturing workshop, where we were given a product to make according to a specific guide. We had to meet a strict deadline in order to succeed. In doing this, we improved our interpersonal skills and communication, especially when it came to quality control and we had to make sure our product was up to the client's standard. We had to learn to work fast, efficiently and meticulously in order to achieve success. This was a very worthwhile event and we are looking forward to the next stages of Young Enterprise.

By Eric and Cameron