



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Session 2019-2020

Welcome to the November newsletter. With Christmas fast approaching we provide all parents/carers with a brief overview for the month of November.

Traditionally November is a very busy month in the school with lots of work in senior phase classes going in to complete units and courses to allow some revision in December prior to the January preliminary examinations and this year is no different. In addition to the ongoing academic work November is also when we have Children in need week where our House captains organised an array of different activities across the week and raised in excess of £2300.00. Well done to them!

On 14 November officers from East Dunbartonshire Council visited the school to discuss the 2019 SQA examination results with senior leaders within the school. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we achieved the best set of results for which we have data in 2019 and thus we were expecting this to be reflected in their comments and it was. The officers were hugely impressed with the attainment profile in S4 National 5, in S5 and S5/6 H Grade and in S6 AH Grade. The team were also very impressed with the huge array of wider achievement opportunities provided by the school for our young people and a small selection of these wider achievement opportunities is included in this month's newsletter –

ethics ambassadors; anti-bullying counsellors; sporting opportunities; musical opportunities and much more besides.

On 4 November the school was visited by Professor Livingstone and Dr Corry for the University of Glasgow, School of Education. They are working with the school as we develop our work as a pathfinder school of 'Character Education'. This was a return visit having visited the school in 2018 and they were impressed by the developments that have been ongoing within the school over the past two years. One development that is linked to this has been our achievement in attaining a 'Vision Schools Scotland Award' for our approach to the teaching of Holocaust Education.

Other important events that took place in November were the annual Remembrance Assemblies, our Art & Design Exhibition and our Young Musician of the Year Competition, all of which were up to their usual high standards. We also held our Senior Phase Curricular Pathways event where a large number of universities, colleges, employers and representatives from the third sector came to inform S4 and S5/6 pupils of different pathways that may be open to them beyond school. More details of these event can be read within the newsletter.

On 25 November we held our first 'Parental Engagement Workshop' for parents/carers and this has proven to be another useful addition for our school. Details of what was involved can be read within the newsletter.

Throughout November members of the senior leadership team engaged in a wide range of class visits across all departments within the school. This reinforced for us the high quality of learning and teaching that is happening within the school. Our focus this year was on inclusion, relationships and pupil participation within lessons. It was a privilege to observe so many high quality lessons and really high quality interaction between teachers and pupils and between pupils themselves.

On behalf of the pupils and staff within the school may I wish all parents/carers a peaceful winter break and we look forward to pupils staring back with us on Monday 6 January 2020.

Vision Schools Award

Lenzie Academy have been awarded a Level 1 Vision Schools Award for excellent whole school practice in Holocaust Education. The award is credited by the University of the West of Scotland's School of Education, who has been working with Vision Schools since 2015, under the leadership of Professor Paula Cowan.

Vision Schools recognises that Holocaust Education is not simply learning the historical facts of such an event, but how lessons from this atrocity can inform anti-racist education, education for citizenship as well as promoting religious equality. These tie in wholeheartedly with Lenzie Academy's school values of Inclusiveness, Respect, Tolerance and Compassion. The application for this award was led by the History department within Lenzie Academy who deliver a 6-week course on the Holocaust to S1 pupils. This is then reinforced across the curriculum in

subjects such as English, RME and Modern Studies (the latter of which explore how lessons learned from Holocaust contributed to creation of the Convention on Human Rights).

The award also recognised Lenzie Academy's very successful Holocaust Memorial Day Assemblies which take place every January and are led by both S2 and S6 pupils. The school is also in its third year of running the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Programme, in association with the Holocaust Educational Trust. Two S6 pupils are selected to travel to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and complete a 'next steps' project to pass on their learning to younger pupils.

This achievement helps enhance Lenzie Academy's status as a Bronze Rights Respecting School as well as helping to develop its pathway status as a Character Education school. The next two years, will see Lenzie Academy working towards the Level 2 and final stage of the Vision Schools Award as well as the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award.



Developing the Young Workforce @ LA

The last has been a busy one for both visiting local businesses, and welcoming speakers to the Academy, all as part of the DYW initiative:

On Thursday 31st October Travis George, a civil engineer with ARCADIS, visited the school with his colleague to discuss the many different aspects and potential pathways of engineering. 42 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.

Throughout November 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 in particular, the RAF. In addition to this, PC Darren Todd hosted a Police Careers workshop of 18 pupils. The pupils were able to hear all about the recruitment process and of the skills and qualities required.



Thursday 28th November saw us continue our close working partnership with CMS Windows. 12 pupils, Ms Querns and Ms MacNicol visited the 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.



Developing the Young Workforce is about giving our young people the opportunity to learn from those in industry. 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.

Should you or anyone you know, work for a company who could support the young people of Lenzie Academy, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Mr Curran, via the school email, to discuss, office@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk with a subject heading *DYW – Mr Curran*. Thank you in advance

Remembrance Assemblies

Lenzie Academy pupils and staff paid their respects to those who gave their lives during the World Wars and more recent conflicts.

Year group assemblies were led by senior students, Annie, Cody, Drew and Lois. All four had participated on this year's Battlefields Trip and spoke movingly, and knowledgeably, about that experience and how it relates to the theme of remembrance and reconciliation.

Thereafter a period of respectful silence was observed and a wreath was laid by School Captains, Max and Rachel. Anna Louise and Verna played a beautiful rendition of Robert Burns'

*Ae Fond Kiss and Then We Sever....
"We will remember them."*



Lenzie Academy PTA

PTA fundraising got off to a flying start with a Quiz Night at Lenzie Rugby Club in November, raising a total of £742.

Congratulations to the winning team who took home the top prize of £50. There was a great turnout from parents and staff and everyone enjoyed themselves.

PTA will be selling raffle tickets at the upcoming Christmas concert on December 9th and plans are already in place for a fantastic Race Night in March so keep an eye out for it.

We have almost finished creating a new website for the group, which will be launched soon and please use easyfundraising.org when doing your Christmas shopping online. Just go to the easyfundraising.org website and search LENZIE ACADEMY PTA (fola), it's a simple way to generate funds for us and costs you nothing.

Please look us up on Facebook and twitter too as all support, fundraising ideas and feedback are welcomed.

Girls Football by Laura in S6

It has been an exciting few months for girls football within Lenzie Academy.

In September, the school had the pleasure of inviting schools from across East Dunbartonshire to compete in the first EDC Girls Football Festival. The Lenzie Academy team done exceptionally well and made it all the way to the final! Well done girls! However, the fun doesn't stop there as the competitions continue to come thick and fast for our girls' football team. The team are looking forward to participating in a tournament at Turnbull High School on the 19th of November as well as the First Heat of competitions in Ferguslie on the 8th of December. Good Luck to all involved!

Also, an honourable mention for Lucie who has made it to the final trial for the Scottish Schools Team which takes place on the 29th of November at Toryglen. Well done and Good Luck Lucie!

Finally, towards the end of the school year, Lenzie Academy will be hosting a big football festival. So, if you want to be part of the fun, come along to the Girls Football Club, Monday after school with Mr McNeil from 15:30-16:30.

UKMT

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

Congratulations to Jonathan, Robyn, Greg, Yousuf, Lucas and Katie for achieving Bronze certificates in the Senior UKMT competition on 7th November 2019.

Senior Phase Curricular Pathways Event

At our annual event for S4 – S6 we were fortunate enough this year to have 20+ exhibitors from universities, colleges, training agencies, armed forces, SAAS, AG Barr, EDVA and Skills Development Scotland.



The main focus of this exhibition was to give pupils the opportunity to investigate a wide range of college courses, progression routes to university, training courses, vocational qualifications and further opportunities to consider after leaving school. Parents were also invited

to the event from 4.00pm – 5.00pm. Exhibitors set up their display stand with relevant information for the students and parents, and were available to provide first hand information on the opportunities available to them. Feedback from pupils suggests that they found this to be an interesting and worthwhile event.

We are grateful to all our exhibitors who give up their time and pass on valuable knowledge to enhance our PSE lessons for pupils.

Skills Scotland Event

Skills Scotland is the region's largest careers, jobs, skills and apprenticeship event, taking place at the SEC Centre, Glasgow. This event provides pupils with the opportunity to discover careers through interactive, inspirational activities and demonstrations, and helps young people visually bridge the gap between what they enjoy doing and what they could potentially do as a career. We took 65 pupils from S4 and S5 to this event on Thursday 7th November 2019



Skills Scotland Event

More photographs of the Skills Scotland Event



Swimming

A massive congratulations to Ruairi who has been selected to represent Scottish Swimming at the Geneva International in January 2020!



Medals:

Gold

James 400m IM

Lauren: 100m Butterfly

Hannah: 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke

Eilidh: 200m Freestyle

Kirsty: 200m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle

Jamie: 100m Freestyle

Ruairi: 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle

Sam: 100m Breaststroke

Arran: 200m Butterfly

Silver

Eilidh: 100m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke

Callum: 100m Butterfly

Sam: 200m IM

Bronze

Arran: 200m IM

Ava: 100m Breaststroke

Jamie: 400m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle

East Dunbartonshire schools – Scottish Schools Qualifiers (23/11/19)

Congratulations to all of our swimmers who competed at East Dunbartonshire Schools at Bishopbriggs Leisuredrome. The team managed to achieve personal best times, lots of medals and even some Scottish Schools Final Qualifying times! Well done to all who represented the school. A great team performance!

Swimmers: -

Arran, Jamie, Sam, Matthew, Olivia, Hannah, Ava, Lauren, Ruairi, Eilidh, Kirsty, Callum, James



Young Musician of the Year 2019/20



The annual Young Musician of the Year Competition was held on the 21st November with pupils from S4-6 competing in both the vocal and instrumental category. Mrs Janice Sim was the adjudicator and was very impressed by all pupils – everyone performed well and to an extremely high standard.



Well done to Verna who played Saint-Saen's "The Swan" on cello and won the instrumental category and Alexander in the vocal category who sang, "I'll Never Love Again" from the film A Star is Born. Both pupils go forward to compete in the Kirkintilloch Rotary Young Musician of the Year in February 2020.



Congratulations Verna and Alexander!
Well done to all who entered.



Barclays Virtual Talk in the Newsletter:



Barclays Bank provided an opportunity for Lenzie Academy

pupils to take part in a virtual talk through video call. This allowed the pupils to hear from a variety of Barclays employees giving information about their Apprenticeship programmes in Operations and Administration.

Pupils gained vital information about the application process as well as the requirements needed for the role. It also gave them a chance to hear from an apprentice who is currently involved in the programme as well as the opportunity for a question and answer session at the end. This gave the pupils involved an insight into a pathway which might be of interest to them when they leave school.

Parental Engagement Event

On Monday 25 November 2019 we held a Parental Engagement event for parents/carers of S2-S4 pupils.

Parents/Carers and pupils were invited to attend and participate in a number of subject specific and whole school workshops. This was an opportunity for adults and young people to learn together with a focus on skills development essential for pupils when they enter the senior phase in S4.

Parental Engagement and Family Learning are important aspects of a young person's education. We recognise that parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. This support can play a vital role at all stages of education. Parents who take on a

supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. The active involvement of parents can help promote a learning community in which children and young people can engage positively with teachers and their peers.

Family learning encourages family members to learn together and this event was specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning. We devised a range of subject specific and whole school workshops to support family learning and parents/carers were invited to sign up for two subject specific workshops and a third whole school workshops of 25 minute duration.

11 subject workshops including Maths, English, Physics, Modern Languages, History, Modern Studies, Business Education, DET, Physics, Art & Design and PE were offered. 4 whole school workshops were on offer including study skills, careers (from SDS), IDEA Award and The HUB were available.

Feedback from parents/carers in attendance was extremely positive and we hope to offer a further event in the future.

LACE Celebrates Character Month

Our Values

- Ambition
- High Expectations
- Continuous Improvement
- Inclusiveness
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Compassion
- Embracing Change

Our Aims

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

To provide a learning environment where every young person is happy, safe and achieving their potential.

In the months after “LACE” held Lenzie’s first Celebration of Character, many groups and individual pupils involved in

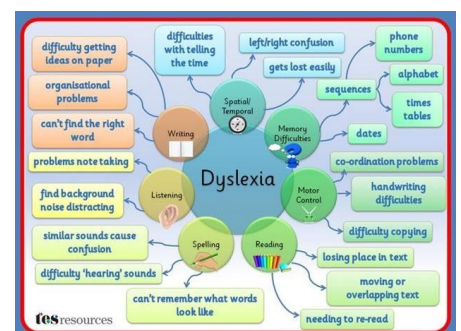
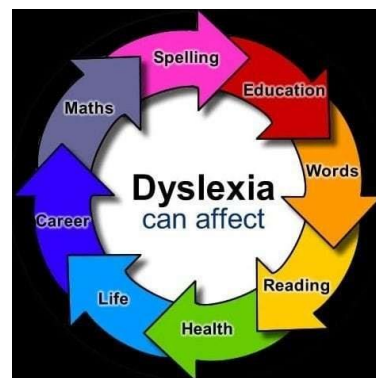
community engagement have continued to demonstrate that they are not just successful learners but effective contributors, confident individuals and responsible citizens. During November (now rebranded **character month**), there have been many opportunities for pupils to demonstrate positive character traits and work together for the benefit of others.

Dyslexia Awareness Week



Dyslexia Awareness week at the beginning of the month gave

some of the pupils who have a dyslexic diagnosis, a chance to raise awareness of dyslexia amongst the staff and pupils at school and in the associated primary schools. Using their own knowledge of what works for them and being positive role models, gave this group of pupils an opportunity to develop their own self confidence whilst reassuring younger pupils that there are positive aspects to the dyslexic way of thinking.



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Ethics Ambassadors



It was also the week when senior pupils went to Holyrood to be presented with our Vision Schools Award for Holocaust Education.

Our new S6 Ethics Ambassadors are new group of peer mentors developed to further enrich our interdisciplinary learning for life approach

Anti bullying Week



Anti Bullying week was organised by the S4&5 Wellbeing mentors, who have received training from the Diana Award anti bullying pro group,

They helped to raise the issues around bullying and how to become **upstanders** rather than **bystanders** in S1&2 PSE classes. Members of the mentors group also attended the S3 parents evening, to help spread the message of how parents can play their part to prevent bullying.



Tuesday was #oddssocks day



Being different is ok, Wear odd socks today.

This was organised as an interhouse challenge, after the mentors surveyed and collected in the results points were allocated as follows:



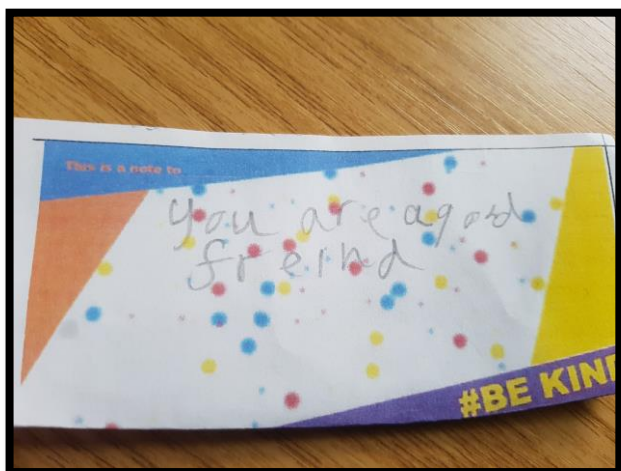
- 1st McKay House
- 2nd Mackintosh House
- 3rd Inglis House
- 4th Fleming House



Wednesday was National kindness day



One of the mentors created a **kindness** box where pupils and staff were encouraged to post anonymous notes of kindness. They then collected them, typed up any that requested the service, and sorted them for delivery the following week.

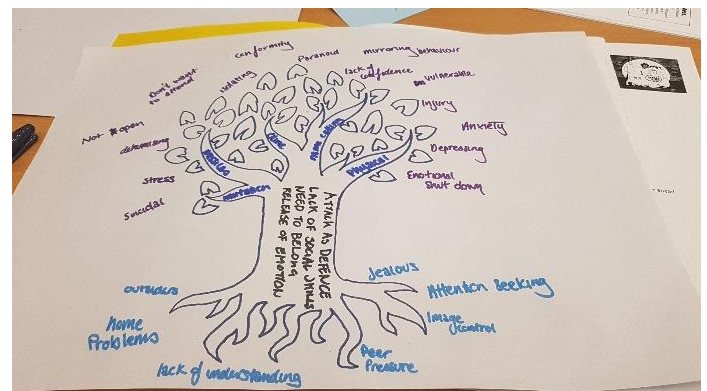


Thursday was anti cyber bullying day



Four of the mentors represented the school at the National anti-bullying café in Coatbridge. A lot of the time was taken up discussing the causes and consequences of bullying and the ways the mentors can act as peer supporters. They also looked at ways other schools have

created safe spaces online and in school to help stamp out bullying.



The week was also busy for the Captaincy Team who organised a variety of events to raise money for Children in Need



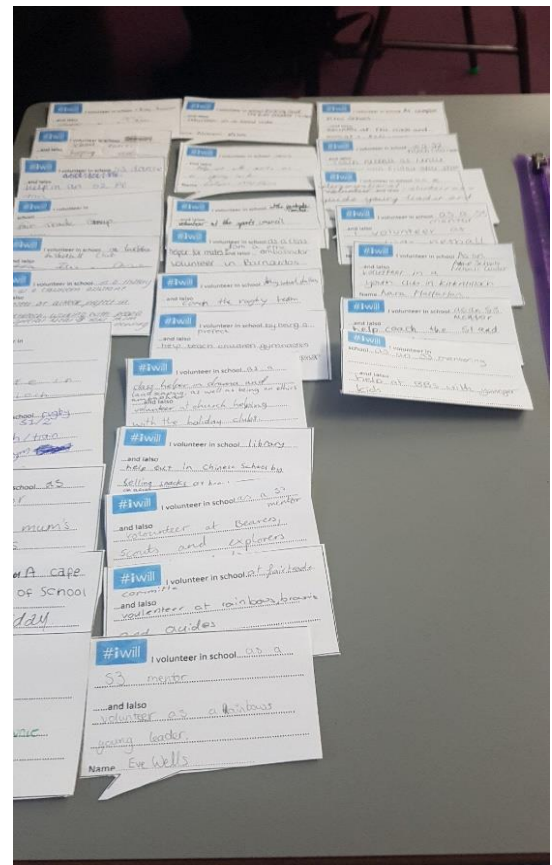
The third week of November is #iwill week which emphasises youth social action.



During this week the S6 pupils detailed all the ways they have fulfilled our 'iwill pledge to "work with others and for others"

For example- school sports, leaders in Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Boys Brigade, Youth club, Cantonese classes, charity shops, Primary schools, Cats Protection, Fairly Beloved Rabbits etc.

The Wellbeing mentors distributed over 100 positive notes of kindness to pupils and staff around the school. It was also the second week that the S5 intergenerational volunteers went out into the community. Having joined in with Lenzie Old Parish dementia friendly singing group the previous week half the



group went to Lillyburn Care home where they were reunited with some of the residents who had joined Come and Sing the previous week and some of the "happy songsters" who were there to entertain.

Mentors supporting others



The final week of November was a chance for the various peer mentor groups to interact with others as they were involved with both the Family Learning event on Monday night and the S1 Bounceback Day on Friday where the older pupils helped their younger peers reflect on their own resilience and ways to develop this.

FairTrade Achiever School



We also received confirmation that Lenzie Academy has retained its FairTrade Achiever School status on Friday afternoon which means that our FairTrade committee can continue to plan their next awareness raising campaign. Many of this group gained their Dynamic Youth Awards last year and are working on their Bronze Youth Achievement Awards this year by undertaking personal challenges within their work on FairTrade

Young Enterprise Scotland



On Saturday 30th November the S6 Young Enterprise teams brought the month of character to a close, when they demonstrated

their recently created products and successfully sold them at the Clyde shopping centre.



We are proud of all the extra curricula activities that our pupils take part in as part of their everyday week; as the effort that they put into make a difference to others is frequently acknowledged by many people in the wider community. This demonstrates how young people can be empowered to engage in positive social action and do not have to wait until they have left school. All pupils from the age of 12 can register for Saltire Awards for volunteering. Completed sheets should be returned to Mrs Davidson for processing. Our Next **Celebration of Character** will be held in August 2020.