



LENZIE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Session 2019-2020

Welcome to the newsletter that covers the month of October.

Notwithstanding the October week holiday a lot of events still took place across the month and we have provided a flavour of these in this month's newsletter e.g. various trips, competitions and events. You can read more details over the next few pages.

Also in this month's newsletter is an article from Siobhan White, the new chair of our Parent Council. The Parent Council are keen to hear new voices and the LAPC Constitution allows for a maximum of 16 members. As you will see from Siobhan's article the Parent Council are involved in many, many aspects of the school and it affords members a greater insight into the work of the school.

New Staff

We welcome two new members of staff to the school:

Mathematics - Miss Sutton who comes to us from Our Lady's High School in Cumbernauld
Business Education – Mrs Canning who comes back to us from Boclair Academy, having spent a year with us as a new qualified teacher in session 2018-19.

Both teachers are very welcome and we are sure they will make a very positive contribution to our school community.

October Assessments

In October our S5 and S6 pupils undertake their formal assessments in their various subjects. This gives the pupils themselves and their teachers a clearer perspective of how well they are progressing with their work. In most subjects the assessment is based upon completion of 2/3 of the course to date. In the January prelims it will be full exams across the whole course in most cases.

The October assessments indicated that the vast majority of pupils are progressing as well as could be expected at this stage of their courses. Even those who were given a No Award in their tracking report have not necessarily performed badly. A No Award might indicate 35% but, at this stage, that is not a significant cause for concern for us. In fact the overall picture is a very positive one when compared to previous years so we expect our young people to continue to progress and perform well as they make their way through their courses up to and including the prelims in January.

For a small number of young people who we feel could use some additional help we will be putting on supported study sessions and we can allocate an academic mentor to some of our young people to give some additional personalised support.

Latecoming

It is recognised that the installation of minor roadworks can cause a small number of pupils to arrive late occasionally. In recent weeks we have noticed an increased number of pupils arriving late for school and this is a concern. Pupils should be in the school building when the first bell sounds at 8.43am so that they arrive at their class when the second bell rings at 08.45am. Please ensure that your child arrives to school in good time. We view this as a life skill more than anything to encourage young people to form good habits with regard to timekeeping to help them for life beyond school in the workplace.

Parking

I would request that all parents/carers desist from parking their cars along the main driveway in the school from the Myrtle Avenue entrance. This constitutes a health and safety risk with so many young people leaving the school at the end of the day. There is a sign indicating that the driveway is for authorised vehicles only. As Myrtle Avenue is already badly congested in the morning and at the end of the school day it would be much better if parents/carers could agree a pick up point a few streets away from the school and agree to collect their child from that point.

I thank you in anticipation of your cooperation and hope you enjoy the contents of this brief newsletter.

The Lenzie Academy Parent Council Needs You!



The Lenzie Academy Parent Council is here to represent the views of all parents and carers.

Parent Councils are recognised as the representative body of the parent forum. The role of the Council is to work in partnership with the head teacher and staff to support the school, to represent the views of all parents, and to encourage links between the school parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community.

Lenzie Academy has an established Parent Council with a current membership of 7 parent members with co-opted additional members from school staff and East Dunbartonshire Council. The Head Teacher has the right and the duty to attend all meetings, and plays an active part in disseminating important information to the Parent Council regarding school activities.

The Lenzie Academy Parent Council plays an active role in supporting parental involvement in the work and life of the school, while also providing opportunities for parents to express their views on their children's education and learning. The Parent Council, as a statutory body, has the right to information and advice on matters which affect children's education. The school and the education authority consults with the Parent Council and take their views into account wherever decisions are being taken on the education provided by the school.

Full details of the aims and purposes of the Parent Council, its constitution and details of meetings are posted on the school website <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/> under the Parent Council tab in the 'Parent's Info' section.

Over the past academic year, the Parent Council has been involved in many activities including:

- Submitting proposals to EDC re building issues/school improvements
- Reviewing curricular issues and providing a chance for the head teacher to explain changes and discuss objectives
- Supporting the School's plans for a new 'Contemplation Area'
- Receiving regular presentations from staff and stakeholders to outline new initiatives or clarify approach. Last year focused on SQA results; the school's curriculum structure - how the school delivers additional support needs; skills development as well as Guidance on New Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- Continuing to press EDC on progress with the Lenzie Academy Pitch Upgrade programme
- Considering Pupil Equity Fund spending
- Actively pushing for Community Wardens to patrol round the three local schools to monitor parking problems in the area
- Applying pressure to promote the school and its improvement, reinforcing the need for substantial investment in refurbishment
- Requesting info via Freedom of Information to EDC

The Parent Council welcomes and encourages feedback from parents and wants to hear from you. We welcome all suggestions to improve the educational experience of our children therefore if there is anything you wish to raise, then please contact Siobhan White, Parent Council Chair, at parentcouncil@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.

We are also looking for new members, especially parents from the lower years of the school, so if you can spare some time to help, please get in touch.

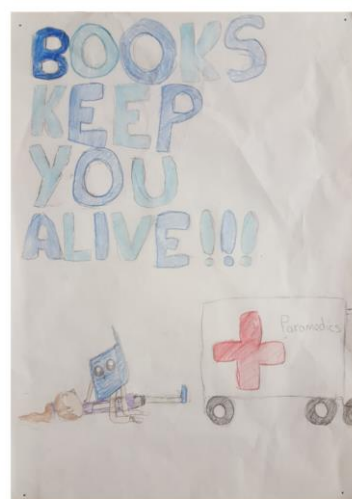
Thank You

Siobhan J White
Parent Council

S2 Reading Slogan Competition

Once again our S2 pupils have excelled themselves by creating fantastic reading slogan posters. The winner was Kaku, 2RA who created the fabulous poster below. Second place was awarded to Alishba, 2MB and third place was Eva, 2CN.

S2 Winner of the Reading Slogan Competition **Kaku, 2CN**



MacMillan Bake Sale



On Friday 4 October 2019 we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning and Bake Sale within the school. One of the National 5 Retail classes organised, planned the event as part of their assessment, and worked serving the baked goods on the day. Across both events held, we raised a total of **£360** where 100% of proceeds went to MacMillan to help provide specialist health care, information and financial support to people affected by cancer.



The coffee morning was held in the staff room within the school for the staff and teachers. As well as baked goods and hot drinks, we also sold word art in photo frames, which were available for teachers to pre order. These were a perfect gift for someone to buy. Overall, the event was a huge success and Ms Quearns who runs and

organises the retail classes for pupils guided the pupils in the planning and implementation of the event.

By Rebecca & Emma



The Alchemist

Lenzie Academy's Higher Drama class recently went to see 'The Alchemist' at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow. The play follows two con men who pretend to be doctors, astrologers, and alchemists. They deceive their marks



and steal their money and valuables. The production was based on Ben Johnston's Elizabethan play but had been modernised into contemporary Scots language and used lots of Glasgow jokes to keep the audience laughing. Many of the characters played multiple roles which was entertaining and at times completely outrageous. The set was a lavish reception room decorated with ornate gold leaf designs which helped to highlight the themes of luxury and indulgence. The play was fantastic and all the audience left feeling elated. Definitely one to go and see again!

Health Sector trip

"In October, the National 5 to TC BioPharm. TC BioPharm is a clinical development company that develops treatments for diseases. They aim to improve patient's quality of life. Their main focus is treating cancer and severe viral infections. Once we arrived, we were split into groups. Each group was assigned a mentor who gave us a tour around the workplace and the different labs. We learned about the different job roles within the company and the pathways leading to these careers. We also learned about the cancer treatments that they are developing and they spoke to us about the clinical trial process. We had the opportunity to ask questions and learn what the employees do daily. This was a beneficial trip as we gained knowledge of working in the Life Sciences Industry. We also realised the importance of finding a job that you have passion for and enjoy doing."

Written by Tyler H, Ivana M and Alex M

West Of Scotland Physics Education



The West Of Scotland Physics Education group (WoSPEG) competition had their semifinals in October at Glasgow Caledonia University. Our team triumphed and will now compete in the

final on the 13th of November at the University of West of Scotland UWS



The Mousetrap

Lenzie Academy's Higher Drama class recently went to see 'The Mousetrap' at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. The play is classic Agatha Christie murder mystery which encourages the audience to suspect everyone.

The set was very lavish and they used lots of theatre arts to help create a



tense and mysterious atmosphere. The acting style was very anti-naturalistic and suspicious which led the audience to question who the murderer might be. There were a lot of comedic moments in the play which was a nice contrast to the usually tense mood. We will eventually write about this production in the final exam and the whole class really enjoyed seeing and analysing the performance.

German Exchange

October saw the return leg of our annual German Exchange visit, when some of our senior pupils welcomed their friends back to Scotland. Sadly, the weather we had in Germany was not to be found here - it rained for the entire week - but, as they always remind us, our friends don't come to Scotland for the weather!

The 2 groups had an amazing time together on days trips to Edinburgh and Culzean Castle, at lots of social events, in school and at our farewell disco/ceilidh. A few of our guests also undertook work experience in placements in Glasgow so we can really say that the young people sampled our culture, family life, school life and even the workplace environment in another country. No mean feat!



All good things have to come to an end though and it was with the usual sadness that everyone had to say their

emotional farewells. However, we know that these pupils will have forged the same lasting friendships as so many have before them. Private visits are already being planned

Elena's Tapas Restaurant

This month the Modern Languages department organised a trip to a tapas restaurant. Miss Gibbons, Ms McLean and Miss Murphy accompanied 35 S5 and S6 pupils by bus into Elena's tapas restaurant in Glasgow.

The students enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of authentic Spanish food and drink. Students were even given the opportunity to order their food and drink in Spanish with the native Spanish waitress.

The students were commended on their exemplary behaviour and their willingness to try new and different dishes. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience for all who attended.



O2's skills event

Mobile network operator, O2 visited the school at the end of October. Six employees from various departments including Networks, Sales and Product Development from the Glasgow offices delivered workshops to our S5/6 pupils.

Pupils were working on CV building activities and how to create an effective CV that stands out from the crowd. They were also involved in a mock interview scenario, where pupils were developing skills on how to conduct yourself in an interview situation and what prospective employers are looking for from candidates during an interview.

The following is from Liam in S5:

The O2's skills event was a great help when it came to learning about CV's and applying for a job. We had a booklet with different skills in it which employers would be looking for which

helped build confidence in me and the other pupils that attended. The O2 employees were very knowledgeable and approachable as they guided us through the booklet. They also helped us to get involved in their presentation as everyone was included and had a part to play. At the end of the sessions every pupil had an interview with a member from the O2 team and we were all given feedback on our performance including tips on eye contact and posture. I personally feel more confident with how to conduct myself in an interview situation and how to produce personal statement within my CV. I would highly recommend the O2 skills event to future pupils as I am certain they will find it informative and useful.

The feedback from the day was incredibly positive and the O2 staff were mightily impressed with the confidence and enthusiasm our pupils displayed during the workshops.

Need to Contact the School?

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