

Leith Links

March '10

Headteacher's News

This has been yet another busy term, particularly in the run-up to SQA examinations. Pupils and staff are working towards these and trying to cope with the pressures of folio deadlines, NABs, etc, and we are now beginning the annual round of course choices for the following session. It is, however, pleasing to report that, amongst all this important work, there continues to be a wide range of extra-curricular activities, some of which feature in this newsletter. This helps us as a school to address the wider needs of pupils and contribute to their development as rounded individuals.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the report for the second HMIe follow-through inspection which took place on 26-27 January. It continues the positive messages contained in the first follow-through report of last year and I am grateful to everyone whose hard work and commitment have ensured that the school is now more focused in its work and that its strengths are better recognised. I am particularly grateful to those parents who were able to complete and return the HMIe questionnaire, the results of which were broadly positive and encouraging, and to the group of parents who gave of their time to meet with the Managing Inspector. HMIe have now asked the City of Edinburgh Council to monitor the school's progress over the next year and to report back to them directly. We will be working closely with Council officials to address those areas still identified as in need of development, with a particular emphasis on attainment.

You will see from the calendar of future events on page 2 that the start of the new session 2010-11 has been delayed for pupils by one day. Pupils will now return to school on Thursday, 19 August. This is because the Scottish Government has allocated another additional in-service day for staff to work on developing Curriculum for Excellence. I hope that tagging this day on to the summer holidays will not pose any additional child-minding issues and that this period of notice will allow you to make any necessary arrangements.

This term has been relatively stable from a staffing point of view. I am pleased to say that two colleagues who have already been working in school have been appointed to permanent posts here: June Stevenson in Business Education and Jennifer Ness as PT English. There will inevitably be staffing changes at the end of the academic year and consideration will obviously have to be taken of the school's financial position, given the economic climate in which we currently operate. I will try to keep you informed of developments on that front.

Can I wish you all a good Easter holiday and hope that pupils with examinations looming will spend their time wisely in study and revision. Our Easter Revision Programme, details of which have already been published, offers a focused opportunity for that but pupils will require to add to that individually at home. School will close for the holidays on Thursday, 1 April at 3.15pm and re-open for the new term on Tuesday, 20 April at the usual time.

 : 0131 554 0606

 : admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

*Mr J M Simpson - Headteacher
Mrs D MacKinnon - Senior DHT
Mr D Peat - DHT
Miss S Cook - DHT
Ms M Peebles Business Manager*

Pupil Support

House Heads

*Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)
Ms A Bridgeford (Barton)
Mrs K Fisher (Cowan)
Mr G Hansen (Port)
ASL Manager
Ms C Prime*

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs



June 23rd - 26th @ 7:30pm

Tickets available now from the music department
£5 Adult, £3 Child/Concessions

Important Dates for Your Diary!

Date	Event/Activity
April	
01	End of term
06 - 09	Easter Revision Programme
06 - 16	Easter Sports/Singing & Dancing Camps
20	Pupils resume Adult class enrolment
22	S1 Parents' Information Evening (7.00pm)
26	S4/5/S5/6 Parents' Information Evening (7.00pm)
26 (-3 May)	S2 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued
27	LA Council (7.00pm)
27 (-07 May)	S4/5/S5/6 coursing
28 (-11 June)	SQA Exam period
29	S1 Parents' Consultation (4.30-6.30 pm)
May	
03	May Holiday
04	Adult classes begin
04 - 07	S1 Coursing
05	S2 Parents' Consultation (4.30 - 6.30pm)
06	Staff vs S4-S6 pupils' Hockey Match
07	S6 Leavers' Ceremony
17	Victoria day Holiday
18	In- Service Day
19	In- Service Day
20 (-28)	Health Week (including S2 Health Event)
21	Primary Maths Magic Morning
31 (-4 June)	S1 Residential field trip to Benmore (1)
June	
01	HPV vaccinations (mop-up 2)
07-09	S4 Induction
07-11	S1 residential field trip to Benmore (2)
10-11	S5/6 Induction
14-18	Senior work shadowing/community experience Modern Languages trip to France Trenches Trip
15	LA Council (7.00pm)
17	Diversity Workshops
21	Adult classes end
22	S6 Walk
23-24	P7 Induction
23-26	Musical Production
24 (-08 July)	Operation Wallacea Expedition to Honduras
28 (-01 July)	S2 Monitoring & Tracking Reports issued
29	Evening of Celebration
tbc	Social Subjects field trip
July	
01	End of term - Pupils resume 19 August 2010



Operation Wallacea

The Operation Wallacea Leith team have been busy this term as we persevere towards raising enough for our expedition to Honduras this summer. We were very lucky to be invited to Morrison's at the Gyle for a bag-packing weekend and the team, parents and friends turned out to raise a fabulous £1639. After Saturday and Sunday leaning over counters everyone was ready for a rest at school but we had a second Burns' Night to prepare using last year's successful format. Many thanks to the school Canteen staff for providing the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties supper and Mr Cook for playing the pipes. Students also read at the event and we were grateful for this additional participation supported by the English Department. A donated hamper was raffled on the day and helped the whole event raise over £400. Together with further parental support, these events in January helped increase the fund total from 55% at Christmas to 70%.

With prelims in February and an eye on the summer exams coming up, other fund-raising has been quieter. Bag-packing opportunities have been more difficult to get though you will see us in Morrison's Granton in May. We have still been selling tablet and greetings cards, holding raffles, taking part in the Diversity Day market place and providing refreshments at school events. We've also been growing bedding plants and herbs for sale at Easter. We were very pleased to receive a £500 donation from the James Thin Trust and £300 from The Blair Foundation. Both sets of trustees felt that our plans and determination were worthy of support despite not fitting their fund's criteria exactly. It also helped that a past pupil of Leith Academy was a founding trustee. His daughter wrote "my father, Robert Campbell Thornton, went to Leith Academy in the 1920's and 30's" and he remembers "how much he loved Leith Academy. It certainly gave him a wonderful start in life - he was a great rugby player and a brilliant, successful business man. He started the Blair Foundation in order to help others". We are very grateful for their support and are proud to be associated with another success from Leith Academy.

After having to amend our flight details with superb help from STA travel, we have been able to plan the final push towards our goal. With 80% of our total now in

the bank we are well on our way to raising the final £6,500. We had a training talk from Dr Tim Coles of Operation Wallacea which helped answer a lot of questions about drinking water and sleeping in hammocks. We are having lots of injections as we get passports and paperwork ready. We have had to complete beep tests to check our fitness. But we are definitely on the final straight and raring to go. Honduras here we come!

Mr Robinson—Science Teacher



London Trip - February 2010

Travel and Tourism and Modern Studies

A group of pupils from Leith Academy went to London, to visit the sights and increase their experience of being in tourist surroundings. The pupils were from 2 classes: Travel & Tourism and Modern Studies. 29 pupils attended, ten from Travel & Tourism and 19 from Modern Studies. There were 4 teachers on the trip as well, Mr Laird and Mrs Emek who went round London with the Modern Studies Group. Mrs Hannay and Mr Eakins went with the Travel & Tourism Group. We had to meet at Waverley station at 7:30 to get the train down to London.

The attractions that the Travel and Tourism pupils visited were the London Eye, Madame Tussaud's, The National Art Gallery, the London Transport Museum and Buckingham Palace. Also all the pupils enjoyed the performance of 'The 39 Steps' at the Criterion Theatre. All the pupils and teachers stayed in the Royal National Hotel in London. Also all the pupils experienced travelling on the underground during busy times of the day and many were a bit scared!

On the first day in London the Travel & Tourism class went to Covent Gardens for a few hours for relaxing and shopping. Some of the pupils found a small hot drinks and cookie shop called Ben's Cookies where the pupils could enjoy a cup of coffee, tea and/or hot chocolate along with a choice of delicious cookies.

The first place we visited was Trafalgar Square, where the Royal National Art Gallery is located. Before we went into it, we had time to get our pictures taken at Nelson's Column, and some of us began to climb onto the famous lions there. In The National Art Gallery the pupils had someone from the gallery show them many pictures and gave them information about when they were made and why there are certain things in the picture for example religious symbols. The pupils had to take notes on what was said about the paintings and the gallery. We were also told a short story about the painting of the Duke of Wellington being stolen by a man who was refusing to pay his TV licence. We also saw Vincent Van Gogh's world famous painting of the Sunflowers. The pupils enjoyed their small tour of The National Art Gallery. They were also happy just to be out of the rain.

When we visited Madame Tussaud's the wax museum of famous people all the pupils had pictures taken with the wax models like Michael Jackson and Barack Obama. There was an area that has been made to scare people; most pupils went through and some were frightened by the live actors jumping out at them and others were entertained by people's reactions to the live actors and moving figures. Also Madame Tussauds has a small ride which is shaped like a small taxi; the ride takes you through famous times in history and tells the story behind them. You also get your photo taken with your friend in the taxi.

Some pupils went to the London Transport Museum where they had an educational talk by one of the speakers from the museum. He talked to the pupils about the main customer groups that they target and about which customer group they find difficult to attract. After a small talk they were sent out in groups of 3 to go round the museum with cameras to take photos of things which certain consumer groups would want or need, for example, ramps for wheelchairs and buggies and seating for the elderly. After the task the pupils and teachers wandered round the museum taking group photos and going on the buses and trains.

The Travel & Tourism group also joined up with the Modern Studies class to go to see the performance of 'The 39 Steps' in the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly Circus. Leith Academy had the first few rows of seats to watch from and all the pupils enjoyed the performance and enjoyed the humour throughout.

The final day in London the two groups spent together. In the morning we went on the London Eye. Thankfully it was a clear day and we could see most of the sights of London. We then went to Oxford Street to do some more shopping. We spent the whole afternoon doing this. As it was a Saturday afternoon Oxford Street was packed with people. Then we picked up our luggage from our hotel and got the 5 o'clock train home. Thankfully we had no delays, so we were home in Edinburgh for about 9:45pm.

We really enjoyed the trip and would recommend going to anyone who asked. It was well worth the money we paid to go.

Callum Doyle, Megan Walker and Stephanie Winton.

WANTED

17 year old German girl is looking to spend two weeks in a host family in Edinburgh in the summer to improve her English. Interested?

Contact:

admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

R U: 5 - 7 year olds?
8 - 10 year olds?
11 - 16 year olds?
a Parent?
a Carer?
a Teacher?
a Trainer?

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above, then this is for you! The thinkuknow website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) has something for all of you. Find the latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology. Find out what's good and what's not so good and find out what you can do about it. If you are unsure about all this new technology, you can use this site to help you 'get with it'. Information on the thinkuknow website is brought to you by the team at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

Gymnastics @ Leith Academy

On Saturday 6 March the top club gymnasts in Scotland gathered at Bell's Sports Centre in Perth to compete in the British Development Plan National Club Grades. Gymnasts work throughout the year to meet the specified criteria then compete to pass at their level and move on to the next level. These levels start at Grade 14 and from Grade 8 up to Grade 5 the top four are selected to represent Scotland at the National Finals which are held in Birmingham.

One of Leith's first year pupils, Becky Crooks, who trains at Meadowbank with the City of Edinburgh Club and also attends the Leith Academy Gymnastics Club after school on Tuesdays, took part in the competition at Grade 8. Becky scored well above the mark she needed to pass but unfortunately did not finish in the top four.

Gymnasts must achieve a minimum score of 9.00 to pass their Range & Conditioning Set as well as a combined pass on the other four pieces of apparatus: vault, bars, beam and floor, to pass the overall Grade. As the Range & Conditioning set is designed to test the strength and flexibility of the gymnast it can be very difficult, Becky was very worried about failing this part of the competition but on the day she did really well and managed to score 11.00.

**Congratulations Becky
from all at Leith Gymnastics!**

Theatre Trip

A group of 51 pupils had a good night out at the Traverse Theatre seeing Catherine Wheels production of 'Pobby and Dingan'.

The pupils also took part in an excellent pre-show workshop in school. The workshop certainly whetted their appetite for the play.

After seeing the production Ragnar Bjarnason (1.8) wrote

'I think Pobby and Dingan was a pretty good play. At first I thought the audience was to participate in the play, but I was wrong. The cast was very small with only four actors playing all the parts! The stage was very small but the cast showed us

how to use our imagination to get the most from the production. I liked it when they talked about and described Australia. I think the people who made the play are very interesting because this was a pretty good play.

Pobby & Dingan

Some people in First Year had the wonderful opportunity to go to see the recent production of Pobby and Dingan. This production took place at the Traverse Theatre on Wednesday 12 March 2010. I was very fortunate to be able to go to this imaginative and very creative production.

The show was set in a town named Lightning Ridge; this was classed as a very small place with not many people and money. The characters like to call the others in the town 'Fruit Loops' (this is a phrase that they would use throughout the entire show). It was a very unusual and interesting play with a very different concept.

The story-line is centred on a girl who had two imaginary friends who go missing. These friends were very important to her and all around her. When they go missing it is a tragedy and all is lost for Kelly-Anne (the main character) as her whole life has revolved around Pobby and Dingan. Her brother despises Pobby and Dingan at first and he does not care nor understand her obsession with them but slowly starts to realise and care more about them and Kelly-Anne.

We were extremely lucky to have experienced an amazing drama workshop before we saw the actual production. This gave us a helpful insight on the play. We were able to make up our own opinion and ideas about it and it was a very helpful and fun experience.

Pobby and Dingan was a very fun and enjoyable play which I would love to see again and I would definitely recommend it to everyone.

Laura Burns 1.6

Diversity Days - 11th and 12th February

With 33 different nationalities at Leith Academy one of the best ways of developing pupils' understanding of diversity is to allow them to educate each other. To this end pupils devised and showcased their performances at our 'Diversity Shows'. This gave them an opportunity to teach other pupils about their culture and customs through different media such as dance, song, poetry etc. There were also contributions from the wider community at these shows from Jamie Andrew, the mountaineer who spoke about 'Perseverance in the face of adversity' and recounted the loss of his hands and feet in a mountaineering accident. He talked about 'being different' but how these differences could be positive and his story of his own and others' acceptance of his disability gave a powerful message and was very thought provoking to all present. Janice Gilani (former Dux 1967) spoke of her time in Iraq and how she was welcomed by the Iraqis and how they looked after her during the war and did not see her as the enemy. Ian Gilmour, the school Chaplain, reflected on days gone by when those in the local community were discriminated against in terms of social class as they were not allowed to attend their local secondary school (Leith Academy) as it was fee paying. The shows involved Scottish Country dancers from Hermitage Park Primary school, performers from Leith Theatre Company, Thai dancers, Bollywood dancers, a song 'Stand Tall' written and sung by our pupils and a Diversity rap devised and delivered by a pupil in national Pakistani dress. To round off the show Polish pupils sang a traditional Polish folk song and the entire audience joined in a rendition of Auld Lang Syne in Spanish, Polish, Gaelic and Scots.

Our senior pupils were also encouraged to become active citizens within their local community in promoting good links between the school and community through their pro-active approach in coordinating and jointly running an International Market Place on the Diversity Days. Their enterprising approach, which involved going out and speaking to local businesses, ensured a wide selection of stalls highlighting the true diversity in both our local and wider community. The pupils secured representation of foods and goods stalls from around the globe; Africa, Poland, India, China, USA, Italy, Scotland and stalls representing humanitarian causes such as 'Purple Pinkie'. Fair-trade and Show Racism the Red Card also attended to raise awareness of global world issues and heightened our awareness of our role in supporting these causes through our every day actions

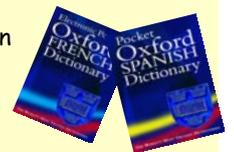
On Friday 18 June we are planning to run about 21 workshops for pupils to opt into which will give them a wider knowledge of the various cultures around the world. Some of these workshops will be Japanese Culture and Customs, Chinese Calligraphy and Indian Cookery to Gaelic Football, Salsa Dancing and Henna Hand Painting. These workshops will be run by local businesses, the community school tutors and parents/carers. These workshops, along with the International Market Place and Show, have had a significant impact in raising awareness of the fluidity of cultures across the globe and the richness and value that living in a multi-cultural society brings with it. Pupils have developed life skills and a deeper understanding of diversity and are better prepared for success in the wider world.

Thank you to all who have supported our events in any way and to 'embracing diversity' - something we do really well at Leith Academy.

Sue Cook—DHT

Dictionaries for exams

Reminder: The Modern Languages department has purchased Oxford French-English dictionaries. If your son or daughter still needs one for their exam, they can buy one for the reduced price of £5.00 instead of £8.99. Pupils need their own dictionary for their final exam.



We also have a few Spanish-English dictionaries at the reduced cost of £2.50.

If you wish to purchase a dictionary they are available from all staff in the Modern Languages Department.

Thank you for your support.

E Whitelaw (PT Modern Languages)

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
After School Clubs	Swimming	Soft Ball	Just for Girls	Hockey
April - June 2010	S1 Football	Tennis	Golf	
		Cricket		
		Athletics		

Get fit for the summer and have fun!

To join an after school club complete an EE2 form that you will find outside the PE Department. Each club is £10 for the year and if you join two clubs you get one FREE!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Learn 2 Sail @ Royal Forth Yacht Club (Granton Harbour)

Would you like to help primary school children learn how to sail? You don't need any experience, just enthusiasm! All necessary training will be provided. There are many roles available from photographer to powerboat assistant. The sailing will take place on Thursday evenings in May. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact jessine.dahl@ea.edin.sch.uk /

Community Education @ Leith Academy

Here is the programme planned for the adult education classes next term. We are offering a few new classes to tempt you along - such as:

- **Line Dancing** for getting fit whilst having great fun
 - **Comic Book Drawing** with one of Scotland's most prolific comic artists who can offer all sorts of tips and techniques for drawing
 - **Mask Making** for people to create a mask to suit every occasion
 - **Natural Home Remedies and Body Care** for making up your own herbal medicine chest
 - **Creative Writing: big lives, small stories** with an emphasis on getting to the core of the story
- Summer Walks** with a bit of history when visiting Edinburgh's historical sights



In addition to our ongoing courses, such as stained glass design, pottery, French for holidays, Tai Chi, Swarovski

crystal design, acrylic painting, cookery from around the world and various fitness courses.

Our classes are priced at very reasonable rates, starting from £38.50 for the 6 week term, starting from Tuesday 4th May and all teaching staff and parents of pupils at Leith Academy are entitled to a 10% discount.

We are taking enrolments after the Easter break and look forward to answering any questions you may have to help with signing up to our classes. Just pop into the office or ring us on **553 2810**.

Enjoy the Easter holidays
From the Community Education Team



Stress control

Do you want to learn how to control your stress more effectively?

Then come to a series of six free evening classes to listen and learn more.

- Delivered by NHS Lothian staff
- Open to adults of all ages
- 200 places available

Classes to be held at

Leith Academy, 20 Academy Park, EH6 8JQ

Date: Thursday evenings, 29th April 2010 – 3rd June 2010

Time: 6.15 – 7.45pm

To book your place contact:

Information Resource Centre, Health in Mind

Telephone: 0131 243 0106 • 10am - 4pm

(answering machine service available)

Topics covered:

Session 1	- Introduction
Session 2	- Controlling your body
Session 3	- Controlling your thoughts
Session 4	- Controlling your actions
Session 5	- Controlling your panic
Session 6	- Controlling your sleep / conclusion

THE BACK PAGE

LEITH ACADEMY SPORTS NEWS

S1 SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The First Year Football team has gone from strength to strength this year, and has recently reached the league cup semi final defeating Craigmount 3-2 in a thrilling game here at Leith Academy. The boys have shown great commitment and enthusiasm throughout the league campaign and two good results in our final 2 games will confirm their place in the top division when they go into S2. First Year football still has a minimum of 30 boys attending training on a weekly basis, all of whom have helped develop a fantastic team spirit and identity within the school.

It is our aspiration that Leith Academy will continue to develop its talented footballers next year and look to enter all year groups into the regional and Scottish Cups as well as their respective leagues. Anyone who would be interested in working together with our committed staff members in developing our football programme should contact Mr Downie at the school for more information.

SENIOR BASKETBALL FAREWELL

Congratulations to the Senior Basketball Team for reaching the Semi Final of the Scottish Plate! The boys narrowly missed out on reaching the final by 4 points (65-61) against Banchory. They have had an extremely successful season winning the majority of their practice games and games in the Scottish Plate. Huge thanks go to their coach Eoghann Dover for leading them through their campaign this year. Eoghann is highly dedicated to his team and Leith Academy and we hope he will return to us next year (university location depending!). We also say farewell to 5 of our senior boys who are leaving this year for University/College. Fionnlagh Dover, Graham Southall, Robert Pruciak, Connor Kirkland and Matthew Stirling have been key players in the school team since S2. Special thanks go to Fionnlagh and Graham for coaching the team for two years in Eoghann's absence and maintaining the other pupils' interest in basketball in the school. All the boys have been excellent role models for the younger players and a credit to their school. They will be thoroughly missed and we hope they will return in the future to coach or for a former player match. The boys will finish their season with a Leith Academy v Leith Former Players/Staff game on Wednesday 24 March.

PE SKI TRIP 2010

Alpe d'Huez was the destination for the 2010 PE Ski Trip. At 1860m high we were able to ski-in and ski-out of the hotel which was adjacent to the slopes. 24 pupils in S4-6 enjoyed amazing views, superb snow and great company!

High above the clouds at the top of the 23 hairpin bends that wind steeply up from the valley floor, Alpe d'Huez ski resort was a great destination for the ski trip. Pupils were able to use the après ski facilities such as a

heated outdoor swimming pool, table-tennis, pool, invertigo (a high ropes assault course), bumboarding and of course the Medical Centre! Thankfully this was for minor injuries only.

The ski conditions were superb with fresh powder snow every second day. By the end of the week our two ski instructors had us tackling some pretty impressive red runs. Pupils made huge progress throughout our 6-day ski school which culminated in a prize-giving and karaoke at the Italian Restaurant on the Friday evening.

We have already begun to think about running another trip for S4-6 in 2012, so all interested S2-4 pupils should save their pocket money!



Cross Country Event

On 8 March a team went to Cavalry Park to represent Leith Academy at the Edinburgh City Schools Cross Country event.

Having won the Boys' Team Shield last year the team was determined to do their best to bring home some silverware.

The girls' race started first and given the large field Kirsty Burgess did well to keep herself within the main pack. She worked hard around the course and was unlucky to miss the top 10.

Leith was well represented in the boys' race. Kyle Hogg showed a great deal of confidence and composure as he led the boys' race early on. He maintained his strong pace and saw off any challengers to take 1st place. Lewis Knox made a determined effort and managed to secure 10th place. Bradley Mercer, Taman Abbas and Ryan Love showed great resolve and determination throughout and finished the course with their heads held high.

