

Leith Links

April '11

Headteacher's News

As we approach a late Easter this year we can once again look back on a busy term where pupils and staff, particularly from S3 upwards, have been involved in working towards deadlines for folios, NABs, etc and where we have also been laying out the groundwork for course choices for next session. In the midst of all of this, there is still time to extend the pupil experience through a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities, some of which are captured here in this newsletter.

Our work on implementing Curriculum for Excellence continues apace and it was very pleasing to have a good turnout of S1 parents at the recent Information Evening where we hope to have described a bit about the experiences of S1 pupils this session, with very valuable input from pupils themselves, and to have indicated what they can look forward to in S2. The opportunity for parents to discuss progress with individual teachers comes on Wednesday, 27 May.

During the session you should have received the report of the Authority's review of the school which took place in November 2010 which followed the HMIe follow-through inspection from earlier in the year. It continued the positive messages of previous reports and I am, as ever, grateful to everyone whose hard work and commitment have contributed to this improving position on which we continue to work. The Authority has presented its

findings to HMIe and we await a definitive response from them.

Staffing has been relatively stable this session although you may be aware of changeover in particular areas, such as art and modern languages. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of supply staff in art this term and I am conscious that colleagues in art have gone the extra mile, in working hard to assist with classes beyond their own. In modern languages, staffing vacancies in Spanish have not proved easy to fill on a supply basis (owing to their being few if any Spanish supply teachers available) and we have had to draft in some assistance from senior management to cover exam classes. I am equally conscious of the many additional efforts made by modern languages colleagues in assisting with classes outwith their own timetables.

The last week of term is always a busy one, with little thought of 'winding down'. Apart from the obvious exam preparation in classes, there is also Spring Fling and our Spring Assembly at which we will, as a school community, mark the end of term with a variety of performances from pupils. The assembly will also be addressed by Rev Ian Gilmour, in what will be his last official act as school chaplain. After 15 years as minister at South Leith Parish Church, Ian is moving on to take charge of another church in Edinburgh and we wish him well in that new post. He has worked with pupils and staff across the years in assemblies, services (Christmas, Easter, Remembrance), special events like Diversity



: 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

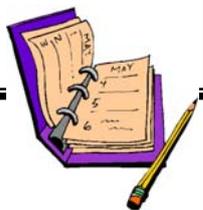
Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Day and our 450th anniversary celebrations and has always been a strong supporter of the school in general and of individuals within it, when that has proved necessary. I would want to place on record the thanks of the school, and my own personal gratitude, to Ian for all that he has done.

School will close for the holidays on Friday, 8 April at 12.35pm. We will re-open for the new term on Tuesday, 26 April at the usual time.

Important Dates for Your Diary!



April	
08	End of Term
11-15	Easter Revision Programme
11-21	Easter Sports/Arts & Craft Camps
26	Pupil Resume LA Council (7.00pm) Adult class enrolments
27 (-04 May)	S2 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued
27	S1 Parents' Consultation (4.30-6.30pm) (NB Please note change of date for this.)
29	Royal Wedding (school closed)
May	
2	May Holiday (school closed)
03 (-10 June)	SQA exam period begins
03 (-3 June)	S3 SQA exam leave
9	Adult classes begin
11	S2 Parents' Consultation (4.30 - 6.30 pm) S5/6 Leavers' Ceremony
11 (-8 June)	Senior School SQA exam leave
13-14	Edinburgh Learning Festival
19-22	Health Week (incl S1/S2 Health Event)
20	Primary Maths Magic Morning
23	Victoria Day Holiday
24	In-Service Day
25	In-Service Day (CfE)
30 (-3 June)	S1 residential field trip to Benmore
June	
04-11	Watersports trip to Greece
06-08	S4 Induction
09-10	S6 Induction
13-17	Senior work shadowing/community experience Social Subjects field trip to France
14	LA Council (7.00pm)
20	Adult classes end
21	S6 Walk
22-23	P7 Induction
28	S1/2 Sports Day
29	Evening of Celebration
July	
01	End of Term

Maths Careers Fair 2010

On Friday 25th February, the Maths Department held a Careers Fair for all S4-S6 pupils studying maths. Professionals from a variety of organisations attended this event; actuary, architecture, catering and construction to name a few. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions about experiences and qualification requirements to follow a particular career. Thanks go to every-



one who gave up their morning to participate in the Careers Fair, especially those who gave presentations to our Higher/Intermediate 2 classes. It was hugely successful and we intend to organise it again next year.

Some comments below are from pupils who attended the event:
'I really enjoyed the talk about being an Actuary. It seriously made me consider it as a career. Mainly because of the money'.

'The careers morning was very informative and I enjoyed it'.

'The careers morning allowed me to gain knowledge on how many different career paths require maths especially at Higher level'.

Dictionaries for Exams Reminder

If your son or daughter still needs a Spanish-English dictionary for their Spanish exam in May, they can buy one for the reduced price of £2.50. It is **essential** that pupils have their **own Spanish-English dictionary** for their final exam. If you wish to purchase a dictionary they are available from any member of staff in Modern Languages.



Thank you for your support.

E Whitelaw - PT Modern Languages



Multilingual Debate Comment

The Senior Spanish class went to the multilingual debate at Heriot Watt which considered the following polemic: should tertiary education be funded from the public pocket?

Here are some of their comments following this stimulating debate:

"Fue una experiencia muy buena. Me interesó mucho." - Ayla Gardiner

"It was an amazing experience." - Katie McGuire

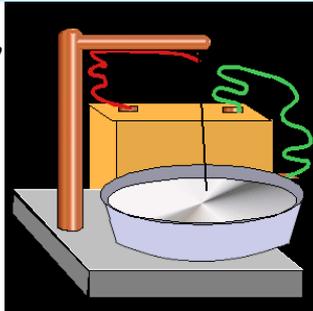
"For me it was interesting to see the students who are doing the course I am hoping to do, being able to translate so much information so quickly, it was very impressive." - Brooke Walker

"I really liked the idea of having different languages at the same time and trying to understand them without the translations." - Martyna Mackiewicz

"Uważam, że było to bardzo interesujące doświadczenie ponieważ mogliśmy zobaczyć i usłyszeć różnorodność języków i spróbować naszych sił w tłumaczeniu bez użycia tłumacza" - Wictoria Marosz

S1 Engineers

Congratulations to Fergus Ross, Ruairidh Groat Hardy, Oscar Shirlaw, Joseph Hughes, Joseph Vick and Konrad Cibor-Kotowski who all did Leith Academy proud at the recent IET Faraday Engineering Challenge, held at St. Augustine's High School. Competing against five other teams - most of which featured S2 and S3 pupils - they designed, built and tested a model robotic arm for carrying out transplant surgery. Despite being the only team to complete the 'transplants' successfully, they were just beaten into second place by Currie High School. A great achievement!



Speaking to your child about alcohol...

Children and young people are well aware of alcohol around them. However, as a parent speaking about alcohol with your young person can be a difficult task! With support from Leith CLD, the Junction (a local health and wellbeing project for young people) will be providing information stalls and a worker to help you start the discussion on alcohol with your child at Leith Academy Parents' Evenings.

Although it might not always seem like it, parents have a huge influence on how children and young people learn about alcohol. By starting the discussion early, you can help your child learn about how to form a healthy relationship with alcohol in their later lives!

We will have a stall at:

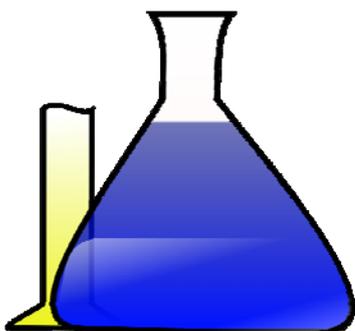
- Leith Academy Parents Info Evening on 4 April
- Leith Academy S1 Parents Consultation Evening 27 April
- Leith Academy S2 Parents Consultation Evening on 11 May

So stop by to grab some information or have a chat with one of our workers!

For more information contact Lara at the Junction: lara@the-junction.org

Experiment of the Week

Over the last few weeks, the Science Department has run an 'Experiment of the Week' competition. S1 pupils can pick up an experiment sheet from the department, try out the experiment at home, and bring their write-up back in to school.



We have had some great write-ups from a few S1 pupils, but we would like to see even more. If your child is in

S1, please encourage them to take part. None of the experiments are hard to do, and they need no special equipment - just the sort of stuff you'll find in the average kitchen. Give them a hand - you'll enjoy it too.

Leith Academy Community Programme - What's On?

This term has once again flown by with little time to take stock and rather overshadowed by some real concerns about the future of the community programme here. The council are keen to see all Edinburgh schools engaging more fully with their local communities but this laudable aim comes at a time when the council has to find significant savings and schools face serious cuts. To realise their aim it is proposed to share the pot more equally rather than have it concentrated in Community High Schools like ours. This will clearly have implications in terms of what we will be able to deliver here and in the other community high schools. A Community High School Review is underway and will report in December.

Now we continue to plan for inclusive adult education and the programme for our summer term includes many of the old favourites as well as some interesting new ones, which are outlined below. Parents of children at the school are entitled to a 10% discount, so why not try your hand at something different for 6 weeks and see a different side of what happens in school.



Easter Camp

The Camp is for local children aged 5 - 12 years and runs 10.00 am to 1pm throughout the holi- days (except the Bank Holidays!) Children in the Sports Camp get a chance to use the school's excellent sport- ing facilities with a team of experienced coaches providing a programme of interesting and fun activities that help develop the children's skills, including a swim session everyday. Children are encouraged to have a go at every- thing and many of them will be trying new sports and games for the first time. The Singing and Dancing Camp offers budding stars a chance to develop their performance skills and experienced group leaders will take the children through their paces with songs and dancing from the best loved musicals. The camp costs £33 for a full week per child with siblings paying half, so it is excellent value and is usually fully booked with a waiting list. We also run a Camp in the summer, so if you're too late for your children this time, watch out for the summer one later on next term. Many of the local children will eventually come up to Leith Academy so these camps offer a great opportunity to get to know the school before they come.

Adult Education Programme - Summer Term

The adult education programme is now ready and we are taking enrolments, so don't miss out! Have a look at the attached flier for the full programme but look out for our exciting new courses for the summer!

NEW COURSES

Bird Box Making - Make a bespoke bird box in just 6 weeks! You will design and make a beautiful individual bird- house, perhaps based on your own home or an elaborate one like Holyrood Palace; even a bird castle or bird chapel with turrets or spires!

Boxercise - A fantastic way to get in shape.

Finger - Lickin' Summer Cookin' - This 6 week course will show you how fresh herbs and seasonal vegetables can add a refreshing touch to any menu. We'll take some great recipes (vegetarian and non) and make them faster and easier, bursting with flavour.

Happiness with Bach's Remedies - Beginning with Bach Rescue Remedy, you will learn about and use the Bach Flower Remedies. By week 6 you will be able to choose remedies for your own personal rescue to help you to enjoy your life, despite everyday stresses.

Holiday Language classes - Got your holiday booked? Going to France Italy or Spain? - we have the perfect holiday language class that will cover the basics from asking for directions, booking a hotel room and ordering meals and drinks. The emphasis is on conversation and speaking the language.



Make the Most of your Flowers - This creative course will teach you the basics in flower arranging. Whether using shop-bought flowers or cut flowers from your garden, you will be able to arrange them in beautiful displays to show them off at their best.

Improve Your Summer Snaps - Prepare for summer holidays and bring home happier summer snaps by taking this short course which will have you out and about with your camera and a trained professional who can offer tips - learn to improve camera techniques, composition and find 'new ways of looking at the world' through the lens. Suitable for any camera type.

Posh Nosh - Looking to impress your friends but haven't got a lot of time or money? Transform bangers and mash into Cumberland swirls with duchess potatoes and other posh presentations to give ordinary dinners five star ratings! Learn the chef's top tips for making everyday dishes look extra special without breaking the bank.

SATURDAY COURSES

Digital Camera Techniques - 4/6/11 - Using any digital camera, this one day course will take you through using the camera, taking photos, saving, editing and image manipulation. It will introduce you to Picasa with the emphasis on taking photographs and using the camera to its full potential.



Floral Fabric Accessories - 4/6/11 - You will learn the necessary techniques to make a range of fabric flowers, brooches and corsages from a selection of fabrics and haberdashery items. These accessories are ideal for applying to bags, hats, jackets or you can use them to give as gifts.

Introduction to Proof Reading - 28/5/11 - A basic introduction to some common issues in editing and proof reading printed documents in your course of work. Learn about how to apply principles of plain English for clear communication and make sure your documents are easy to read, in both style and content.

Laughter Therapy Workshop - 28/5/11 - Take a look at the lighter side of life with this course and learn how to relieve your stress with a smile!

Massage for Fun - 28/5/11 - This is a one day workshop which will introduce you to basic massage principles and techniques to practise at home or in the office.

Oriental Skincare - 4/6/11 - Everyone wants to have younger looking skin. Unfortunately, even the most effective face creams can't turn back the years but there are steps we can all take so our skin looks healthy for longer.



Stained Glass Suncatcher - 28/5/11 - In this one day workshop you will learn basic techniques to make a beautiful stained glass suncatcher.

Stained Glass Leaded Panel - 4/6/11 - In the second of these one day workshops you will learn how to make a beautiful stained glass leaded panel.

Watercolour for Everyone - 4/6/11 - From the beginner looking to discover watercolour techniques to the more experienced water colourist to refine their techniques, your tutor explores the possibilities and the applications of the medium through a mixture of demonstration and tuition.

Cup Cake Decorating (Sunday) - 5/6/11 - Join the world-wide mania for cupcakes and learn how to make and decorate these delightful edible tempting sweet treats.

WEEKEND COURSES

Rediscover your Creative self

Everyone has a creative side but sometimes this can be lost in the busy lives we lead. If you want to reconnect and recover your creative side, come along to this 2 day workshop to get the tips and techniques that can unlock your own creativity.

Holistic Weekend - A 2 day workshop covering several types of holistic practises.

There are full descriptions of all the classes in our Community Booklet, you can drop by the school office and pick one up or ring us on 0131 553 2810 and we'll send you one.



Have a Happy Easter! - Community Team

Rag Bag School Recycling

A big thank you to all those who have contributed so far.

The 'Rag Bag' recycling scheme has been developed to provide regular fundraising for schools, clubs, nurseries and various organisations UK Wide.

The money we raise from this will go towards building a class room in Malawi for our link school in Dedza.

The scheme increases awareness about textile recycling and by increasing recycling rates we can help the environment by ensuring less material goes to landfill.

Why?

Through Rag Bag you can help to recycle textiles and clothing that may have ended up going to landfill. It is estimated that approximately 1.75 million tonnes of clothing waste is produced in the UK every year.

Out of this vast tonnage around 1.2 million tonnes is sent unnecessarily to landfill. If we can divert some of this tonnage away from landfill we will directly help the environment and help provide good quality clothing to some of the poorest developing nations in the world.

What Can we Accept?

- All men's, ladies and children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Handbags, bags, ties & belts
- Soft Toys
- Blankets
- Underwear to include socks, tights, pants and bras etc...
- Household textiles to include towels, bed linen, curtains etc...

When Can You Bring in Items?

Anytime

Where do you Bring the Items?

There is a clothing bank in the Home Economics Department. We also have black bags for you to collect your items in.

What we Cannot Accept

- Duvets both synthetic and feathered
- Carpets
- Rugs
- Soiled or wet clothing
- Pillows/cushions



LEITH ACADEMY

450th ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

There are a number of Tea Towels, Memories of Leith Books and Aerial Photographs still for sale.

If you would like to contribute to the school whilst marking a historic occasion why not purchase:

- Tea Towel £3 each or 2 for £5
- Memories of Leith Book £5 (£6 if posted).
- Aerial Photograph £5

HAVE YOU TRIED RUGBY YET?



- S4 - S6 Monday 6.00pm -7.30pm
- S1 - S3 Wednesday 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- VENUE - PLAYING FIELDS AT LEITH ACADEMY
- WHAT TO BRING/WEAR - Rugby or Football boots, Gum Shield, Shorts or Track-suit trousers, T- shirt or Rugby top.



Why not give it a go - it's better than an Xbox!



THE BACK PAGE

LEITH ACADEMY SPORTS NEWS

BAA Games

Boys/Girls Basketball

Leith Academy was represented in both the Girls' and Boys' Basketball competition. Both teams played exceptionally well, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout. The girls faced experienced teams such as St Thomas' and Portobello but played to the high standard that was set. The boys were one of the best teams in the tournament although narrowly missed out on the final due to point's difference.

Girls' Football

In the typically wet weather, the Girls Football team showed what a talented team they were. Even though they didn't make it through to the finals, narrowly losing out to one of the eventual finalists, they ended the tournament as the highest goal scoring team. A credit to all those involved.

Boys'/Girls' Volleyball

Both the Boys' and Girls' Volleyball teams came up against stiff competition in the BAA Games. The boys rounded off a great day winning the Silver cup of the Competition, and the girls who were up against very tough and experienced players held their own throughout the whole tournament.

All pupils and staff involved in the Games had a great experience, and thoroughly enjoyed the whole day.

Golf - Cruden Cup 2011

Leith Academy entered into the 3rd Portobello Open Golf Championship which was held at the local, and ever improving, Craigentenny Golf Course. The Cruden Cup was the main focus of the day with many individual prizes up for grabs too including £100 to the winner. Even though the weather conditions weren't accommodating for golf the Boys acquitted themselves exceptionally well.

Community Sports Leaders Award (CSLA)

Leith Academy has a new CSLA group comprising of 13 S6 pupils. The class's first task, led by the Active schools Coordinator, was to participate in a Disability and Sport training session. During this session they learnt how to differentiate their coaching sessions to cater for people who are partially blind or who have a physical impairment which affects co-ordination and movement.

In the upcoming year the pupils will be:
helping out at after school clubs through Active Schools
inviting the primary schools to come to PE at Leith Academy
testing S1 fitness
promoting health and well-being to the younger students in the school

If any parent runs a sports club and wishes to have some help running the training sessions, please contact the school and ask for Lorna Dewar (PE Teacher).

Mellissa Berry - Active Sports
