

Leith Links

Dec '11

Headteacher's News

As another busy term draws to an end, I would like to update you with details of the school's news, activities and achievements.

Staffing

It is with considerable sadness that I must report that Mrs Fisher will leave us at the end of this term. Mrs Fisher has decided to retire from her post as Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. Mrs Fisher joined Leith Academy as a Principal Teacher of Home Economics in 1990. She has done an incredible amount to support pupils in Leith Academy over the last 21 years and we will all miss her enormously.

Mrs Dewar will replace Mrs Fisher as PT Pupil Support and Head of Cowan House. Mr Clark will continue in the PE department as the replacement for Mrs Dewar.

I will be absent for a few weeks at the start of the New Year and Mrs Bridgeford will continue as Acting DHT during my absence. Mr Cook has been appointed as Acting Principal Teacher Pupil Support and Head of Barton House while Ms Bridgeford is Acting DHT.

City of Edinburgh Council Children & Families Achievement Awards

I am delighted to announce that Leith Academy won two Highly Commended awards at the prestigious Award ceremony which was held at the Hub on 23 November 2011. These two awards were for our Fit for Girls Programme and our Equality and Diversity work. I would like to thank Mrs Zaccardelli from Links Engraving for kindly engraving these lovely awards for us.

November Attendance Initiative

Our focus on improving attendance in November was very successful. A very large number of pupils were presented with 100% attendance certificates for November. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to attend school regularly and please look out for further initiatives to improve attendance next year.

Punctuality

In January we will be focusing on improving pupils' punctuality. A member of the Senior Management Team will be on duty at the entrance to the school each morning to meet pupils who arrive late. Pupils will be issued with a late slip which must be signed each period by their teacher. The pupil is responsible for the late slip and for ensuring they see their House Head to discuss their late arrival. House Heads may issue detention and you will be asked to sign the late slip to ensure you are aware of your child's lateness to school and their detention. Late Detention will be on a Wednesday after school.

The end of term

The Christmas concert on Thursday night was a wonderful display of musical and dancing talent. The audience of staff, parents and invited guests from the local and wider community all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Head's News continued on page 7



0131 554 0606



admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

Mr J M Simpson - Secondment

Mrs D MacKinnon - Acting HT

Mr D Peat - DHT

Miss S Cook - DHT

Miss A Bridgeford - Acting DHT

Ms M Peebles - Business Manager

Pupil Support

House Heads

Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)

Mrs L Dewar (Barton)

Mrs K Fisher (Cowan)

Mr G Hansen (Port)

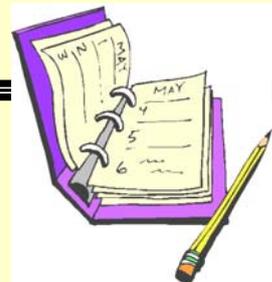
ASL Manager

Ms C Prime

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Important Dates for Your Diary!



December

22

Christmas Service

TERM ENDS

January 2012

09

In-Service Day

10

Pupils resume

19

LA Council (7.00 pm)

Adult Classes Start

25

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio Vaccinations

S1 Burns' Ceilidh

27

S3 Inter-House Sports

February

1-8

S4/5/6 Prelims

06

S3 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)

9-10

Diversity Day

13-17

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

23

Senior Ceilidh

25-(3 March)

Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez

27

S3>S4/5>S6 Parents' Information Evening (7.00pm)

tbc

Media Studies/Travel & Tourism trip to London

March

05

LA Council (7.00pm)

5-8

S3>S4 Coursing

08

HPV vaccinations (3)

12

S1>S2 Parents' Information Evening (SMT only 7.00pm)

12-23

S4/5>S5/6 Coursing

17

Challenge Maths Competition

19

S1 Reports to Parents

21

S1 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)

23

S2 Inter-House Sports

Adult Classes end

26

S2>S3 Parents' Information Evening (7.00pm)

26 (W/b)

S1>S2 coursing

Tbc

'Spring Fling'

Tbc

Staff vs S4-S6 pupils hockey match

Tbc

Health week (inc S1/S2 Health Event)

30

TERM ENDS

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

Purchase from the school Office today!



Modern Languages

On Wednesday 3rd November, our Spanish class went on a trip to the cinema at the Filmhouse to see the Mexican film 'Abel'.

There were many other Spanish students from across the city. We were given a talk before the film, about the director and life in Mexico, but most interestingly, about how the film was made - the children were not given scripts, but simply asked to use their imagination.

'Abel' is about a young boy with mental health problems, who returns from care to find his father has left. He subsequently takes on his father's previous role, sitting at the table, 'helping' with homework,



sleeping in his mother's bed and, most dangerously, teaching his brother to swim.

The children's real father is very upset and confused when he returns and tries to stop Abel's 'madness'.

After this slightly disturbing film we went for a Spanish tapas meal which was delicious. We ate 'patatas bravas' (fried potatoes), 'berenjenas con miel' (aubergine with honey), 'ensalada mixta' (mixed salad), 'albondigas' (special meat balls), 'champiñones' (mushrooms) and 'croquetas' (a fried ball stuffed with beans and cheese).

It was a really enjoyable experience to try new and interesting foods and watch a challenging film.

Hannah-Jo S5

Leith Academy Parent Council

If you would like to get involved in the work of the Parents Council. Please get in touch with co-chairs Diane Anderson and Christine Wallis.

Please note the following dates in your diary that the Parent Council will meet:

- 19 January 2012
- 5 March 2012
- 24 April 2012
- 13 June 2012 (AGM)

All parents/carers are welcome to attend meetings.

British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition

On Tuesday, 6th of December, 2011, five girls from S3 to S6 from Leith Academy travelled to Newcastle for the British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition with their teacher Ms Zhang. They performed marvellously and were a real credit to their school.

Brooke Walker (S6) gave a solo performance, in which she had to deliver a short speech and respond to questions in Mandarin from judges said: "I felt very nervous, but once I had done it I was very proud of myself since I've only been learning it for 3 months".

The other four girls - Michelle Whitelaw (S3), Immaculate Kahembwe (S5), Sadaf Ashraf (S5), and Jolanta Vanate (S6) performed a group play called 'Chinese Cinderella'. Michelle, playing the Chinese Cinderella Ye Xian, reflected, "Looking back I think we did really well", whilst Immaculate said she really enjoyed the trip. Sadaf thought it was a very fun event and she enjoyed herself a lot. Jolanta, who acted three roles, said she was very nervous at the beginning but felt extremely excited and good afterwards.

Mandarin teacher Ms Zhang was hugely impressed by the students' efforts and by

the great progress they have made in their Mandarin learning this year, particularly considering they have only been learning the language since August.

All of the girls are looking forward to performing again next year in London.

Ms Lucy G Zhang - Mandarin Teacher - Modern Languages



LEITH ACADEMY'S 3RD BI-ENNIAL DIVERSITY SHOW AND INTERNATIONAL MARKET PLACE

Diversity Show (by ticket only)

On Thursday 9th February pupils, staff, parents and members of the local and wider community will be invited to attend our school show featuring a variety of acts from around the world. This show will feature performances from a Gospel Choir, Bollywood Dancers, Samba Drummers, a Fashion Show and many more acts. There will also be a guest speaker who will be confirmed nearer the date. Tickets for the evening show will go on sale in the New Year from 13th January and parents, friends and members of the local community will be able to purchase these from the School Office, at a cost of £5 (£3 concessions/school pupils). The evening show will commence at 7.30 pm.

International Market Place (open to all)

Prior to the start of the evening show, from 5.30pm, there will be an opportunity to visit our International Market Place. Many of our local businesses will support this venture and we are expecting La Favorita (Italian), Surchi (Indian), Sainsbury's (fruits from around the world), Mrs Unis (Indian), a Polish Deli and our local Chinese Supermarket to attend. Our S3/4 pupils will also be cooking our Scottish National dish of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. This will allow all present to taste a variety of foods from countries around the world and also to come and enjoy your evening meal prior to attending the show. There will also be an opportunity to buy products from some of the stalls (jewellery, homeopathic remedies/oils, and clothes), take part in games and purchase raffle tickets to win prizes. It would therefore be helpful if you could bring some loose change with you on this evening. All monies raised will go towards building a classroom at our link school, St Joseph's Demonstration school, Malawi.

Thank you for your support in continuing to make our diversity celebrations the success that they are. It is greatly appreciated.

If you require anymore information about any aspect of our approaches to diversity please contact me directly.

Sue Cook - DHT

Curriculum for Excellence

All S1 and S2 pupils have been issued with a 'Dummy-run' course choice sheet with information to allow you to discuss the course choice in detail with your child.

Information Evenings will be held in the New Year to allow you to discuss these course choices with members of the Senior Management Team. These will be held on:

S1>S2 - 12 March 2011 (7.00pm)

S2>S3 - 26 March 2011 (7.00pm)

Parents' Evenings will be held on:

S1 - 21 March 2011 (4.30 - 6.30pm)

S2 - 19 April 2011 (4.30 - 6.30pm)

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's course choice feel free to contact any member of the Senior Management Team or your child's House Head.

Modern Languages Film Review

On November 2nd, 37 Senior pupils viewed the French film 'hors-la-loi' during the National School Film Week in the Cameo cinema. The film was about the Algerian war for independence. After the film most of the group lunched at a French restaurant in the Grassmarket which was a real success. All pupils were a credit to the school.



Here are some of their comments:

J'ai trouvé ça très passionnant! J'ai adoré manger dans le restaurant français! C'était très bien!

Elizabeth Hunston

The trip to the French restaurant "Le Petit Paris" was good the staff were very kind and they gave us

lots of bread before our meal arrived. The pasta was really good. Nous aimerions y retourner!

Scott Johnston

Le film "hors la loi" était excellent. Il a exploré le thème de la famille ainsi que l'amitié. C'était également un film triste et brutal.

Le repas au restaurant était délicieux. Les serveurs étaient très gentils aussi. C'était une journée agréable.

Sonnja Thomas

The film was really scary. The restaurant was great, amazing and lovely.

Eilidh Cownie

Eliane Whitelaw - PT Modern Languages

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Strictly Come Dancing Live at Leith Academy

Who said Strictly Come Dancing was just a weekend show and made for Celebrities? We would like to introduce you to Leith Academy's very own Strictly Come Dancing couples: Miss Anderson & Mr McKenna; Mrs Millar & Mr Enwood; Mrs Emek & Mr Robinson; Mrs Gibson & Mr Wilson and Mrs Good & Mr Ramsay

*Over the past couple of weeks everyone has been working extremely hard to win the crown of Leith Academy's Strictly Come Dancing Competition. Pupils and Teachers will get to vote for the best couple after they perform in front of a live audience at School on **Tuesday 20 December 2011.***

BASKETBALL Results

S1/2 North Neighbourhood League Results

Trinity 18 - Leith 34 (MOTM - David Potoniec for continually winning possession by springing up to the net for rebounds)

Broughton 8 - Leith 110 (MOTM - Sean Nealon for being top basket scorer putting 30 points on the board for Leith)

S2/3 French Film Reviews

As part of National Schools Film Week, pupils from S2 and S3 went to see 'Les aventures extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc-Sec' at the Filmhouse on 4th November. Here are some of their comments:

The French film was about a girl who went on adventures and tried to bring her sister back to life. I thought this was such a good film and would definitely go again!

The film was about Adèle Blanc-Sec's sister who died when a hat pin went through her head playing tennis. Then years later her sister got the character Doctor Skeleton Mummy to bring her to life.

It was different!!!

I liked the film because it was entertaining, funny and also a bit sad.

It was a sad but happy film. Adèle's sister died while playing tennis and she was trying to bring her back to life.

Mrs Stuart—ML Teacher

Leith 35 - Craigroyston 30 (MOTM - Damien Potoniec for superb defensive skills - a key player in this tough match)

The S1/2 Team now sit top of the League at the half way stage following the tightly fought victory over Craigroyston.

S3/4 TEAMS

The S3/4 Basketball team is strengthening each season. There are around 26 members, both boys and girls, in the club who regularly attend. These pupils are hard working and dedicated to improving their game. Some of the pupils are now confidently leading the warm up and refereeing during training and friendly matches. This club is for people who want to improve and have fun along the way! Congratulations to the S3/4 boys team who beat Holyrood RC High School 37-15. For some of those players it was their first ever competitive game! MOTM was Alex Jasinski and Domantos Kaministas (top scorer).

The S4 girls also beat Holyrood RC High School 40-6! MOTM was Abby Neish (top scorer). Keep up the good work!

Mellissa Berry—Active Schools

Adult Education Programme from January 2012

Here is our programme starting from 30th January for an 8 week term. We have many returning courses but also some great new ones. Why not try some of our **Saturday or Sunday one day courses**, such as:

- **Laughter Therapy and Relaxation**
- **Prepare a Professional PowerPoint presentation**
- **Start your own Herbal First Aid Kit**
- **Japanese Cookery**
- **Tapestry Weaving: Tufting Workshop**
- **Musical Theatre Workshop**
- **Proof Reading and Copy Editing (over 2 days)**
- **Stained Glass Suncatchers (over 2 days)**
- **How Films Work (over 2 days)**
- **French Immersion day (only French will be spoken all day)**

FEE CODES				
Fee	Standard	Student	S. Citizen	Conc.
A	£48.50	£27.50	£24.00	£13.00
B	£40.00	£24.00	£21.00	£13.00
C	£31.00	£20.50	£18.50	£13.00
D	£56.50	£35.50	£32.00	£21.00
E	£64.50	£43.50	£40.00	£29.00
P	£74.50	£53.50	£50.00	£39.00
S	£17.50	£17.50	£17.50	£10.00
W	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00	£13.00

Due to popular demand we are also bringing back **Acquire a Superpower Memory** to help with learning a language, revising for exams or simply how to find the car keys in the morning! Lots of helpful tips and exercises to keep Aulds Timers at bay.



Please peruse the programme - **Puppy and Dog Obedience Training**, **Tap dancing**, **Retro Fitness with Hula Hoops and 80's Disco music**, **Mexican cookery**, **Introduction to European Cinema**, **Bridge**, **Singing for Fun**, **Tapestry**, **Bums, Tums and Thighs**, **Pilates**, **French Cuisine** and **Radio Skills** (for complete beginners on a Friday afternoon 2-4pm and on a Tuesday 2-4pm for people who know a bit and want to learn more - senior school pupils all welcome to join and this could really help on a CV).

And remember - **everyone who has a child at Leith Academy or is a staff member, is entitled to a 10% discount off the standard fees**. Just call us on 553 2810 or pop into the office to find out more or to book on the course you would like to do. We will be open during term time, Monday to Thursday 9.30-8.15pm and Fridays 9.30-2.30pm.

Meantime, enjoy the Christmas break and hope to see you in 2012

Parents of S1 pupils Extending your son/daughter's vocabulary

At our S1 Information Evening on September 5th our Educational Psychologist, Heather Gorton, offered to do two sessions to help parents support and improve their daughter/son's literacy or reading skills. The first session we ran looked at strategies to support reading for understanding. The second session, which will be held at Leith Academy on **Tuesday 17th January from 7-8.30pm, in Room 2**, will focus on strategies to improve and extend your daughter/son's vocabulary. All parents are most welcome to attend and I would be grateful if you are going to come along if you could email me at susan.cook@leith.edin.sch.uk by **Friday 13th January at the latest** so I know numbers in advance. If you do not have email please phone the school on 554-0606 and ask the office to let me know you wish to book a place on the S1 Literacy Programme being run by Sue Cook. I am sure you will find this session extremely helpful in terms of supporting your daughter/son's learning and both Heather and I will look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



Sue Cook—Depute Headteacher

Changes to the school's Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The school's ICT is going to be upgraded as part of a city-wide project, due to start in the summer of 2012. A complete revamp will allow the school to provide flexibility in the use of ICT across the curriculum, meeting the needs of learners and teachers, now and in the future. It will make it much easier for our pupils and teachers to access ICT and the internet using a variety of devices, ranging from mobile phones through to tablets and laptops.

For example during a physics lesson, pupils learning about sound levels could download a sound level test app onto their ipod or phone to use as part of experiments. Pupils working in groups could use school or pupil owned tablets, laptops or PCs to look up websites to gather information and share with the rest of the class.

There will be a separate wireless network within the school which will allow a range of devices from phones and tablets through to laptops to access the internet. Access will still be controlled through the use of a username and password and there will be security filters on this network, so sites like Facebook will still not be accessible. The WiFi access within the school will be upgraded to the latest technology to allow effective use of this network.

The broadband connection of the school will be increased to improve internet speeds.

The majority of our ageing computers will also be replaced with new PC desktops and laptops and we will have the opportunity to supplement these with other types of devices that will work on the wireless network.

It's not yet known when our school will be upgraded, but we will let you know.

Head's News continued

Tuesday 20 December sees Strictly Come Dancing live at Leith Academy hosted by our very own Bruce (Andrew Enwood). All 150 tickets were snapped up quickly and we are all looking forward to this event.

Throughout December our pupils have been assisting the Leith Rotary Club with street collections and with making up food parcels for senior citizens in the area. This is a new partnership with the Leith Rotary Club which we are confident will bring real benefits to the school, Leith Rotary and the wider community.

The last day of term will be marked in the traditional way: all pupils will walk from the school to South Leith Parish Church where the Pupil Council and the Rev. Carol Ford will deliver the Service. Pupils will be dismissed from church at approximately 12 noon. Parents are very welcome to attend this service. Pupils will be able to collect a packed lunch at break time. The new term begins on Tuesday 10th January 2012.

Queen's Jubilee

Parents may already know that Edinburgh City Council, along with most other councils, has decided to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee with a holiday on Thursday 5 June 2012. All schools in Edinburgh will therefore be closed on this day.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during my short time as Acting Head Teacher at Leith Academy. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I would also like to wish parents, carers and all those connected with Leith Academy a very peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

THE BACK PAGE

LEITH ACADEMY SPORTS NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

Sports Leaders showcase PE and Active Schools for P7 Parents

The Senior Sports Leaders helped prospective P7 parents get a flavour of what is on offer from PE and Active Schools during the recent P7 Parents' Evening. Many of them either remained in school or came back during the evening to provide parents with a pupil's perspective on Physical Activity in the School. A big thank you to the CSLA's which took part in the evening to make it such a success.

Pupils take ownership and responsibility in Active Schools clubs and competitions

Many of the pupils completing the CSLA, Duke of Edinburgh and the Princes Trust XL Awards have been volunteering throughout the first term in many of the Active Schools clubs and matches at both the Academy and the cluster Primaries. Not only has this helped them to complete parts of their own award but has helped many more pupils positively experience physical activity and sport. Thank you to all of you who have been involved this term, there will be plenty more opportunities in the New Year!

DancDancers take the stage at Leith Academy's Christmas Concert



The NPA L5 Dancers have shown how much they have excelled themselves, and progressed under the guidance of Miss Anderson, by taking a leading role in the entertainment for the Christmas concert. Miss Anderson and the girls have given up hours of their time both individually and as a group to ensure they have the best routine for everyone to sit back and enjoy. Well done!

Further Fit For Girls Success for Leith Academy PE Dept

At the recent City of Edinburgh, Children and Families Awards Leith Academy Fit for Girls Programme was presented with a Highly Commended Award in the 'Opportunities for All' category. This award recognises the work the PE staff together with Active Schools co-ordinators have put in to raise the profile and provide opportunities for girls. We are expecting an article in The Evening News over the festive period!



Sports Results

FOOTBALL

Seniors

Musselburgh	V	Leith Academy
Leith Academy	3 V 0	Queensferry (Scottish Cup)
Leith Academy	4 V 4	Whitburn (LAWon 3-1 on penalties)
West Calder	3 V 0	Leith (Scottish Cup 3rd)

U16's

Leith Academy	5 V 1	Holyrood (Lothian's Cup)
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U15's

Leith Academy	4 V 4	Portobello
Portobello	3 V 1	Leith Academy
Boroughmuir	7 V 4	Leith
Trinity	9 V 3	Leith
Leith	2 V 8	Firrhill

U15 Lothian Select Squad into quarter final of national competition - Aaron Currie, Bradley Mercer and Marc Aitken in squad from Leith Academy.

U14's

Leith Academy	6 V 5	Newbattle (Scottish Cup)
Leith Academy	4 V 0	St Augustine's
Leith Academy	4 V 3	Lasswade (Aet)
Firrhill	0 V 5	Leith Academy

U13's

Leith Academy	2 V 6	Portobello
Leith Academy	7 V 4	Boroughmuir
Holyrood	3 V 7	Leith Academy
Leith Academy	1 V 5	Broughton
Royal High	0 V 7	Leith Academy

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

S1/2 Girls played their first match against Boroughmuir
Boroughmuir 5 V 1 Leith Academy



Sports News continued on page 5