

# Leith Links

June '11

## Headteacher's News

*As the session draws to a close, we can look back on another challenging year in education in general and no less so for Leith Academy. We have undergone a successful Authority review, the report of which you will have had, and as a result of that HMIe have recently indicated that, in their new guise of 'Education Scotland', they are keen to work with the school in the next eighteen months to two years to help us develop strategies that will enhance the learning & teaching experience in the classroom and underpin our ongoing work to raise levels of attainment at all stages. A first "scoping meeting" to determine what form this supportive work will take will be held early in the new session.*

*The end of term has, as always, been a busy time with many school trips, sports activities, work experience placements and, of course, the induction days for new S1 pupils which were held successfully on 22-23 June.*

*As one academic year end and we look forward to another, we also have our usual turnover of staff. This year we say farewell to a number of colleagues who are moving on after significant service to the school: Linda Richardson (SfL), Joyce Coull (PT Drama), Geoff Dawe (IT Manager) and Janis Kennedy (clerical staff) who, among them account for 111 years of working at Leith Academy. I would want to publicly thank these colleagues for all their contributions to the school and to wish them well in whatever they choose to do next. In addition, Lesley McLeish (English) is going off on maternity leave; Nicola Brisley (Modern Languages) and June Stevenson (Business Education) are both taking a year-long employment break; Craig Harper (PE) has secured full-time permanent employment in Aberdeen. Our best wishes go too with these colleagues.*

*As a result of these departures, a number of new appointments have been made: Kathryn MacKinnon (English); Katherine Service (Modern Languages); Yvonne Brown (Business Education); Carly Anderson and Andrew Cook (PE); and Deirdre Nicholls (Art & Design) who has been helping the school in recent times on a supply basis.*

*Our probationers will be moving on also and we thank them for their work in the school and hope that the next stage in their careers will be successful: Stuart Clark and Julie Wilson (PE); Dominic Greig (Modern Languages); Padraig Langan (Social Subjects); Alice Munro and Alasdair Reid (English) and Lucy Tyler (Maths). The new probationer cohort for 2011-12 has been confirmed and we welcome, as from August, Andrew Enwood (PE), Sarah Rowson and Lucy Zhang (Modern Languages, the latter as a Mandarin Chinese teacher, shared with Broughton), Hannah Sim (Social Subjects), Fiorenza Kirkwood and Alanna Petrie (English) and Sam Moody (Science).*

*A larger number of senior pupils than ever have applied to be prefects and this is a very encouraging sign that these pupils are so positive about their school that they should seek to contribute to its life and work in this way. Given the sheer numbers involved, we are looking to increase opportunities for senior pupils to join in committee work and to work effectively with younger pupils, exhibiting the positive role models that we encourage them towards. Following consultations with pupils and staff, senior officebearers will be appointed.*

*Finally, as you may be already aware, I shall not be in school for the first half-term of the new session, having accepted an offer from the Authority to become caretaker head at James Gillespie's High School until a new substantive headteacher has taken up post. I am confident that the senior management team at Leith Academy will be able to successfully lead the school during that period, supported by the staff, many of whom have shown themselves prepared to step into acting posts during the period in question and I am sure that they will have the full support of parents. I am, as always, grateful to my staff for their unfailing commitment to the school and its pupils; I am grateful also to parents for their continuing support; and I thank too pupils, particularly those whose positive contributions, in whatever capacity, are recorded in this or previous issues of Leith Links. The annual Evening of Celebration on Wednesday 29 June provides an official opportunity to recognise and reward pupil achievement across the board.*

*I hope that you all have a relaxing summer holiday. You should receive a mailshot from school during August with information for the new session and a request for you to provide us with updated details in a variety of areas. I thank you in advance for your assistance in this and I look forward to returning to the school and working with you again sometime next term.*

 : 0131 554 0606

 : [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leith.edin.sch.uk)

### Useful Contacts

#### Senior Management Team (Aug—Oct)

*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)*

*Vacancy (Barton)*

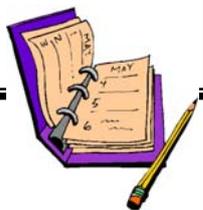
*Mrs K Fisher (Cowan)*

*Mr G Hansen (Port)*

#### ASL Manager

*Ms C Prime*

## Important Dates for Your Diary!



July 01	End of Term
August 04	SQA results issued to pupils
15	Staff resume (In-Service Day)
16	In-Service Day
17	Pupils resume
22	Adult class enrolment
26	Sports Fair (S1/S2)
30	LA Council
31	Higher Education Convention

## Leith Academy Cycle Club

We are intending to start a cycle club for pupils at Leith Academy. It is our hope to have fun whilst encouraging pupils to use their bikes as a means of transport, giving them independence and freedom, building exercise into their daily routine, and getting to know their local area more thoroughly. Pupils will be expected to use their own bicycle and will be helped to check or adjust them so that they are road worthy. All pupils will need to bring a helmet to be worn whilst cycling.



At first, we plan to go on short rides as a group around Edinburgh, mainly along cycle paths with some parts of the routes on quiet roads. Alongside this, we intend to practice cycling skills and teach basic repairs: fixing punctures, adjusting brakes and general care. (We are open to suggestions from pupils if they have other bike interests.)

Some pupils who have shown an interest in attending the club but do not own a bicycle, therefore, we are asking parents if they have any unwanted bike(s) cluttering up their house or shed and if they would be willing to donate them to us (any bike that we were unable to make use of we would either return or donate to the Edinburgh charity the Bike Station). We would happily accept tools, tyres, gloves, brake blocks or any other unwanted bike equipment.



Thank you for your support and if you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me, Mr Williams [Maths Teacher]

## Greece Watersports

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, a party of 25 pupils and 3 staff (Mrs Millar, Ms Cook and Mr Dawe) flew to Athens arriving at 2.30 am. We quickly found the coach for the 3 1/2 hour transfer to the hotel in the resort of Porto Heli - 'which was 'a roller coaster ride from hell' as described by Mr Dawe.

While the staff were ready for their beds and some much needed sleep, the pupils were raring to go. A lunch-time briefing from the instructors was followed by team building and pool time.

During the course of the week all pupils had the opportunity to learn how to sail and to windsurf with many achieving their Level 1 awards in at least one discipline. Lack of wind for a couple of sessions resulted in land based activities - pool time, football, mini golf and problem solving.



On Monday, Kyle MacKay (S3) was struck by a mast which resulted in a broken nose and a trip to the nearest hospital some 70 km away but returned in time to join the rest of the group for an evening trip to the nearby island of Spetses for pizza and ice cream. Other foot injuries required pupils to be carried back to their rooms by Mr Dawe - only for the same pupils to be seen 10 minutes later playing football!!

Our last evening was a poolside BBQ, followed by presentation of awards. Each of the pupils were given a title by the Leith staff based on the week in Greece while some can be reproduced here in print - 'Sun Goddess', 'Drama Queen', 'The next Ellen McArthur' ..... but some will be left in the resort eh Bradley and Ryan!!  
**Mr Dawe — ICT Manager**

# Duke of Edinburgh Award

## **Who's it for?**

*We are looking for enthusiastic, self-motivated and committed S4, S5 and S6 pupils to take part in the Leith Academy Duke of Edinburgh programme.*

## **Why do it?**

*It will be fun and rewarding.*

*You will learn new skills.*

*You will take on new challenges.*

*It demonstrates commitment and self-motivation which employers will be looking for.*

## **What is the commitment?**

*Participants should expect to have a meeting or training session once a week (no more than an hour).*

*To achieve a bronze award, participants must undertake a skill, a volunteering role and a physical activity for 3 months (or 15 hours). They will also have to spend an extra 3 months on one of these activities*

*You will need to complete a practice expedition weekend and an assessment weekend.*

## **Costs?**

*It costs £14 to register for the DofE award and participants will be asked to contribute to travel costs for expeditions as well as supply their own food on these trips.*

*If you require more information please contact Mrs Shearer or Mr Cook*



## **Geography and Modern Studies**

### **Trip to France and Switzerland June 2011**

*Thirty three pupils and four teachers went on a trip to France and Switzerland with their Geography and Modern Studies classes. On Monday 13 June we flew to Geneva and went to the United Nations. We had a guided tour of the building called the Palais des Nations. The tour guide told us about what happened in the UN and showed us a conference room. The hotel was cool because there were balconies and almost every room had an en-suite.*

*On Tuesday we went to Chamonix and went on a cable car to Aiguille d Midi. The cable car was quite scary. We all liked the ride except Jordan Geddes because he fainted at the top of the mountain. The view from the top was amazing and we drew field sketches of glaciers. At the bottom of the cable car we got on a train to Montenvers and went to a glacier called the Mer de Glace. Near the glacier we had lunch in a fancy French restaurant. In the glacier there was an ice-cave and you could walk through it.*

*On Wednesday we went to Annecy. We walked through a gorge called the Gorge du Fier which was steep and quite scary but we took lots of photos. We had lunch by a lake and it was really warm. Lots of people went on pedalos. Everyone that went on the pedalos remained dry except Craig Brown and Jordan Malcolm as they went through a fountain. After lunch we went round the town and visited the local shops.*

*On Thursday we went to a water park and there were lots of slides and everyone had a really good time. On Friday we went to Geneva sight-seeing and then went to the airport to fly home. Our favourite part of the trip was the water park as the slides were scary but enjoyable.*

*By Natasha Mercer, Abbie McBean, Craig Brown, Gareth Smith and Jordan Geddes*

## Fond farewell

*After 31 years as PT Physics and latterly IT Manager, I will be saying goodbye to Leith Academy at the end of this session - early retirement I hasten add.*



*I look back over this time with fond and often amusing memories. I arrived in August 1980, to find the school spread over 4 sites and the Physics dept in boxes on benches in Room 74 of the Lochend Annexe*

*(now luxury flats!). Here I made close links with staff from Business Education, History, RE, Art and CDT. The building was in much need of repair - burst pipes resulting in cascades of water pouring down the stairs, falling ceilings, pigeons - need I say more. The opening of the present building on the Quarryholes site was welcomed by all after a vigorous campaign lead by parents, pupils and staff. I recall snakes of children and staff carrying books and equipment into the new building.*

*I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in the wider life of the school - Outdoor Education trips, S1 residentials at Loch Morlich and Benmore, Lagganlia, Pupil exchanges with a school in Munich and this year sailing in Greece, as well as the staff panto and numerous school shows - Godspell, Annie, Oliver, Grease, Guys and Dolls .....*

*In my current role as IT Manager it has been a privilege to be able to work closely with staff and pupils in every department in the school to support and develop the use of ICT to support Learning and Teaching.*

*In the past year, the school celebrated its 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a pleasure to meet again so many former pupils and staff at the Open Evening.*

*Wishing Leith Academy, staff and pupils, best wishes for the next 450 years !!*

**Geoff Dawe — aka Seemis is Down!**

## Immersion Days' Review

*The German Immersion morning was German-tastic! We learnt how to count to ten in German. Eins! Zwei! Drei! Then we had German cakes. Yum yum! "Ich hätte gern Pflaumenkuchen". That is the German for "I would like a plum cake!"*

**Liam Dickson**



*The French Immersion day was France-tastic! We started with a French breakfast. Miam, miam! Then we had a French lunch at Daniel's Bistro. Fancy! To end the day we watched a French film. It was hilarious! Au revoir!*

**Liam Dickson**

*For the French Immersion day we had a huge breakfast in the morning with croissants, pains au chocolat, chocolat chaud and more. We then worked on French grammar and table manners for a bit before heading out for a walk down to the fabulous Daniel's Bistro. I ordered the soup, which I can say was the best I've ever had, and a vegetable dish with a delicious salad. After a little sit, we made our way back to school to watch a hilarious movie. It was a great day.*

**Tyler Buchan**

*For the German Immersion day we had a breakfast of waffles and hot chocolate to start. We then learnt some basic German. Mid-morning we had some traditional cakes from the "Konditorei" in Morningside. We learned how to say each cake and had fun in the meantime. It was a fairly good day.*



**Tyler Buchan**

*On the French Immersion day we started with a French breakfast and listened to some French songs. After a few fun activities we left the school for lunch at a French restaurant. This was stunning and probably my favourite part overall. We finished with a French film which was a perfect way to end a great day.*

**Kyle Kirkland**

*During the exam leave we took part in a French activities day. We started off with a French breakfast and then we went out for a very yummy lunch. We came back to school and watched a really funny film. C'était super parce que nous avons beaucoup mangé.*

**Isabel Stiven**

*On the French Immersion day, we had a French breakfast, listened to French music, had a French lunch at a restaurant and watched a French film. The food was delicious. The French film was hilarious and overall the day was really fun.*

**Fergus Ross**

# Leith Academy Community Programme

See our draft programme (sent as a flyer) for classes starting from 12<sup>th</sup> September with some new courses - we are teaming up with Active Schools to offer opportunities for families to get fit - such as the **Wednesday evenings 6-7pm Run for Fun** for mums and daughters (only £13 per pair for 10 weeks of accompanied running) to help you keep fit. Also a **Family Fitness tember** when you can have a try of all sorts of different fitness activities to see what might suit you best.

We will be offering other fitness sessions with **hula hula hoops and 80's disco music** to get you in shape, as well as **tap dancing** (everyone welcome and so long as you have a hard shoe, the tapes are not necessary) and **dancercise** to get fit while having fun. Also a course in **dog training** and how to create your own **Bach's remedies** to lead to a happier life.



There will also be a special course linking with **Leith FM radio** on Tuesday afternoons with access to the studio there to develop practical skills and also general **TV & Radio interviewing skills** (two Sundays). Also a 2 day course introduction to scriptwriting.

There will be a chance to do an **accredited course in papercrafting**, as well as a one off Saturday for special **hand-made Christmas cards and Christmas paper snowglobes** to send as presents.

We are offering **Tuesday twilight sessions between 4.30-6pm** with an **arts club for primary school age children**, to free up anyone wanting to attend a class in **home cooking, dressmaking, fitness, make the most of your computer** and also a new **parent & toddler drama course** to spend some time developing storytelling. There will also be courses in **helping improve your CV and interview techniques** to help get that job!

Some of our weekend courses may appeal - learning **how to write a food or holiday review, making personal and special photobooks, how to develop a superpower memory, and Christmas celebrations, bake and ice a Christmas cake.**

Lots of other choices, as well as our regular courses in **French, Spanish and Italian, upholstery, winter warming cookery, guitar, art, fitness and an ambitious plan to try to put on a pantomime in the 10 weeks for friends and family!**

Come into the office or ring us for more information on any of the courses and we can send you a booklet or talk you through what the course is like. Everyone welcome and enrolments start from **22<sup>nd</sup> August at 9.30am.**

**WE ALSO OFFER VOUCHERS IF YOU WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE A CLASS FOR A PRESENT.**



## Group Triple P

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program knows all parents have different needs. That's why Triple P has many different ways to get you parenting help. So you can choose what will best suit you and your family.

We run groups at Leith Academy two or three times a year. If you feel you would like to join one of these groups after reading the information below, please get in touch with Sue Cook, Depute Headteacher, who will give you more information about programme dates.

### Who is this for?

- parents of teenagers

### Is this your family?

Other parents don't seem to have it as tough as you. Your child constantly misbehaves. He/she rarely does what you want. Your family life is full of anger and tears. There's probably a lot of shouting and your child may even be aggressive – perhaps hitting you, the furniture or his/her brothers and sisters. In fact, everyday – from breakfast to bedtime – is a battle. If this sounds familiar, then Group Triple P can help. Group Triple P gives you support to help you manage your child's behaviour and prevent the kinds of problems that make your family life stressful.

### Or is this you?

You want to create the happiest home life you can. You may have a few concerns about your child's behaviour – perhaps there's disobedience or you simply want to find out how to set up better routines for mealtimes or bedtimes. Whatever it is, you're very keen to learn more about positive parenting and how you can apply it to your family. If you're ready for a more in-depth look at the parenting strategies that really work, Group Triple P is ideal.

### Triple P can help you

- encourage behaviour you like
- deal with problem behaviour
- become confident as a parent
- be realistic about parenting
- take care of yourself

### What happens at Group Triple P?

Group Triple P is a great opportunity to meet other parents in similar situations – other parents who'll support you and share stories with you.

Right from the start, you'll be given tips and suggestions to suit the needs of your family. You'll see scenes from the *Every Parent's Survival Guide* DVD, which will show you how the ideas work in real life. And your workbook will give you the tools and information you need to start positive parenting straight away at home. Your Triple P practitioner will guide you every step of the way and even provide backup phone support as you put your new skills into practice.

### How long does it take and how big are the groups?

There are no more than 12 parents in a group session. Each session lasts no more than two hours at a time. All up, you'll attend five (5) group sessions – the first four should give you the tips you need to start positive parenting.

Then, you'll have three weeks to practise Triple P at home. But you won't be left to do it all on your own. Your Triple P practitioner will call you every week at a set time to find out how you're going and offer advice if you're having any trouble. Those calls will last about 15 minutes.

Finally, you'll meet up with your group and Triple P practitioner for one last session. This is a chance to go over any problems you may still have – and to congratulate yourself on how far you've come!

# 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 a 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 finalist, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Portobello Open Golf Championship which was held at the local, and ever improving, Craigen-tinny 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

### LEITH ACADEMY 450<sup>th</sup> 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!*

