

Leith Links

June '13

Headteacher's News

As I write this on the last week of the session 2012-13, I can look back on yet another packed year in the life of the school which has brought both its challenges and its opportunities. We have, as ever, risen to those challenges, most notably in preparing for the first year of the new qualifications under Curriculum for Excellence, although this is very much a work in progress and is likely to remain so over the next few years. The opportunities for pupils to develop and be successful have been extensive and many of them have been recorded in this and previous editions of this newsletter. You will see from the articles that follow in this particular issue that there has been an emphasis on wider achievement, with pupils undertaking activities beyond the classroom. I am certain that all will have benefited and I am grateful to staff who give of their time to make these events happen. The Evening of Celebration on 26 June will, as ever, provide a focus to recognise the successful achievements, commitment and effort of individuals and groups.

The school will host, on 27 June, a ministerial visit where the schools minister, Dr Alasdair Allan, will launch a national report on music instrumental tuition in schools. This is an important aspect of wider achievement and I look forward to a performance by the pupils of LA Folk, accompanied by counterparts from Holy Rood High School, under the direction of instrumental instructor, Gavin Pagan, which will accompany the minister's announcement.

Prefect interviews will take place at the beginning of the new term and we would hope to have a team in place, including senior pupil officebearers, in the first couple of weeks back.

As usual at this time of year, we bid farewell to some colleagues and welcome others. We lose through retiral five colleagues this session: two teachers and three support staff. All of them have contributed to the life and work of the school and for their impact on the lives of individual pupils over a varying number of years and I would want to thank them for that and to wish them well in the next part of their lives, whatever that might hold for them: Katherine Keil (Art & Design), Sheena Purdom (SfL), Elizabeth Burnett, Irene Chapman and Mags McGuigan (learning assistants). There are other colleagues who, for other reasons, are moving on and I wish them well too: Hilda Marshall (Drama), Sam Moody (Physics), Gary Calder (Geography), David Phillips (Computing), Claire Withers (English), Simon Ferrie (PE) and Rosalynd McKenzie (learning assistant). Gillian Gibson has proved a reliable supply teacher in English in recent months to cover a variety of absences and we are grateful to her for that. Angela Mercer, the SMT Assistant, has secured a secondment to the Council, and we wish her well. Both Jen Ness (PT English) and Lorna Dewar (PE) are now on maternity leave, the latter having given birth to a son before the time of writing.

Next session we shall welcome back from maternity leave Francesca Hannay (Geography) and Marie-Claire Oldham (née Condie). In addition we will be joined by Craig Watts, as acting PT English; Gillian Howie (Drama), Sarah Rowson (Modern Languages) and have retained the services, now on a full-time permanent basis of Lucy Thomson (Art & Design) and Hannah Sim (History). Andy Enwood (PE) will remain on the staff, covering for Mrs Dewar's maternity. There are still some learning assistant posts to be filled but we have already been joined by Josh Hutchison, a former pupil, who has returned to work with the team.

As you can see there will be a fair amount of change in terms of personnel but we will be striving to provide a continuity and consistency for both pupils and parents in the new academic year. That new year will start for pupils on Wednesday, 14 August at the usual time of 8.30am. In the meantime I hope that you all have a relaxing summer holiday.



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Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

Mr J M Simpson - Headteacher

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)

Mr O Cook (Barton) - Acting

Ms J Smith (Cowan)

Mr G Hansen (Port)

ASL Manager

Ms C Prime

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Important Dates for Your Diary!

July

28 **Term Ends**

August

06 SQA results issued to pupils
12 **Staff resume (In-Service Day)**
13 **In-Service Day**
14 **Pupils resume**
19 (w/b) Adult class enrolment
21 S1/S4/Prefects photographs
22 Sports Fair (S1 all/S2 all/S3 girls only)
23 S6 photographs

September

09 Parent Council (7.00pm)
10 Higher Education Convention (S6)
12 Young Driver 2013 event (S6)
13 S4 Inter-House Sports
16 **AUTUMN HOLIDAY**
18 <MONDAY TIMETABLE>
19 HPV vaccinations (1)
23 Adult Classes begin
26 (w/b) European Languages Week

October

04 Business Education trip to Alton Towers
07 (w/b) S4-S6 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued
09 S1 Parents' Consultation (4.30-6.30pm)
10 S4 Sexual Health Conference (am)
10-14 Football Trip to Malaga
11 S1 Inter-House sports
14-18 **HALF-TERM HOLIDAY**
21 **In-Service Day**
25-27 S6 Benmore Weekend
tbc Financial Education Programme

Academy of Light Football Tournament

24 S1 and S2 footballers represented Leith Academy in this year's Academy of Light Tournament which took place at Sunderland AFC's state of the art training complex.



The day started with a behind the scenes stadium tour of St James Park home of Newcastle United FC before making the short journey across the city to Sunderland. After a brief tour of the training facilities the tournament took place with one team reaching the semi-final of the cup competition and another reaching the final of the plate competition. A great day was had by all and every pupil involved was a credit to Leith Academy.

Mr MacKay - PE Teacher

MMR Immunisation Catch Up Campaign

NHS Lothian is running a catch-up campaign for young people aged 10 to 17 years who have not received **two** doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine. They will be writing to parents and guardians of these children and encouraging them to contact their General Practice to arrange MMR vaccination for their child.

Some young people missed out on the MMR vaccination when they were younger. Two doses of the vaccine are required to ensure protection.

Visit immunisationscotland.org.uk to find out more, or contact your GP to make an appointment.

S2 Sports Inspired Day

May 17th was a day full of sports for S2 pupils who donned their P.E. Kits and psyched themselves up for a great day of sports.

The competed in their Houses in a variety of mainstream sports including Football and Hockey and tried their hand at less known sports like Boccia (similar to Boules).

The sun was out the whole day as were the smiles. All in all, a great action packed day was had by all.

Craig Renwick - Active Schools



This year has seen a group of S4 and S6 pupils work toward their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The award requires young people to complete four sections - physical, skill, volunteering and an expedition- which has allowed our group to get involved in



a range of activities which support their school and community.

We have recently completed a practice and a qualifying expedition in which pupils are asked to work together to develop skills of navigation, camp craft and team work. All of our qualifying group passed their expedition which reflects their teamwork and maturity throughout the weekend.



The groups have worked really hard to complete their sections and awards and given that all were studying for exams at the same time, they have demonstrated significant commitment and motivation.

In August we will be looking for S3 pupils to start working towards their Bronze Award. Any interested S4-6 pupils will be supported on sectional awards through Leith Academy but will complete their expeditions through the Edinburgh Open Award Groups or through Local Community Award Groups.

Mr Cook - Pupil Support

Sailing Team Building Trip to Inchcolm Island

Friday 14th June saw 5 adventurous Leith pupils setting sail from Port Edgar in 2 Wayfarer sailing dinghies, with a bit of help from sailing experts Mr Bailie and Mr Tulloch and the support of Mr Pye in the safety boat.

The intrepid explorers were, Anil Sapkota, Michael Robertson, Oscar Shirlaw, Ruairidh Groat Hardy and Natasha Lemon, who were kitted out in very fetching yellow waterproofs from the Port Edgar Sailing School before rigging our boats and setting sail out into the Firth of Forth.

The plan was to sail down to Inchcolm Island for lunch but seeing as the wind and tide were both in our favour we took a few detours to visit some of the sights on the Forth, first of which were the two bridges. The road bridge is



quite impressive but the railway bridge is breathtaking from the water.



We then sailed past islands and rocks, spotting the seals sunbathing before rounding Inchcolm Island, tying up at the pier and going ashore for lunch.

The island is a great place to explore as it housed some very large guns during the Second World War, Great War and even the Napoleonic wars, so has many old gun emplacements and a long tunnel to transport shells through. However the local inhabitants, aka the seagulls, didn't take too kindly to Michael and Ruairidh blundering along the wrong path and gave them a dive bombing display that sent them running.

There was even a wedding about to start and the Leith team managed to talk their way into getting their picture taken with the bride before it was time to go.

We waved to the Queensferry lifeboat on the way out but didn't find out until later that it was taking the registrar out to the island after he had missed the wedding party boat. That story made most of the daily papers.



Our journey back took us past the Oxcars lighthouse, which sits on a very nasty reef, past Inchmickery, which has buildings on it to make it look like a battleship to fool the Germans and apparently they sunk it several times.

We grazed the shore of Cramond then continued up river and past Hound Point, where they load huge tankers with oil, before we sailed under the bridges again and back into Port Edgar Marina.

Everyone had a chance to steer the boats during our trip and have a go driving the rescue boat and gained an all too brief introduction to the attractions of being in boats. However there were several of the team very keen to learn to sail and how to drive powerboats. A great day out.

WATERSPORTS 2013

A massive well done to all pupils who took part in the Spain Watersports Trip 2013. Pupils travelled to La Fosca in Spain and took part in kayaking, canoeing, sailing, catamarans, snorkelling, banana boats, wind surfing, paddle boarding, beach sports and spent a day at Spain's largest Water Park.

We cannot emphasise enough how well behaved and how impressed we were with the maturity and talents of all of the pupils, with many overcoming fears and all developing key skills for later life along the way.



Well done again, you were all fantastic!

Miss Anderson, Mr Mackay and Miss Smith

Welcome to Leith Academy Parent Council!

We would like to invite you to come along and talk to us at meetings or during school events at the Uniform stall. Here are some reasons why it's good to get involved:

- Meet other parents
- Hear about what is happening in the school
- Have your say about school issues that are important to you
- Hear about the Council's parental engagement meetings
- Support the work of staff and pupils

Dates for future meetings:

- 9 September
- 19 November
- 5 February
- 28 April
- 11 June

Good quality used school uniforms:

If you have any you would like to donate please drop off to school office, or visit our stall over the next year to pick up a bargain!



Happy Holidays and make sure to let the community office know your address if you'd like us to send out a copy of our Adult Education booklet in readiness for enrolments from the middle of August - classes start back from Monday 23rd September.

We have lots of classes starting next term with some new ones to try out, including the opportunity to do an Intermediate 2 in Maths and Indian Bollywood Dancing. We will also have Yoga for pregnant women which really helps when it comes to breathing exercises; and Sunday lunchtime Mindfulness can help the rest of us to pause and be prepared for the week ahead.



There will also be lots of one day courses for those of you who'd prefer not to come every week - the popular Bake and Decorate your Christmas cake is back, split over 2 Saturdays to give the cake time to infuse all the lovely ingredients. Another popular course is the Make your own personalised Christmas cards and an opportunity to make your own comic style fanzines alongside professional comic book designers.



And we will also offer an Independence Referendum information day to come along and quiz the politicians by offering an opportunity to ask what happens if we vote for you, to each political group.

Keep your eyes open for more information and have a great summer - the programme is on the back page.

All the best from the Community Team



Numeracy Maths Competition 2013

The inaugural Leith Academy annual numeracy competition has been taking place in June. All S2, S3 and S4 pupils have taken part in the competition. So far there have been two qualifying rounds. The competition has tested pupils' mental and written numeracy skills and has included questions on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions.

Well done to the following pupils who have come through the qualifying rounds to make it into the final:

Zoe Merrilees, Gemma Grieve, Katie Farmer, Sean Walker, Ross Aitchison, Liam Ashworth, Sumnima Limbu, Ryan Farrell, Lucy Hogg, Lauren Hoggan, Ben Cargill, Oscar Shirlaw, Sean McNicoll, Shaun DeMarco and Joseph Hughes.

The final will take place in the last week of term with the pupils competing against each other in a "Fifteen to One" style format. There will be a prize for the winning pupil!

Mr Taylor - Maths Teacher

Enterprising Maths Competition

A team of four pupils from Leith Academy took part in the Enterprising Maths competition at Meadowbank on Thursday the 13th of June. The team consisted of Ruairidh Grant Hardy, Sean McNicoll, Eilidh Cargill and Gemma Grieve. They competed against other schools from across Edinburgh and the Lothians. The competition included a number of rounds that tested maths and problem solving skills; these included a head to head maths round, building a bridge and a maths relay race! The Leith Academy team put in a good performance on the day with their bridge being particularly well constructed! In the end they were not lucky enough to win but the pupils certainly enjoyed themselves and improved their problem solving skills at the same time!



Eilidh and Gemma have shared their thoughts from the day below.

Eilidh Cargill "In my opinion I thought the maths competition was a great chance to meet new people from different schools and test our problem solving skills. I found some of the questions very challenging but it was good to see how much I could manage. I would like to go again as I think it is worthwhile and it teaches people new things that they don't usually study in maths."

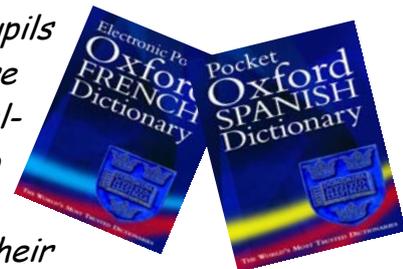
Gemma Grieve "Thursday's event at Meadowbank was a good experience. We worked well in pairs and groups to solve puzzles and problems. Our group built a good bridge using straws and masking tape which held two water bottles. I enjoyed the relay race the most."

Mr Taylor — Maths Teacher

Language Dictionaries

All pupils studying French and Spanish in school are expected to have, bring and use their OWN Dictionary for class.

The Modern Languages Department has Dictionaries for sale. Pupils are more than welcome to purchase their own.



Another option is to purchase one from the shops during the summer holidays. Pupils are encouraged to consult their language(s) teacher if they are in doubt about which type they should buy.

E M Whitelaw
(PT Modern Languages)