

Leith Links

Oct '11

Headteacher's News

Welcome to the first edition of 'Leith Links' this session!

I am very proud to be Acting Headteacher at Leith Academy while Jack Simpson is on secondment to James Gillespie's. Jack will be returning to Leith Academy in January 2012 at which point I will return to my substantive post as Senior Depute Headteacher.

This term has been a very busy and a very exciting term. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the work that has been going on.

Firstly, our SQA exam results for 2011

This year's SQA exam results show Leith Academy improving in a number of key areas.

We sustained our Advanced Higher entries - 33 entries across 10 subjects - and our pass rate of 70% included 9 'A' passes. At Higher 71 55 pupils gained 1 Higher (40%; 30% in 2010), 27 gained 3+ Highers (15%; 13% in 2010) and 14 gained 5+ Highers (8%; 4% in 2010). These individual successes for our pupils are testament to the hard work and commitment of our pupils and staff and also show Leith Academy improving in these key benchmarks. 2011 had an increased number of presentations at Higher (172; 165 in 2010) and an improved pass rate (80%; 78% in 2010).

We continue to present our pupils for exams at the appropriate levels. This year we presented pupils for: 14 subjects at Access 3; 22 at Intermediate 1; 24 at Intermediate 2. Of particular note are pupil successes in our new vocational courses including The Health Sector, Practical Craft Skills and the Community Sports Leadership Award.

In S3 there were some creditable individual performances with 8 pupils gaining Credit passes (or equivalent) in all subjects in which they were presented. 20 pupils gained 5+ Credit passes.

Many 54 pupils built on their achievements in S3. The overall figures for national benchmarks are: 25% of 54 pupils achieved 5+ Credit/Int 2 which represents an increase of 9% on last year; 70% achieved 5+ General/Int 1, an increase of 3% on last year; 91% achieved 5+ Foundation/Access 3, an increase of 3%.

I am confident that we will continue to build on these successes to ensure that every pupil at Leith Academy achieves their full potential. I am not however, complacent. I am in the process of discussing exam results with each Faculty Head and in each Faculty we will identify good practice and areas which need improvement. Over the next year we will be sharing good practice within school and seeking out examples of good practice in Edinburgh and in the rest of the country to ensure that we continue to drive forward the agenda for continuous improvement.

Staffing

You were informed of new appointments in the June 'Leith Links' but there have been a few changes since then. Jonathan McKenna and Stuart Clark have joined the PE Faculty and Keith Cunningham has joined the English Faculty this term. Moira Stewart, our Bursar for 31 years, left Leith Academy in the summer to take up a post in the Chemistry Department at Edinburgh University. Moira's commitment to the school, and her immense skills and knowledge are missed on a daily basis by all of us.

At the end of the term we also say farewell to Jenny Wilson who has been a very valued member of the Drama Department at Leith Academy for over 20 years. Jenny has inspired many young people over the years and we will miss her greatly. On behalf of everyone who has known or worked with Jenny and Moira I want to thank them for their contribution to the school and wish them well for the future.

Senior Leaders

A larger number of senior pupils than ever before applied to be Prefects and, given the high number of talented, motivated, articulate and committed applicants, the selection process was very difficult. Details of our Prefect Team are on page 6. *Continued on page 5*



0131 554 0606



admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team (Oct—Dec)

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)

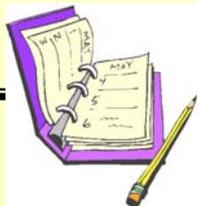
ASL Manager

Ms C Prime

Community Programme Manager

Mrs C Carstairs

Important Dates for Your Diary!



October

17-21

24

26

28-30

31(-4 Nov)

November

01

08

10

11

21

21-25

24

28

28 (-2 Dec)

29

December

05

12-14

15

21

22

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

In-Service Day

<MONDAY TIMETABLE>

LA Council (7.00 pm)

S6 Benmore Weekend

S1/S2 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued

S3 Court & Prison Service Day

S3 Careers Fair

HPV Vaccinations (2)

Remembrance Service

P7 Parents' Information Evening

S4-6 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued

S4 - 6 (A/B) Parents' Consultation (4.30 - 6.30pm)

Adult classes end

S3 Prelims

S3 Monitoring & Tracking reports issued

S4-6 (C/P) Parents' Consultation (4.30 - 6.30pm)

LA Council (7.00 pm)

Concert Rehearsals

Christmas Concert

Senior Inter-House sports

Christmas Service

Term Ends

S1 Experiment of the Week

Congratulations to Leigh Simpson of 1.1, who won the first Experiment of the Week competition for her report on Yo-Yo Raisins.



Each Experiment of the Week comes as a sheet that S1 pupils can pick up from the Science Department. The sheet contains details of a simple experiment that pupils can try out at home and encourages them to record their observations carefully and think about what they see. Small prizes are occasionally on offer but the real reward is doing the experiment.

We would be grateful if parents and carers of S1 pupils could encourage their children to take part. It's a great way to develop science skills - and you will enjoy it too!

Scottish Schools Chemistry Day, St Andrews

On 15th of September, young chemists from Leith Academy went to the University of St Andrews to participate in the Scottish Schools' Chemistry Day event. The group travelled from the Central Bus Station at 8:30 am in the morning and arrived in the town of St Andrews at 10:30 am. When we arrived at the chemistry building we were offered delicious refreshments. We then participated in exciting experiments and we made the contents of glow sticks. We also made a glow in the dark waterfall in a dark room. A postgraduate student gave us a talk on the NMR machines which is a giant magnet that shows the structure of atoms. We also got to stick our hands in liquid nitrogen. Then all schools participated in a quiz on general chemistry knowledge. All in all, it was an excellent outing.



Leith Academy would like to thank Sarah Longair at STAGECOACH East Scotland for sponsoring the travel to and from the event.

Alexander Bouch S6

HAWICK HEROES

The Senior Boys' Football Team has begun a long cup campaign with Winning Ways. The first round of the Scottish Cup saw the team go down to Hawick for their first away game. Marc Kustra's hat-trick and Sean Macpherson spot-kick gave Leith their first round success. The second round of the Scottish Cup sees Leith Academy at home to Queensferry on 28th October (14:00 KO). This tie will finish in time for the Benmore weekend which leaves at 16:30 (a busy afternoon for the lads!). The Lothian's Cup first round is on Friday 14th October (14:00 KO) at home to Whitburn. SUPPORT AS ALWAYS IS WELCOME!



Leith Academy Team Reaches Competition Finals



A team from Leith Academy has made the final stage of the **Arnold Clark Scottish Schools Challenge 2011**. The team consisting of Kenneth Bagasina, Hassan Nisar, Thomas Archer and Dylan Smith, all 4th year pupils, are called "Credit to the Nation" and their app is called Plain Sailing.



The Arnold Clark Schools Challenge was to create an annotated storyboard for a game, which will be produced as a free downloadable mobile app by Arnold Clark, as part of a nationwide marketing campaign and is open to teams of 2-4 pupils aged 13-18 from Scottish schools. Should they win each team member would win an Apple Macbook and Leith Academy would win 10 Computers worth up to £5000 and the free use of a minibus for 2 years.

The Top 10 finalists go to an open vote . The team with the most votes wins. Winners will be announced on the 28 October 2011.

The Leith Team's game, Plain Sailing, would be played by tilting the smartphone to steer a yacht downstream avoiding hazards like rapids and rocks. Team Leader, Kenneth Bagasina said "We are all very excited and hope that the whole community will get behind us and vote for our design. Winning the minibus for 2 years would make a big difference to the availability of school trips at Leith Academy."

Links:



Parents of S1 pupils Supporting your Child's Reading

At our recent S1 Information Evening on 5 September 2011 our Educational Psychologist, Heather Gorton, offered to do two sessions to help parents support and improve their child's literacy and reading skills. The two sessions will look at strategies to support reading for understanding and also how to improve or enhance your child's vocabulary. The first of the two sessions will take place on **Tuesday 1st November from 7 - 8.30pm at Leith Academy** and the second session, which Heather will give you more information about on the first evening , will take place on **Tuesday 17th January from 7 - 8.30pm**. **This session will have most relevance to you if your child is finding reading challenging but all parents are welcome to attend. I would be grateful if you are going to come along if you could email me at susan.cook@leith.edin.sch.uk by Monday 31 October at the latest so I know numbers in advance. If you do not have email please phone the school on 0131 554 0606 and ask the office to let me know you wish to book a place on the S1 Reading Programme being run by Sue Cook. I am sure you will find these sessions extremely helpful in terms of supporting your child's learning and both Heather and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.**

Sue Cook Depute Headteacher

Science Plus Success!

A number of S2 pupils have chosen to study a second Science subject which they will continue with throughout their school career. Our Science Faculty has designed an exciting very practical 'hands on' Science course which the S2 pupils are thoroughly enjoying.

A team of six pupils from this class entered the Institute of Engineering Faraday Challenge which was held at St Augustine's High School on 3rd October - and they won!

The team has been awarded a trophy and, if their winning score is high enough when the 55 challenge days around the UK are complete, they will compete in a further challenge in London.

Fit for Girls!

Scottish Government Praises PE for Girls at Leith!

Leith Academy Physical Education Department had a visit from Scottish Government, SportScotland, Health Scotland and Youth Sport Trust representatives, in recognition for the massive effort by staff and pupils at Leith Academy to involve more girls in fun, healthy and innovative physical exercise. This visit comes on the back of recent positive press in both "The Times Educational Supplement for Scotland" and the "Fit for Girls Case Study Document". Leith Academy PE Department has been working tirelessly in recent months to improve the experience of PE for girls. The initiative has seen the introduction of a Dance Studio, to provide pupils with a wider range of activities including Boxercise, Dance and Zumba. New mirrors and curtains in the changing rooms, as well as the introduction of hair driers have also enhanced the experience for pupils. The timetabling of female staff with all girl classes (where possible) has made things more comfortable for pupils, and increased understanding between staff and pupils. Girl classes have been given more time to change after PE to ensure they are ready for their next class, with more emphasis being placed on a short-sharp session. The extra-curricular programme has also catered for girls with specific all girls clubs in Swimming, Fitness and Dance. Senior pupils are actively involved in assisting After School Clubs, particularly for younger year groups.

Whilst this initiative has been a success it is only part of a bigger picture in developing healthier young adults. Teachers and parents can only encourage and support pupils in this, however, it will only work if pupils themselves recognise the importance of leading an active lifestyle.



(Photo - Lori Moir a senior pupil assisting at Just for Girls After School Club speaking to Derek Grieve- Minister for Sport.)

Leith Achieves!

We are very keen to celebrate the many talents of our pupils in different ways. In this edition of Leith Links you can read about several 'wider achievements' that our pupils are involved in both in school and in the community.

We have created a new 'Leith Achieves' noticeboard to celebrate pupils' achievements and we held a very successful 'Achievement Assembly' on 13 October which over 190 pupils attended.

Please contact the school if your child is involved in any activity outside school which we could celebrate at our next 'Achievement Assembly' which will be held at the end of next term.

Malawi Update: Leith Academy and St. Joseph's

This month Leith Academy was successful in obtaining a Global Curriculum Project Grant of £6200 from the British Council. This will help towards the funding of reciprocal visits for staff and pupils in August/September 2012. We are currently working together on a joint curricular project based on HIV/Aids. We are now in the process of selecting Leith Academy pupils who are up for the challenge to visit St. Joseph's next year. In addition, our Malawi committee took part in a bag pack at Morrison's on Saturday 7th October and raised an amazing £1103.80!!

Well done to everyone who helped out and we intend to organise more fundraising events in the near future.

Miss Campbell/Mrs Cairns

Business Trip to Alton Towers

Friday 7th October saw the annual trip to Alton Towers for the Business Education department as a busload of pupils and staff made the 22hr round journey from the School to arguably the UK's premier theme park.

Despite variable weather and 16 hours on a bus, the 37 pupils were a credit to the school. The visit began with a talk from one of the park's Human Resources team. He told us of the considerable task that his team faces each year with up to 1600 seasonal staff on top of the usual new staff due to resignations, retrials and dismissal. Alton Towers has to compete for good staff in Staffordshire against the JCB Headquarters and Drayton Manor and they work hard to keep good staff with free transport to work, comprehensive training and a very good benefits scheme that offers staff free entry into Merlin (the parent company) parks all over the world.



After the talk the pupils (and staff) were able to thoroughly research how good the park's rides were. Everyone had a great time riding on Nemesis, Oblivion and the new ride Th13teen. A small but happy troop of girls turned up at the end soaked through after five rides on the Flume. Mention should be made of the very nice drivers Graham and Jimmy who drove us down and back again. Roll on next year.

Head's News Continued

Mrs Bridgeford is currently working with senior pupils to ensure that all seniors have the opportunity to play a positive, leading role in the work of the school. Leadership opportunities which are available at the moment include: the Charity Committee; the Enterprise Group; the Media Group; the Pupil Council; the Health and Wellbeing Group; the ECO group; the Equality and Diversity Group.

As the year progresses we hope to encourage more young people to take an active role in the wider work of the school.

S1 Information Evening

Our S1 Information Evening in September was, once again, a very successful event and allowed S1 parents and carers to meet their child's House Head and hear about the many supports available for our pupils throughout their time at school. Information was also provided about our Monitoring and Tracking system which gives parents and carers regular information, about their child's progress and encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.

HMIe

Her Majesty's Inspectors have been visiting us again. The first visit, in June, was a visit to observe our good practice in Equality Education. We were commended by HMIe for our S1 Inter-disciplinary Learning "Developing Responsible Citizenship" course which "focus well on developing young peoples understanding of equality issues and developing their skills and confidence in tackling prejudice".

HMIe visited again on 10 October to review the progress the school was making in improving outcomes for our young people. HMIe agreed with our own evaluations of the areas in which we are doing well and those we need to develop further. We will continue to work closely with our HMIe colleagues to ensure that we continue to improve our practice and provide the highest educational experience for all of our pupils.

Attendance

A very high number of pupils received a bronze award this term for perfect attendance. I will be writing to parents of those pupils who narrowly missed getting an award this term. There will be another Achievement Assembly at the end of next term and I hope to be able to award even more attendance certificates at that time.

There will be a number of initiatives to improve attendance over the coming year.

Doreen MacKinnon
Acting Headteacher

WHAT'S ON IN LEITH ACADEMY

LEITH ACADEMY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2011

Monday 3.15-4.45	Tuesday 3.30-4.45	Wednesday 3.15- 4.45	Thursday 3.30-4.45	Friday 12.40 onwards
S1/2 BASKETBALL	S1-4 GYMNASTICS	BADMINTON	3.30-4.30 S3-S6 BASKETBALL	CHEERLEADING 4.30-6 S1/2 BASKETBALL TRAINING
FOOTBALL	CLUSTER P6/7 & S1/2 HOCKEY	S1-4 Rugby - 7s & 10s	4.30-6pm BADMINTON	1.40 -3.45pm TOWAL SWIMMING
3.15-4.30 SWIMMERS	3.30-4.30 GIRLS ONLY SWIM	STAFF SWIM	S1- 4 GIRLS FOOTBALL AFTER OCT HT: S3-6 HOCKEY	12.40-1.40 Girls Rugby AFTER OCT HT: 2- 4pm GIRLS RUGBY (P5-S6)
S1 DANCE	PRIMARY BASKETBALL	(SAQ - Speed agility. Quickness	SENIORS RUGBY -	PRIMARY GYMNASTICS
		PRIMARY FOOTBALL	3.30-4.30 JUST FOR GIRLS FITNESS	AFTER OCT HT: 7-9pm P5-7 CASHBACK HOCKEY CLUB

Remember: Pay £15 and you can join as many clubs as you want for the entire year. Different sports will be available after the Christmas Break and Easter Break. For more information speak to your Active Schools Coordinator Mel.

The Prefect Team

This year's Prefect Team are already sharing excellent leadership skills and proving to be positive role models for younger pupils :

Anderson

Hazel Burt
Craig Philip
Alexander Bouch
Lauren Grieve
Eilidh Scott
Maisie Walker
Joseph Monaghan
Brooke Walker
Ewen Crawford
Martyna Mackiewicz
Alan Pitcher
Christy Park

Cowan

Danielle Martin
Sam Cameron
Sarah Glanville
Kyle Kirkland
Stuart Paul
Mackenzie Wright
Fahmida Kadir
Ellis Moffat
Victoria Thomson

Barton

Billie Finlayson
Rebecca Breheny
Robyn Mackay
Kamana Rai
Ahmed Tahir
Katie Evans
Ryan Kinsley-Willis
Daniel Simpson
Liam Dickson
Isabel Stiven

Port

Livia Robertson
Kerr McLernon
Gavin Jones
Elizabeth Hunston
Lynsey Mackay
Kiera Winfield
Usamah Iqbal
Hannah Little
Laura Neilson
Klaudia Tanadyńska
Fergus Ross

Curriculum for Excellence

All S1 and S2 pupils will be 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.

Leith Academy Parent Council

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the school's work please feel free to contact me.

I would also like to encourage you to get involved in the Parents' Council. This is open to all parents and carers.

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

- 5 December 2011
- 19 January 2012
- 5 March 2012
- 24 April 2012
- 13 June 2012 (AGM)

D MacKinnon

Acting Headteacher

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!



Adult Education

New Year Adult Education Programme - 8 weeks

Here's a preview of the adult education programme, starting in January 2012, with a 10% discount available for all parents and staff from Leith Academy.

Enrolments start on the 5th December, so make sure you miss the Christmas rush and book early. Our community booklet, with full details of all our classes, will be available at the end of November. Call at the school office to pick up a booklet or to book a place or ring us on 0131 553 2810 or check the website on: www.leith.edin.sch.uk

Here are some highlights of what we'll have on offer!

New weekly courses:

Adobe Photoshop for Beginners; Beginner's Guide to Proof Reading and Copy Editing; Belly Dancing; French Cuisine; How to Acquire a Superpower Memory; Exploring Alternative Therapies; Leith FM Radio Skills; Mexican Cookery; Pilates; Tap Dancing for Beginners and Improvers.



One Day courses:

Bead Jewellery Making; Card Making for Special Occasions: Create Your Own Herbal First Aid Kit; Cup Cake Decorating; Digital Photography; Easter Chocolates and Biscuits; Faberge Style 3D Papercraft Easter Eggs; Introduction to Bach's Remedies; Japanese Cookery; Job Search Skills; Laughter Therapy and Relaxation; Massage for Fun; Singing Jazz and Soul; Tapestry Weaving Using Knotting; Preparing a Powerpoint Presentation.

Weekend courses:

Make a Stained Glass Suncatcher; Musical and Theatre Workshop.

Highlights from our own popular regular weekly courses:

Creative and Performing Arts - Art classes (including Watercolour, Life Drawing, Portrait Drawing, Pottery); Guitar (Beginner & Improver); Singing For Fun

Fitness and Well-Being - Aquafit; Dancercise; Fitness and Circuit Classes; Retro Fitness with Hula Hoops and 80's Disco; Swimming; Tai Chi (Beginner and Improver); Walkers; Yoga; Zumba

Cookery and Crafts - Gujarati vegetarian, Indian, Mexican or Chinese and Thai cookery; Dressmaking, Dress Pattern Construction; Handbag Making; Stained Glass; Swarovski Crystal Jewellery; Tapestry Weaving, Upholstery, Woodwork

Computing - Beginner and Post Beginner; Make the Most of Your Computer.

Fee for a standard 2 hour course is £48.50.

Fee for a one day course is £17.50.

Some courses may have additional costs, to pay the tutor or to buy ingredients - please enquire when booking.

Hope there is something here which will appeal to you.

The Community Team



THE BACK PAGE

LEITH ACADEMY SPORTS NEWS OCTOBER 2011

PUPILS LEADING THE WAY IN SPORT AND DANCE

May I introduce you to Leith Academy's new crew of Community Sports Leaders. Do you recognise any of them from the photo below?! Already they have had the opportunity to deliver to local primary school pupils, completed their hockey leaders award AND, help to run and organise a hockey cluster festival with over 170 primary pupils. They have achieved all this as well as coaching at numerous after school clubs at the Academy. Watch this space for more updates on how they are getting on.



James Burgess, Matthew Heavey, Siobhan Hunter, Peter Liddell, Sean McPherson, Kerr McLernon, Euan Morrice, Jack Murray, Christy Park, Josh Riddell, Melissa Sim

Dance Leadership

Miss Anderson joined our PE Department in August and she has had a huge impact, mainly on girls so far, with her new dance courses!

We are pleased to announce the new arrival of THE NPA5 (National Progression Award) in Dance. This is a formal SQA qualification, which is the equivalent of Intermediate 2 level. The NPA5 gives pupils the dance knowledge and skills to progress to Higher Dance or go onto study Dance at College or University. 16 of our pupils are currently involved in the NPA5.



The new Dance Leadership course, is another example of an exciting, challenging and dynamic course which teaches dance skills but also develops crucial personal and social skills through working with the community. Kirsty Shaw is taking advantage of this opportunity to further her career in Dance.

CAMERON AND JAKE BECOME AMBASSADORS IN SPORT FOR EDINBURGH

Congratulations to Cameron Fyffe and Jake Summers who have been selected to be Young Ambassadors for Leith, and part of the wider Young Ambassadors in Edinburgh.

The Young Ambassador programme is UK wide and delivered in Scotland by the Youth Sport Trust in partnership with **sportscotland** through the Active Schools Network.

Central to the Young Ambassador programme is the principle of young people aged 14 -19 driving opportunity, engagement and change for other young people aged 5 -19 years. The role of a Young Ambassador involves increasing participation, promoting active and healthy lifestyles and spreading the work of the Olympic and Paralympic values. Young Ambassadors have a pivotal role within their school and wider community. They are advocates, role models and leaders of other young people. Look out for the work they will be doing in school.

SPORTS RESULTS:

FOOTBALL

Seniors

Scottish Cup: Result: Hawick 0 v 4 Leith

UI6's

Lothians Cup: Leith 5 – 4 Boroughmuir (AET)

UI5's

Leith 2 – 8 Currie

Craigmount 2 – 3 Leith

Leith 0 – 8 Musselburgh

Firrhill 1 – 0 Leith

UI4's

Balerno 1 – 3 Leith

Leith 13 – 1 Craigmount

Leith 4 – 0 St Augustines

Leith 8 – 5 Firrhill

UI3's

Currie 4 – 1 Leith

Craigmount 6 – 0 Leith

Leith 6 – 1 Holyrood

Leith 3 – 5 Firrhill

BASKETBALL

UI4's

Edinburgh Lions Leith Academy 28 vs Boroughmuir Blaze 21.

Look out for North Edinburgh U14's Basketball School League results – Coming soon!

RUGBY

S1

Since the beginning of term and with the Rugby World Cup upon us, the new S1's took part in a Rugby 7's festival at Trinity. With relatively no rugby experience and with the input of Mr McKenna, the boys did brilliantly well, taking some of the more experience teams close. With numbers increasing on a weekly basis the team will be looking to have more fixtures and fcs