



Lasswade High School Parent Council Wednesday 8 November 2017 Head Teacher's Report

Learning and Teaching

Our 'Learning and Teaching Bulletin' is published by our Working Group and aims to share good practice across the school and to provide teachers with practical ideas to use in their classroom. Each monthly edition focuses on an aspect of our 'Learning @ Lasswade' document which is the basis of our classroom practice in terms of what good learning looks like.

The Senior Leadership Team will be determining the focus for a series of year group **class visits** during November and December.

The **S1 Connections Programme** has now moved on to the second rotation based on DREAM – Enterprise and Employability, STEM and Sustainability. *Following an evaluation, some S1 students may be invited to a future Parent Council meeting to talk about their S1 Connections experiences.*

Vision and Leadership

Depute Head Teacher (Learning & Teacher) vacancy has been re-advertised with long leet interviews expected to take place in December followed by short leet interviews in January 2018. *Parent Council members will be required for this.*

Mr Attinasi, Mr McKay and Mr Stanton have each undertaken additional responsibilities as part of a **Development role** which is hoped to be replicated in the future.

The newly elected **Student Voice** was congratulated on their successful applications. Their first meeting focused on behaviour and staff morale. Working in groups, BGEEd and Senior Phase, problem areas were highlighted and possible solutions were identified. The focus of the next meeting is Teaching and Learning.

The majority of **S1 PSE class visits** have been concluded. This was a positive experience where students had the opportunity to ask questions of the Head Teacher and House of House. Feedback is being gathered.

Partnership

As part of our **Partnership Collaborative Planning**, a number of our partner agencies that support young people in school and the wider community, looked at services priorities to set joint actions to meet the community needs. The initial plan is to address mental health support that is having a significant impact on attendance, conduct and positive engagement with the community. *The next meeting is planned for 1 December at 9.00 am and Parent Council representation would be greatly appreciated.*

Primary Roadshow visits were made to each of our associated primary schools presenting the curriculum structure in relation to BGEEd expectations, transition from primary to secondary school, approaches to Language of Learning and potential 'specialisation'. Visits were welcomed and positive feedback received from primary school Head Teachers, class teachers and parents; consideration to be given to future roadshow visits.

Good progress continues to be made in relation to our **Columba 1400 project**. The first recall day took place on 3 November. Each student involved is tasked with identifying and presenting to a teacher their plan towards a project which will benefit the school and the community as part of the Leadership in Action plan.

Light Up Learning (LUL) is a charity dedicated to offering 1:1 mentoring and currently supports 3 of our S3 students on a weekly basis. LUL aims to address issues of unequal access to education and disengagement in the classroom by creating low-stress, supportive and playful learning environments for young people from less privileged backgrounds.

Early Education in Childcare at SCQF levels 4 and 5 is delivered by the school's **Nursery**. The Nursery Manager delivers and provides work experience for our students and supervises work placement outside the school. This is an invaluable opportunity for others to develop interpersonal skills working with children. Currently our Nursery supports children's places for 15 staff members.

Our recent **P7 Information Evening** was well attended and verbal feedback was positive around the young people who visited 'classrooms in action'.

Our thanks are extended to Head Girl, Teigan Hunter, following a successful **Career Evening** welcoming in excess of 50 contacts. Good feedback in terms of the students involved.

Ninety S5/S6 students participated in this week's **Senior Maths Challenge**, involving answering problem solving questions in a timed period. The Junior and Intermediate challenges will take place later in the year for S1-S4 students. In September a team of S3/S4 participated in the **EMIL competition** at Meadowbank stadium. The team's hard work and dedication resulted in achieving first place out of all the Midlothian school teams and they are now invited to the final in Glasgow in November.

We welcomed the Police and Fire Services to the school who spoke to our S6 students as part of the '**2mrws Driver**' campaign in relation to the challenges and consequences of being a young driver. Students watched a play and attended an information session which was hugely successful.

People

We look forward to welcoming Morven Butler as Science Laboratory Assistant and Deborah Hughes who will take up the post of PT Complex Needs. We said a fond farewell to our colleague Kevin Marr, IT Assistant, who has moved on to pastures new. Shirley Watt, Teacher of Support for Learning leaves us at the end of the month to take up employment within Midlothian Council.

Current Vacancies:

DHT Learning Teaching and Assessment	Teacher of Creative Design (D&T)
Teacher of Computing	IT Assistant
PTC English (Maternity Cover)	Learning Assistant (ASN) x 2
Teacher of Support for Learning	Support Assistant

Culture and Ethos

We are pleased to report that our football, basketball and rugby teams are working through their fixtures. Our Hockey **Club** meets regularly with 20 members.

Our **S1 Curricular Fayre** offering S1 students the opportunity to sign up to a variety of clubs proved to be very successful and numbers at clubs have increased. Many individual sporting successes are promoted via the school's twitter account - @lasswadeports.

Active Girls' Day was a huge success with over 120 girls involved in learning a dance and then forming part of a flash mob in the Atrium. Thank you to the support from the school's senior dancers and the KIC Dance Company.

Around 90 of our talented young people will be involved in this year's **Festival of Music** at the Usher Hall on Thursday 23 November. This is always a hugely successful event and is already sold out.

Since April, we are pleased to report that £4,418.75 has been raised through **Dress Down Days**; £2,945.54 donated to charities and the balance of £1,473.21 to the school fund.

A series of **Remembrance Assemblies** have been held this week. The school will be represented by the Head Teacher, and four students with the laying of a wreath at George V Park in Bonnyrigg on Sunday 12 November.

S1-S4 Assemblies were held last week reminding students of the importance of good decision making, particularly in relation to the school's DREAM values. They were encouraged to demonstrate mature behaviour and, as well as self respect, show respect to others and also within the wider community.

Extended S1 Assemblies in relation to **Decipher Assist** (the prevention of smoking) are planned for early December.

Two S1 groups of targeted 10 boys and 10 girls are part of the Duke of Edinburgh **Junior Award Scheme for Schools** (JASS) who are working towards achieving a gold award in relation to volunteering and exercise.

As part of the **school values**, student reports home to parents include the DREAM rubric; a description on a four point scale of each of our DREAM values is attached. This is an opportunity to put the values into practice and **parental comments are welcomed**.

Forthcoming Calendar Events:

- Thursday 9 November – S4 Parents' Evening
- Monday 13 – Friday 17 November – S4 Work Experience Week
- Thursday 23 November – Christmas Fair, 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm
- Thursday 23 November – Festival of Music, Usher Hall
- Monday 27 November – S5/S6 Parents' Evening, 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm
- Tuesday 5 December – S2 Course Choice Information Evening, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm
- Wednesday 13 December – S3 Parents Evening and Course Choice Information Evening, 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm, S3+ from 7.30 pm
- Monday 25 December – Friday 5 January – Christmas Holidays
- Wednesday 10 January – Thursday 25 January – Senior Phase Prelim Exams