

Lasswade High School

Autumn Newsletter

October 2017



Senior Prize Winners: Departmental Awards

National 5

Jondrick Barrozo, Chemistry, Maths, Physics

Anna Blair, History, Mandarin, Music

Jack Brown, Music Technology

Kayleigh Cameron, Dance

Sara Convie, Biology, English, French

James Dickson, Practical Metalwork

Lewis Hanley, Design and Manufacture

Lucy Hilton, Business

Max Kerr, Graphics

Callie McGill, Hospitality

Laura Naysmith, Health and Food Technology

Lewis O'Donnell, Practical Metalwork

Sarah Robertson, Geography

Daniel Ward, Environmental Science

Holly Brown, Computing

Chloe Bryson, Drama

Emma Dickson, Modern Studies

Melissa Dossi, Italian

Olivia Harris, Physical Ed

Lauren Hood, Art and Design

Mirren Mackenzie, Fashion

Robbie Moody, German

Victoria Ruggiu, Hospitality

Michael Summers, RMPS

Higher

Catherine Allison, Mandarin

Georgina Alvarado, Art and Design

Reece Bertram, Physical Education

Christopher Dickson, Business

Monica Fantone, Italian, Photography

Lucy Hanlon, Health and Food Tech

Zainab Hussain, French

Jerin Mathew, Graphics

Jodi Millar, Geography

Rhiannon Preston, Chemistry, Human Biology, Maths, Physics

Matt Rietvelt, German

Thomas Rietvelt, Design and Manufacture

Michael Sargeant, English

Abigail Watson, RMPS

Chloe Begg, Dance

Erin Bowden, Drama

Louise Dunwell, Biology

Ewan Gilchrist, Music

Teigan Hunter, Modern Studies

Louise Jones, Computing

Jamie McGlone, Music Tech

Charley Nimmo, Admin and IT

Jo Robertson, History

Loren Smith, Fashion

Lubna Yusaf, ESOL

Advanced Higher

Raish Allan, Computing

Reece Carr, Music

Rachel Fergusson, English, History, Modern Studies

Rebekah Lansley, Drama

Ellie Neil, Physical Education

Eilidh Selfridge, Biology, Chemistry

Matthew Amer, Maths

Bryony Eunson, RMPS

Euan McKay, Physics

Dream Believe Achieve

Special Awards

Sandhurst Scholarship:	Matt Rietvelt
Senior Musician of the Year:	Reece Carr
Senior Vocalist of the Year:	Rebekah Lansley
Expressive Arts Prize:	Rebekah Lansley
Joyce Anderson Prize for Art:	Georgina Alvarado
Gertrude Kirk String Award:	Ben Shanks
Alex Elrick Award for Music:	Andrew Murphy
David Crisp Prize for Composition	Jasmine Smales
Craig Gerrard Award, Excellence in Piano:	Jack Whittaker
Stuart Milne Award for contribution to S6:	Eilidh Murray
Jay Joshi Award for overcoming adversity:	Harry Smith

School Dux

Young Prize for Academic excellence in S4 (2016-17)

Sara Convie

Young prize for Academic excellence in S4 (2015-16) Rhiannon Preston

Young prize close second for Academic excellence(2016-17): Jack Ramage

Marshall Memorial Medal for Dux of school (2016-17)

Rhiannon Preston

Marshall Memorial medal for Dux of school (2015-16): Eilidh Selfridge

Marshall Memorial medal close second to Dux (2016-17): Louise Dunwell

Student Head Team at Lockerbie Manor

Article by 2017-18 Head Girl, Teigan Hunter

In June 2017 the new student head team had been appointed after a rigorous selection process.

As part of our application we were asked which three aspects we would like to change about Lasswade to improve the education and environment of the students.

With each of us having varying ideas we had to agree on the ones that we believed would have the most positive impact as well as plan how we would implement these initiatives.

On the weekend of 1st-3rd of July all fourteen members of the Head Team (the head boy and girl, the deputies and the house captains, along with senior management and the newest addition to the school; the heads of houses) all attended a trip to Lockerbie Manor.

This was an opportunity to do the necessary planning for our initiatives and also bond as a team as we will be frequently working together throughout the course of the year.



Whilst at Lockerbie Manor we partook in a range of activities from crate stacking to obstacle courses, all in aim of learning how to work together to get the best possible outcome as that is what we will have to do all year.

The crate stacking especially highlighted how each of us had to participate in the activity and carry out our own individual job to ensure the successful completion of this task.

This emphasised how each of us have a pivotal role in the senior leadership team.

Furthermore, another activity was one where we were all blind folded and given two objects each, there was a mixture of both shapes and colours. The only question we could ask Mr Paris was "what colour is this?" From this information, we had to work together to figure out which two shapes Mr Paris had in his pocket.

This exhibited the importance of communication skills and how that consisted of not only talking but actually listening to one another. In the end we were partly successful as we were able to guess one out of two of the shapes correctly, which was not bad for our first team activity!

From this task it is evident that both planning and coming up with an agreed upon strategy is central to the successful completion of any exercise and are skills that we have already begun to use back at school.

On both the Friday and Saturday night we dedicated the majority of our time to planning how we were going to implement our initiatives. As I mentioned, we all had very different ideas and so for the time being we narrowed our list down to three which we could focus on in greater depth;

- reforming the already existing mentoring programme to assist our senior students through their exams,
- promoting health within our school and the community
- celebrating the success of the pupils, both academic and extra curricular.

We then used a method called "implemento" to consider all situations which could arise from introducing these initiatives. On the piece of paper we would note down the best and worst case scenarios and then discuss how we could make each of these better to achieve the best possible outcome. During this time, we also addressed some annual issues using the same method such as the planning for the S6 prom, updating the school website and setting up a charities committee.



Overall, it was an extremely productive weekend as not only did we leave with a clear vision of how we could positively impact on the school and use our leadership positions to their full extent but we also established better relationships with one another, both staff and pupils.

We hope to have an extremely successful year ahead as the Head Team and make the most of our final year at Lasswade.

determination



On 8th August, three of our Play Unified Ambassadors: Danny Burgess (S2), Kate Fergusson (S4) and Sophie McCafferty (S4) attended the Play Unified UK summit in Sheffield along with schools from across Great Britain.

Play Unified is a global movement aimed at ending the injustice, intolerance and inactivity of young people with intellectual disabilities, by building a unified generation through sport.

Our Ambassadors spent time sharing their ideas with other schools about how they have been developing Play Unified in their school as well as having the opportunity to plan their next steps.

Together the group discussed ideas with the aim to enable young people with intellectual disabilities to have increased opportunities to take part in more regular and inclusive sporting activities, as well as non-sporting activities around the school.

The summit was lead by Paralympics swimmer Kate Grey in conjunction with Youth Sport Trust. Pupils spent time going round various workshops developing their communication and leadership skills.

Kyle Tomlinson (Britain's Got Talent finalist) was a guest speaker and spoke of the challenges he has faced and how he has overcome adversity. We were also treated to a song and a photo opportunity.



Following the summit we then had the opportunity to watch the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics.

The evening got off to a great start with the pupils managing to grab a photo with Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet) who was singing at the event.



As well as cheering our welcome to the athletes the evening also included performances from singers, dance groups and cheerleaders to name a few.

At the end of the evening, whilst waiting for our transport, we managed to further celebrity spot with another photo opportunity this time with Mr Carson (Jim Carter) from Downton Abbey who had been presenting at the event.

An early start on the 9th saw us heading to the English Institute of Sport to volunteer at the Special Olympics MATP event. This was the first year of this event where athletes with profound disabilities participated in their own event. We helped with set up and then welcomed the athletes into the arena.

We then had the opportunity to join in the group warm up and meet some of the families who were supporting the athletes. Once the event had finished we took the opportunity to watch some of the other athletes competing in swimming and boccia.

After an extremely busy few days it was time to head home for a well deserved rest!



**Want to learn more about
Play Unified UK?**

Go to www.playunified.org/

respect

Mandarin Speaking Conference

Article by Catherine Allison, S6

In June this year, **I was asked to represent the school by giving a speech at the University of Edinburgh**, speaking in front of an audience of many people involved in the learning and teaching of Mandarin, including one of my former teachers!

I, and other Mandarin students from across Scotland, were instructed to sit at the front of the lecture theatre in a row of seats already set up. Whilst we were waiting for people to arrive we all got to know a bit about each others journeys learning Mandarin.

Our levels of learning ranged from National 5 all the way to postgraduate and it was very inspiring to see all the work that each student had put into their study of the language.

Before long it was time to deliver the speech I had prepared which was based on one of my topics studied in class about the importance of learning Mandarin. Standing up and speaking in front of a large audience is pretty scary to begin with, but when it is not in your native language and in front of many fluent Mandarin speakers, it provides a whole new level of pressure.

Despite my feelings of nervousness, I completed my talk without forgetting the language I was speaking in and afterwards felt a wave of relief as the audience applauded and I prepared myself for the question and answer session which followed.

Even though earlier that day I did not fully realise what I had agreed to take part in and the size of crowd I was going to talk to, I feel grateful for the experience and the encouragement I received in continuing my studying of Mandarin further.



Well done!

Catherine passed Higher Mandarin this summer, becoming the first student in Midlothian to gain this qualification. She is studying Advanced Higher Mandarin this year and hopes to gain a scholarship to study in China next year.

effort

'From Shanghai With Love'

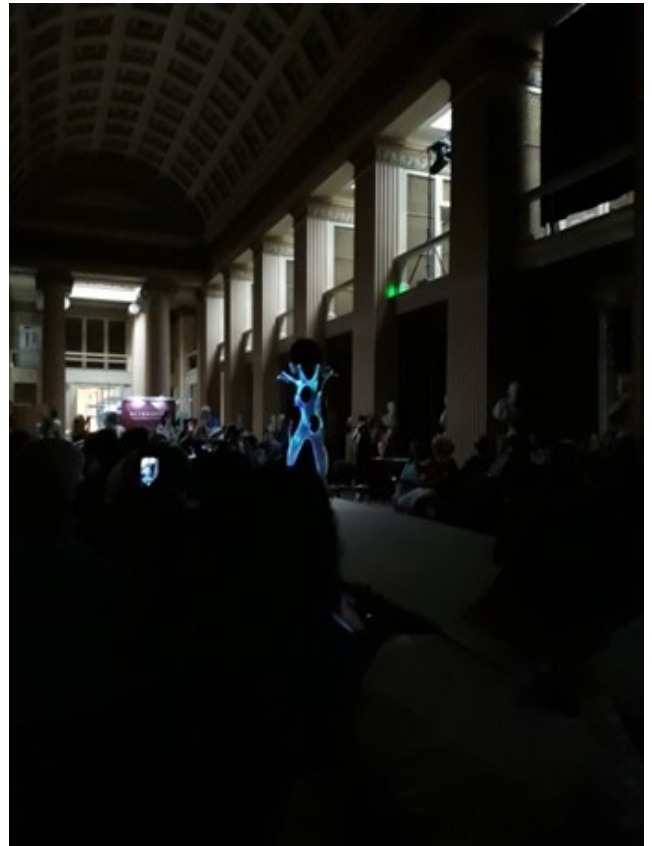


In August a group of Lasswade pupils and staff were excited to visit the University of Edinburgh's magnificent Playfair Library for 'From Shanghai With Love', a combined exhibition and fashion show based on the historic Chinese garment known as the Qipao.

The exhibition featured 30 traditional garments dating back 150 years and the fashion show featured 60 modern and futuristic outfits including some Qipao made from wearable technology which could adjust, not only the colour, but the shape of the garment

The exhibition provided inspiration for our students who are now working on their own versions of Qipao in our Fashion & Textile Technology courses and other pieces of Chinese inspired designs in our Art & Design department.

The results will be showcased in our own Lasswade High School Fashion Show early in 2018



Edinburgh Castle Project

This is the third year our school has run the Edinburgh Castle Project. As well as staff from Edinburgh Castle there are 40 people involved including Mr Mitchell, Mrs Zhao, Mrs Wei, Miss Yan and 36 S3 pupils.

On 7th September, a representative from Edinburgh Castle visited Lasswade and met this year's S3 Mandarin class. She gave a speech about Edinburgh Castle and provided **two themes for this year; migration & welcome, travel & leisure.**

The class was then divided into 6 groups, who were to each choose their own topic from one of these themes. Each group has two opportunities to visit the castle to undertake their research.

On 21st September, Miss Yan and 3 senior pupils took the first and second group to the castle. Group one focused on fair-trade and group two chose to investigate accessibility issues at tourist sites.

Group 1

Group one went to some souvenir shops to examine how many of the items sold in the castle shops are fair-trade. In the shop, they found lots of Scottish made products including food and whisky. Also there are many products imported from Asia and Europe however S3 student Una Dale reported "there are not many products which are fair-trade so we need to find out more."



Group 2

Group two went to the Great Hall and other popular parts of the castle to see how the site was run. On their way around the castle, they found that the hills and stairs were tricky for older visitors. They focused their attention on what the castle might be able to do to make access easier for all groups of visitors. They will further their research on this issue.



On 28th September, Mrs Zhao, Mrs Jiang and Mrs Du, accompanied by three senior pupils took the third and fourth group on their first trip to the castle. Both of these groups have chosen to research food and drink.

One of the groups were inspired by their observations of the castle coffee shop. They got the menu from the shop to investigate what they serve. S3 student Edward Ritchie, the group leader said: "The menus are printed out in different languages including English, German and Chinese. So we can further our research on translating more food to Mandarin and make our own menu. Also we would like to learn more about the history of the food served in the castle, that's out next step."

The first two visits have a big success, with more planned in October. The groups have all chosen interesting and varied topics, and we look forward to finding out what they discover on their next trips to the castle.

Once each group has had both their visits, all the groups will put their information together and make connections between their Mandarin and their topics.



motivation

Business Links through Mandarin

On 19th September, Depute Headteacher Mr Mitchell and a cohort of Lasswade students were invited to attend:

'Confucius Classrooms: Innovative, Inclusive, Inspirational, 5 Years of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's schools'

This conference celebrated five years of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and aimed to showcase what has been achieved. It offered a forum to discuss some key issues that drives education in both Scotland and China.

His Excellency Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK and Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Future Education, Higher Education and Science both attended the conference.



In the workshop, students from Lasswade, accompanied Mr Mitchell, gave a speech promoting Mandarin learning through business links to the educators from Scotland and China. This speech has been warmly discussed by the experts present in the meeting.

After the speech, His Excellency Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK interviewed Mr Mitchell and the students personally.

He was very impressed with their presentation and was keen to share his praise for the students' enthusiasm for learning Mandarin.



ambition

Enterprising Mathematics in Lothian



On 29th September a team of S3/S4 students competed in Enterprising Maths in Lothians at Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh.

The competition was against 36 teams from Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. The day started off with a poster competition, focused on the mathematics behind risk, likelihood and probability. You can see the teams poster in the picture on the left.

The rest of the day was spent taking part in a number of team events designed to challenge logical thinking and mental maths skills. The finale was a relay race that saw 100 children sprinting across the giant games hall answering maths questions.

The result of our teams hard work and dedication was coming 17th place out of 36 - finishing ahead of all the Midlothian school teams, meaning **we have been invited to the final in Glasgow in November.**



A huge congratulations to the team, and we all wish you the best of luck next month!

Maths Week Scotland

In September, we celebrated the first ever Maths Week Scotland! Throughout the week, all year groups were involved in a wide variety of exciting maths activities.

S1 enjoyed tracking down different teachers who were wearing number badges with clues to help complete their Maths Quiz. There was a prize for the best entry from each class. Prize winners were: David Grant, Sara Ali, Isla Porteous, Iona Cameron, Lewis Kane, Ellen Burnett, Emily Lumsden and Leah Cantwell.

S2 were keen to earn medals on Manga High throughout the week. Well done to everyone who won a Gold Medal!

S3/S4 students took part in a Scottish version of the Mathématiques sans Frontières called "Maths wi nae Borders".

S6 Advanced Higher students attended a Lecture on Mary Somerville at the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences.



We are already looking forward to Maths Week 2018!

Edinburgh International Book Festival

In the first weeks of term three groups of Lasswade's talented readers and writers enjoyed trips to the Edinburgh International Book Festival.



'The Last Poets'

S5 & S6 students were privileged to attend an event with *The Last Poets* - an American performance poetry group who formed in the late 1960s. At the event Umar Bin Hassan, Abiodun Oyewole and Baba Donn Babatunde shared their perspectives on civil rights, race relations, protest and creativity.

Theresa Breslin & Cathy MacPhail

10 S2 students spent a whole day at the book festival, attending two events with Scotland's most popular and exciting authors, Theresa Breslin & Cathy MacPhail. A particular highlight of these events was creating story ideas with Cathy, including a very intriguing mystery monster in the dungeons of Edinburgh.



Darren Shan

After our June 'Zombie Creative' competition 11 of our S2 - S4 students attended an event with 'the master of horror' Darren Shan. Darren shared the inspiration behind his latest series, *Zom-B* as well as sharing insight into some of his other collections, *The Saga of Darren Shan* and *Demonata*.

Overall a very inspirational (and creepy) morning!

Qui dit mieux!

Beat that!

The Modern Languages Department would like to congratulate all candidates who achieved an award in French, German, Italian or Mandarin in the 2016—17 exams. We feel a special 'well done' is due to Sara Convie who achieved full marks (100%) in her National 5 French exam. We wish Sara continuing success with her Higher French course this year.

For S1 and S2 students looking to develop and improve their French...

S1 and S2

French Homework and Study Club

Every Wednesday

lunchtime (1:20-1:45) and after school (3:35-4:00)

Room 214 with Ms. Gendreau & Mr. Barul