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Top Left:

S1 Gladiator Games Winners

Top Right:

S2 Gladiator Games Winners

Bottom Left:

Stephanie-Anne Donnelly

Bottom Right:

'Stars In Their Eyes' Winners

(G Factor Winner)

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Mr. Nicholls' Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome to our second newsletter of session 2015 - 2016 which details our work and achievements from October through to the Christmas holidays.

As you can see from the number of articles, the last few months has been a busy time on our school community and a period of time that culminates in the extensive Christmas festivities, photographs of which are also in the newsletter.

However, teaching and learning, raising attainment and achievement levels, supporting pupils and developing all aspects of Curriculum for Excellence remain as our key drivers and I am pleased to report that these aspects of our work appear, at this point in the session, to be well on track in our continual drive towards excellence in all that we do within our school community

So it is with my usual optimistic view that we enter a new year ready for the challenges of 2016 and all that it will bring over the coming days, weeks and months.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and keeping up to date with life in our very busy and vibrant school.

I look forward to meeting and working with you during 2016.



CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENTS

During the last week of October and first week in November we carried out the first of our Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) progress review meetings for this session. These meetings form part of our ongoing self-evaluation procedures and are conducted three times across the course of the session. With our current sixth year, the first group to go all the way through the CfE implementation programme, I am pleased to report that the progress we have made and the improvements we continue to make with our curriculum have resulted in new courses and skills development opportunities that are having an increased impact on the learning of our young people. This progress, since the implementation of the CfE programme and in particular the last 5 years, has been substantial and all down to the commitment and dedication of our teaching staff.

Following the CfE progress review meetings the Head Teacher met with groups of Principal Teachers to feedback on the collective discussions and finding from the individual department and faculty reviews. This allowed senior and middle managers to set our final stage strategy for the review of the Broad General Education, the development of Inter-disciplinary working, the introduction of employability courses over this session and the final introduction of the new Higher and Advance Higher courses. As we work our way through the session we will see all of our strategic development plans, which were first introduced in February 2010, come to a conclusion and see CfE and all of its part fully embedded into Gleniffer High School. It has been a long journey and one which has brought with it unparalleled workload and demands on the education profession. However, we are almost there and for all of us that light at the end of the tunnel is shining ever so brightly.

Quality Assurance

Each session we ask parents of pupils in S1, S3 and S5 to complete an identical questionnaire to the one used by Education Scotland when they send a team to review a school. Over the last two sessions we have collected the responses digitally and you may have been asked to complete one on a "tablet" at your child's parents' evening. I am pleased to report that the responses continue to be overwhelming positive and I thank you for taking the time to share your views with us. If you wish to see the data in full please visit the school website where you will find the responses to all 13 questions. Mr Nicholls and I have

conducted two departmental reviews so far this session the Music department in September and Modern Languages in November. The review process consists of a class observation for each member of the department and follow-up discussion of the lesson strengths and possible areas for improvement. In addition, there are one-to-one meetings with each member of staff to engage in a professional dialogue and we also gather the views of pupils when we meet them in focus groups. This process allows us to witness very good practices which can be shared with colleagues and also to advise on areas for improvement as required. H. McMunn

Roundup

Fair Trade

Gleniffer High School is continuing to operate as a Fair trade school. Fair Trade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Gleniffer High School is committed to Fair Trade. For example, we use Fair Trade products when we can, learn about why Fair Trade is important and take action for Fair trade in the school and the wider community. We are hoping to see more Fair Trade events in school in 2016 so keep an eye out!

FAIRTRADE TUCKSHOP

The weekly Fair Trade Tuckshop continues to be very successful and popular with lots of delicious Fairtrade snacks and drinks on sale. The Fair Trade Tuckshop is run by the hard-working Amy McSkimming and Isla Greenshields and is down in the Social Area every Tuesday and Thursday at morning interval during term time. There will be cereal bars, chocolate, dried fruit snacks and fruit juice available so remember to bring some pocket money to spend at the tuckshop and support Fairtrade!

S2/S3 Step-Up Mentoring

All identified pupils for the Assertive Mentoring Programme and Step up Mentoring Programme have now been issued a letter with additional details for parents'/guardians. If your child is part of either programme could you please sign the permission slip at the bottom of the letter and return the Assertive Mentoring slips to Mrs Denny (Pastoral Department) and the Step Up Mentoring slips to Mr Dornan (RMPS Department).

Staff mentors are looking forward to supporting our young people after the New Year. The Pupil Support Collegiate group would like to extend their thanks and sincere gratitude to all staff volunteers.

Paired Reading

We are now running a Paired Reading Group within the school. The new group is a collaboration of selected pupils from our current first year and volunteers from our current sixth year; these 30 pupils work together during lunchtimes every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

The paired readers engage in three types of reading:

- * Reading Aloud
- * Echo Reading
- * Silent Reading

Each type of reading is anchored by question time, led by the tutor, to ensure that what has been read has been understood by the pupil.

A Paired Reading Programme's primary effect is to promote a positive attitude towards reading within a school, but Paired Reading Groups can have many benefits, such as improved reading skills and vocabulary, increased confidence, and constructive relationships between young pupils and positive role models. This is a social group as well as a learning group so our pupils should have fun too! Positive experiences with reading are clearly valuable to improving pupils' reading skills, whilst the sixth year volunteers also find the Paired Reading Group a worthwhile cause:

As a sixth year pupil I understand the importance of getting involved in the life of Gleniffer, and there is no better way of giving back to the school than by devoting my spare time to meeting with and bonding with younger pupils, and the Paired Reading group provides an excellent opportunity to do so. Taking on the role of a reading tutor establishes you as a mature individual, making you look more appealing to universities, collages, and potential employers. Not only that, Paired Reading also helps to enhance communication skills and confidence when meeting new people, whilst building friendships between junior and senior pupils, which makes adapting to high school a lot easier for younger pupils.

Elizabeth McAlpine and Ryan Kidd

The Paired Reading Group

Proposed Tracking Dates 15/16

S1 Fri 8th November Tracking Fri 7th February Tracking Wed 30th April Full Report S2 Fri 11th October Tracking Mon 27th January Full Report Tracking Fri 9th May S3 Fri 1st November Full Report Fri 21st February **Tracking** Wed 4th June Tracking **S4** Fri 20th September Tracking Wed 29th January Tracking Fri 28th March Full Report S5/S6 Wed 23rd October Tracking

Fri 6th December

Fri 14th March

Tracking

Full Report

German Exchange Programme

The German exchange programme took place in the last week of October. This allowed Gleniffer high school pupils to be partnered up with German pupils from Hans Bockler Schule from Furth in Germany.

The German students visited the school and attended classes with their Scottish partners for the day. Throughout the rest of the week the Scottish students accompanied the German students on trips.

The first day trip we went on was to the Paisley Abbey where we were fortunate enough to meet the lady provost Anne Hall and a few councillors. We then had an amazing opportunity to climb up the Paisley Abbey tower- which had about a million stairs. We then introduced the German students to the "real" Paisley life, showing them different places to eat which they don't have such as Greggs and Subway. Following from that the group went to George square where we caught our very own open-top bus tour! We travelled around the sights of Glasgow and ended up at the transport museum. After the fun we had in Glasgow we all headed home to take our partners home for dinner (I had 3 German partners home for dinner that night!) The following day we travelled out to the sea life centre in North Queensferry, from this we made the long journey to St. Andrews. We walked through the town centre, and along the pier where, with the help of the selfie stick we managed to take pictures with St.Andrews in the back ground, which was hard because of the wind. After our time in St.Andrews we then travelled to Anstruther for some traditional fish and chips by the sea. On the Saturday we spent the full day with our German Partners, this consisted of Rowan and I preparing a traditional English breakfast for our partners. Later that day Fraser and I played mini-golf with some of the Scottish pupils and their partners. This great day ended in Dominos. (pizzas)

Sunday was the farewell party and this meant it was getting closer to the end. The German students experienced some traditional Scottish ceilidh music and a little bit of Scottish dancing (zugzug). It was a very emotional night filled with tears and laughter. On the last day we spent our time together in Edinburgh, we visited the castle and took a full group photo with my selfie stick- it took a lot of effort but we did it! After a bit of lunch and shopping it was time to experience the Edinburgh dungeons. The German students had no idea what they were in for! We had a thrilling experience in Edinburgh and it brought us all that little bit closer. We ended the night with tears and goodbyes which for me was such a hard thing as we had all grown so close. The German Exchange is a wonderful experience which has allowed me to gain many

friends and form friendships that will last! The friendships formed were not only with the German students but also the Scottish students and some of them have become my closest friends. The German exchange has taught me how amazing it is to learn and understand a foreign language. It has allowed me to gain many skills that I would not have had if I had not been a part of it. All in all it's an amazing experience that has made memories to last a lifetime!

Elise Deans

P7 Open Night

On the evening of 27th October we welcomed Primary Seven pupils and their parents/ carers to the school. Members of the local community were also invited to attend. On the evening, Gleniffer High School staff and pupils offered displays of work in departments across the school. Parents had the opportunity to tour around a number of departments led by our senior pupils. This was a real showcase event. The evening was evaluated very highly by parents/ carers. We look forward to meeting with future pupils and their parents/carers on Thursday 21st April 2016.

Eco-Committee

The Eco-Committee have been meeting on a regular basis, discussing what issue is next to be tackled by the initiative. New members are always welcome!

An example of this is the sixth year paper collection that has been one of the most efficient collections by the Eco-Committee.

Once again, the

Eco-Committee has launched its enterprise project, which turned out to be a major success. It was officially started on the night of the S3 Parents Night where a profit of £30 was achieved.

Any pupils or members of staff who would like to lend a hand to the Eco Committee please contact us via our website at http://gleniffereco.weebly.com

S6 Volunteering

The S6 pupils are continuing to give their time to helping others both in school and in the wider community. A lot has been happening with Children In Needs Events, in class support, lunchtime duties, festivities within our primary school and lots more. We are so proud of our S6 pupils giving their time and effort to help others.

S6 Pupils should be recording their volunteering hours on a weekly basis in their Volunteering diaries which they should be carrying at all times.

Volunteering should be continuing for all of S6 so please keep up the good work as we move in to the new term.

All S6 pupils should now have registered with Saltire Awards. Pupils are working towards their Saltire Awards which is a National programme designed to recognise the achievement of young people aged between 12 and 25 years who take part in volunteering. The Saltire Awards are supported and endorsed by the Scottish Government.

Pupils can record their volunteering hours for both in and out of school volunteering placements, which can be back dated for up to 2 years.

There are four sections to the awards and each pupil should be recording their hours and when they achieve an award applying to Saltire directly for their certificate. For more information please go to their website www.saltireawards.org.uk

Music

The music department is buzzing with activity as we head towards Christmas and we are in fact now turning down invitations to perform carols in the community as there is no longer time to fit in any more activities!

Our first and second year pupils are enjoying analysing Christmas advert music and playing Christmas carols and songs. Our third year pupils are working hard on preparing an eight minute programme to perform to us in May. Our S3-5 pupils are preparing for prelims and their practical performances of 8-12 minutes which they play to an external examiner in March. Our S6 pupils are preparing even longer programmes!

We have many exciting projects happening including Behind the Noise for senior pupils which gives them the experience of performing and producing a Renfrewshire wide concert. This has been much enjoyed by previous pupils and in fact many have gained university and college places from their experience.

We also have a group of professional jazz musicians coming in after Christmas to work with some of our pupils.

Our large community group of musicians has been performing in various venues including Foxlea Nursery where Anna Whiteford and Jessica Fraser along with Miss Leslie caused quite a stir with their Saint Andrew's day programme. The pupils just loved having a wee shot on clarsachs, fiddle and accordion, and dancing to our rousing music. Our pupils who visited St Matthews Church in Paisley were also greeted with great enthusiasm. Many of our pupils have taken part in Renfrewshire ceremonies this month including the switching on of the Christmas lights and the Renfrewshire annual Christmas concerts. We will be raising money for Ronald McDonald House by singing in the Paisley Centre and we will be singing at Hillside View Nursing Home in the near future also. We would like to thank M&C Coaches for providing free transport for our pupils for our Ronald McDonald charity event.

We have had a batch of pupils sitting ABRSM examinations this term. Congratulations go to Katie Monaghan, Bethany Furze and Bethany Clark for passing Grade V theory. We await the results of the practical exams but are very optimistic!

Our next event is our Christmas Concert on the evening of Wednesday 16th December. It promises to be an excellent showcase for our many talented pupils and you are most warmly invited to join us on this festive occasion.

Senior School Roundup

S5

S5 pupils are buckling down to all the hard work that comes from being in their most challenging academic year so far. Between sitting National 5 prelims in December, completing unit tests, coping with assignments and with plenty of homework and home study to keep them busy, I think they really are entitled to a little holiday over the Christmas period. However, not for too long! After Christmas the S5 & S6 Higher prelim exams are looming and will begin on Thursday 14th January, so there is not too much time to relax.

We had a very successful Parents Evening on 8th of October with a high turnout of parents eager to support their children and seek help and advice from members of staff. Parents have already received one tracking report so far and will continue to be kept informed of their child's progress with a second tracking report which will be sent out in mid February and a final full report in March 2016.

Life in Gleniffer is always busy. At the end of October, S4, S5 & S6 held an excellent Halloween disco which was well attended by some very colourful characters. It really was a fantastic evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We especially enjoyed the revamped 'Ghost Walk' along the Maths corridor which raised a few screams and a lot of laughter. We got soaked 'dooking' for apples and were covered in chocolate sauce after the doughnut game. A great night was had by everyone.

In November we were entertained by the Sixth Year with a week of well organised events ending with a very well choreographed dance routine to raise funds for the BBC Children in Need appeal. The school raised an overwhelming £3000 which really raised the bar and will be really hard for us to beat next year.

Our next big social event of the season is the Christmas Carol Concert on the 16th December. Tickets are selling fast so hurry to avoid disappointment. After that the S4,S5 &S6 Christmas Dance organised by Ross, our Head Boy, will be our next fun Christmas event. Ticket sales are going very well and everyone is encouraged to dress up, come along and enjoy this festive fun. We also have our G Factor Talent Show on Friday 18th December which is a huge event in our social calendar raising money for the very worthwhile Radio Clyde 'Cash for Kids' appeal. We will definitely need a holiday to recover from all that!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS









S6

Incredible efforts has been made by our Sixth year so far this session especially our spectacular 'badge holders' led by our Head Girl, Amy, and Head Boy, Ross, and their large team of deputes and prefects.

At the end of October we had our Halloween Disco which was organised by our deputes Thomas and Robyn, It was a great night with lots of fun and some really wonderful costumes. We especially enjoyed the introduction of the newly revived 'Ghost Walk' along the Maths corridor which raised a few screams and a lot of laughter. Another first for our S6 pupils this year!

A series of Parents Nights, Open Evenings and Whole School events require the prefects to attend on mass. They do a great job of welcoming parents and assisting staff at these events. Many of them have given their full support contributing a great deal to each event.

In November the BBC Children in Need appeal was the focus of our fundraising with a fun packed week of events ranging from Stars in Their Eyes, a bake sale, dodge ball & netball and ending with a very well choreographed dance routine involving Senior pupils. This was both original and entertaining for the whole school to watch and take part in. All our efforts raised a record breaking £3000 for a very worthwhile cause. The day was crowned with our badge holders being interviewed on the BBC Scotland Children in Need show later that evening. It was great to see our Badge holders talking to Jackie Bird and letting the whole country know what a great school we are!

Another amazing whole school event overseen by the Sixth Year was the foodbank appeal for the Trussell Trust. This year we collected a whopping 2440 items which all go towards making life a little easier for those people in our community who need our support.

Once again we have an outstanding number of Student volunteers this year who give their time to supporting younger pupils in classes and in our local care homes, Primary and Nursery schools.

Our Paired Reading Group is now up and running and is being led by Miss Anderson in the English department. The Sixth year is very supportive of many younger pupils with students giving up their lunch times to help their younger peers. The Christmas celebrations over the festive season, as you might imagine, are extensive beginning with our Carol Concert and G Factor Talent Show.

This is followed by our S5 & 6 Christmas Dance, the Christmas Service and finally the Christmas 'Sing- a- long'. Good job we have a holiday to recover afterwards. Merry Christmas!!

S4

October to December has been an extremely busy time for fourth year as they have been preparing for unit tests and their National 5 prelim examinations which finished the week before Christmas. With all results now in, fourth year find themselves at a critical point in the session as they now know as individuals exactly where they are in relation to their Nat 3, Nat 4 and Nat 5 courses. With this information they now must either keep up the level of work or raise their game, dropping back should not be an option. January to Easter is such an important time for certificated courses and with fourth year being presented for the first time it is essential that we all get it right and that the potential grades which all of them have are realised come results time in August.

In addition to the pressures of course work fourth year have also been searching and securing work experience placements for their week out of school which starts on Monday 18 January. If anyone is struggling to finalise a placement they should contact Mr Ramsay in the Technical department as soon as possible. Here's to a very hard working and







Lower School Roundup

S1

The majority of S1 pupils continue to support our school values, ensuring high standards of behaviour, attendance and effort in school. In addition, the majority support our school uniform policy, ensuring high standards of dress.

At the start of November the Fire Service and Police delivered a very thought provoking presentation to the year group asking them to consider their own safety and the safety of others around the 5th of November. Some of the images presented were fairly hard hitting to ensure that the message was received, that fireworks are not toys.

A number of Christmas events were enjoyed by S1.

Miss Clark and Miss Robb of the PE department organised an S1 Christmas Dance for the afternoon of 14th December. Pupils enjoyed traditional Scottish country dancing and dancing to the latest music in the afternoon. This gave pupils the opportunity to meet up and enjoy some social time during the school day. S1 pupils also enjoyed the highly successful G Factor, our talent show, packing into the social area to cheer on pupils from year groups across the school.

First year pupils travelled to the SECC for the annual Panto trip where they enjoyed the magic of Peter Pan. Eligibility to attend was based on good behaviour.

The final S1 Christmas event was the Gladiator Challenge set up by PE staff. The pupils had a great time taking part in the event or watching all the fun.

I wish all S1 pupils and their families a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Miss Feggans

S2

S2 pupils are making good progress through their Broad General Education and I know that that some of them have begun to reflect on their subject choices for S3. There was a great buzz about the Social Area when the pupils received their report cards mid-December and a few of them thought that "Santa" would be well-impressed and might be a tad more generous!

By the time you receive this newsletter the pupils will have had the chance to take part in a whole range of activities leading up to the holidays – S1/2 Christmas Dance, Gladiator Games, Panto at the SECC, school concert and the G Factor. An extremely busy time but a great opportunity for our young people to have fun together. It also gives me the chance to spend time with the pupils beyond the normal classroom environment which is very enjoyable, even when I am forced to take part in the Gladiator Games!

As we look forward to a well-earned rest, can I thank you for your continued support as always. I do hope that all S2 pupils have a wonderful time over the holidays and they return refreshed and raring to go on the 7th January 2016.

S3

The majority of S3 pupils continue to support our school values, ensuring high standards of behaviour, attendance and effort in school. In addition, the majority support our school uniform policy, ensuring high standards of dress.

S3 Tracking Reports were issued to pupils and parents/ carers in November. This information allowed pupils and parents/ carers to determine how pupils are coping with class work. Our S3 Parents' Night on November 10th gave parents/ carers the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with individual teachers. The majority of our young people continue to work to the best of their ability, making a very positive contribution to the school.

All S3 classes were involved with the Youth Philanthropy Project again this session. This is a national project which encourages groups of pupils to work with local charities to raise the profile of the charity and raise funds. S3 pupils enhanced a number of key skills by participating in the project. Finalists from each class made their presentations to an assembly of all S2 & S3 pupils. Standards were very high. Our winners, Calum Flockhart, Gary Hill and Aidan Holmes, go through to the national final on behalf of their charity 'Soldiers Off the Street'. Well done to all who took part.

S3 pupils were involved in a number of school activities in the run up to the Christmas Holiday, including the school concert, panto visit, carol service and G Factor.

We hope that all S3 pupils have a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Best wishes for 2016

Miss Feggans & Mrs McMunn

Duke of Edinburgh

Our first outing with the new S3 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh was rained off by storm Desmond! We are excited about getting out walking in the New Year on the Gleniffer Braes, learning how to cook on Trangia stoves and camping in the wilderness Muirshiel country park. The S3 pupils have already been working hard, volunteering and learning new skills for their Bronze award.

Hour of Code

S2 pupils joined millions of young people around the world taking part in the Hour of Code project in December. Gleniffer High School was one of the 194,448 organisations who organised an event across the world. The project's aim was to demystify programming and let young people see that coding is fun and creative. Demand for Computing Science graduates currently out-strips supply by 2 to 1 in the UK and there are fantastic career opportunities in a wide variety of computing-based fields.

Pupils learned how to write their first JavaScript programs to control popular characters from the new Star Wars film. They learned about sequencing instructions, writing functions, using variables and adding objects all in the context of solving puzzles. As well as improving their programming skills, pupils were developing their problem solving, logic and computational thinking skills. This was a fun and rewarding project for all involved.

If you want to find out more, visit http://www.code.org/

Notice Board

Talk to Us

As a school we aim to provide the best education and opportunities for participation and achievement possible with the staff and resources we have available to us. To ensure that we do this, I would welcome your feedback on how you perceive the service we are providing or any constructive comments on how we could improve our service. If you wish to do this, then please feel free to contact the school as we really do value your opinions.

If you would like to express your views please contact us by telephone on 01505 813116 or by email at glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

UNIFORM

Our school has a very smart and practical uniform worn by all of our pupils. Since the start of the session in August we have conducted several uniform trawls round every class and at two occasions the number wearing the full uniform was 100%. Where the number was less than 100% it was as a result of 3 and 4 pupils arriving at school without ties or wearing an inappropriate coloured outer garment in class. This has been a great start to the session and with the support of parents and carers we will continue to enjoy 100% as our expected figure throughout the session. My thanks to every family for supporting our continual drive on uniform.

Girls.

White shirt school tie

Black zipper, cardigan, tank top or jersey (tops with school badges are

preferably)

Black skirt or tailored trousers

Black shoes

Dark warm and waterproof jacket School bag large enough for folders

and pencils, pens etc

Boys:

White shirt school tie

Black zipper, tank top or jersey (tops with school badges are

preferably) Black trousers

Black trouser

Black shoes

Dark warm and waterproof jacket School bag large enough for folders

and pencils, pens etc

Thank you for your support

This term has been very busy as I have taken over the role of Employability and Skills Project leader.

I have been working on a number of projects with pupils, staff and employers with aim of developing sustainable employability support for pupils in all year groups. This has included:

- o Working with departments to develop alternative courses for senior pupils.
- o Meeting with employers to set up future business partnerships
- o Working with Renfrewshire Council to develop employability provision across the region
- o Developing a new website for Employability in Gleniffer http://employgleniffer.weebly.com with an attached twitter feed @employgleniffer with up-to-date information on opportunities in training and employment

I would like to take the opportunity to thank staff, pupils and parents who have supported me in this new role and would invite any parents who wishes to get involved with developing our young workforce to please contact me through either through the school or the website. Mr. S. Marshallsay

Celebrating Achievements

As a community we like to be kept up to date with pupil achievements that take place out of school e.g. Boys' Brigade Queen's badge, local or national selection for sport or performing arts, extensive charity work or volunteering activities.

As many pupils are too modest to tell us about themselves notable achievements outwith school time can often go unnoticed and not celebrated. Therefore, we would like to ask you as parents and carers to keep us informed of anything that you feel is worthy of celebrating by simply email the school with the details and marking your email for the attention of Mr Nicholls. We look forward to hearing from you and having the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

Thank you for keeping us informed School email address: glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

SPONSORSHIP

I am delighted to inform you that the school has only recently secured three sponsorship deals totaling £2806 pounds. As a school, we are indebted to Bardem Demolition for their sponsorship of the school Hockey team in the form of new strips, to Arnold Clark at Phoenix Linwood for their £606 which will pay for a new football strip for our under 13 boys' football team and to St James's Place Wealth Management for their £1900 which will go to our special project of refurbishing classroom sin our partner school Dzenza Primary in Malawi.

A very big thank you to

BARDEM DEMOLITION ARNOLD CLARK (PHOENIX)

ST JAMES'S PALACE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

If you would like to help the school by sponsoring a sports team, a musical event, the school newsletter, the school website, a subject within the curriculum or donate towards our Malawi 2016 development fund then please do not hesitate to contact the Head Teacher on 01505 813116 or at

glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is a one-of-a-kind experience that engages young people in social change and empowers them to participate in the growing of compassionate communities.

For the second year running all of our S3 pupils were actively engaged in philanthropic activity from September 2015 through to the Final on Thursday 26 November where the S3 Finalists competed against one another for their chosen charity to be awarded £3,000.

This year YPI was launch with a Charity Fair to introduce the pupils to some of the charities operating in the Paisley area. The pupils were challenged to think about the social issues in the local community and to identify a social cause that they cared about. In their PSE/RE classes the pupils then formed teams, agreeing on the social issue most important to them and identifying a charity that then supports that social issue. In PSE the pupils then began researching local, grassroots, and community based social service charities that aim to help members of the Paisley community that are faced with that need. Whilst in RE the pupils learnt about the impact of philanthropic activity.

To gain greater insight into their chosen charity, pupils set up a site visit during their October holidays. They conducted interviews with the charity workers as well as clients that use the service. With their research complete, the groups put together a ten minute presentation about their charity and how a grant of £3,000 would help it to achieve its mission and better serve its clients.

One group from each class was chosen to go on and conduct a final presentation in front of the entire S2 and S3 year group with a judging panel made up of Mr Nicholls, Ross Urquhart (Head Boy), Amy McSkimming (Head Girl) and Lesley Binning, Chair of the Parent Council. The pupils were outstanding, the time and effort put into their presentations really was second to none. It was also a delight to welcome some of the Charity Representatives as invited guests to our final. Well done and congratulations to all finalists!

The winning team of Gary Hill, Aidan Holmes and Calum Flockhart were proud of their achievement in gaining "Soldiers Off the Street Scotland" £3,000 to help veterans who have been sleeping rough and those who are "sofa surfing". The charity also help to support veterans who are in accommodation but find themselves facing homelessness through no fault of their own.

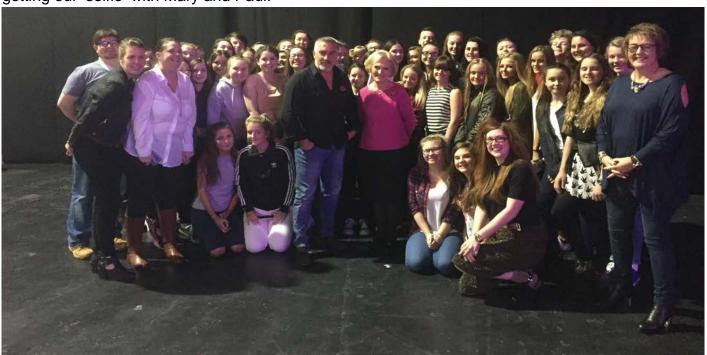
Congratulations to everyone involved!



Health, Food & Technology

On Friday the 6th November 45 pupils attended the Good Food Show at the SECC. Gleniffer High School was the only school in Scotland to attend the event. We had the opportunity to watch Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood in all their glory and even managed to get a few recipe books signed. Our National 5 and Higher pupils made links with local retailers and producers helping them with the development of their final product for their assignment.

Pupils tasted delicious local produce from over 150 exhibitors but the highlight of the day was getting our 'selfie' with Mary and Paul.





Parent Council

Parent Council

The Parent Council reconvened on 31st August with our AGM when our office bearers were elected and we welcomed our new parent, teacher and pupil members on board for the session 2015-16.

Office Bearers: Chairperson Lesley Binning

Vice Chair Brian Sweenie Secretary Vacant

The Parent Council works closely with the school to ensure the pupils get the best educational experience possible. At regular monthly meetings we discuss issues involving the curriculum, staffing, school policies and general education issues. The council meetings are attended by a group of parents, the head teacher, teaching staff, senior pupils and local Councillors who attend as guest members.

You can find out about the work of the Parent Council at our website www.glenifferhighpc.co.uk where you can also read the minutes of our meetings and it also has links to other useful education websites.

Regular updates and information can also be found by liking our Facebook page.

Our meetings are open to everyone so if you would like to find out more, the meeting dates can be found on our website.

House News

This year the school has appointed 2 house captains for each house following some very competitive interviews. This is an exciting opportunity which sees us being given a variety of responsibilities.

The house captains are:

BRODIE GLEN
Kirsty Binning Jack Gilmour
Naomi Crockett Karina Graham

MOREDUN THORNLY Sophie Mitchell Myrren Porter

Rachael Parnis

Buddying

Buddying runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes for S1 pupils. This is where they can come along to room G028 and speak to 6th year pupils about any problems or concerns they may have. There will be the opportunity to play games and even win some prizes.

Fraser Robertson

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is now up and running! A number of S1 pupils have been invited to attend the breakfast club in order to receive a light breakfast before the start of the school day and receive help with getting organised for the day ahead and any homework they may have.

Gladiator Games

Gladiator games took place on Wednesday 16th December for S1 and S2 pupils. It was a 'house competition' whereby pupils from each house took part in a variety of activities against the 'Gladiators' (6th Year pupils). It was a very successful event and fun was had by all involved.

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice replaces the previous pupil council. Now pupils from all year groups will meet to discuss different aspects of school life; however, they will meet within their House group rather than year group. This will allow opportunities for younger pupils to work with older pupils, gaining confidence and gaining experience of contributing to school life. Meetings will begin in January and more information to follow.

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Energy of the future competition Winner of Whitelee Wind Farm National Energy of the Future competition
Selected to be part of Scottish Opera Connect Team
Charity concert with Paisley Philharmonic choir

Lessons From Auschwitz Project

Two Gleniffer High pupils have been speaking about their participation in the Holocaust Educational Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" project. Fifth Year pupils Aimi Reid and Lucy Johnston attended two half-day seminars in Glasgow and subsequently visited the former Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, returning with the objective of sharing their experiences with fellow students, encouraging us all to think about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance. Lucy answered the following questions about their experiences.

"WHAT CAN YOU TELL THE NEW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF AUSCHWITZ?"

Auschwitz is in Poland and before the Second World War it was called Oswiecim. When the Nazis took over Poland in 1939 they called the town Auschwitz, and used the army barracks and converted them into a concentration camp, which was right near to a rail way. Further down the rail way line in Oswiecim more of the city was demolished in order to create space for another concentration camp. These two sites, Auschwitz Berkenua and Auschwitz 2 are what are commonly known today as Auschwitz. These camps were where the Nazis sent social outsiders from Poland and other countries that they had invaded, these were normal people, but the Nazis saw them as undesirable. These were groups of people such as Romanian travelers, Catholics, homosexuals and Jewish people. Overall around 1.6 million people were killed there in the time they were open. These camps are now open today for visitors to look round, and being in such a place is a truly harrowing experience.

"WHAT IS THE HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL TRUST?"

The Holocaust Education Trust is an organisation that works within schools and colleges and communities across the country, to try and improve people's knowledge and understanding of the holocaust. It also aims to help people understand the relevance that the holocaust still has in today's society.

The Holocaust Education Trust today works against racism, anti-Semitism, and the prejudices that there are still today. They also strive to ensure that the holocaust isn't forgotten and brushed into the past.

"WHAT IS THE 'LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ' PROJECT?"

The Holocaust Education Trust has set up the Lessons from Auschwitz project in order to educate people of the holocaust and ensure that it isn't being forgotten. They also aim to show people that the events of the Holocaust are still relevant today.

The Lessons from Auschwitz project, takes two pupils from each college across the region and runs two seminars with them, and takes them on a day trip to Auschwitz.

Throughout the trip the students are given lots of support by the staffs who work for Lessons from Auschwitz. This runs all year round, with the different regions of the country, to ensure that all colleges get the chance to take part in it.

LFA also work within schools to provide resources and lessons on the holocaust. They can also help with schools getting survivors in to talk to students, which they are keen on doing as soon it won't be the survivors that talk but the survivor's children, and grandchildren which could make the talks have less of an impact on students.

"WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO DO?"

To take part in the project, we all had to go to an orientation seminar in Glasgow which was about a week before we went out to Poland for the day.

In this seminar we were introduced to the themes and key messages that the holocaust education trust wished to put across to us, and we also had some ice breakers within our groups, as obviously we had never met before and we would all be going through as life changing experiment together with in the next week.

After this we then had Eva Clark give a survivor testimony. Her testimony was shocking and at the same time the most amazing thing I had ever listened to, as when learning about the holocaust before I had never really though much about the people that had survived and would have to live with the memories for the rest of their life.

After this we then returned home and a week later we were on our way to Glasgow Airport at 4.30am in the morning to catch the flight to Poland

"WHAT MESSAGES HAVE YOU TAKEN FROM THE TRIP?"

I have taken a lot away from my experience of taking part in Lessons from Auschwitz; it was an amazing experience, at the same time horrifying and extremely humbling.

I feel that it has shaped my outlook on life and what I feel is right and wrong, and I know now that I would definitely stand up for what I believe in, making sure that people weren't being picked on for their race, religion or for any other discriminatory reason.

The main message I would like to convey from my experience, is that we should not look at the mass number of people that were affected by the holocaust, but the individual people that were affected. All of their individual lives stopped. Their families ripped apart.

But it also needs to be considered that not only the individual sufferers were affected, but also the perpetrators. They too were affected by the catastrophic events that took place during the holocaust, and they were just normal people, before the war.

Mrs. Crawford, the pupils' History Teacher said 'The scheme run by the HET provides an excellent opportunity for students to discover more about this terrible period in 20th century history. In allowing students to actually visit Auschwitz and also meet witnesses it provides an invaluable opportunity for them to go some small way in trying to understand the Holocaust. The school has been participating for several years now and I have always been impressed by how much students gain from the experience and then pass on what they have learned to their peers and local community.'

Enterprise and Employability

We, the S5 Enterprise and Employability group, recently organised a shoebox appeal for a local care home, Montrose Heriot Avenue Foxbar. This involved filling shoeboxes with gifts donated by staff to give to the elderly residents, who may be alone at Christmas.

First of all, we had to advertise with posters in the school, organise a raffle (with a hamper as a prize), collect donations, and of course boxes to fill with various presents, such as sweets, books, toiletries, biscuits, and other Christmas treats.

Overall we managed to fill 43 boxes, enough for every single resident in the care home. We were really pleased with all of the donations we received.

Finally on the day, we made our way to Montrose to hand out all the presents, where

we could see the residents' faces light up with happiness, all extremely pleased as we talked with the residents and handed out the gifts.

At first we thought we wouldn't be able to meet the demand of filling a box for each resident, but it was overwhelming at the end having filled so many boxes, even with some things left over.

Leah Bryce



Mockingjay Part 2 Film Review

Mrs Kennedy's S2 class has been studying the Hunger Games series of films and went on a trip to see the final film. Here is their review.

Mockingjay Part 2 is an exciting action, adventure movie focussing on Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutherson) Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth) and President Snow (Donald Sutherland).

The setting is in the fictional country of Panem, which seems to be America after a nuclear war. It mainly takes place in the Capitol. It is about a rebellion led by Presidant Alma Coin (Julianne Moore). Katniss is the face of the rebellion and has been given the nickname Mockingjay. She has been tasked with assassinating President Snow, against whom she seeks revenge after what he has done to the Districts. She heads her group of rebels on a dangerous path where many die. The Capitol is protected by booby traps called pods, which set off many dangerous situations, like flame throwers, machine guns, poisoned oils and bombs that Katniss and her group have to fight. When the pods get too much they head underground and through the sewer system, but there was a trap there too. The most exciting bit was when green slimy and scary creatures called mutts attack them and kill one of Katniss's friends.

The ending of the film might disappoint some as it is sad and quiet. Some might think that certain moments are too easily predicted. However, overall the class thoroughly enjoyed the trip and one pupil said, "It was the best movie I've ever seen!" Contributions from: Gary Smiley, Nikola Gyurov, Kyle Wilson, Chloe Louise Willis, Joseph McMullen, Hailey Lauchlan, Ciaran Meechan, Bria Crotty, Cairon McAvoy, Rhiannon Anderson, Pippa Liebermann, Alanna McFarlane, Ben Lochrane, Catherine Wilson, Cameron Elliott, Mirren McIlroy

A bland black expanse, The moon glows through the dark sky, Snow dances downwards.

Like gleaming white silk, Flawless over rolling hills, Reflecting starlight.

With shining brown eyes, Quivering with ruffled fur, Alert and unsure.

Reclined by firelight, With scents of pine and ginger, Sipping hot-chocolate. Families gather, Children tear up neat wrapped gifts, On Christmas morning.

Sleigh bells through the air, His laugh a twinkling light tune, Through the same white snow.

Same Snow

III
Vivid rainbow lights,
Strung across the buzzing
streets,
A radiant sight.
Brown slush on the kerb,
Trodden on and forgotten,
In shopping frenzies.
The rushing traffic,
Crowds of people searching for,
Last minute presents.
By a bright gas-fire,
Smells of turkey and mince-pies,
Drinking warm eggnog.

S1/S2 Christmas Dance



Gladiator Games



G Factor



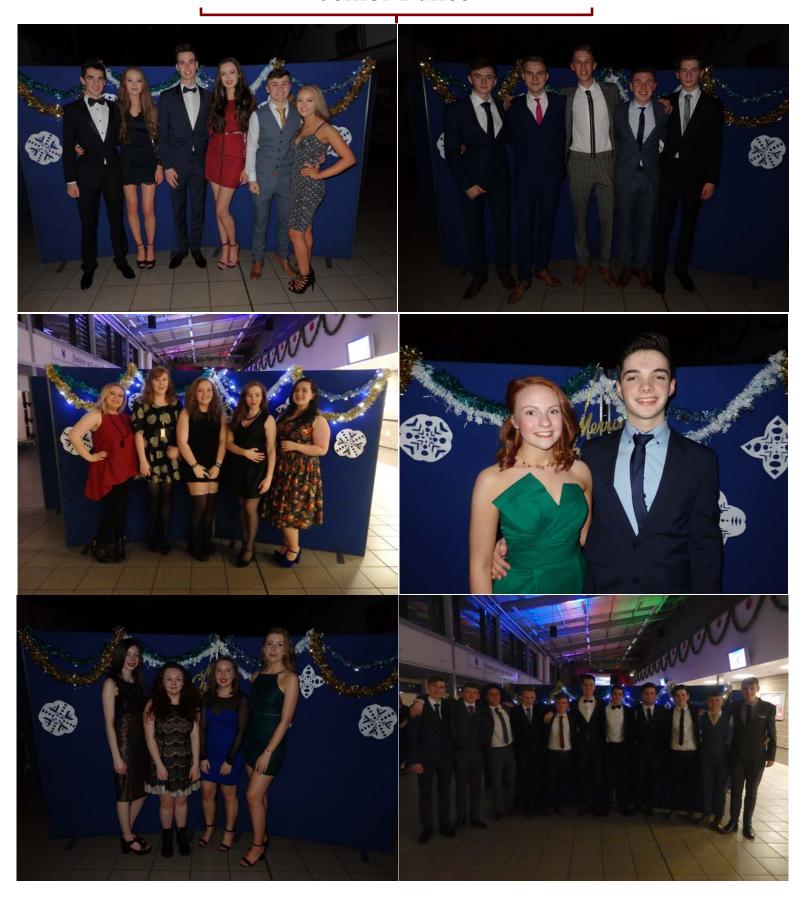
Stars In Their Eyes



Christmas Concert



Senior Dance



S6 Panto



YPI Presentations



Sports Roundup

Netball

The S1 team have been doing very well in their recent friendly matches against other schools in the authority, winning the majority of their matches. They also qualified for the Active Schools S1/2 competition even though they were playing against teams who had a majority of S2 players. I am very pleased with their success and efforts so far. We are also expecting the new netball hoodies to be delivered very soon for the S1 girls. I will be lovely to see all the girls matching in their kit when going to games and club after school. The girls will be doing a small fund raiser in 2016 to cover the rest of the cost of the hoodies.

The S2 and S3 teams have also been involved in a number of friendly matches and have enjoyed competing against other local schools. We are hoping for more matches in the new year to prepared for the Active Schools competitions.

The S4 girls are looking forward to playing their first friendly tournament on the 15th December which is being hosted at Gryffe High. The have been working hard preparing for these matches and are hoping for a positive result.

The Open team have played their matches for the first round of the Scottish Cup Competition and are looking forward to the next round in 2016. They have had positive results so far, beating Linwood High and St Andrews Academy but unfortunately lost out against Castlehead High. Mrs Elliot's hard work and commitment to the team is having a positive impact on the team's results.

<u>U13s</u> Football

Late October brought a visit to Trinity High, and a thrilling 5-5 draw that the opposing coach called 'the best game I have seen in ages' in his post-match discussions. After falling behind to two early strikes, the team displayed great fighting spirit, and some delightful attacking play, to storm into a 3-2 lead. Both teams then traded goals of great quality, with the boys very unlucky not to win and claim their first three points of the league season.

They did not have to wait long for that first win, however: early November; Paisley Grammar were the visitors to Gleniffer, and were defeated 3-2 thanks to some instinctive finishing from striking partnership Ethan Furze and Cameron Niven, and a thumping free kick from Lewis Barclay.

The exotic landscape of the East End of Glasgow was the destination for the first round of the Scottish Cup, and a chastening 5-1 defeat against a strong St. Mungo's Academy.

Lessons were evidently learned however, as the boys turned in an utterly dominant performance in their next match, a terrific 8-1 home Summer Cup victory against St. Ninian's (B). Ethan Furze extended his rich vein of scoring form with a first half hat-trick, with Cameron Niven (2), Graeme McDonald, Yannis Marr and Ross Dockray completing the scoring. Having so many good players competing for the attacking positions is a pleasing problem for the coaches to have, and the varied list of goalscorers this season is a testament to this rich pool of talent.

Next up for the boys is a league visit to St. Ninian's, and a Summer Cup second round encounter at Trinity High that promises great entertainment after our previous excitingmeeting.

U15s Football

The Under 15's have played 3 games in a very competitive league section Woodfarm 2 – 4 Gleniffer

Goals from Matthew McArthur (3) & Harry Carlin

Gleniffer 8 – 0 Trinity

Matthew McArthur (3), Marcus Holland (2), Tomas Brindley (2) & Washington Chikomba

Gleniffer 1 – 5 St.Ninian's

Tomas Brindley

Dance Club

This years GHDC has already been an amazing experience; we have performed at the Christmas Fayre and are looking forward to performing at the Christmas Concert. We have learned three dances in the space of three months and these will be shown at our end of year dance show. We get taught a variety of dance styles and we all put in effort to think of new moves and routines. Everyone works hard each week to become the best they can be and improve our existing skills or make new ones. It is an enjoyable afternoon, we are a great team and we work well with each other. We are so glad we joined, would highly recommend it, don't miss out!

GHDC S2 group





U16s Football

There have been mixed fortunes for the Under 16's team as they still seek to secure their first win of the season.

October proved to be a hard fought month, with an away trip to St Benedict's ended in a single goal defeat despite countless chances late on and finishing the better side. An exciting 'end to end' home game against Johnstone High finished in a 6-6 draw with neither defence on top!

November's fixtures were unforgettable and forgettable in equal measure. A great performance away to Renfrew High with a shadow side saw Gleniffer come within seconds of their first league victory, only to be undone by a late equaliser. A great start against St Benedict's saw them close to being washed away, only for what can only be described as a monsoon washing away both sides and seeing the game abandoned.

A heavy defeat from on form St Andrew's is the game everyone would rather forget, but with a little bit more belief and the return of some key players there is plenty of room for improvement and the scoreline didn't reflect the attitude and work ethic.

Plenty still to play for after the winter break.

Senior Football

Senior boys' football team results to date:

Monday 14 September Friendly 0 – 0 draw away against Gryffe HS

Thursday 24 September League 3 – 3 away draw against Gryffe HS

Thursday 1 October Scottish Shield home 4 – 3 home win against Trinity HS Rutherglen

Monday 19 October League 3 -2 home win against Renfrew HS

Monday 26 October Scottish Shield 3 – 0 home win against Jordanhill School

Monday 16 November League 1 – 0 walkover against Linwood HS (team did not turn up)

Wednesday 2 December Scottish Cup 3 – 0 defeat away to St Ninian's High School

Monday 7 December League 6 – 2 home win against Linwood HS

Hockey Club

The hockey teams, who are kindly sponsored by Bardem, have been competing in the monthly Renfrewshire league with many pupils representing the school for the first time. The seniors got off to a good start with two very competitive draws against current league champions Gryffe high school and the S1- S3 teams have won a number of games and find themselves in the top half of the table.

The players are looking forward to wearing their new strips in the New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsor Bardem who have kindly provided our new kit.



Senior Basketball Club

The Gleniffer High School senior basketball team has been running for about a year now; it started off with half a team and it was basically something fun to do in our spare time. The team started with five guys just wanting to learn the basics about basketball, and that is exactly what happened... Our coach Nick Collins, who plays for St.Mirren and the Scottish national team, has helped us to develop as players and has taught us a lot to further our basic skills and understanding of the game. As the year has progressed we have seen the arrival of 6 additional players to the team, with some of the original players leaving also. The team trains twice a week: we have the main training day on the Wednesday where Nick comes in and runs plays with us and then the team have also been preparing outside of school with regular practices at the Lagoon Leisure Centre, to help improve some of our weaker aspects that we have problems with at training - we usually train there on a Monday. On behalf of the whole team we'd like to thank the many teachers that have helped us by providing equipment and being able to participate in this year's league. Also, with the help of Nick we have started to become a fully functional team and with most of the players having developed their basic skills, the team now feel like we are ready for games. The team's first ever game is coming up on the 16th of December, the whole team is looking to go out and give it our best shot. I have asked several of the players "how do you think the team will do?" and needless to say that we are quietly confident about the upcoming fixtures against Johnstone High and Paisley Grammar.

Parents Contacting The School

Something We Need to Know? Keeping us informed is

easy:

Phone: 01505813116

Email: enquiries @glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk

Letter: Amochrie Road, Paisley, PA2 0AG

Inform us about:

Absences:

Reasons for absences;

Appointments;

Issues which may be affecting your child;

Achievements and successes of your child;

Holidays;

Family events.



If you have a particular concern, or something you would like to discuss with us in relation to your child, please contact your child's Pastoral Support teacher in the first instance:

Brodie House: Mrs Foley Glen House: Mrs Denny

Moredun House : Miss Cameron Thornly House: Mrs Harris

Phone: 01505813116 Email: enquiries @glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk

Letter: Amochrie Road, Paisley, PA2 0AG.