



Inside GHS



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S6 Badgethoders

After a very competitive selection and interview process, the School is delighted to announce the following students were selected to represent their year group and school for session 2015 – 2016.

Head Boy: Dean Whitehorn
Head Girl: Georgia Porter

Depute Head Boys:
Fraser Scott
Brian Cunningham

Depute Head Girls:
Gillian Sinclair
Isla Greenshields



Dux & Proxime Accessit



In a year where our examination results were once again absolutely fantastic, this session's top academic awards for attainment from the May SQA examinations go to our Dux, Eilidh Murphy and Proxime Accessit, Aimee Cameron. Both pupils gained five excellent Higher grade passes. Many congratulations to both Eilidh and Aimee and continued success in the year ahead

Mr. Nicholls' Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of session 2016 - 2017 and to a session that holds so much promise following our very successful SQA examination results in August.

The start of the school year is a time of both excitement and opportunity as we look ahead at what the weeks and months will bring to us, the hard work in front of all of us and the opportunities to progress in our learning and experiences as teachers and pupils.

In the initial weeks of the session we have been analysing our SQA results, laying out our expectations and settling into the core business of teaching and learning. We have also been getting our extra curricular activities up and running and we have launched our third expedition to Malawi with fourth and fifth year students.

Our formal parent bodies have had their respective annual general meetings and have been meet regularly since August. Both groups are invaluable to the life of the school and my thanks go out to those parents who have committed their time to the session ahead.

Last year at this time I stated that session 2015 – 2016 could possibly be the best in the history of the school and in terms of academic results in certainly was, so the challenge to this year's cohort is to rise to the target of making this session even better than last session in all that we do whether that is in levels of attainment, developing new ideas or celebrating achievements.

As most of you will be aware I was fortunate enough to be a member of school expedition to Malawi in June and what a privilege it was to work closely with so many of our young people and to see first hand what we can accomplish and achieve working together as a school community. The experience has energised me and given me so much hope and positivity for this session ahead.

Enjoy reading the new newsletter, which along with our extensive website and school app does much to promote the positive aspects of life in Gleniffer High School.

I look forward to meeting and working with you during the course of this session.

David Nicholls

HEAD TEACHER INFORMATION MEETINGS

If you would like to discuss the current issues in education, the vision the school has for your child and the aims for this session, then I am more than happy to meet with individuals or small groups of parents at a mutually agreed time during or after the school day.

If you would like to meet with me and have a particular area of interest or concern you wish to discuss, then please contact me on 01505 813116 or at glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.



School Aims 2016 - 2017

The areas targeted for improvement this session are contained with our School Improvement Plan.

The key areas are as follows:

- Performance management (tracking) of attainment from S1 to S6
- BGE curriculum rationale, strategic course planning and assessment
- Increased support for young people through improved parental engagement
- Increased support for young people through improved parental engagement
- Quality Assurance
- Customer Service Excellence - improvements

In addition to the above strategic action we have the following areas of development which are managed by Principal Teachers and staff volunteers

- Raising Attainment
- Learning and Teaching
- Pupil Support
- Health and Wellbeing
- HGIOS 4 development
- School Promotion
- Calendar planning

The school improvement plan, which can be found on the school website www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk, details our review of last session along with the strategic actions agreed by staff for the session ahead.

Please take time to visit our website and read what Gleniffer High School is planning for 2016 - 2017

Roundup

House Ethos

After a very competitive selection process we are pleased to say that House Captains for Session 2016-2017 have been successfully appointed.

Brodie - Ehi Anyebe & Ross Bell

Glen - Cameron Lyle & Bethany Furze

More dun - Caitlin McCartney & Lucy McKeller

Thornly - Faith Muyaba & Calum Russell

The House Captains will lead the pupils within their House group to ensure that school values and house ethos are promoted to pupils at all times. The House Captains will chair the Pupil Voice Meetings and support House events, assisting PT Pastoral Support in ensuring that all pupils are included and achievements celebrated. They have already started work on the House noticeboards where you can read information on each House Captain and about your House Charity. To be kept up to date with Pupil Voice discussion can you please make sure that you look at the House noticeboards as you pass as the meeting Minutes will be published there? Remember to fill out your pink achievement cards and you may see your name appear on the House board too!

We wish the House Captains every success in the year ahead and as a Pastoral Support team we look forward to working with you all.



Henna Club

Henna, or as it is traditionally known, mehndi, is an art associated with South Asian culture and is commonly known to be a part of Pakistani and Indian wedding traditions, as well as part of festivities such as Eid, Diwali and Vaisakhi.

S1 – S6 pupils have been really enjoying coming to henna club every week to learn, share, practice and enjoy the art of henna patterns. Pupils have been practicing a mix of modern and traditional henna patterns. Brave folks have also plunged and used actual henna to embellish their hands with beautiful henna patterns.

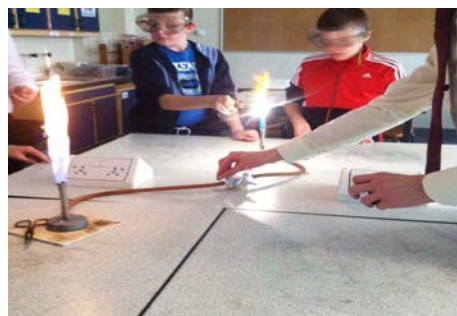
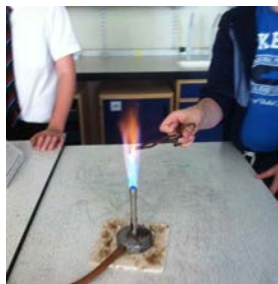
Henna can be a hobby for all to enjoy and you can create anything from simple floral designs to intricate patterns - it is always impressive and eye catching!



Science Club

S1 and S2 pupils have been experimenting with lots of different chemicals and scientific equipment at the science club. So far, they have made 'elephants toothpaste', and burned different chemicals to find out what colours they give off.

In short, there have been plenty of fizzes, bangs and colourful surprises and many more to come. . !



Music

Our first year pupils are enjoying their taster courses on guitar and keyboard and will soon move on to develop skills on drum kit and tuned percussion. Our second year pupils are working on music in the media and are enjoying analysing some amazing film music ranging from The Mission to Hunger Games with a lot of James Bond and some Titanic and Harry Potter! S3 – 6 classes are working hard on preparing performance programmes on two instruments, composing and analysing music.

Several of our senior pupils are also preparing for entrance auditions at various colleges, universities and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and two of our pupils are preparing to sit Grade 5 ABRSM theory examination with a view to going on to sit Grade 8 on their instrument(French horn and percussion).

Our use of music technology is growing again with the use of new online games and ipads. We have various projects planned for this year including concert visits and workshops. Two of our pupils continue to sing with Paisley Abbey choir and Jessica Fraser continues to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland junior department.

Our new venture on Saturdays run by our ex pupil Grant McFarlane of Feisphaislig includes lessons on traditional Scottish instruments (fiddle accordion clarsachs) and voice. There are still openings for any interested pupils. Grant's email, if this is an opportunity you would like to take up, is info@feisphaislig.com

Several senior pupils have registered with Behind the Noise which gives them opportunities in performing, lighting, sound engineering, ticket sales, front of house and much more. It will culminate with a concert in the Classic Grand in Glasgow organised by pupils throughout Renfrewshire. This has been much enjoyed by previous pupils and in fact many have gained university and college places from their experience.

Our large community group of musicians has begun performances in the local community and have a busy schedule planned for this year visiting elderly clubs and homes include a Halloween party and carol singing, St Andrew's and Burns events and so much more. We are currently preparing again for a concert with Paisley Philharmonic Choir in aid of charity in October.

Our own school choir will also be working hard with plans to raise money for charity by singing for Ronald McDonald charity in Braehead Shopping Centre. Preparations for our open night, Christmas Concert, Certificate of Merit, Christmas and Easter Services are also already well underway.

We wish our very best to many of our ex pupils as they start their music and theatre studies this month at various establishments including the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Katie Monaghan). Janet Stott and Christopher Allen will also continue to study stage management with Scottish Opera.

Enterprise Disco

On Friday 17th September 2016, the Young Enterprise group held a very enjoyable and exciting S1/S2 Disco. The disco had over 200 pupils attending, and with the DJ unable to make it. We improvised and luckily as a team we were able to solve this problem with the help of William Hendry in S4 and were able to go ahead with the Disco. Two pupils from Young Enterprise stood in and were amazing DJs for this event. A tuck shop was set up with sweets and drinks and sold out very quickly. The Dancing was outstanding and the best dancers were even rewarded with a prize. Thank you to all the S6 and teacher volunteers, without your help the disco would not have been as successful. The Disco was a great triumph for Young Enterprise and was fun for all of the S1/S2 involved. The money raised is going towards Young Enterprises start up fee.

Elise Deans



Senior School Roundup

S6

With this session seeing another huge number of our pupils choosing to return to Gleniffer, the year got off to a flying start with the speedy appointment of our Head Boy (Dean Whitehorn), Head Girl (Georgia Porter) and our four Deputies (Gillian Sinclair, Isla Greenshields, Fraser Scott and Brian Cunningham). The six badge holders will face many challenges over the coming year but with the fantastic support of their peers and especially with the enormous number of Prefects now appointed, I am sure they will do a magnificent job of making this a very memorable year for all pupils and staff.

Already the badge holders have attended and organised a number of prefects to represent the school at a variety of events including; The Senior Phase Information Evening, The Primary Information Evenings, the PTA and Parent Council meetings. They have also helped organise the PTA bake sale and a community litter pick.

All of our S6 pupils are now fully engaged with the Student Volunteering programme where they give up two periods each week to volunteer in a range of different places. Many volunteer within school classes assisting younger pupils, many attend associated primary schools or local care homes or get involved with our Paired Reading group or mentoring programme. The volunteering programme is co-ordinated by Miss Birrell in Pastoral Support but many pupils also become 'Buddies' in our S1 and S6 Buddy mentoring initiative spurred on by Mrs Denny also in Pastoral support. The experience gained by volunteering is invaluable and as well as gaining many new skills it is also a great opportunity for the pupils to 'give something back'.

Our badge holders are currently organising their first social event which will take place in the next few weeks. The Halloween Dance will follow on the 26th October. Children in Need will be the big focus in November and before you know it, it will be Christmas!!

S5

I am delighted to report that all S5 pupils have settled quickly into what will be their most challenging and demanding year so far in their academic career. Option choices and renegotiations at the beginning of the session were quickly resolved with good progress in individual subjects now being reported across the whole school.

In a change to last year's SQA Information Evening this year we replaced this with the Senior Phase Information Evening which took place on Wednesday 7th September for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. This was a very successful evening and was extremely well attended by both parents and pupils.

The aims of the new event were to outline the demands of the year ahead and highlight what support mechanisms are now available to all senior year pupils sitting exams. In addition, there were two UCAS presentations by Mrs Harris (PT Pastoral) for all pupils applying to university this year and a talk on Modern Apprenticeships by Napier Hair and Beauty. Mr Marshallsay our Project Leader for Employability was also available as were our two careers advisers from Skills Development Scotland. In Gleniffer we recognise that the needs for all our pupils must be met when dealing with the futures of our young people to ensure all of them achieve a positive destination.

S4

It has been a busy and successful start to the new session for S4.

Class visits show that pupils appear focussed on course work and preparing for unit assessments.

Tracking reports were issued at the end of September which allowed us to identify pupils who are doing well and others requiring to put in that wee bit extra to improve.

The tracking report is an early indication of progress in subjects, and pupils should use this to identify areas to work on – especially with prelims at the end of next term for those studying National 5 courses.

The work experience programme is already well under way in PSE. This takes place in January and it is important that pupils work hard to source a self-found placement to ensure they get the best out of the experience. The self-found placement forms

should be handed in as quickly as possible to ensure that they are approved in time.

This Health and Safety check can take some time so it is better to be early!!

Congratulations and well done to Alice McGeechan and Joel Young for their involvement in the international Scout camp, and to Calum Flockhart who has been selected to play for the Scottish Youth Football Association (West) regional team and

has recently been invited to the trials for the national team. Fingers crossed for a successful outcome Calum.

Have a good holiday. Don't forget the study plans.

Lower School Roundup

S1

Our S1 pupils got off to an excellent start this session and have now settled in and are fully part of the Gleniffer High community. It took them the usual few weeks to familiarise themselves with the large building and layout, but they are now enjoying the new challenges of secondary school life.

From the offset they have been looking smart in their uniforms and are keen to learn. Teachers have been reporting how well they have been doing by contributing to the teaching and learning within all of their classes.

All of the pupils recently received a copy of our extra-curricular activities programme for this session. We would also love to see as many of the new S1 pupils involved in the whole life of the school by attending at least one of the many extra-curricular clubs running at lunchtimes and after school. It's been great to see so many already signed up but let's see if we can get everyone joining in the fun.

Each pupil received a Student Planner at the start of the session which they should bring to school every day and have out on their desk in class as part of the necessary equipment needed for the class lesson. The planner helps them plan the completion of homework and record achievements across their subject areas. Some S1 pupils have found organising their homework time management a challenge so we would ask parents/carers to encourage pupils to use their planners and to support them in completing homework tasks.

All S1 pupils had their photographs taken in September for our school records. Parents/Carers should now have had the opportunity to order a copy of the photograph if they wished.

We would like all S1 pupils to keep up the good work, to work to the best of their abilities and maintain high standards as the term continues.

Mrs Harris & Mrs McMunn

S2

The new S2 are no longer the youngest pupils in the school and are stepping up to the responsibility of being fully integrated in the Gleniffer community. Many of the pupils are continuing to be part of the whole school ethos by attending some of the many extra-curricular activities, working hard within classes and having our school values at the heart of everything they do.

Uniform has been excellent so far and I would like to thank parents/carers for your ongoing support with ensuring we maintain the high standards.

Homework is an extremely important part of the everyday learning that goes on and we would ask parent/carers to encourage pupils to plan their study time carefully. Each pupil was issued a student planner, at the start of term, which they should be using to record homework and achievements. Pupils should be completing homework tasks well in advance of the deadline date in order to seek further support if they are unsure of any part of the task in hand. I am going to be working closely with class teachers to support pupils with homework. As always, your support is much appreciated with ensuring pupils are completing homework to the best of their ability.

A positive part of the job is always being able to recognise the achievements of our pupils and a number of pupils so far this year have already picked up bronze and silver extra-curricular award badges. We have even had a gold badge award winner this term so far. Well done to all pupils involved and we would love to hear of any other notable achievements pupils have in order for us to continue recognising them at our monthly assemblies. Pupils can collect achievement record forms from the school office, pastoral or DHT.

I hope pupils continue to take on the future challenges of S2 and work hard to reach their full potential.

S3

I am pleased to report a very smooth start to the final year of the BGE for third year pupils. The majority of them have taken on board that it is essential to work hard this session so that they are well prepared to move on to the National courses in S4. Tracking reports will be issued in November.

At the beginning of September the Youth Philanthropy Initiative was launched and pupils are working steadily on their presentations. I was delighted to receive such positive comments about our pupils from the local charities representatives at the event. They were impressed by their thoughtful enquiries - and by their good manners!

At our most recent assembly I was delighted to welcome Mrs Meg Dunn from the University of the West of Scotland to present certificates to 12 pupils who took part in the Pupils Exhibiting Potential Programme at the University. Mrs Dunn complimented the pupils on their excellent commitment and effort shown during the programme. Well done.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday, 8th November and I look forward to seeing you all there. We recorded the highest ever Parents' Evening attendance when your child was in S2 so I'm hoping for an equally large turnout.



First Impressions of High School

My first few months at Gleniffer have been a rollercoaster, with lots of twists and turns along the way. There are lots of processes for helping S1 settle in. There are loads of different varieties of extra-curricular clubs, and there is also a buddying system. It takes a bit of time to get to know your way around but after a few weeks you could do it with your eyes shut. You get to study intriguing subjects that you don't do in primary, such as Science, Health Food Technology (Home Ec) and Modern Studies. They even sell frozen Capri Suns at Reload, our school canteen!

By Abbie Alemu

The first day of high school is pretty scary because of all the new faces and being in a strange environment. My first days were reasonably frightening. After the first week, once you get to know all of the teachers and your way around, things got a little easier. It is a big step from primary to secondary school. From being the oldest, and knowing my way around in school, to being the youngest and being unsure of everything.

There are a lot of good classes like Tech, PE, Art and Science where you get to do all kinds of fun things like using a Bunsen Burner, and all other kinds of cool things. The extra curricular activities are also really good. There are a variety of different activities that are on at lunchtime and after school. Some of these are football, gymnastics, basketball and many others to choose from.

By Arlyn Brown

An NQT's Impressions

Clothes laid out ready for the day ahead – check, an unnecessary amount of new stationary – check, soggy sandwich and Percy Pig mug – check, first day of school nerves – double check! I think I am safe to assume that I was not the only Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) who was a bag of nerves and excitement on their first day at Gleniffer High School (GHS). However, I was the only NQT who was a bag of nerves and excitement on their SECOND first day at GHS. I must admit, I did wonder what it would be like returning to my old school to teach. How many of the teachers I had before would still be there? Would they remember me? Would I be able to call them by their first name? Do they still sell those Cajun chicken paninis? As it happens, yes, they still sell the paninis - and a macaroni which is even better!

A few of my teachers are still here too but I immediately realised just how comforting it is to see friendly and familiar faces during the first few weeks of a new job. I also quickly adjusted to seeing some of my previous English teachers as my new colleagues and was made to feel part of the team. This is hardly surprisingly considering that one member of the department encouraged me to consider a career in English teaching and another wrote me the reference which saw me accepted into Teacher Training. I feel extremely lucky to say that I continue to get the same support, motivation and inspiration from my new team in English and from the wider school team in general. It is hard to find a person who doesn't smile or say hello when they pass you in the corridor which is just a small example of the welcoming atmosphere in the school. Just as it did when I was a pupil, Gleniffer has a uniquely positive ethos in the school, a feeling of community and friendship which is hard to match. Pupils and teachers alike are encouraged to get involved in the numerous extra curricular clubs, school trips and charity projects which are such an important part of Gleniffer. As a pupil, this involvement in the wider school life helped me grow in confidence and gave me memories I'll never forget. That's why as a NQT I am keen to help provide the same opportunities as I had. I think I speak for my fellow NQTs when saying that the past two months have been an exhausting but exciting blur and thank everyone for making us feel so welcome.

So as I think back to my first day at GHS as a bewildered, very small pupil, I realise how much has changed but how many of the great qualities are still the same. It is a genuine community, a wonderful place to learn and teach - so much so that a former pupil is delighted to come back!

Notice Board

Gleniffer High School Cares

As a school we constantly trying to improve and provide the best possible education, opportunities and experiences for all of our young people. 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 five uniform trawls round every class and I am pleased to inform you that the standard of dress is excellent as a result of your support.

Thank you for continuing to support the school in this important issue

Girls:

- White shirt school tie
- Black zipper, cardigan, tank top or jersey (tops with school badges are preferable)
- 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 preferable)
- Black trousers
- Black shoes
- Dark warm and waterproof jacket
- School bag large enough for folders and pencils, pens etc

Thank you for your support



Sponsorship

The new session started with the PTA donating £2,000 to school funds and £500 to our special support fund for those most in need of help with uniform, PE kit and school trips. This money is, as always, greatly appreciated and is now proving essential if we are to continue developing our extra curricular programme, rewarding pupils for excellent behaviour, achievements, attainment and representing the school. However, as we start out on another new session and we continue to support and reward our pupils, we are once again asking for assistance with additional finance to help assist with the financing of the many extras that go on within our school community.

In addition to this request for assistance, we are also looking for sponsorship and or donations towards the third planned expedition to our link school Dzenza Primary in Malawi in June 2018.

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 2018 development fund then please do not hesitate to contact the Head Teacher on 01505 813116 or at glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk Any offer of help would be greatly appreciated.

Tracking Dates 2016-2017

S1		
	18 th November	Tracking
	6 th February	Tracking
	4 th May	Full Report (parents)
S2	28 th October	Tracking
	9 th December	Tracking
	3 rd February	Full Report (parents)
S3	1 st November	Tracking
	13 th January	Tracking
	18 th May	Full Report (parents)
S4	28 th September	Tracking
	11 th November	Full Report (parents)
	20 th January	Tracking
S5/S6	10 th October	Tracking
	16 th December	Full Report (parents)
	24 th February	Tracking

German Exchange Programme

Preparations are well underway for our trip to Nuremberg from 5th to 12th December. Mrs Quinn is applying for a group passport and any pupil who has not yet returned their passport photograph should do so as soon as possible. Most pupils have now paid the final balance for the trip but again anyone who has not should see Mrs Quinn. Mrs McNicol is in touch with the teachers in Germany and they are putting together a programme for our visit. We are all really looking forward to this trip which is particularly special at Christmas time. Days out will most likely include a visit to the Allianz Arena, the BMW museum as well as visits to the Christmas markets and of course meeting up with our Exchange school teachers and buddies. The flights are booked from Edinburgh to Munich and our accommodation in the Nuremberg youth hostel is in a spectacular setting and is of a very high standard. A meeting for pupils will be organised after the October holidays before we invite parents to a meeting in school to discuss the final details. Can't wait to go!

French Exchange Programme

A group of pupils will travel to the Lyon area of France for the first part of our French Exchange in June 2017. We will be in France from 7th until 14th June. The first instalment for this trip was due at the end of September and if anyone has not yet paid they should bring this to Mrs Quinn as soon as possible. The group will stay in the wonderful lakeside accommodation in Amplepuis. Activities will include a day trip to Lyon, a visit to a French market, a choice of activities at the outdoor centre accommodation, a bowling competition as well as time spent with the pupils from our partner school and their families. I am certain that this will be a wonderful experience for our pupils and we look forward to many years of exchange trips. The next payment is due at the end of November.

PTA Information

Welcome to a new year of PTA fundraising and thank you for your continuing support of all our activities. We have a few events organised so far for the coming year and are having our annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November from 10 am till 12 noon. We are asking for donations for our tombola, adult/child bottle stalls and our home baking stall. Everything can be handed in to the school in advance with home-baking on the Friday before the Fayre. The PTA will also have a small selection of gifts available for purchase at the parent's evenings and donations for our Fayre can also be brought along then.

We will be continuing this year with myself as Chairperson, Janette Lindsay as Vice Chair, Georgina Kent as Secretary and Lorraine Brodie as Treasurer and through fundraising we have been able to continue to support the schools Tackling poverty initiative and award the award scheme. This is only possible through your donations and support of our events Remember to make a note of our Christmas Fayre in your diary and come along and support it!

Regards

Beverly Barclay

PTA Chairperson

S1/S2 STEM Trip

A selection of the S1 and S2 were chosen to go on a trip to Thermo Fisher Biotechnology labs as part of STEM week. There pupils were chosen due to their efforts in Science and were nominated by their classroom teachers. While at the Biotechnology lab the pupils carried out a DNA extraction, learned about Stem cells as well as staining cells and examining them under a powerful microscope! This gave the pupils the opportunity to talk to scientists who work in various areas of science and to use the (very expensive) equipment in the Thermo Fisher labs. The pupils enjoyed the trip and were a credit to the school.

Miss D.Leishman (Biology Teacher)

Cathy MacPhail Competition Winner

Award winning children's author Cathy MacPhail visited Gleniffer High School on 6th June to speak to S2 pupils. Cathy explained how she often thinks of a 'first line' and uses this to generate story ideas. S2 pupils took part in a short story competition using a first line suggested by Cathy.

There were many excellent submissions, but the eventual winner was Ebo Anyebe, with her outstanding short story 'Dripping Water', which can be read below:

There was a knock at the door and I knew they had come for me. 'Please come out,' my mum begged anxiously, desperation dripping from her voice.

I clamp my mouth shut as a tear noiselessly trickled down my face. There is something much scarier about quiet, heartfelt tears rather than noisy, disruptive sobs. Suddenly the knocks become louder and more urgent, pleading me to come out. I wrap my arms tighter around my knees rocking back and forth.

Drip.

My hands start to shake uncontrollably as my father demands me to leave my room and the sound of dripping water continues to torment me.

Drip.

Drip.

The knocks become more consistent and before I'm aware I have ran out of the room past my parents shocked faces and into the bathroom, desperately trying to escape their patronising voices.

The sound of dripping water was driving me crazy. My finger tapped nervously on my knee.

Drip.

I dug my hands into my scalp, jerking at the roots of hair, it hurt but it was the only thing that was keeping me from screaming in frustration.

Drip.

Unintentionally I let out a bloodcurdling scream, my fingers embedding into my head, trying to block out the sound of this patronising water. My head was ringing and my eyes were suddenly streaming with water.

Water.

Drip.

I opened my mouth more and projected my cry for help.

Somebody, help!

I started to black out but I welcomed the darkness...

I woke up to find myself smothered in blankets and pillows. The aroma of freshly made breakfast danced up my nose and the distant hum of morning greetings informed me that my parents were up. I have always lived a life like this. I got good grades at school, I had a reliable group of friends and my family adored me.

Everything was perfect.

Drip.

Everything apart from this constant dripping water that had me questioning my sanity. Whenever I asked someone if they could hear it as well, they would look at me as if I were crazy.

As I made my way downstairs, the sound that I had become so familiar with tormenting me, I mentally forbade myself from mentioning the water. I didn't want to tarnish my perfect reputation.

Eagerly, I sat at the edge of my seat, willing the bell to go off and for lunch to start, I had spent the whole lesson fidgeting and feeling unsettled- no matter what I did the dripping wouldn't stop.

Stop.

Please stop.

My teacher had informed the class that we had a critical essay due for the next week that determined our overall class grade. Perfect. Another mountain of pressure on me. My stomach growled at me ravenously as I made my way towards my group of friends. I collapsed on my seat with a sigh as they looked at me; concern on their faces. 'What's wrong?' one asked, placing a hand over mine.

'Just another exam I'm stressing about,' I say, nonchalantly rubbing my ear, trying to diminish the sound of dripping water.

'What have you got to worry about,' another says laughing, 'you pass every test!' Drip.

My friends erupt in laughter and I pick at my nails, silently begging them to stop.

'Yeah,' another one contributes, 'you probably don't even have to study; you have a guaranteed pass!'

Drip.

The sound of dripping water becomes more prominent, muting my friends' voices as they ridicule me.

I have to pass this test.

Drip.

The urge to scream became overpowering as I clutched the edge of my seat, grinding my teeth together.

Pass. I have to pass.

Drip.

As my eyes glanced over my friends, I saw how their faces had changed. Their eyes were wide like an innocent child's and their expressions portrayed fear. Real fear.

I must look crazy.

I am crazy.

Drip.

'I need to go,' I say breathlessly, gathering my things and staggering away from the table, suddenly feeling light-headed. I make my way towards the toilets, willing them to be empty.

They are.

Clinging to the wall, I thrust myself inside a cubicle and crumple to the floor.

'Perfect, you have to be perfect,' I mutter manically to myself.

Drip.

Wretchedly, I curl up into a ball, tears cascading down my face.

Why is this happening to me?

Drip.

Drip.

SQA Results 2016

The recorded results in August for each of the year groups are as detailed below. The results are recorded as the percentage of pupils at each of the levels using the school roll when that particular year group was in fourth year.

Guide:

Level 3: National 3

Level 4: national 4

Level 5: National 5

Level 6: Higher

Level 7: Advanced Higher



Fourth year:

This was the third year of the new Nationals and the results for level 3 and level 4 were better than those recorded in August 2015 whilst the level 5 results were the second best in the history of the school to those in 2015.

Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 3, 4 and 5	94.9%
Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 4 and 5	81.9%
Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 5	42.6%

Fifth year:

This was quite simply the best set of fifth year results in the history of our school.

The percentage are calculated against the pupil roll when pupils were in fourth year

Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 5	58.3%
Percentage of pupils with 1 or more awards at level 6	57.8%
Percentage of pupils with 3 or more awards at level 6	34.9%
Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 6	13.4%

Sixth year:

Overall this was once again a very strong set of results averaging out as the second best set in the history of our school.

The percentages are calculated against the pupil roll when pupils were in fourth year

Percentage of pupils with 1 or more awards at level 6	59.8%
Percentage of pupils with 3 or more awards at level 6	40.2%
Percentage of pupils with 5 or more awards at level 6	27.2%
Percentage of pupils with 1 or more awards at level 7	20.1%

Looking at the overall picture from fourth to sixth year against previous years our August 2016 SQA results are the best in the history of the school.

A great achievement and one for which we should all be very proud.

Performance Management

This session we will continue to operate our highly successful pupil 'Tracking and Monitoring' system. Using Tracking and Monitoring we are able to closely predict the overall attainment and individual successes of our pupils and it also helps us identify pupils who may need extra support to achieve their targets and goals. Our system tracks pupil progress from S1 right through to S6 and will provide teachers, pupils and parents with up-to-date information of pupil performance three times throughout the school year.

How does the tracking system work?

The system is 'live' all the time. This means teachers can regularly enter current information from e.g. results of a recent assessment, a piece of homework, unit tests or course work etc. This information is then available to be accessed at recognised intervals (see tracking dates below) providing an up to the minute picture of individual pupil performance across all subjects. It will then be collated and analysed, shared with teachers, parents and pupils and strategies put in place to support those who need it.

What are the advantages of pupil tracking?

- Pupil tracking monitors pupil progress within individual subjects and is able to compare this performance with all their other subjects.
- It is now possible to identify problems within a class or in a subject
- It enables Principal Teachers to identify pupils who perhaps require additional support in their subject
- Most importantly it keeps parents regularly informed and at a much earlier stage in the session.

What happens next?

Immediately after the tracking exercise is complete all parents will receive a tracking report for their child. Depending on the number of concerns raised in the tracking report, there are a number of actions that can be taken:

- Pupil will be offered support by subject teacher and PT Subject
- Pupil will be offered support strategies by Pastoral Support teacher
- Pupil and Parental interview with the DHT to provide support required

What happens in School?

- All staff will give feedback to pupils on their tracking results
- PT's will identify focus groups within their own subject and offer support
- PT's identify and address any problems highlighted in classes or with staff
- PT Pastoral Support and DHT's identify focus groups across all subject areas and support mechanisms are then put in place to improve attainment.

The outstanding benefit of our system is that it will allow pupils, teachers and parents to closely monitor performance and enable us to keep standards of attainment and achievement high.

Employability

JOINT EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

Between March 2016 and March 2017, Gleniffer High School (along with all of the other secondary schools in Renfrewshire) are engaging in a range of employability projects aimed at improving the opportunities for our young people.

Included within this program is a series of taster workshops for S2 pupils at both the University of the West of Scotland and West College Scotland, where selected pupils have had the opportunity to get a flavour further education. It is hoped that this will encourage them to consider seeking a positive destination through college and/or university.

S3, S4 & S5 pupils previously undertaking the ASDAN course are now working towards qualifications from the Achieve Programme produced by the Prince's Trust. This program consists of a series of units, each focusing on an aspect of personal development, employability skills or community development. In addition to receiving recognition in the form of Achieve Awards and Certificates, pupils will have a real opportunity to contribute to both the school and wider community. Pupils in S3 and S5 will also be further supported by Business Ambassadors from the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce.

Selected S4 & S5 pupils will be undertaking intensive vocational taster courses within West College Scotland as well as having the opportunity to receive work experience at the college. At the same time a larger number of our S6 pupils have been working with University of the West of Scotland within the 'Step Up to University' programme.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for all with Gleniffer, this year we are running a wider variety of vocational-based courses within the senior phase. Courses such as Lab Skills, Travel & Tourism and Hospitality, allow pupils to develop skills for learning, life and the world of work and include additional opportunities for work experience and input from industry.

By developing business partnerships, we have been able to secure extended work placements for pupils in S5 & S6 to further enrich their learning and develop employability skills. These opportunities are now being extended to selected pupils within S3 and S4.

INSIGHTS INTO INDUSTRY

Gleniffer pupils have been benefiting from an increased input from our business partners into the classroom. Recently Jinty Crawford from the Health, Food and Technology department has been commissioned to help support this by creating new business links and looking for opportunities where the curriculum can be supported by visits to and from partners in the wider community. Mrs. Crawford has extensive experience in the field of recruitment and as well as working within this initiative, she will be supporting all of our employability activities throughout the school year. One of these tasks is developing our careers database which will now be extended to all pupils S2-S6. For pupils S2&S3 this will mean that we can tailor our employability programs directly to the type of training and employment they are seeking. For S4-S6 we will be able to match pupils to opportunities for training and/or employment.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

An additional aspect of the Joint Employability Project has been the creation of the Gleniffer Parents in Partnership (PIP) Programme.

This highly successful programme consists of a 9-week programme whereby the parents of selected S1 pupils are invited into the school for three periods every Thursday to get a taste of the school curriculum and take part in workshops and presentations delivered by community partners such as Advice Works, Triple P and the Renfrewshire Wide Credit Union as well as the Parent Teacher Association and Parent Council.

The response to this programme has been fantastic and already we are seeing the benefits of further developing how we engage with parents. The pupils themselves also receive additional support through a series of 'Positive Mindsets' lessons delivered by Live'n'Learn.



Coming Soon....

Within the rest of session 2016/17 we will be looking forward to our show case employability events - S3 Planning for Choice & Changes in February and the S4 Employability week in May.

We will also be launching of our Parents as Educators Programme – getting parents into the school to share their skills and experience with pupil groups and a series of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities focused mainly at our S2 pupils ahead of their subject choices for S3.

As always we seek to keep our pupils, parents and community partners up to date with all of our employability activities and opportunities through our employability twitter feed @EmployGleniffer and website <http://employgleniffer.weebly.com>

If you want to find out more or to get involved please email through the website or send a message through twitter.

A huge thank you has to go out to all the staff, parents, and community partners who have supported and continue to support all of our employability activities. Sam Marshallsay - Project Leader for Employability

S1/S2 Enterprise Disco



S3 YPI Charity Fair



S1/S2 STEM Trip



WCS Tasters







Art & Design Pupil of the Month



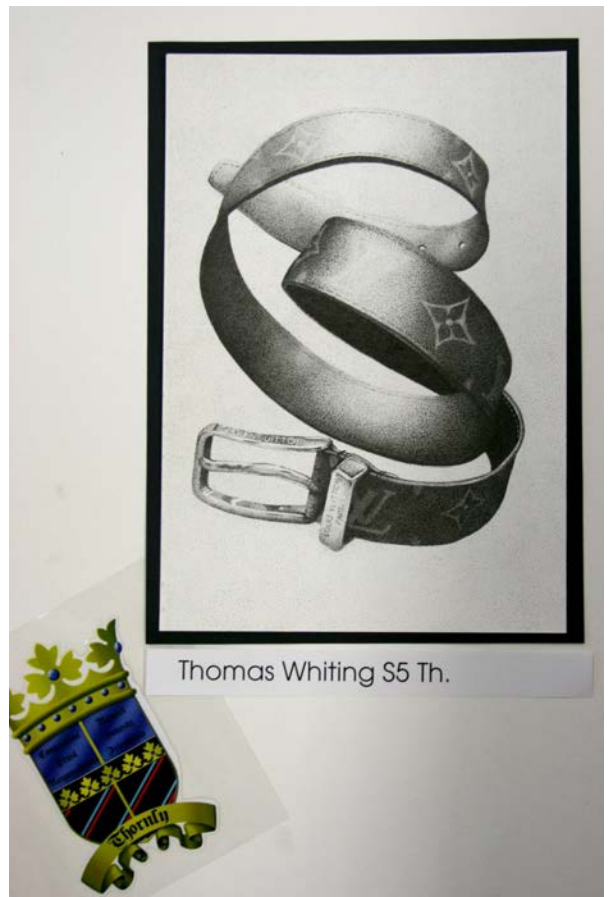
Jodi Young S5 Th.



Charlotte Donnelly S2 Mor.



Libby Sutherland S3 Th.



Thomas Whiting S5 Th.

U14s Football

The U14s have had a very challenging start to the season, coming up against the two strongest teams in the section in Castlehead and Johnstone.

The opening match was a very tough trip to Castlehead, who came out on top of the league last season.

The boys started off great, playing some really nice attacking football and were dominating the midfield and the game. Arron Lyall scored a fortuitous opener after a speculative shot from about 25yds was dropped into the net by the keeper. A second goal quickly followed by Lewis Barclay after an in-direct freekick was awarded for a pass back.

Castlehead got back into the game and snatched a goal just before half time.

Some slack defending allowed Castlehead to get back into the game in the second half and after a couple of missed chances from Gleniffer, Castlehead grew in confidence and utilised their 6 rolling substitutes to quickly overturn Gleniffer's lead as Gleniffer's legs began to tire.

Castlehead eventually ran out 5-2 winners but there was a lot of positives to take from the game, in particular the passing and movement in the midfield.

The least said about the second game the better as the boys were overrun by a very good Johnstone side that ran out 9-0 winners in the first home match of the season.

The next game is a tough away trip to Johnstone in the Scottish cup where the boys will be looking to restore some pride.

Sports Roundup

U13s Football

The U13s have made an outstanding start to their season, both in league and cup. A highly encouraging trial held at the start of the year indicated the surfeit of talent competing for a place in the squad.

Eventually - in what was a very tough selection process - from the field of over thirty aspiring footballers, sixteen were chosen to represent Gleniffer High School for the coming year. As we near the end of October, they have done so with distinction.

The opening fixture of the league campaign brought a trip to Inverclyde Academy, and an excellent all-round performance that resulted in a 5-0 victory. Blair Devine set an early marker for the year ahead with a well-taken hat-trick, bookended by impressive strikes from Jamie Millar and Cameron Robertson.

Their next match brought unquestionably the toughest challenge of the season so far, with the visit of a highly-impressive Gryffe High side. Stung by the loss of an early goal, the boys turned in a subdued first half performance to trail 2-0 at half-time. However, after regrouping, their tenacity and spirit were evident for all to see in the second half, as they dominated the game to fight back for a 2-2 draw, and a potentially hugely valuable point; a result secured by a wonderful Noah Young free-kick two minutes from time, that sparked exuberant celebrations both on the pitch and sidelines!

The following week brought another tough test in the shape of in-form Trinity High. Despite starting sluggishly and trailing 3-1 early on, the boys then turned in arguably their best football of the season to storm into a 5-3 lead by half-time; Lewis McGregor in scintillating form, plundering four goals with a display of equal parts power and pace. The second-half brought more of the same, with a brace from the excellent Shaun Speirs and further strikes from Blair Devine and Darren Rafferty rounding out the scoring in an 8-5 victory.

The next two games saw the U13s go goal-crazy: a storming 9-0 away league victory at Renfrew High preceding a truly outstanding 10-1 demolition of Springburn Academy in the Scottish Shield. There were hat-tricks for Shaun Speirs at Renfrew and Noah Young against Springburn, as well as excellent defending throughout, marshalled by captain Kyle Dalziel.

Excellent form to take us into the October break, before two back-to-back home league matches against Notre Dame High and Inverclyde Academy.

U15s Football

After a difficult and challenging year at U14 level, this year's U15's (S3) have improved greatly. Our first game, at home, was against local side St Andrews who provided a strong test by defeating Gleniffer High 4-1. Even so I am encouraged by the overall performance and display of teamwork. Our second game was an away fixture to Trinity, where we were desperately unlucky to lose 5-3 although it was clear to see that the boys have improved both as individuals and as a team. Although only a short way into the fixture list, these two games will give the team encouragement and a platform to progress and develop. As such I am delighted with both the attitude and commitment of the pupils involved, and now look forward to building on the progress that the team has achieved so far.

GHSDC



Wednesday
 S2 - 3:00 - 4:00 - Miss MacDonald
 S3 - 4:00 - 5:00 - Miss MacDonald
 S1 - 4:00 - 5:00 - Miss Tweedie
 Friday
 S4/S5/S6 - 3:00 - 4:00 - Miss MacDonald

Netball

We have had a great start to the session with all four age groups competing in the Scottish cup for 2016-17.

We are very lucky to have Eilidh Murphy in S6 taking on the responsibility of coaching the S1 team this year. She works with the girls after school and during some lunch times. We are very grateful of her commitment and her support when we have lots of girls attending the club.

So far we have played 2 matches and won both, which is a great start for the girls. S1 and S3 played St Andrews Academy in the first round of the Scottish cup at home on the 19th September and comfortably won.

We have games organised for the next few weeks ahead, some are friendly matches and some are Scottish Cup matches, our girls are looking forward to these and are aiming for more "Wins".

Senior Football

The season has been limited to two games so far after the initial trials at the start of the session.

Thurs 12 Sept	8 – 0 league win against Gryffe High School
Tues 4 Oct	3 – 2 Scottish Shield win at home to Cathkin High School, Rutherglen

P.E. Extra-Curricular Activities

We have an extensive range of Extra-Curricular activities running this year that are available for pupils of all ages to get involved in.

At lunch times we have senior pupils and staff running badminton, multi sport and dodge ball and volleyball which have been very popular so far.

After school we have something on nearly every day after school. We have Netball, basketball, fit for girls, fitness club, dance, gymnastics, hockey, badminton and running club.

All of the days and times are available in the extra-curricular handout which was issued at the start of the session.

If any pupils wish to join or ask any questions, please come down to the PE dept and we will help you find the information you are looking for.

Dance Club

I have been a part of the dance club since it first started up when I was in S1 and now as an S6 pupil I can say it has been one of the best experiences of my time in Gleniffer. The dance club doesn't just allow you to dance but it allows you to meet new friends and showcase your talents in the annual dance show and at many other events throughout the year such as The G-factor, the Christmas Concert and even the Fashion Show. Being part of the dance club has allowed me to boost my confidence. I have had many opportunities such as competing in 'Renfrewshire's Got to Dance' where we reached the finals.

Anyone is welcome to join from S1-S6.

We dance on a Wednesday which is for S1-S3 and a Friday which is for pupils of S4-S6.

Without our dance teacher we would never have the opportunity to participate in so many events. On behalf of the entire dance school, we would like to thank Miss MacDonald for giving up her time to teach us and develop our dance ability.

Amie Reed S6

Hockey Club

The Hockey teams have recently been competing in the junior and senior Renfrewshire Hockey leagues and they train every Wednesday for an hour straight after school. The teams are coached by myself and senior Kelburne Hockey club players, James MacPherson and Matthew Reid. The matches take place once a month on a Wednesday at a wide range of venues across Renfrewshire and we are on track to push for the league title.

Mr Bleach



Contacting Gleniffer High School

Staff at Gleniffer High school recognise the importance in parental engagement and recognise the importance in partnership working to give pupils the opportunity to reach their full potential.

If your child is absent from school, could you please contact the school office by phone by 9.30am on the day of absence (01505 813116). If no communication is received parents will automatically receive a text message asking them to contact the school immediately.

The Pastoral Support staff within Gleniffer High School provides every pupil and their parent/careers with the first point of contact in the school.

Brodie House	PT Pastoral (Acting)	Mr Parsons
Glen House	PT Pastoral	Mrs Denny
Moredun House	PT Pastoral	Miss Cameron
Thorny House	PT Pastoral (Acting)	Miss Birrell

Parents wishing to enquire about the progress of their son/daughter or any problem relating to school should initially contact the school office on 01505 813116 and ask to speak to their child's Pastoral Support Teacher. You can also contact the school by emailing us at or glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk