

INSIDE GHS

Autumn Issue:



Welcome to the new school session

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to introduce our first school newsletter of session 2017-18 and my first since starting in Gleniffer High School!

In this edition you will find lots of information about what has been happening since we returned in August, and some of our plans for the year ahead. We are attempting to become more eco-friendly and therefore newsletters will be emailed to parents/carers who have supplied us with this information and a copy put on the school website. Anyone who needs a hard copy should send their child to the school office where they can collect one after the October break.

The school year always starts with a flurry of activity as new groups start up and new pupils, families and staff join our community. In this newsletter you will hear directly from our new starts and their initial impressions of Gleniffer High School.

I feel very fortunate to have inherited such a fantastic school and can only compliment the young people and staff, who are working hard to ensure it is the best school in Renfrewshire!!

Lisa Chalmers
Head Teacher

**IF YOU BELIEVE,
YOU CAN ACHIEVE**

S1

“As we approach the October break I am delighted to report that our newest Gleniffer High School pupils have made an excellent start to their secondary school education. Indeed, as they make their way confidently around the school it is hard to remember that only a few weeks ago our S1 pupils were very anxious about getting lost in their new surroundings. Our S6 pupils have been very supportive, running the lunchtime drop-in club which has been very popular. In addition, S1 pupils have their very own homework club on Wednesday lunchtimes with S6 pupils on hand to offer support. I have had the opportunity to visit a variety of lessons and it is very encouraging to see a high level of participation – and enjoyment, in classes. I was invited to a Geography class to see the range of models of world landmarks which the pupils had created and I was so relieved NOT to have to decide on a favourite – it would have been an impossible task, believe me.

Our extra-curricular programme is up and running and we are very fortunate to have such a committed staff willing to give their time and expertise to offer a range of clubs and groups. There is already a number of pupils taking part in some of the many activities available. Please encourage your child to take part in at least one activity. It is an excellent way of meeting new friends, developing a (new) skill and having some fun in school. We presented our first bronze extra-curricular award at a recent assembly and we look forward to celebrating more achievements in the months ahead. I hope that all S1 pupils have an enjoyable and restful holiday and return refreshed and ready to take forward their learning.”

Mrs McMunn

**S2**

Having started their S2 timetable back in June, pupils have settled quickly into their new classes. It is so important that the pupils have a focused approach to their learning, especially with the prospect of making subject choices after Christmas. I hope you will join us in encouraging your child to do the best they can in all their subjects. We are also looking closely at homework completion and we feel that there is room for improvement in this area. We hope that the new digital homework package “Show My Homework” will help pupils manage their homework tasks and make it easier for parents/carers to stay informed.

At a recent assembly we were delighted to present over fifty gold, silver and bronze extra-curricular award badges in recognition of achievements recorded at the end of S1. This year’s extra-curricular programme has already been launched and we hope that all pupils will participate in at least one of the groups on offer. It is important that pupils extend their experiences beyond the classroom and we are fortunate to be able to provide a variety of activities in Gleniffer High School.

As the October break approaches, we wish our S2 pupils a wonderful holiday

Miss Feggans & Mrs McMunn



Head Teachers

S3

S3 have made a very good start to the session. Behaviour statistics show that the majority of pupils continue to conduct themselves within our school values on a daily basis. My thanks to the pupils for their continued efforts in this endeavour. Uniform also continues to be worn to a high standard across the year group. My thanks to pupils and to parents/ carers for keeping this a priority.

The Show My Homework initiative will make it easier for pupils to track their own homework and allow parents/ carers and school staff to keep a closer eye on pupil progress with homework across the school. Letters explaining parental/ carer access to the site were issued to pupils at our S3 assembly on 6th October. If you did not receive this letter please contact the school office.

We continue to reward children who participate and achieve within an extra curricular activity. Extra Curricular activities booklets have been issued to pupils. Please encourage your child to take advantage of the offers available thanks to volunteer staff as these activities greatly enhance the school experience for pupils.

Miss Cameron PT Pastoral, organised a very informative and enjoyable introduction day for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative for all S3 pupils earlier this month. S3 are now actively involved in the liaising with charities following work in PSE. This work supports the development of skills in team-working, communication, organisation and presenting.

S3 tracking reports will be issued to pupils at the end of October in advance of the Parents' Night on 7th November. We look forward to welcoming parents/ carers on that night.

I wish all S3 pupils and their families a very restful October break.

Miss Feggans

S4

S4 have a successful start to what will be the most important session of their education career to date. On my visits to classes, pupils are focussed on course work and preparing for unit assessments.

Tracking reports were issued on Monday 2nd October.

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 Katie Maltby and Shane Stoddart who received Gold awards at the October assembly. Katie is a very successful rower, going forward to the trials for the GB squad, and Shane presented on stage to large audience at the national finals of the YPI event. Congratulations also to Eilidh Cassidy who received a silver award for her work with the Renfrewshire Ceilidh band, and to Cameron McIntrye who received a bronze award for his success at the Renfrewshire indoor Climbing Competition.

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. The pupils first tracking report was issued on 9th October with the Parents Evening following on the 12th October.

The Senior Phase Information Evening which took place on Wednesday 6th September for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. This was a very successful evening and was extremely well attended by both parents and pupils.

The aim of the evening was 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 presentations by the Maths and English departments for all parents of pupils who are being presented for Higher and National 5 exams. There was also a talk on Modern Apprenticeships by Mr Marshallsay our Principal Teacher for Employability and a presentation on career paths by our two advisers from Skills Development Scotland. We work hard to ensure that the needs for all our pupils are met when dealing with their futures to ensure that each school leaver achieves a positive destination.



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 (Robbie Campbell), Head Girl (Ciara Phillips) and our four Deputies (Chloe Frater, Esther Crockett, Jack Field and Cameron Cochrane). 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 Mrs Harris 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 recently organised their first social event which took place in the social area last week. It was a Pizza / Quiz evening which was really good fun and a hugely successful event. The Halloween Dance will follow on the 2nd of November and with the amount of planning being done already, I can't wait. Children in Need will be the big focus in November and before you know it, it will be Christmas!!

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Parental engagement is a key driver in the Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework published in December 2016.

As part of Gleniffer's on-going commitment to parental engagement, we are currently running our second year of the Parent's in Partnership programme, funded by Renfrewshire Council through the Raising Attainment Challenge fund.



Our programme has gone from strength to strength and developed has through feedback from parents and pupils. It has been recognised as an example of best practice within Renfrewshire and presented at the annual Scottish Learning Festival in September. During the 9 week programme, select parents of our new S1 pupils have had the opportunity to 'get a taste' of school life at Gleniffer, taking part in lessons and attending information sessions delivered by Pastoral Staff, Home-link, the Parent Teacher Association and pupil mentors amongst others.

A new -and very much welcome- addition to this years' programme has been group teaching lessons where pupils and their parents work together on a practical task. The two sessions so far – Art & Technical – have been (as described by one of the parents) as "the highlight of the programme so far!". Thanks go to Miss MacDonald and Mr. Ramsay for delivering such excellent sessions as well as all the other teachers who have given up their time to help engage and enthuse our parents. A special mention also goes Mrs. Barnard and Mr. Mollins - our new Inclusion Support Assistants -for their ongoing support of the programme. In the week to come and post-programme, Mrs. Barnard will be continue to support the parents with their engagement with the school.

Our 'Parents as Educators' program then gives parents the opportunity to give back to the school and help enrich pupils' learning by delivering lessons to our pupils. Last year we had a crochet masterclass given to our Higher Fashion Design pupils and this year we are looking forward to a cake craft lesson for our NPA in Bakery class.

Whilst the parents have been taking part in lessons, their children (as well others in S1) in our Growth Mindsets program delivered by Live-n-Learn. 'The Power of Yet' program are aimed to inspire and motivate and encourage young people to grasp as many opportunities as possible... who know where they might lead! Pupils have already attended their first session and will attend another two, after which a presentation will be given to both parents and staff on how to continue to develop a growth mindset.



SQA results this year were quite simply outstanding! At this stage, prior to any adjustments made due to marking reviews or recognising positive achievement, the young people have achieved:

- **The best set of S4 National 5 results (joint).**
- **The best set of S5 Higher results.**
- **The second best set of Advanced Higher results.**

This makes it clear that not only is Gleniffer High School providing a well-rounded education, but also is ensuring the learners achieve great results when they put in the work.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

We welcomed 25 pupils and 3 members of staff to Gleniffer High school from our partner school, Hans Böckler Schule in Fürth on Monday 2nd October. The group will be here until Monday, 9th October. We had a varied programme of events for the German pupils and their Scottish buddies throughout the week.

Pupils were welcomed to the school by the Head Teacher, Lisa Chalmers on Tuesday, 3rd October and after a short tour of the building they accompanied our pupils to class. In the afternoon we were given a guided tour of Paisley Abbey and pupils were able to go up the tower where they had a great view over Paisley. Our thanks go to Mr Birss for organising this. A very warm welcome from Provost Lorraine Cameron awaited us at the Council chambers. Provost Cameron was delighted that we are able to continue this twinning arrangement with Fürth.

Wednesday saw pupils visit the New Lanark World Heritage Site and learn about the work of Robert Owen. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the week was our day trip to Millport. Pupils and staff cycled around the island and were able to enjoy fish and chips at the famous Nardini restaurant after their efforts!

On Friday pupils have a day trip to Edinburgh with a tour of the castle and a walk up the Royal Mile. On Saturday the exchange pupils will spend the whole day with their Scottish partner and their families and this gives them the opportunity to see real family life and experience a different culture first-hand. The week will finish off with a Scottish evening and ceilidh in the school on Sunday night.



The benefits for our pupils are wide-ranging. As well as having the opportunity to practice their German first-hand, pupils forge friendships which last much longer than the Exchange programme. Our pupils have already been to Fürth and many will return. The Exchange programme often gives the pupils the confidence to continue with their studies in German and perhaps spend some of their time studying in Germany or have a work placement there in the future. In the meantime, it is a pleasure to see how much enjoyment the pupils get from being with the Exchange group.

I would like to thank all of the staff involved in the Exchange programme and the parents and families who have welcomed our German guests to Paisley. We could not have done this without the generosity and kindness of the parents and families within our school community.



House Captains

After an extremely competitive interview process the House Captains for this year have now been decided. As part of our interview, each of us brought forward our own unique and creative ideas on how we could work together to ensure this year at Gleniffer is the best one yet.

Now that we have been chosen we look forward to bringing our ideas together and working hard to organise different events throughout the school year that everyone can take part in and really enjoy. The first of these events was the annual Food Bank Appeal. Over the course of a week both teachers and pupils came together to collect items for Renfrewshire Food Bank and it was thanks to this teamwork that the event was a massive success. We would like to thank everyone who took part this year and supported this amazing cause.

All of us are very grateful to have had this opportunity and we can't wait to work with each other, the pastoral staff and the badge holders on more events that will benefit both our local area, specifically the House Charities we will be fundraising for, as well as the school itself. We hope as many pupils as possible will take part in these upcoming events, which will be detailed in school as they approach, and are as enthusiastic and passionate as us about making our school a more fun and helpful community.

We also encourage any pupils who wish to have their say on school issues to join the Pupil's Voice; a group we will meet with often to discuss many different school-related ideas. Overall, the first month of being House Captains has been a fun, challenging experience for all of us and we can't wait to get started on our other plans.



Brodie

Conor Blain & Taylor Donald

Moredun

Rachel Johnston & Rebecca Kane

Glen

Meg Ferguson & Jessica Logan

Thornly

Graham Peacock & Andrew Silvester

Departments in the Spotlight

Art & Design

English

Chemistry

Music

Mathematics

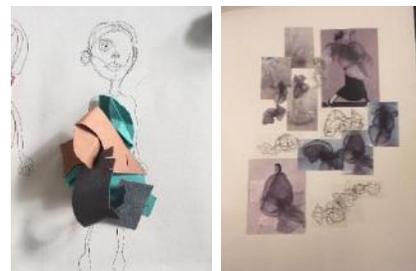
Physics

Physical Education

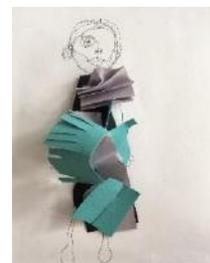
Computing Science

Art & Design Pathways

"When I think back to my time in school, I always think of the Art department! From S1-S6, I spent almost all of my spare time in there whether it was finishing off paintings, sewing beads onto a dress or volunteering in S6! It was by far my favourite subject and I always knew I wanted to have an art/design related career.



Advanced Higher Art in S6 was definitely the most fun I've ever had in school - I had a great time creating the work whilst being in a close knit class with some of my best friends from school. S6 was the year I decided to apply for Fashion Design at all the different highly competitive art schools. I was able to take part in the Glasgow School of Art's Widening Participation Portfolio Preparation class due to the link Gleniffer has with the GSA Widening Participation team. I decided to take a year to do a portfolio course at Glasgow Clyde College. This was an amazing stepping-stone for me between school and university and I am now so glad I took a year to focus on creating my portfolio.



I am now studying Fashion at the Edinburgh College of Art and could not be happier to be studying a creative, design-based course. I have had so many opportunities already - I am currently doing a live project working with the National Museum of Scotland!

I will be forever thankful to the Gleniffer High Art department for always supporting me in every way - I am now doing a course that I love that provides me with so many opportunities!" - Sophie Mitchell (Moredun)



"I have always had a strong passion for art and fashion and this was strengthened throughout my time spent in the Gleniffer High School Art Department. I was opened up to various disciplines within the subject and I loved the creative side of both expressive and design, as well as learning about art history. In addition to this, the department allowed me many great opportunities throughout my time in Gleniffer, my favourite being working with an amazing team to organise the first ever GHS Create fashion show and exhibition, which was a huge success. This allowed me the chance to explore the fashion industry further by contacting and working with stores to provide collections for the fashion show as well as learning about what's involved in the running of a fashion show, the creation of an exhibition and the logistics of event management.

I have always known I wanted to have a career in fashion but the business side of the industry has always been more appealing to me. I am currently studying International Fashion Branding at Glasgow Caledonian University, which is perfect as it combines both the business and the creative side of the industry. Specialising in design for Advanced Higher Art has been a huge benefit for me throughout my course, especially in areas such as trend forecasting and range planning. Skills learnt at school such as fashion sketching, Photoshop skills and inspiration boards have allowed me to be successful in my first year of university. Now in my second year, I have already had several fantastic opportunities and pieces of my work were exhibited at a university fashion show and at The Glasgow Science Festival. I am very grateful to the Art and Design Department for allowing me to explore and strengthen my skills in all aspects of the subject before finding the pathway that was right for me." - Kirsty Binning (Brodie)

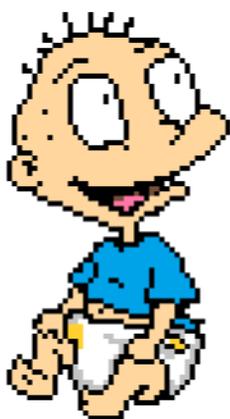
Chemistry

The S3 classes in Chemistry were working on an enterprise unit where they were learning about the chemical industry, the impact of fertilisers on the environment and the human population. This involved research using the internet and literature and a practical exercise where they made their own fertilisers, developed a package for their product and presented this as a sales team using posters as well as their designed package. Each group was peer assessed on their style of presentation as well as their graphic presentation.

Computing Science

In S2 Computing Science, pupils have been learning about how pictures are stored by the computer as part of the Graphics and Animation topic. Pupils have used a variety of software to create their own bitmap and vector graphics, as well as manipulating existing photographs to create a 'colour pop'. The software used in class can be downloaded onto a PC or laptop for free at home; speak to your Computing Science teacher if you are interested in doing so.

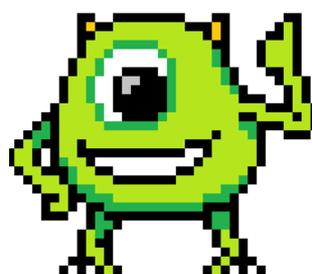
All classes have thoroughly enjoyed expressing their artistic skills during this topic, as you can see from the images below!



Pixel Art By Ellie Muir, 2H



Pixel Art by Amy Speirs, 2K



Pixel Art by Joshua Connolly, 2C



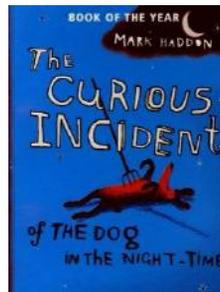


Colour Pop by Iona Trimble, 2B

Vector Skyline by Lewis McGregor, 2G



English



At the beginning of April last year we embarked on the amazing adventure which is National 5 English. For our NAT5 exam we must study close reading, a piece of Scottish text and a novel. The novel we are studying is the “Curious incident of the dog in the night-time.” The author Mark Haddon wrote the book so that people could have a deeper understanding of Asperger’s syndrome. The book is narrated by the main character, Christopher who has Asperger’s syndrome. This means the reader gets to see the world from Christopher’s point of view and the challenges he faces every day that may not seem like challenges to people who do not have Asperger’s.



After we read the novel we were able to empathise more with Christopher as we knew what was going on inside his head and we could somewhat understand how his mind works. However, we struggled to understand how all Christopher's behaviours would look like in real life. This is when Mrs McCrossan offered us the opportunity to go see the "Curious Incident" play in the King's Theatre Glasgow.

The play was extremely enjoyable and we all seemed to enjoy it (apart from some people who found the seats a little uncomfortable). The play almost followed the novel exactly apart from adding a few more scenes or lines for comedic effect or to help the members of the audience who had not read the novel understand the plot line. The play was easier to understand as you could see the other characters' facial expressions and hear their tone of voice; things which Christopher struggles to understand and does not describe in his narrative. The play also managed to exaggerate scenes using loud noises and different lighting so that we were able to understand how Christopher feels when he is having a sensory overload. A sensory overload is when a person with Asperger's finds a situation too overwhelming and they don't know how to cope. Christopher deals with sensory overloads in different ways such as moaning and groaning and finding a small closed space for to sit in.

Overall, the play really helped us to understand more about Christopher and how difficult the world can be for him. Personally, I think both the novel and the play clearly illustrated the life of someone with Asperger's. However, the play's visual effects really helped me to Christopher's world.

Physics

Engineering and Computing for the 21st Century

A group of S5 students attended this event in June organised by UWS as part of the Glasgow Science Festival.

The students attended a talk on 'Gravitational Wave Astronomy – The Opening for a New Window on the Universe' given by a scientist from CERN before attending two interactive workshops. Our students attended one workshop using 3D printing – each getting a 3D printed sheep. They were able to see a range of 3D printers in operation up to the very latest which programmed parts for machinery designed by final year students.

The second workshop was the Digital Communication Challenge where the students learned how to present information in a variety of ways to assist marketing. They also designed their own marketing presentation online for a product of their choice.



Mathematics

MATHS WEEK SCOTLAND 11 SEPT – 18 SEPT 2017

2017 was the inaugural year of Maths Week Scotland, a Scottish Government initiative which brought together events across the country with online and hands-on experiences for young people, their parents and carers and the wider public.

In Gleniffer High School our pupils, particularly S1, participated in a wide range of events to celebrate Maths Week Scotland, including:

ESCAPE ROOMS

We created 4 Maths Escape rooms where teams of 4 pupils had 35 minutes to complete a sequential number of challenges in order to 'escape' from each room. Mr Madden's and Mr Wilson's rooms were transformed for the event which involved S6 students assisting S1 teams to break free from their 'confinement'. The S1 pupils solved puzzles, clues and riddles using map reading (invisible ink and black light), ipads /computers, cryptography (Pigpen and Caesar shift ciphers), completed jigsaws, maths word searches and opened lots of combination locks. Each team was given 4 hint cards and these could be used to ask for help from one of our S5/S6 Maths Champions during the challenge.

The Escape Rooms were not only good fun for the pupils, but also for the staff to plan and organise. Escape Rooms are very popular in wider society at the moment and bringing this concept together with maths proved to be engaging, fun and challenging for our young people. It enhanced their confidence and team building skills.

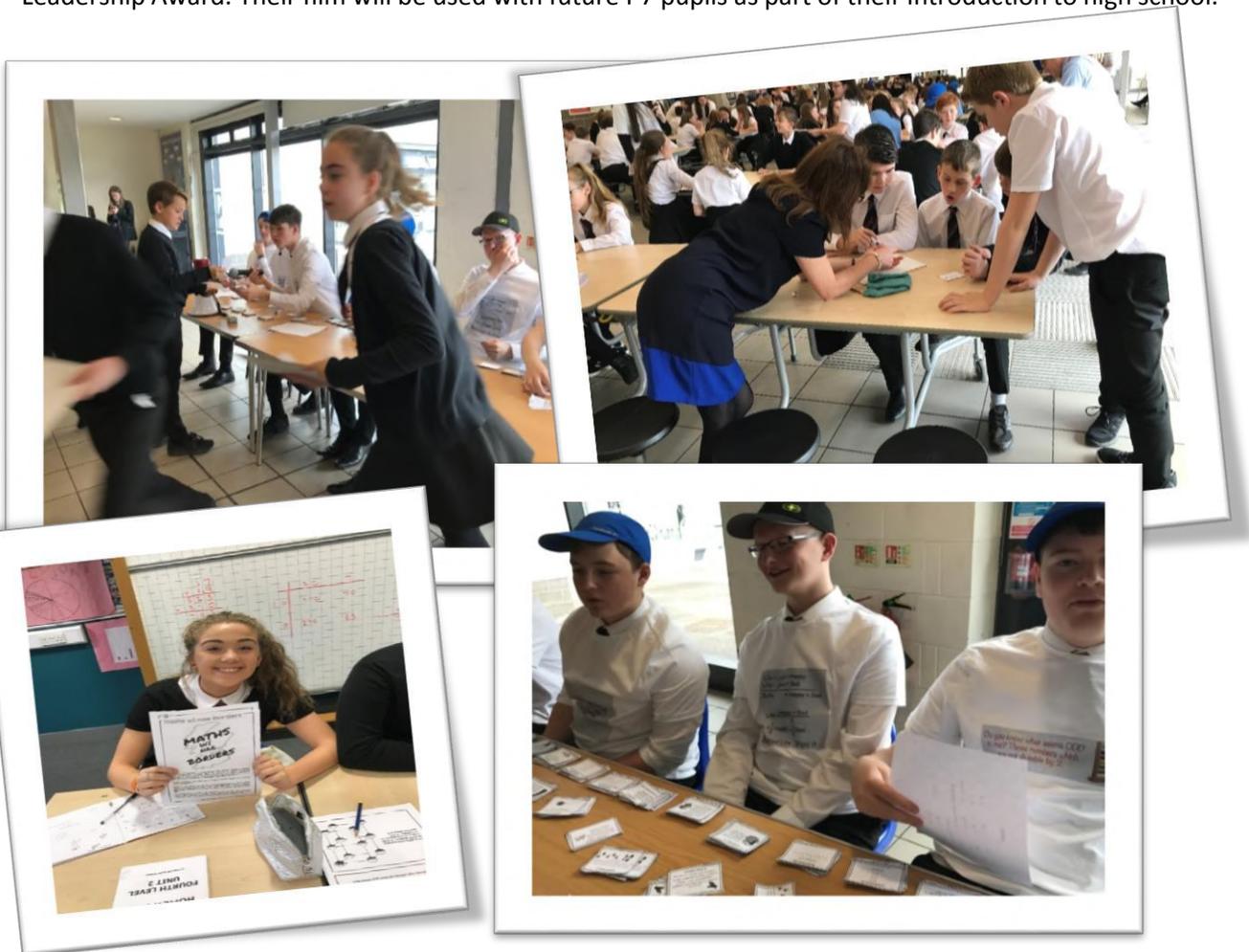


Mathematics

MATHS WEEK SCOTLAND 11 SEPT – 18 SEPT 2017

MEGA MATHS RELAY

Our Mega Maths Relay was held in the Social Area allowing the whole school community to witness young people enjoying maths. Pupils worked in teams of 4 with a S5/6 student supporting 2 teams. Collaboration, team working, time/task management and relationship building skills were evident throughout this engaging event. Feedback from pupils was extremely positive and the possibility of changing attitudes towards maths was grasped. This event was filmed and photographed by a small group of the S6 Maths Champions, Andrew Silvester, Heather Mullin and Danielle McDonald, as part of their Leadership Award. Their film will be used with future P7 pupils as part of their introduction to high school.



S5/S6 MATHS CHAMPIONS

Our Maths Champions supported pupils across all events during Maths Week. They were identified by their own designed t-shirts and hats, raising the profile and spreading positive messages about maths. They decorated the maths department, promoted the use of the National Sumdog contest where pupils practised their numeracy skills using engaging online games and the National Maths wi nae Borders competition. Their energy and enthusiasm impacted fellow pupils, parents and teachers.

Mathematics

BRIDGE ENGINEERING CONTEST

All S1 pupils and some S3 pupils designed and built bridges using modelling clay and wooden sticks. Bridges were judged on their aesthetics and durability.

S1 pupils were invited to design a Maths homework booklet cover to be use across our many homework resources. The winning designs were created by Ellie McMurray S1 and Mylia Astels S1.

ENTERPRISING MATHS COMPETITION

A team consisting of Ebo Anyebe S3, Beth Kydd S3, Cameron Dooley S4 and Libby Sutherland S4 accompanied by Miss Chalmers, represented us at the Regional Heat of this competition.

MATHS IN LITERACY LESSONS

During S1 literacy lessons, pupils were given mathematical vocabulary and asked to give definitions, facts, characteristics, examples and non-examples for each term.

STAFF AND PUPIL JOKE COMPETITION

Pupil winner – Luke Ashwood with “What did the triangle say to the circle?” “You’re pointless” 😊

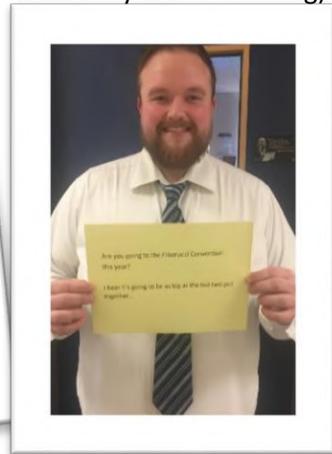
Staff winner – Mr Bisland with “Are you going to the Fibonacci Convention this year?” “I hear it’s going to be as big as the last two put together” 😊

DAILY MATHS PUZZLES FOR NON-MATHS STAFF

Congratulations to Miss Anderson, Miss Doherty and Mr Ramsey who were first to correctly answer daily maths puzzles during Scottish Maths Week. The winners are great champions for numeracy across the curriculum.

Pupils were able to collect Golden Tickets over the week and they redeemed them for various prizes.

Throughout the week and since, good practice was shared using Twitter, our personalised Snapchat Geofilter, a Parent Council presentation, EMT presentation (leading to numeracy across learning) and a parental engagement workshop.



To celebrate Maths Week Scotland, Renfrewshire Council also organised their own challenge to all sectors of education; early years, primary and secondary. We were delighted to win the secondary sector prize! Williamsburgh PS and Glendee Nursery won the other sector prizes.

The music department has taken off in the usual enthusiastic way!

Along with pupils learning to play instruments in every corner, composing using music technology and learning how music is put together, some of our pupils are preparing for Associated Board, Trinity College and Conservatoire traditional examinations along with entrance auditions at various colleges and universities.

Our use of music technology is growing again with the use of new online games and ipads.

Our pupils who sat Associated Board examinations in June were all extremely successful with many gaining a pass with merit or distinction and Jessica Fraser was accepted again to study at the junior department of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She is preparing to sit Grade V111 piano in November which will be an amazing achievement and is also taking part in the Scots Fiddle Festival with the RCS trad ensemble, a great follow on from their trip to Moscow in May.

We have various projects planned for this year already including concert visits and workshops. 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, culminating with a concert performance in the Classic Grand venue in Glasgow organised by pupils throughout Renfrewshire. This has all been much enjoyed by previous pupils and in fact many have gained university and college places from their experience. This year's course will also award an SQA qualification.

Some of our pupils are also working with The Royal Scottish National Orchestra both in performance and backstage as part of another Renfrewshire wide project which is again offering an amazing experience for them.

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 including 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.

Our open night and Christmas Concert and Christmas service music rehearsals are also 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 (Fraser Scott).

Physical Education



In May 2017 the PE Department, along with the help of our Active School Coordinator, collected evidence to apply for the Sports Scotland School of Sport award. The department worked hard to collect evidence on a variety of areas to highlight everything that we do in Gleniffer High School. For example, Celebrating Sport, Recognition of Awards, Competing and Performing and Leadership. Along with photos, statistics and written evidence, we also collected comments and feedback from our pupils to support the information we were presenting.

In September all our hard work paid off and we were delighted to find out that we had received a Silver School of Sport Award!

Here is some of the evidence we collected and presented.

✘ We love to celebrate our pupils' achievements.

Our staff nominate pupils every month for their hard work and attainment in PE. We also send Letters of Praise home at the end of every block to parent highlighting how their pupil is performing in PE. We award our pupils with gold, silver and bronze badges for various achievements.

Gleniffer High School 5

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Gleniffer High School 5

✘ Photos of our Extra-Curricular clubs

Gleniffer High School 3

Physical Education



The Netball Scottish Cup is well under way and our S1, S2 S3 and Open teams have lots of games planned over the next few weeks. Our S3 team played Castlehead and St Andrew's a few weeks ago and played very well. We beat Castlehead, but unfortunately lost to St Andrew's, but we are positive for our next games coming up.

Good Luck to all the teams in the first round of the Scottish Cup.



Physical Education



P.E. Success stories

Renfrewshire Climbing championships

Amy Lieberman S6 current Scottish champion won the Renfrewshire climbing championships and is currently training with the national indoor climbing squad. **Cameron McIntyre** S3 achieved a silver medal in his age category.

Rowing

Katy Maltby has recently qualified for the U-16 Great British 2K rowing trials. We wish Katy all the best in her quest to achieve a place in the GB performance squad.



Hockey report

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, Matthew Reid and Jack Campbell. 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.

Please encourage your son/daughter to come along and join the team, everyone will get a game.

Active Schools



Active Girls Day – 6/10/17

Over 80 2nd and 3rd year girls took part in Active Girls day with the support of Gleniffer's PE department, Young Ambassadors and senior pupils. A variety of dance and zumba was on offer to all. During Active Girls day the PE blog and Twitter was a flurry of activity receiving many likes and retweets from many notable followers such as Sport Scotland.



Renfrewshire School of Sport Education

This year three 5th and 6th year pupils have been selected to represent Gleniffer at the Active School Renfrewshire School of Sport Education. **Chloe Rae, Grace Ferguson and Amy Leiberman** have embarked on the 22 week training course to become future young leaders within the Active Schools programme.

During their 22 weeks they will receive all the qualifications they will require to allow them to lead sport within their school and the wider community.



Duke of Edinburgh

The pupil's participating in this year's Duke of Edinburgh have been picked out the hat from an extensive list of 55 pupils interested from S3. They must now decide what activities they are going to take forward for their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections before we start work on expedition training. We are looking forward to lots of fun together while we plan and prepare for our practice and qualifying expeditions that will take place spring and summer of next year.

Miss Robb and Mr Madden

Young Engineers

The Young Engineering Club is a Design and Manufacturing club involved in producing Toys and Everyday products. A variety of materials will be used including woods, metals and plastics. A number of processes and machines which are used in the World of Work will also be an integral part of this club. All Young Engineers will have the skills to problem solve and use HOTS. Each member will become fluent using 3 –Dimensional modelling and printing, DTP techniques will also be taught as part of this programme of work. There will be an organised programme for visits to Universities, Design Centres and the World of work. This will articulate with STEM and a variety of competitions will be entered throughout the duration of this club. It is fun and enjoyable, equipping our young learners with skills for the future.

The models which will be taught are:

Model 1 A Wooden Tractor

Model 2 A CAM automata toy

Model 3 A moving Toy Duck

Model 4 A Lamp

Models 5 A scale model of a Spitfire Aircraft and A scale model of a Messerschmitt 109

The Club will run on a Monday from 15: 40 - 16:40 and be taught by Mr. Clannachan

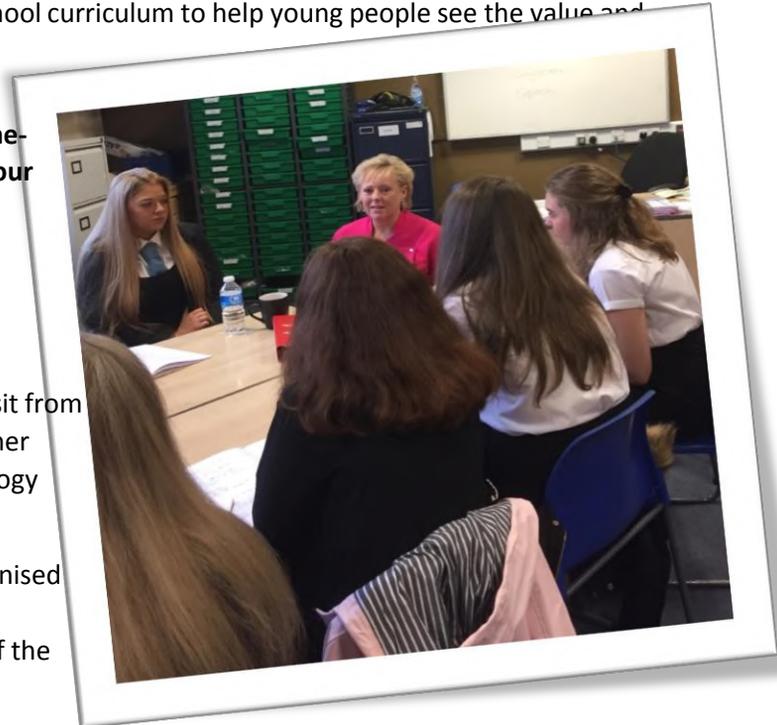
Developing the Young Workforce



One of the key priorities from the Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework is "Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people".

At Gleniffer, we are developing the next generation of our workforce by continuing to enhance pupils' skills in relation to Learning, Life and Work. We have developed the curriculum to improve higher order thinking skills such as analysis and creativity and working towards fully implementing the Careers Education Standard 3-18 within the school. As part of this we are working with outside partners to enhance pupils' knowledge of skills required in life outside of school. This has included guest speakers into lessons and working with pupils and teachers to deliver school curriculum to help young people see the value and relevance in what they are learning.

Recently we have had sessions delivered by Anne-Marie Smith from Stanley Green Care Home to our Higher and National 5 Care classes organised by Mrs Crawford in the Health, Food & Technology department.



Before the October week we look forward to a visit from Quintiles (vaccine/drug trial company) to our Higher Human Biology and Advanced Higher Human Biology organised by Mrs. Collins in the Science Faculty.

With many other visitors and guest speakers organised over the coming year, we look forward to more opportunities to develop our pupils' knowledge of the World of Work.

We also welcome any parents who feel they could help develop the skills of our young people further by joining us a guest speaker/teacher. If you are interest please get in touch with Mr. Marshallsay (PT Employability).

To find out more about what we are doing to support Developing the Young Workforce at Gleniffer please follow our twitter feed @EmployGleniffer for the latest updates and opportunities.



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Developing the Young Workforce



Renfrewshire STEM Fortnight – Doosan Babcock visit

As part of a series of visits organised through Renfrewshire Council, Invest Renfrewshire and DYW West, S3 & S4 pupils from Gleniffer will be visiting Doosan Babcock in Westway, Renfrew visiting the labs, taking part in engineering tasks and STEM challenges. This event will be led by members of staff from our Technical Department and we hope the pupils have an enjoyable and insightful visit.

Renfrewshire Young Women into STEM event

Ms. Campbell, one of our Physics teachers from our Science Faculty will be taking a group of S3 girls out to the Young Women into STEM event delivered by Renfrewshire Council, in partnership with DYW West and West College Scotland.

There has for some time been a significant gender gap in terms of young women accessing STEM related careers, with the vast majority of places taken up by young men. This event is aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge of the STEM sector and encourage them to apply for the Modern Apprenticeship opportunities available within it. The core of the day will concentrate on allowing participants to participate in short practical exercises including Carpentry / Joinery, Bricklaying, Electrical and Plumbing. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Scottish Schools Radio

This year some of our pupils in S5&S6 will be broadcasting Gleniffer news as part of the Scottish Schools Radio initiative. S6 pupils including our Head Girl Ciara Phillips will be producing editorial content on school news, events and information whilst S5 will be producing music content as part of the DJ club run by our Science/AV technician Mr. Gorman. Pupils in the social area will be able vote for songs to be played during lunch time and there will be short news-bites delivered throughout. All programs will also be pod-casted for download and broadcast on the internet via the radio player on the school app or by downloading the Scottish Schools Radio App on smartphone, tablet or PC. Pupils are putting together content at the moment and hope to do their first broadcasts soon.



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Behind the Noise

For the 4th year running, pupils from within the Music Department will be taking part in the Behind The Noise 2017/18 (BTN) Programme. The project aims to inspire, encourage and support young people who have a keen interest in music and the various career and further education opportunities that exist within the creative sector. The project is now accredited and all participants will have the opportunity to achieve an SQA Award – SCQF Creative Project Level 5 Award. This will be administered in partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College. Behind The Noise has been developed by industry professionals and is delivered via a series of workshops, rehearsal and recording sessions, industry seminars and a further education open day. The project culminates in a run of live showcases at The Classic Grand music venue in Glasgow. Thanks must go out to Mrs. Gibb from the Music Department for her ongoing support of this excellent opportunity.

Orbit

For the third year, S5 pupils from Gleniffer are taking part in the Orbit Teenage Incubator entrepreneurship program. Orbit Enterprise Education is an innovative and exciting educational programme for teenagers aged 16-18 within Secondary Education. It launches teenagers into setting up real businesses alongside school, and give them access to business mentoring, workshops, information and video guides, and access to events where leading business figures talk to the participants on a 1:1 basis. The program - supported Scottish Billionaire Entrepreneur Sir Tom Hunter - provides excellent support, encouraging and inspiring the next generation of Scottish entrepreneurs to create the businesses and jobs of tomorrow. Previous Gleniffer participants have gone on launch their own successful businesses in web design and social media marketing. We look forward to finding out about the new business ideas of this year's participants!

Parents can find out more about the program by looking at their website at <http://www.orbit-incubator.co.uk/>



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Developing the Young Workforce



Traditional Building Skills visit to Paisley Abbey

On the 4th of September, 25 of our S2 pupils - accompanied by Mr. Clannachan and Mr. Jagger from our Art & Technical Faculty- attended an afternoon workshop in Traditional Building Skills as part of the 5 year Paisley Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative. An outdoor event undercover at Abbey Close, Paisley, the group of 25 students were divided into smaller groups of 5 students to undertake short workshops include stone letter-cutting, plumbing & leadwork, carpentry and natural roofing. The building skills workshops, delivered by experts from West College Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland, also included a tour of Paisley's Historic Abbey. Attending amongst other schools in Renfrewshire, our pupils impressed and have now been invited to attend a reception at the Scottish Parliament in November. Well done to all pupils, Mr. Clannachan and Mr. Jagger!



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Developing the Young Workforce



Morgan Stanley High School Industry Insight Week

Congratulations to our Head Girl Ciara Phillips, who beat off stiff competition from schools across Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Glasgow to gain a place at the Morgan Stanley High School Insight Week in Investment Operations & Accounting. Ciara will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sessions including work shadowing, business overviews, networking sessions and the chance to learn more about what is involved in the recruitment process.

Kirsty Learmonth from Morgan Stanley has a child in Gleniffer and has been a long-time devotee to developing the young workforce at Gleniffer, supporting many of our Employability events. Thanks goes to her for highlighting this opportunity and the work she does to help us develop our young people. We wish Ciara all the best for her week with Morgan Stanley, which takes place during the October break.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Pupils and staff from our Prince's Trust Achieve Classes and Health, Food & Technology (HFT) Faculty organised a very successful coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. The Macmillan coffee morning is a nationwide campaign to raise funds and awareness of the work Macmillan does to support cancer sufferers and their families.

Pupils within the social area have been donating spare change throughout the year and raised £65.01, the coffee morning itself raised a further £130.68 with staff sampling baking delights prepared by Mrs. Montgomery & Mrs. Crawford from HFT assisted by pupils from the Prince's Trust. This gave us a grand total of £195.69 raised – a great effort. Next year we are aiming to enhance the event by getting the NPA in Bakery class involved and organising additional fund-raising activities to raise even more for this very worth-while cause.

This event formed part of the course-work for or senior-phase Prince's Trust program which was successfully introduced into the school last year as part of Renfrewshire Council's Joint Employability Project and replaced the ASDAN course in S3, S4 and S5. Thanks goes to the staff in Learning Support who deliver the Prince's Trust Achieve programme with a special mention to Miss Doherty and Mrs. Allan who have been there supporting and delivering Achieve from the beginning!



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Developing the Young Workforce

Barnardo's Scotland Volunteering

In September we were very fortunate to get an excellent presentation given to our S6 pupils from Katie Orr, who is the co-ordinator leading on volunteering at Barnardo's in Renfrewshire. Barnardo's are looking to recruit volunteers to work across a number of children's services in the area and volunteering can afford students the opportunity to develop and build on skills for working with families, young people and children and increase employability prospects with wide and varied practice experience. All Volunteers undertake a certified training programme, receive regular supervision and have access to further training within Barnardo's and the local authority. Previous student volunteers have found their experience was looked on favourably when pursuing further courses and employment.

Our pupils were truly inspired by Katie's presentation and we know have a number of students applying to volunteer within programs looking at supporting Syrian families new to the area and the Families First initiative.

We look forward to more opportunities to work with our partners in the voluntary sector and many thanks to Katie for her presentation and on-going support of our volunteer program.



Under 14s Football Report

The U14s football team have made a dramatic start to the 2017/18 season. Last Tuesday 26th September saw the season get underway with a difficult away match against Gryffe. In a tight game, Gleniffer took an early lead but unfortunately the match had to be abandoned just after halftime as Ryan Whitehorn landed awkwardly and broke his wrist. This was a real shame as Ryan was man of the match up until that point, which was even more impressive considering S1 pupil, Ryan, was making his debut for the school and was playing with and against boys who are a year older. We all wish Ryan a speedy recovery and hope to see him back playing for the team soon.

The opening game against Gryffe was rescheduled for Thursday 5th October. In front of quite a large support from parents and pupils, the U14s started the match fantastically and proceeded to put on a footballing display, blowing Gryffe away and taking a 7-0 lead into halftime. Gleniffer did not let up in the second half, and continued where they had left off in the first half. The boys produced a tremendous team performance and ran out eventual 11-0 winners. Shaun Speirs scored 4 goals in the first half, whilst Lewis McGregor managed to get himself a hattrick. Noah Young netted a brace and Blair Devine and Darren Rafferty also chipped in with a goal each.

The boys should be very proud of their performance and will look to continue their winning start with their next match against St Andrews after the October break.

Mr Bililand

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise this year has the school at heart and has decided to split into sub-teams to create different products.

The first team Jigsaw has decided to create house scarves and wristbands which will be on sale later this school year.



The second team Harmony has decided to create jumpers in the colours of the houses with the Gleniffer badge on it.

Team Jigsaw recently attended the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce Business Lunch, where we were encouraged to network with professional businesses in Renfrewshire.

The lunch was really enjoyable and was a great insight to the world of business and we observed the success of new businesses, which we hope Jigsaw and Harmony could achieve.

The spokesperson at this lunch was Corinne Hutton the founder of the charity Finding Your Feet who was an inspiration to listen to and has took part in Gleniffer's YPI events previously who knew some members of our team because of YPI in S3.



Recently Jigsaw held a very successful noodle sale in the social area at lunch on Friday 29th September 2017. This event raised £43 that will go towards the scarves and any other enterprise idea. Both Harmony and Jigsaw have lots of great fundraising ideas up and coming in the school calendar.

Written by Aaron Halbert and Shannon Harvey, S5

New Starts

On finishing my final placement before summer, I was sad to be leaving my classes but excited to see what lay ahead. When I found out I was heading to Gleniffer High School, I asked around to see what my friends and colleagues knew. Dreading the laughs and sighs associated with some challenging schools, I was relieved to hear nothing but positivity about Gleniffer. From my experience of working in the school and with the pupils for even a short time, it is clear why.

On my first day, I was terrified of the unknown, but the entire staff were so welcoming that I quickly learned there was little to fear. The pupils were just as welcoming as I learned on meeting my first few classes and getting to know the pupils. The weeks have flown by and I can't believe I have almost reached the end of my first term. While there have been many challenges already, the low points have been overshadowed by the many highs. My experience so far has been wholly positive and I am excited to see what the rest of the year brings.

Miss Dalgleish Humanities

In preparation for my first day, I had my room set, teaching resources organised and an excessive amount of stationary at the ready. All I needed was the pupils! Eight fifty a.m. arrived and, suddenly, I was Mr. Thompson the newly qualified teacher (NQT) in the Business and Computing department of Gleniffer High School.

My first class that day was the new S1 - their excitement, nervousness and apprehension was clearly evident: little did they know that I was feeling exactly the same!

Moving from a management role with the largest food retailer in the UK to a career in teaching was very exciting but also daunting. My apprehension was quickly put to rest after meeting my Principal Teacher and colleagues in the department – they have all been, and continue to be, extremely supportive. Furthermore, the structured development programme, led by Mrs. McMunn (Deputy Head Teacher), ensures that NQTs are fully equipped from day one. This support, along with the friendly and welcoming nature of all management, teaching, administrative, janitorial and catering staff has made me feel part of the team.

I have found that the pupils of Gleniffer High School are eager to learn about the world of business and my experience in industry has allowed me to bring to life many areas of the business curriculum. Above all, I am committed to helping pupils develop the skills employers are seeking.

It is hard to believe that the first term is almost over - it has been a whirlwind of excitement and enjoyment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and pupils for making me feel extremely welcome and for all the support that has been provided.

Mr Thompson Business & Computing

Transition Teachers

As the new Transition Teachers in the school, we have been warmly welcomed into Gleniffer and are settling into our roles with the help of our secondary colleagues and pupils. It has been a pleasure to get to know S1 and S2 as we work with them in English, Maths and Modern Languages. It is also good, as primary teachers in the cluster, to see former P7 pupils in their various stages of high school. We have been impressed by the manners and helpfulness of all the pupils who, especially in our first few weeks, seeing our uncertainty, helped us find our bearings in the school. We look forward to continuing to work alongside the Gleniffer community of pupils, parents and staff.

Cathie Macleod and Carine McCann

P7 Transition

We launched our P7 Transition programme this session with visits to all associated primary schools by Head teacher, Miss Chalmers and Depute Head teacher, Miss Feggans. Our P7 Induction programme spans the session. These initial meetings ensure that pupils and parents/ carers have information about Gleniffer High School and have the chance to ask us about aspects of school life. These meetings were well supported and received. Our thanks to parents/ cares for coming along and making that initial connection to Gleniffer High School.

The next part of our Induction Programme is on the evening of Thursday 26th October when we will be welcoming P7 pupils and parents/ carers from our associated primary schools to the Open Night in Gleniffer High School. We ask that parents/ carers and pupils aim to arrive by 6.00pm.

On the evening pupils and parents/ carers will have the opportunity to visit a number of departments across the school. Tours will be led by our senior pupils. Gleniffer High School staff and pupils will be available in departments to showcase aspects of the curriculum to our visitors.

We look forward to this informative and important event on our school calendar, hopefully welcoming large numbers of P7 pupils and their parents/ carers.

Miss Feggans



Important dates next term

23 rd October	All pupils and staff return to school.	25 th November	Christmas Fayre
26 th October	P7 Open Night	30 th November	St Andrew's Holiday
31 st October	Halloween Party (P6&7) for S1-3	1 st December	National 5 Prelims Start
2 nd November	Halloween Dance Evening for S4-6	13 th December	Christmas Concert
7 th November	S3 Parents' Evening	14 th December	S4-6 Christmas Ceilidh
10 th November	Remembrance Assemblies	20 th December	Non uniform Day School closes for holidays
23 rd November	S1 Parents' Evening	4 th January 2018	School re-opens



Contact Us:

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E: glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Post: Amochrie Road, Paisley, PA2 0AG

Something We Need to Know?

Please keep us informed about:

- Absences,
- Reasons for absences
- Appointments
- Issues which may be affecting your child
- Achievements and successes of your child
- Holidays
- Family events

Pastoral Support

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

The Pastoral Support staff have a teaching commitment and are therefore not always available when you call. However, our office staff will take a message and pass it on allowing Pastoral staff to get back to you.



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