

# INSIDE GHS



## Spring Issue:



# Welcome to our spring newsletter

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are now fast approaching the final term of the school session, with SQA a firm focus in the minds of staff and pupils. I am delighted that we are able to offer a full programme of Easter Revision for students in S4-6 across a range of subjects. This is an incredibly valuable resource and pupils should be encouraged to attend and get the support from subject specialists in the stressful weeks leading up to the exams.

This newsletter gives a real sense of the achievements of our young people as they succeed in all aspects of their lives. We have created a report an achievement feature in our parents section of the school website. This will allow me to pick up on pupil achievements out with as well as in school and should help overcome the shyness some of them may feel about reporting their successes. Please send me information as I am working with students to produce a celebratory document to recognise their achievements.

I have been very proud of the young people who alongside me have worked to make a difference in their community. During this term we have carried out six litter picks in Durrockstock Park and the lane which runs from the school to Brediland Road. Pupils enjoyed getting out and about and really got into the spirit of it. It was also a great opportunity for me to get to know more pupils too.

This final term is incredibly exciting and is actually a time of new beginnings. Seniors moving on and P7s starting to spend time here in Gleniffer High. We are looking forward to welcoming our new S1 in May for their transition days and enjoying the occasions we will spend with our leavers.

I wish you all a happy, peaceful holiday and look forward to welcoming learners back to school on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Lisa Chalmers

Head Teacher



**IF YOU BELIEVE,  
YOU CAN ACHIEVE**

## S1

First year pupils continue to make steady progress through their coursework and it has been encouraging to see them grow in confidence. I was delighted to see so many of them show good citizenship and take part in our litter picking in the community.

One duty that I always look forward to when I am year head for S1 is to judge the Pizza Challenge in the Health, Food & Technology department. However, this year's experience really put me on the spot! I was so impressed by the standard of research carried out in ICT, the excellent teamwork, design and presentations and it was fantastic to witness this first hand. The difficulty I had was in choosing a winner. One group had packaged the pizza to resemble a handbag, one presentation had cool music clips, another had fantastic colour coordination – too many things to mention here. Oh, and the pizzas! What imagination and skill to producing such flavoursome toppings – one of them included strawberries and chocolate. Yum, I loved them all.

As this term draws to a close I hope that all S1 pupils have a great holiday and return refreshed for our final term.

Mrs McMunn



## S2



There has been quite a “buzz” around S2 pupils, as we would expect this term as they make their subject choices for S3. They got off to a fantastic start with the “I can do anything” event in February. Representatives from local business and organisations came in and met with groups of young people as they rotated around the social area hearing about career opportunities.

This year we wanted to increase parental involvement in the choices process and I am pleased to say that many of you responded to the invitation to attend the “Choices” interview with your child. Parents have reported that they found the process very helpful and we are delighted that pupils have approached the process in a very mature way. Almost all the information is now with Mrs Prentice so that she can begin to construct the timetable for next session.

As we look forward to a well-earned rest, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We hope pupils enjoy the forthcoming holiday, returning refreshed and with renewed enthusiasm on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Miss Feggans and Mrs McMunn

# Head Teachers

## S3

The vast majority of our young people in S3 continue to support our school values on a daily basis, in classes, social areas and in the wider school community. 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.

S3 pupils have completed the Option Choice programme, selecting subjects for study in S4. This process starts their transition into upper school. To support that transition further, all S3 Pupils will take part in motivational workshops delivered by Live-N-Learn straight after the Spring Break. The topics will be Mindset for Exams and Inspirational Workshops. More on that after the break!

We continue to reward pupils who participate and achieve within an extra-curricular activity. Please let us know if your child achieves within an extra-curricular activity outside of school and we will endeavour to ensure the appropriate award.

I wish all S3 pupils and their families a very restful Easter and Spring Break.

Miss Feggans

DHT S3



## S4

As usual for this time of the session – a very busy term for all S4 pupils.

In January, a very successful Work Experience programme was completed by all S4 pupils.

A wee bit about work experience and what S4 get up to during that week.

This is a chance for pupils to gain real life experience in the work place. The majority of S4 pupils found their own work placements through either family contacts or reaching out to places that offer an experience of where they would like to go in their pathway. Many pupils return from work experience very clear about what they need to do and as a result are more focussed.

Pupils need to be in their placement for the whole week. They need to follow the times and routines of the work place – which means some of them had very early starts (compared to school) or late finishes!!

Placements are very varied from hotels to hospitals, hairdressers to hard ware shops, nurseries, day care centres and garages to give but a few examples!

Each placement supervisor completes a report on the pupil's progress during the week. It is great to get back the positive praise. Feedback from employers was very positive and I'm sure many of the pupils likewise enjoyed their experience.

We are now nearly at the end of the tunnel as pupils finish off coursework and internal assessments, including the dreaded AVUs or course assignments. Next stop for N5 pupils – their first SQA exams in May. We wish them all good luck as they go through this experience for the first time! Remember to check out the Supported Study programme during Easter holidays! And don't forget the Master classes which will run during exam leave for N5 students.

Pupils will be issued with an exam timetable and other information after the Easter holidays. Make sure you pin this to the fridge and remember when and at what times your exams are!!!

The Enrichment Programme will run for all N3 and N4 pupils during the month of May. This programme is offers a mixture of skills development, CV writing interview techniques and work experience to name a few events. This has been a very worthwhile experience in the past for pupils as they prepare for the next stage in their education career. Please see Mr Marshallsay for further details.



## S5

Life since Christmas in Gleniffer has been chaotic for our Fifth year who have had to face their higher prelims in January then unit tests and assessments galore the past few months. Fifth and Sixth year are working hard to complete all their external coursework (folios and assignments) for their SQA exams which begin on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The end is almost here with the Easter looming and the spring break fortnight within our sights. During the holiday I am delighted to announce a very extensive Easter School Supported Study programme and as well as that an SQA Masterclass timetable will operate during the SQA exam study leave. All pupils are encouraged to attend and give one final big push before exams in May.



**Good Luck to all our Fifth Year I know all your hard work will pay off !!**

## S6

What an amazing term it has been since Christmas, passing by with incredible speed but S6 still managed to keep themselves busy attending Parents Evenings and participating in loads of fun events. After prelims were finished in February, Cupid and his Valentine's Day helpers decided to pay us a visit with Sixth year selling 'cookies and roses' which were delivered (sometimes anonymously) to that special someone. A lot of fun was had by everyone with new romances blossoming and loads of cookies consumed. In March we had Sports Relief with the PE department putting the Sixth year through their paces in a range of activities which took place each lunchtime. From 'crazy hair' day to bake sales to a dodgeball tournament. A great time was had by all pupils across the school while raising money for a great cause. On the 27<sup>th</sup> March we held our lovely but emotional Certificate of Merit Ceremony where more than a few tears were shed listening to the speeches from our Head Boy, Robbie Campbell, and our Head Girl, Ciara Phillips. This wonderful celebration was enjoyed by staff, pupils, families and friends of Gleniffer and reminded us what amazing young people we have the privilege to work with every day. Have a well-earned rest over Easter but stick to your study plan !!

## Sixth Year Student Volunteer Programme

In Gleniffer we place great value in our Sixth Year Student Volunteer Programme. This initiative encourages all of our S6 pupils to participate in some form of volunteering activity for a minimum of two hours each week.

Pupils are involved in peer support in various departments; spend their time assisting in local primary schools, nurseries, Paired Reading, Buddying, local care homes or even volunteering in the school library.

Sixth year are also the first people you see at the front door when they greet visitors and parents to the school at Open Evenings and Parents Nights. They organise plenty of charity and school fundraising events over the course of the year and raise large amounts of money as well as having a great time and a lot of fun.

In Gleniffer we believe that by giving our seniors these opportunities and responsibilities we are helping them to grow and develop and reach their full potential becoming well rounded and responsible citizens as well as giving something back to the local community.

At our recent Certificate of Merit Ceremony we were very proud to distribute certificates to over 100 Sixth year pupils (our highest number yet) who have given up their spare time to support others..

In a world where jobs, university and college places are very competitive, to say that you have given something back to the community is indeed something to be proud of. Well done to all S6 pupils who achieved this.

# Departments in the Spotlight



Sciences Music

Humanities

Physical Education

Library

Modern Languages

# Humanities

## Bear Today.... Gone Tomorrow

S4 Geographers have come up with a fabulous, new initiative based on their learning about life in The Arctic. Pupils have decided to do a fundraiser for Gleniffer High School to sponsor a polar bear. They will be doing this through The World Wildlife Fund. Rebecca Kane, S4 pupil explains, "We did some research about different ways to sponsor a polar bear and felt that because World Wildlife Fund keep the bear in their natural habitat this is good".

Lucy Milne and Natasha Ballantyne continue, "Saving the polar bear is very tricky as rising global temperatures are causing the ice sheets to melt. Polar bears are really only successful at hunting on the ice where they can catch seals. It is also where they rest. Without the ice sheets polar bears are starving and drowning."

Ross Murray adds, "Really the solution is to stop global warming but adopting a polar bear at this critical time will make a positive difference".

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March pupils will be selling popcorn, and cake pops, there will be festival face paint in an Arctic theme and S1/S2 will be doing a Treasure Hunt in the afternoon. All profits will go towards our polar bear. We look forward to telling you how much money we raise at our Bear Today... Gone Tomorrow in the next newsletter.

S4 Geographers.



# Modern Languages



Flights have now been booked for the German Exchange Trip. We will travel (Easyjet) from Edinburgh to Munich on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and return on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. A reminder to pupils and parents of the next payments and dates that they are due:-

26<sup>th</sup> March - £120

18<sup>th</sup> May - £120

15<sup>th</sup> June - £120

We have 27 pupils and 3 teachers travelling to Germany – can't wait to go!

Mrs Quinn

## S3 French Class – Superbe!

I was delighted to be invited to take part in a lesson with Mrs Quinn's S3 French Class.

The young people are making excellent efforts with lessons. They completed listening, speaking and comprehension exercises during this lesson, learning about the world of work. All of the young people in the class were fully engaged in their work and were enjoying learning new vocabulary and sharing their knowledge of the language with me.

So to the young people in the class I say, merci de m'avoir invité à la classe. Du travail excellent! A la prochaine!

Miss Feggans





# Music

We are, as always a very busy, hectic music department both in and out of school. Our practical SQA practical exams took place in March and every pupil involved will played or sang a live programme of pieces to our visiting examiner so the department was as always buzzing with pupils practicing a wide range of instruments, singing and rehearsing with accompanists. A very daunting task for them but hopefully performed with much confidence on the day! We will have the same for our Advanced Higher pupils in May. Many of our pupils are participating in Renfrewshire spring concerts, in percussion ensemble, concert band, jazz band, orchestra and Celtic group, an excellent opportunity for all pupils involved.



Eilidh Cassidy, Lisa Gray, Anna Whiteford, Emily Fraser and Jessica Fraser performed in Renfrewshire Tradfest 18. It is great to see some of our ex pupils still being involved including Andrea Adams and Grant McFarlane who now organizes much of the traditional music in Paisley along with Morag Currie, our string teacher.



Our music department term finishes with providing music for our school Senior Certificate of Merit award ceremony.

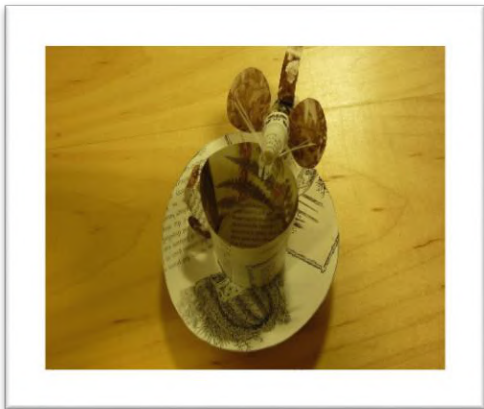
Our congratulations go to Jessica Fraser who has had a fabulous year studying at the junior department of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and in February won their prestigious prize of Young Traditional musician.



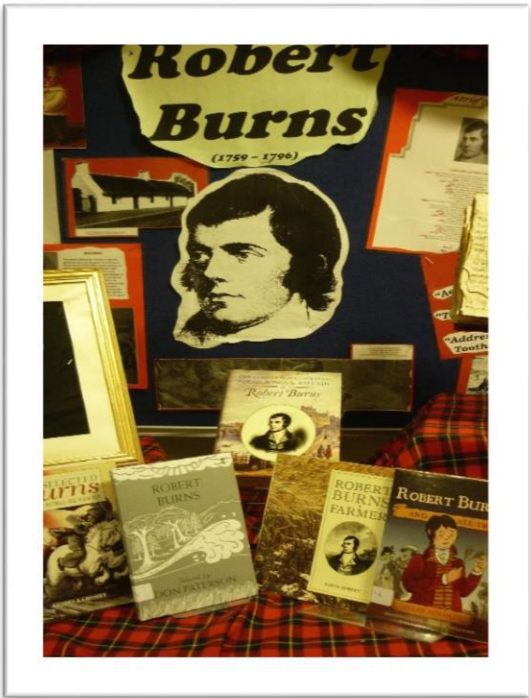
Auditions are now complete and rehearsals underway for our school show in June which is Nine to Five and given the talent shown by our pupils, it promises to be another excellent event.

# Library News

Since the Christmas holidays, the library has been a hive of activity with various lunch time clubs, displays and S6 volunteer projects. January saw the creation of a Robert Burns' display, paying particular attention to his poem "To a Mouse". The Re-cycling Craft Club made paper mice from the pages of old books to add to the appeal of the display.



This display was replaced in February with a "Chinese New Year" presentation which enabled staff and pupils to discover which Chinese symbol they had been born under. 2017 is the "Year of the Dog".



In preparation for “World Book Day” on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, S6 volunteers organised various competitions –

- Guess Ms Chalmers’ height, 5ft 3 1/2in, as represented by books. In other words, how many books would it take piled up to equal her height?
- A “Lucky Dip”
- “Caught Reading” – photos of pupils and staff with their choice of books.



A visit had also been arranged with Foxbar library for S1 pupils so see round the re-furbished facility and to receive membership cards.

Unfortunately due to the snow days we experienced which forced the closure of the school, “World Book Day” at Gleniffer High could not go ahead.

# Physical Education

## Netball Update



A huge well done to the S3 girls for winning the Renfrewshire Cup in February. They played a number of teams in the Local Authority over the course of the year and dominated the competition. The girls have worked hard this year and deserve this victory. We hope they can do as well in the Summer Tournament this year.





# Physical Education

On top of our Renfrewshire Cup success so far this year, our S2 team made it to the Semi Final of the Silver Section of the Scottish Cup this year. The girls have played exceptionally well over the year and have beaten teams from all over the country, from Aberdeen to Edinburgh etc. The girls sadly lost to Strathaven Academy in the semi-final but showed great resilience and sportsmanship.



Our Open team has also done well in the Renfrewshire Cup as they came in second place and won silver medals in the finals night hosted at Gryffe High School. Congratulations girls.

The S1 and S2 teams are now waiting to play their Renfrewshire cup finals matches soon. We wish the girls well and we are hoping for another Gleniffer victory in the Renfrewshire Cup this year.





# Physical Education

## Hockey report

Four Gleniffer pupils', Johnny Hughes, Matthew Reid, Craig Speirs and Cameron McIntyre represented Renfrewshire schools in the Scottish Hockey Aspire cup final. The boys played very well, however they were beaten by a very strong Dumbarton Academy.

Recently, the junior and senior teams competed at Castlehead High school in the Renfrewshire Hockey leagues. The senior team have performed to a high standard in a number of games and played very well in their game against top of the league St Andrews Academy. The junior side are finding the league challenging, however with a little more training from our local Kelburne coaches, Matthew Reid and Jack Campbell, I'm sure we will progress quickly.



**A Big thank you to  
Bardem for their  
continued  
sponsorship.**

## Senior Football

The senior S5/S6 football team are doing really well, having only lost one game this session. The team have played really well, despite juggling last minute fixtures, as well as their important studies. The team play in the under -18 Paisley and District League and are currently sitting top of the league with only a few weeks left of the session. They have had a good few hard fought games to get to the top. The team are in the St Mirren cup and are through to the semi – finals. It would be great to get some support for the team and we will keep you posted on upcoming fixtures.

# Physical Education

Gleniffer High's Cross Country Championships took place this term.

## S1 Boys

- 1st - Jamie Hartley (Glen)
- 2nd - Aaron Stirling (Thornly)
- 3rd - Owen Ferguson (Brodie)

## S2 Boys

- 1st - Blair Devine (Glen)
- 2nd - Matthew Gemmell (Glen)
- 3rd - Aiden Brady (Brodie)

## S3 Boys

- 1st - Lewis Hannigan (Glen)
- 2nd - Michael Holmes (Glen)
- 3rd - Matthew Nicol (Thornly)

## Boys Overall House Winners

- 1st - Glen
- 2nd - Moredun
- 3rd - Thornly
- 4th - Brodie

## S1 Girls

- 1st - Erin English (Brodie)
- 2nd - Sophie Allan (Brodie)
- 3rd - Orla Kidd (Glen)

## S2 Girls

- 1st - Jazmine Moore (Moredun)
- 2nd - Holly Reid (Thornly)
- 3rd - Kristen Scott (Thornly)

## S3 Girls

- 1st - Ola Zurakowska (Moredun)
- 2nd - Ebo Anyebe (Brodie)
- 3rd - poppy McCusker (Moredun)

## Girls Overall House Winners

- 1st - Brodie
- 2nd - Thornly
- 3rd - Moredun
- 4th - Glen



# Physical Education



## PE Kit Policy

In a move to increase participation and to ensure that all young people are included in all lessons, pupils must bring appropriate kit\* every day they have PE. If pupils are injured or ill, they must still bring kit and get changed.

Reasons for this include:

- Pupils are engaged in the learning intentions of the PE lesson.
- Injured pupils can help lead tasks to help overall teaching and learning and develop their own leadership skills.
- Teaching time is maximised when pupils don't have to borrow kit.
- Teacher workload is reduced from doing 2 daily washes of PE kit and staff can focus more on preparing lessons.
- Pupils in kit join in more mentally by offering feedback, coaching, refereeing, timing, scorekeeping and on occasion (if the injury is minor), can do gentle exercise tailored to their needs.
- Pupils with longer term injuries can do rehabilitation exercises (from a GP/physio) to support their recovery.

If PE kit is forgotten, Gleniffer PE kit will be issued in **all** cases. Our PE kit is clean and hygienic, being washed after every use. The clothing offered is also in line with the current PE kit. Refusal to accept kit will result in department behaviour procedures and may result in SMT/parents/carers being called. If, as the parent/carer, you foresee any concerns with this, please contact me directly to discuss a way forward.

**\*Appropriate kit = Trainers with tying laces, shorts/joggies/leggings, Gleniffer High PE t-shirt (winter/wet weather jumpers/jackets if appropriate).**

Many thanks for your support.

Mr Giles

PT PE and Health & Wellbeing

# Science

## Scottish Space School

Alice McGeehan in S5 has won a place at the 2018 Scottish Space School in June at the University of Strathclyde and this gives her the chance, if successful, to obtain one of 10 places at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Each year 100 S5 pupils from schools all over Scotland attend the programme and stay on the University campus for the week. The current programme comprises a week long residential summer school with an eclectic mix of lectures, labs and workshops all on a space theme, delivered by leading academics and researchers, and supported by NASA astronauts and engineers. The NASA guests join the students in selected activities and engage with them in small group and one-to-one discussions with the explicit aim of inspiring the next generation of engineers. Over thirty astronauts and cosmonauts have addressed the students at Space School in this university over the past ten years, some of them on more than one occasion.



## Subsea UK Stem Challenge S2

A group of S2 pupils attended the Subsea UK STEM Challenge sponsored by the Smallpiece Trust at Strathclyde University during February 2018.

During the course the pupils learned about subsea and marine engineering industry including offshore wind, wave energy, tidal power, subsea mining, oil and gas sectors, defence, ocean science and, marine engineering. Pupils then took part in the Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) challenge where they built their own vehicle.





Our Island Hoppers team attended the CAD day at the University of the West of Scotland in February. Their project was Our School is an Island and they are pictured below with their model and display. The team were praised for their brochure, model, cost to build – the only team to do this, their confident answers to questions from the judges and teamwork.



In the course of their project the team also visited the Wind Tunnel projects at the University of Glasgow and observed experiments taking place.



# Developing the Young Workforce

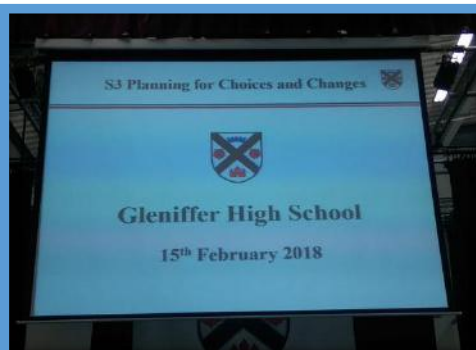


**Contact:**

**Sam Marshallsay, Principal Teacher for Employability,**  
[gw07marshallsaysam@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07marshallsaysam@glow.sch.uk)

## Careers Events

In February Gleniffer High School hosted two careers events aimed at supporting our young people in their subject choices. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we held our first annual 'I Can Do Anything Day' with our S2 and then on the 15<sup>th</sup> our S3 'Planning for Choices and Changes Day'. Both events were well-received by pupils and well supported by over 20 local employers and trainers including British Airways Maintenance, the SAE Institute and West College Scotland. These events also saw Gleniffer launch official hashtag #YOYP\_GHS18 in support of the Year of the Young Person campaign.



# Developing the Young Workforce



**Contact:**

**Sam Marshallsay, Principal Teacher for Employability,**  
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## S4 Parents Evening

For the first time we invited employers along to our S4 parents evening to help raise the profile of Foundation and Modern Apprenticeships. Representatives from The British Army, Campbell Dallas, P&J Training, Carousel Training and Bosch provided parents with information about Modern Apprenticeships whilst West College Scotland gave sessions on Foundation Apprenticeships.



## Scottish Apprenticeship Week

S4/5 pupils attended two Modern Apprenticeship application workshops run by Mr. Marshallsay PT Employability and our Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisors.

As part of International Women's Day, a group of S3 female pupils enjoyed a visit to the site of the new St. Paul's School with Morrison's Construction. They got to see how the site was designed and is being built and have been invited back in June to see the finishing touches being made. Those pupils not fortunate enough to be out of school were finding out about 'Women Who Invent' with a series of informative posters displayed across departments in the school.



# Developing the Young Workforce



**Contact:**

**Sam Marshallsay, Principal Teacher for Employability,**  
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## Enterprise

Our Senior Young Enterprise group Team Jigsaw started selling their limited-edition scarves with house colours collecting orders both in and outside of school. They also attended the Young Enterprise Scotland Regional Finals – no win unfortunately – but gained valuable experience presenting to a large audience all about their product development and marketing. Well done all!



S1 pupils in HFT got a visit from Matt from Entrepreneur Me – a company aimed at enhancing entrepreneurship/enterprise education in school. They received a short, but inspiring presentation from Matt and then showed him some of their own work designing their own pizzas, with accompanying advertising and packaging. Matt was greatly impressed with the pupils commenting “... brilliant young people, confident presenters and interested learners, well done all for a great project”





# Love Malawi Ball

On Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, The Malawi 2018 expedition pupils continued their fundraising journey by hosting a ball for everyone who has a love for Malawi at the Glynhill hotel. The event was attended by over 200 people, including support our partners Classrooms for Malawi and the Association of Malawians in Scotland (AMS). A great night was had by all to raise a fantastic £4000 towards our special project at Dzenza Primary School.



# Malawi Youth Congress

On 20th February the Malawi 2018 expedition team, along with Miss Aitken and Miss Chalmers attended, the Scotland Malawi Partnership's Youth Congress 2018 which welcomed over 300 S3 to S6 students and their teachers from across Scotland to Hampden Park to kick off a year packed full of events for the Year of Young People 2018. The theme was 'Partnership in action - My views, my voice'. The day included interactive workshops that focused on deepening understanding and developing skills. This was followed by networking between schools and where we heard more about the Malawi links across Scotland. Finally students were encouraged to 'interview the experts' where they investigated the successes and challenges the relationship between Scotland and Malawi may face in the future.



## Achievers

### Renfrewshire Dance

*Gleniffer High School Senior Dance teams won first and second place in the Renfrewshire Schools dancing competition.*

*The senior S4-6 girls won first place in their category. Our dance was lyrical piece talking about relationships and how girls should support girls. We choreographed the dance ourselves and we worked on the dance for several months. We applied a lot of hard work and dedication to achieve our goal of winning this competition. It was a brilliant experience and it felt great to be rewarded for our hard work.*

*The S2-3 group came in second place, as they were competing in one of the hardest categories of the competition, which was mixed S1-6. This second place was a tough choice for the judges and they only narrowly missed first place. They also choreographed the dance on their own and put in so much hard work. Their theme of the dance was based on the movie 'IT' and they put this into a hip hop dance, it was very creative and their performance was executed perfectly.*

*We all choreographed these dances on our own to celebrate 'The year of Young People' It was an amazing day out with the team as we had fun dancing with each other and supporting the other schools who were competing in the competition.*

### Hazel Shearer S6Th



**S2-3 Dance Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**Senior Dance Team 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



## THE GHS CREATE 2018 COMPETITION THEME IS MY HOMETOWN.

This year we are launching the GHS Create Competition.

Entrants are encouraged to get creative! Whether it's writing, singing, drawing, painting, baking, sewing, or creating in any medium you choose, to win the £50 prize.

The submission deadline was Monday 26th March and now it's time for judging!

This competition was open to all pupils in S1 to S3 and was an opportunity to get creative and showcase innovative work, completed outside the class.

## Charity Fundraising – Well done Elena!

S3 pupil, Elena Dickson, has raised the grand sum of £383 for the charity.

Elena had 30cm cut from her beautiful, blond hair. She is donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust charity, who make wigs for children and young adults who have lost their hair following cancer treatments. This was such a lovely thing to do. Elena is a wonderful young lady, caring for others and doing something really practical to help.





## Gymnastics success – Beth Hanney

Since Beth was 6 years old she has competed at national level in Women's Artistic Gymnastics. She has had many achievements throughout the years and won Gold, Silver and bronze at National level events.

This year she has moved up to senior level training at FIG standard ( Highest level in international gymnastics used as the World/ Olympic standard ). She will once again be involved in national competitions later this year and is working towards senior competition at the Scottish Championships for next year. This year's Scottish Championships which just took place recently, included gymnasts like Frank Baines and Daniel Purvis who have competed and won at Olympic, World and various international level competitions. And the Scottish Championships were one of the methods of selection for this year's Scottish Commonwealth team.



Beth trains 5 nights a week for 3 hour sessions in her gymnastics academy and is required to do a further 5 -7 hours home conditioning training. So a total of around 22 hours a week. She also occasionally has days training at the National sports facility in Largs. Her training schedule is a 52 week commitment ! This is a huge commitment and she manages this around her school work which is always priority along with her other interests like fundraising for Malawi and of course principal roles in the school show!

Beth is determined to continue in the sport well into the future . She has even taken her sport into her part time job - the proceeds of which go to her Malawi fund - and she runs 2 gymnastics classes a week for children aged up to 11 years in the David Lloyd in Renfrew along with other sports/activity coach responsibilities.





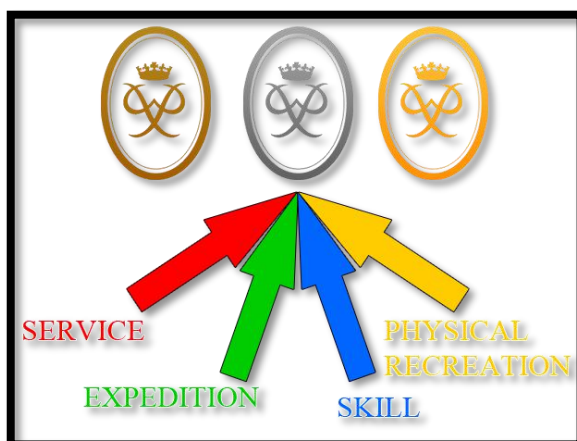
## Renfrewshire Schools Cross Country – Well done Lewis!

S3 pupil Lewis Barclay recently competed in the Renfrewshire Schools Cross Country competition. Lewis was placed first in his class. Another fine run from Lewis! This young man is definitely a name to watch.



## Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh group are working hard to get ready for their expeditions that are taking place in April and June this year. We have been working on lots of skills throughout the last 7 months including first aid, map skills, compass work, cooking, country code and tent skills. The girls are now ready for their first practice expedition that takes place after Easter holidays at Clyde Murshiel. All we can do now is hope for better weather.



# Certificate of Merit (Senior)

Just some of our winners.....



**Rebecca Richard Dux**



**Heather Moriarty Proxime Accesit**



**Rachel Campbell**



**Cheara Hendry**



**Cameron Corrigan**



**Kieran Attwater**



**Esther Crockett**



**Erin Deans**



**Esther Crockett & Chloe Frater**



**Ciara Phillips**



**Robbie Campbell**



**Jack Field & Cameron Cochrane**





**Jessica Fraser**



**Adam Salisbury**



**Cameron Cochrane**



**The Badge Holders 2017-18**



# Gleniffer High School

**Session 2017-18**

**Parent Focus Groups February 2018**

*Parents attended focus groups throughout March to share their opinions and perspectives on Gleniffer High School. It was really beneficial to hear directly from you what you thought was already great about the school and some of the things we need to work to improve. It was also good to be able to provide feedback and some explanation on why things happen in a certain way. I will be holding more consultation sessions next term on our school improvement priorities and would welcome parent input to these sessions. Gleniffer High School is your school too!*

*L Chalmers*

# Feedback

## You Said

- We need to improve the options process.
- We should have more input from SDS or relating to careers earlier in the school.
- S1 Parents' Evening can be very daunting for first time parents.
- Pupils who are not part of the GHS cluster miss out on transition events.

## We Did/Will Do

- We introduced personalised options interviews involving parents for S2, S4 and S5.
- We are reviewing the role of PT Employability to link more with Pupil Equity Fund.
- We are introducing an S1 Parents Information Evening early in the school session.
- We are awaiting information on all pupils coming from out with the GHS cluster. We will ensure they get the appropriate information and will build this into the calendar for next session.

## You Said

- Staff are inconsistent in their use of Show My Homework.
- S1 pupils struggle to manage homework when they start secondary school.
- Pupils who have more than one teacher for a subject tend to get more homework.
- There is limited equipment for left-handed pupils.

## We Did/Will Do

- We ran training for all staff in basic and advanced use of Show My Homework. We reinforced the need for consistency amongst staff.
- We are introducing study skills as part of S1 curriculum.
- This has been fed back to departments to address.
- This has been fed back to departments to address. We will also look to gather information about this at primary transition meetings.

## You Said

- Classwork stops too early at the end of term.
- Pupils being shown DVDs in class don't get to opt out, they may not always be in line with family values/personal opinions.
- Methodologies can be different within one department.
- Maths transition can cause pupils to miss out on topics because of organisation within primary and where secondary picks up.

## We Did/Will Do

- This has been raised as a matter of concern with all Principal Teachers. Staff will be reminded about the need to keep pupils focused and on task toward the end of term.
- This has been fed back to departments to consider the best way to allow pupils to opt out. Staff are also being urged to consider the frequency of DVDs in class.
- Teaching and learning is a standing item on departmental agendas.
- Transition will be discussed with Cluster Head Teachers.

## General Comments

- Overall parents and carers are very happy with Gleniffer High School.
- Range of extra-curricular activities and fun experiences is good for pupils.
- Overall parents think their children are happy to come to school.
- Staff shortages are having a negative impact on learning and experience.
- Speed of response to phone calls could be quicker by some staff.
- Seems to be a number of pupils not participating in PE.
- The quality of pastoral support for young people and their families is very good.
- Range of STEM activities is very good.
- The new approach to options interviews is very positive.

# P7 Parent's Night

Our P7 Induction Programme continues on the evening of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April. We will be welcoming P7 pupils who have been offered a place at Gleniffer High school for next session and their parents/ carers. The evening starts at 6.30pm. There will be an opportunity to meet with Pupil Support staff on the evening and to find out more about the P7 visits in May and the ongoing transition programme. We look forward to welcoming parents/ carers and children on that evening.



## Important dates next term

16 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens	25 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
19 <sup>th</sup> April	P7 Parents' Night	30 <sup>th</sup> May	S1-3 Certificate of Merit
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> April	S3 Live n Learn	31 <sup>st</sup> May & 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Show
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Exam leave commences & S3 Testing period	1 <sup>st</sup> June	P7 Sports Day
4 <sup>th</sup> May	In-service	4 <sup>th</sup> June	Timetable Change
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday	5 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers' Dance
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> May	P7 Induction Days	9 <sup>th</sup> June	Malawi Expedition Departs!
24 <sup>th</sup> May	S1-3 Activity Day	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Stop for holidays 1pm



# Attendance

All teachers register attendance in class. Attendance is recorded twice a day by Renfrewshire Council, morning and afternoon.

Absence from school is recorded as authorised, approved by the education authority, when a parent/ carer provides an explanation for the absence. If there is no explanation by parent/ carer, the absence is recorded as unauthorised (truancy).

We ask that all parents/ carers let the school know by letter or phone call if your child is likely to be absent for some time. Please give your child a note on his or her return to school, confirming the reason for absence. This will allow us to record an accurate account of pupil attendance.

## Contact Us:

Tel: 01505 813 116

E: [glenifferhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto: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



GLENIFFER HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL



@GlenifferHigh

@EmployGleniffer



**Website:**

[www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk)

## 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.**



**App:** Gleniffer-High-School

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