

# INSIDE GHS



## Winter Issue:



Parents in Partnership



Ross Walker – Christmas Concert



Cani Coaching



School Promotion Cabhán & Mollie



# Welcome to our winter newsletter

**Dear Parent / Carer,**

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter, which is packed with information about activities which have taken place in Gleniffer High this term.

We have had an amazing term, filled with generosity from our community and lots of hard work. Our National 5 prelims have not long finished and the young people will no doubt now be looking forward to a break. Unfortunately, not for our Higher and Advanced Higher pupils who will commence prelim exams on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

We have welcomed lots of visitors to Gleniffer High this term even from as far as Malta! A group of Education Inspectors were here to learn about how we use data to improve pupil performance. We have also had two Quality Improvement visits with our Link Education Manager which went very well. This has been a really positive year so far with lots of good work, as well as fun which you will see throughout this edition.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2020.

Lisa Chalmers  
Head Teacher



# Family Learning

## Senior Phase Family Learning Event – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

We will hold a Senior Phase Family Learning Evening on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. This event is being offered as an alternative to our traditional senior phase evening. It is open to all parents/ carers and pupils in S4, S5 & S6 and takes a new format.

Having listened to young people and parents/carers, we have designed a series of workshops aimed at supporting your children throughout the remainder of this session with exam preparation, coursework and internal assessments.

This is a great opportunity to learn alongside your child and help your family prepare for the busy months ahead in the run up to SQA exams.

The workshops and information on offer are:

Live n Learn – Coping with exam stress, mindset, resilience and techniques. (One hour)

Comedy & Confidence – Building self-esteem and confidence – session run Anna Devitt

Study Skills – Techniques used to promote effective study habits.

Post 16 Destinations and Foundation Apprenticeships – A session run by our SDS Careers Advisers.

Self – regulated Learning – Information for parents/ carers and pupils

The event will start at 6.30pm and finish by 8.30pm, refreshments will be provided throughout the night.

Letters were issued to pupils in S4, S5 & S6 at December assemblies. If you are able to come along, please complete the tear off slip and return it to us. If you would like another copy of the letter, please contact the school office and we will get one to you.

We very much look forward to welcoming senior pupils and parent/ carers to Gleniffer High school for this event.

## HeartStart

This session we have been working hard to create a number of Family Learning events for staff, pupils, parents and partners to come together, to learn together. So far, these sessions have been very well attended and already we have a number of pupils and parents that have achieved their HeartStart certificate. This course teaches people how to save a life using CPR and basic first aid skills. This will be running again this coming session, so if you are interested, please contact Mrs Futamata via the main office. Similarly, if you are interested in attending any of our Family Learning Events that have been previously advertised please do not hesitate to get in contact.

# Family Learning – GHS a family of learning



**Heartstart Training**



**Makaton**

We have also had Karen Derrington in to teach pupils, staff and parents Makaton Level One this term and she will be back after Christmas to teach Makaton Level Two. Both of these courses are certificated and it is a great achievement for all those involved. The feedback from this course has been so positive. So well done to all those who took part.



# Family Learning



**Heartstart Training**



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# Family Learning

We had a really interesting and insightful session for staff on how to support Care Experienced young people within our school. At the session three young adults who have been through the care system spoke to us all about their own experiences and what it was like for them growing up in a Children's Unit, Foster Care and in Kinship Care. Their remarkable stories really had a positive impact on the staff present and made us reflect on our own practice.



## Parents in Partnership

Our Parents in Partnership (PIP) programme is well underway and we have taken a different approach this year to this great programme. Instead of a 6-week intensive block between September and October, we have spread our programme out across the school term from September to May. Parents are invited into school twice a month to experience a number of different activities and workshops, including lessons in cooking, science and sessions regarding My World of Work amongst other things.

The programme has extended this year to include information on issues such as mental health and self-harm. At the beginning of the session we invited parents in to discuss what they felt they would like to know more about and as a result we tailored the programme to reflect some of their wishes.

This year we also had an award-winning comedian, Anna Devitt, in to deliver a confidence and self-esteem workshop. During this workshop pupils and their parents were working together to build their confidence through a variety of different activities led by Anna. At the end of the workshop the parents and pupils felt that they had positively benefitted from the event.

If you are interested in taking part in our PIP programme or would like more information please do not hesitate to get in contact with Mrs Futamata via the school office.

# Parent Surveys

At our S1, S3 and S5/6 parent's evenings we asked parents to give feedback on how they feel their child is doing in Gleniffer High School and how we are doing in supporting them. It is very important that we seek the views of all our stakeholders to ensure that we are doing our best to support the young people in our care. Over the three parents' evenings, 128 parents completed the survey. The questions have been taken from Education Scotland's parental questionnaires. Below are our results. Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. We appreciate your feedback.

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
The school helps my child be more confident and enjoys learning?	36.7%	58.5%	2.3%	2.3%
My child is encouraged and is stretched to work to the best of their ability?	35.15%	57.8%	3.2%	3.9%
The school keeps me well informed of my child's progress?	32.8%	63.3%	0%	3.9%
My child feels safe at school?	40.6%	55.4%	1.56%	2.3%
My child is treated fairly at school?	35.9%	60.1%	1.56%	2.3%
I feel the staff know my child well and treats them as an individual?	32.8%	56.3%	7%	3.9%
My child benefits from school clubs and activities provided outside the classroom?	19.5%	39.8%	21.2%	19.5%
The school is well led?	35.9%	59.5%	3.9%	0.7%
Overall, I am happy with the school?	41.4%	57.2%	0.7%	0.7%

# Senior Phase Information

We held our S5/S6 Parents' Night in November, giving parents/ carers the opportunity to discuss pupil attainment with class teachers. I hope that pupils are now well underway with revision and study, following the strategies for support discussed on that evening.

We will host a family learning event for pupils and parents/ carers in senior school (S4- S6) on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> January- 6.30pm – 8.30pm. The aim of the event is to offer support to pupils and families with the process of exams and preparation for exams. The event will take the format of workshops and short presentations and we hope that many parents/ carers and pupils will come along to this event.

Senior pupils continue to work well in classes in preparation for Prelim Exams in January. Higher Prelims start on 13th January. We ask that pupils arrive in good time to register for exams. Study and preparations should well underway.

S5 pupils will complete Option Choice for S6 during January and February. Pupils will be issued with the Senior Phase information booklet and options forms when they return after the holiday. Mrs Prentice will give further details of the process at an assembly in the New Year.

This is an important year in the life of our young people in Senior school. There is a need to balance work and play. Pupils thinking about Prelims need to plan some time to relax and recharge the batteries over the festive period, so that they can return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January refreshed and ready for work.

I wish all S5/S6 pupils and their families a very Happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2020.

**Miss Feggans**

# Departments in the Spotlight

Science

Business

Physical Education

Humanities

Skills for Work: Retailing

English

Music

Computing Science

Photography

# Skills for Work: Retailing

The senior pupils in our Skills for Work: Retailing class have had another busy term full of events. At the beginning of October they were lucky enough to receive a guided tour of the Braehead Shopping Centre. They spoke with the management team and were given invaluable insight into the complex running of a large retail centre.

The class also ran a successful Halloween Movie afternoon for our S1 and S2 pupils. They allowed pupils to vote for their favourite film and organised two separate showings to accommodate the two most popular choices, along with a well-stocked tuck shop!

The pupils have shown great team work, organisation and planning skills this term, ensuring that their stock cupboard is kept full and organised. This has allowed them to run several successful tuck shops, including a wide offering at our Parent Teacher Association's Christmas Fayre.



# Computing Science

All S1 ICT and S2 Computing Science pupils joined millions of others across the world by taking part in 'Hour of Code' this week. This is a global initiative aimed at promoting Computing Science and coding in a fun and accessible way. Pupils completed a range of online problem solving challenges aimed at developing their understanding of programming. If you want to find out more or try some of the puzzles yourself, visit <http://code.org>



# Business – s3 Stock Challenge



Our third year business managers are given the opportunity to invest a fictional £300 in shares of three different businesses. Each week, the class track changes in the share price, and explore the possible reasons for any fluctuations.

The class then reviewed the overall profit/loss of their investments at the end of December. Well done to all of our pupils for taking part, and especially to those who, had it been a real £300, would have made a healthy return!

## Ticket Designs



Our Business pupils have been using their ICT skills, together with their marketing knowledge, to design tickets for the various festive events this year.

Thank you and well done to Callan Patrick, from one of our S3 Business classes, who designed a very festive ticket for this year's G-Factor!

Also, well done and thank you to Skye Green from our senior Retailing class, for designing a great ticket for our Parent Teacher Association's Christmas Fayre!

# English

On Wednesday 11 December Reece Cree and Jenna Wyllie, both S2, competed in the Renfrewshire heat of the COPFS public speaking competition. They gave speeches on the subject, 'Ageism doesn't just affect the old' and spoke with skill and passion. Their opponents from Linwood High School took victory but Jenna and Reece did themselves and the school proud.



## S1 Reading Aloud Project

Some S1 pupils recently visited Foxbar Library to take part in the first stage of the Reading Aloud Project. This is a joint transition and libraries project to develop, amongst other things, skills in leadership and confidence.

The S1 students received training in storytelling to young pupils and in selecting a book from the library's collection that they will individually read to groups of P2 pupils in their former primary schools. With the books chosen, they will continue to practise their storytelling session and devise questions to engage their young audience and make the story more interactive for them.

The next stage is to return to their individual primary schools to read to P2 who are known to them as they were their buddies when they were in P1. This is a reunion that is enjoyed by all, including the primary teachers, and is a fun and sociable time for all involved. S1 pupils are looking forward to seeing everyone in their former primary schools next term, especially P2.



# Humanities

In our Modern Studies class, 1.4 took part in their very own class election complete with a polling station, ballot box and ballot papers. The class were split into four political parties: Labour, the Conservatives, the Greens, and the SNP who all campaigned tirelessly to win votes.

Lucas Pattison, Shantelle Hume, Abbie Muirhead and Kyle McKinnon all stood as candidates. They each delivered a speech, highlighting key policies in their manifestos. They couldn't have done it without the help of their party members. They designed eye-catching leaflets, posters and made rosettes to encourage the electorate to vote for them. Amy McGall and Alexander McNeill worked as our Polling Station clerks; in charge of the electoral register and made sure voters were given their ballot papers. In the end, the Green party won with a large majority of 13 votes! It was democracy in action and great to see everyone take part in the election campaign.

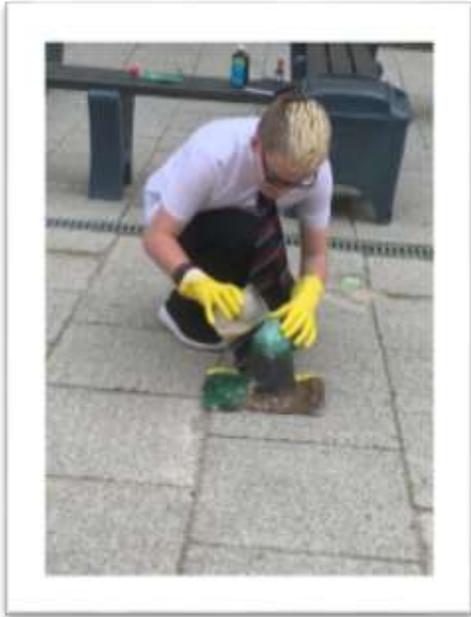
**Miss Lambie**  
**Humanities**



Class 1.5 had a great introduction to S1 Geography as they presented their magnificent models which they created at home. Pupils led each other on a tour around The World- how many famous landmarks can you spot?



Class 2.4 and 2.5 enjoyed their highly “explosive!” Geography lesson where pupils brought in models of volcanoes. The fabulous cakes were greatly enjoyed by all staff and pupils but pupils couldn’t wait to have them photographed as they had to be devoured. Pupils researched ingredients to make an actual volcanic eruption which we all enjoyed watching outside. I look forward to the next round of volcano models. Well done all of you.



## Senior RMPS Trip to Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery

In November, senior pupils visited the Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in the Borders to experience Buddhist life and practices. They were given a guided tour of the Temple, Stupa and Prayer wheel house by a Buddhist Monk. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask the Monk questions about the challenges and benefits of living as a Buddhist in Scotland. They were also given the opportunity to experience some guided meditation inside the Temple which they all enjoyed. It was a great opportunity for the Pupils to deepen their understanding of Buddhism, which they have been learning about in class.



## 'S4 RMPS Mosque Trip

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October the S4 RMPS class enjoyed an informative tour of Glasgow Central Mosque to try to get a better understanding of the Islam section of the National 5 course. Pupils visited all areas of the mosque including the prayer halls, the washroom and the courtyard. The imam gave detailed explanations for how the mosque is used by Muslims and what the purpose of each feature is. He also talked about how and why different Muslim practices such as prayer, wudu (washing), fasting and veiling are performed. Pupils were very much encouraged by him to ask any questions that they had. The answers that he gave have been very beneficial for the pupils, as it allowed them to understand how important the beliefs and practices that they have been studying are in a Muslim's everyday life.'

## Westminster Parliament Visit

The Modern Studies Higher class had the exciting opportunity to visit the Westminster Parliament on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. Amid rumours of a General Election being called, we travelled down to London by train and braved the London underground to Westminster. The pupils were given a tour of the Parliament and got the chance to watch a live debate in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They then took part in an interactive workshop before participating in a question and answer session with Mhairi Black, MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South. The pupils discussed a variety of topics and Mhairi Black was extremely impressed with their knowledge and the quality of their questions. We then travelled back to Glasgow, completing a long but very worthwhile day.



## Lessons from Auschwitz

In November myself and Matthew Dickson had the opportunity to take part in Lessons from Auschwitz. The programme takes two S6 pupils on a day trip to visit the Auschwitz concentration/extermination camps in Poland. We visited both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II Birkenau. The experience of visiting these two camps is one that neither of us will be able to forget. The things we witnessed and were told are still difficult to process and understand. We were given a tour by one of the guides from the Auschwitz Memorial Museum, the stories of real people's experiences in this camp were so difficult to hear and to even begin to try and understand how they would have been feeling was unthinkable. It was hard to imagine the millions of people who lost their lives right in the place where we were standing and that is why the trip was one of the hardest things, we have both ever tried to deal with emotionally. What we learnt and experienced has completely changed how we view the Holocaust and how we think about this time in History. We are both so grateful for the opportunity we were given to visit Auschwitz as it was indescribable

**Kirsty Gillies**

# Music

The music department is full of Christmas music and Christmas excitement. It's all go! Our fifth year pupil Mollie Kyle (in the front of the picture) was very honoured to be chosen, as head chorister from Paisley Abbey, to perform in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.



Our community group of musicians has been out and about again visiting St Matthews Church in Paisley and Stowbrae Kirk where they were welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Many of our pupils have taken part in Renfrewshire activities this month including Renfrewshire annual Christmas concert. We raised money for Ronald McDonald House with carol singing from the choir in the Paisley Centre.



Our talented S5/6 vocal ensemble produced a very moving and relevant version of Fields of Poppies at our three Remembrance services.

A small group of our junior pupils sang carols at the PTA Christmas Fayre



Our annual Christmas Concert took place on the evening of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. It is always an excellent showcase for our many talented pupils. This year our senior pupil Ross Walker led our percussion ensemble, which will contribute towards his 'Young Leaders Scotland' award from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

The choir and band played Christmas carols and songs and for the first time in a while we had a bagpipe solo and our string group accompanied the choir as they sang a song from 'Brave'.

We also welcomed back our Ceilidh band from last year to perform. They are all studying music at University now.





# Science



## Always Green Energy

Gleniffer High School Go4SET Team  
Pupils at Go4SET Area Final

**L to R: Daniel Coutts, Rhys Turner, Lewis Brooks, Ben Punton, Jonathan Wright, Craig Gibson**

Our Go4SET team have had even more success being shortlisted as finalists in the UK Industrial Cadet Awards at Bronze Level held at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in Savoy Place London. Although not the overall winners Julie Feest, Chief Executive Officer of The Engineering Development Trust, said all four finalists were winners as 50,000 young people in total had taken part at the various levels so it was an honour to be selected as a finalist, the boys had a great day getting a “goody bag” with t-shirts, torch, pens etc.

In London, in centre, with other finalists, Julie Feest (far right) and sponsors

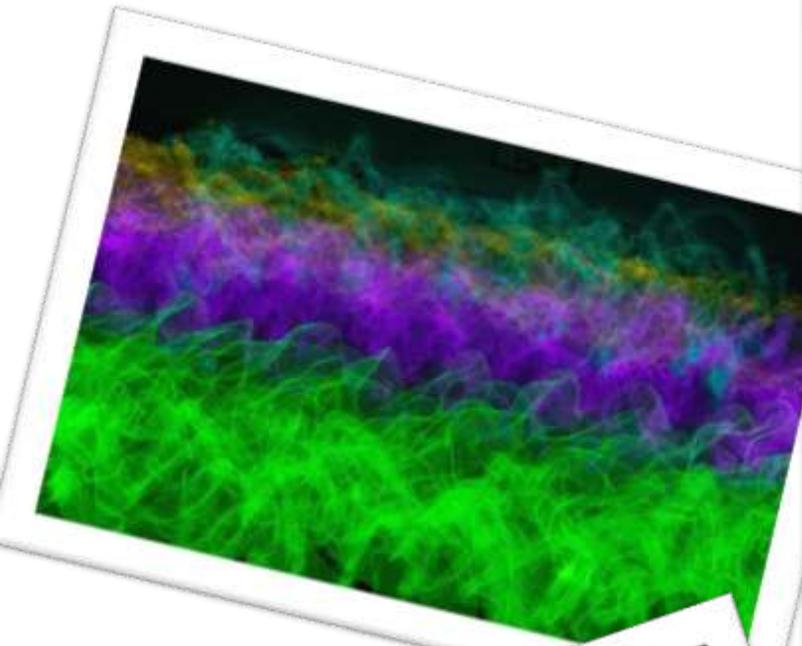


# Photography

## Higher Photography Light Painting Workshop

During November, the Higher Photography class took part in a Light Painting Workshop with visiting photographer, David Gilliver. Using a variety of lighting equipment such as light sabers and glow sticks, pupils were able to hone their camera skills to develop long exposure shots, creating a range of beautiful photographs. The class were able to experiment with movement and colour to create exciting works of art. The pupils loved the experience and have now taking this newly learned skill forward in to their practical Higher folio work.

A collection of pupils' work has now been printed and individual photographs are available to purchase from the Art Department.



# Physical Education



## Netball

On our way to achieving the GOLD School of Sport Award, Gleniffer High School are doing what they can to get 40% of pupils involved in extracurricular activity. In November, we made great heady way by offering activities in the PE department every single lunchtime in November:

Mondays – Basketball

Tuesdays – Badminton

Wednesdays – Volleyball

Thursdays – Netball

Fridays – Indoor Football

This saw over 350 attendances by pupils across a range of year groups. House tokens were awarded to pupils who attended 3 or more and platinum token to those who attended 10 or more. A list of platinum tokens can be seen below in alphabetical order:

**Kwane Amofah – 15**

**Alex Brown – 14**

**Daniel Duffy – 11**

**Graeme Goldthorp – 16**

**Ian McCabe – 16**

**Kyle McKinnon – 12**

**Leo Mellet – 17**

**Nathan Mellet – 18\* (attended every day except 1 – where he was representing the school at a badminton tournament)**

**Declan Robertson – 12**

**Kyle Stephen – 10**

**Ben Terris – 10**

**Kai Turley – 11**

**Darian Wokocha – 11**

**Blair Young – 13**

Well done for getting involved everyone... #goingforgold #40%



**#GOINGFORGOLD#40%**

## Events this term

### Halloween Dance

This year's Halloween dance kicked off with music and pupils dressed up in fantastic costumes. Gleniffer's social area was transformed into a spooky campus, with projectors and lighting effects to illuminate the venue. There was a fantastic turnout of over 100 senior pupils dancing the night away. Anthony Clark won best costume of the night dressed as Freddie Mercury from Queen and Cabhán Blyth & Mollie Kyle won best dressed couple as Mary Poppins and Bill Walsh.



Mr Gorman was our dedicated DJ playing the latest and greatest music to get pupils up off their feet dancing. School events like these give pupils memories that they will never forget with their friends. A good night out like this lets us de-stress from the upcoming prelims and exam preparation. We can't wait for the next dance!

**By Cabhán Blyth**

# S1/2 Halloween Dance

The S1/S2 Halloween Dance was held on the afternoon of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Tickets were sold throughout the week and there was a great turnout of younger school pupils who enjoyed a tuck shop and DJ. The total raised from this event was £117.64 which will be split equally between the House Charities, so thank you to S1 and S2 for their contributions! Also, a huge thank you to the staff and S6 pupils who helped at the event.

## House Captains





# Malawi

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Malawi expedition team organised and held a Malawi ball at the Normandy Hotel. In our individual subgroups, we were able to use our personal skills to carefully plan how the night would be financed, the specific decorations to use and what we would do to raise the maximum amount of money. The night was a huge success enjoyed by all who attended, with multiple fundraising activities such as a large raffle, a photo booth and a potential £100 prize!

We were very lucky and grateful to have several representatives from the Malawi-Scotland partnerships attend the night and also receive an authentic performance from Malawian musician, Davey Luhanga.

All of the money raised from the event goes towards our special project which is to refurbish classrooms in Chilandepa Primary School.

As the year is coming to a close, everyone in the team is getting increasingly excited for the expedition next June and we want to thank everybody for their ongoing support!



As a team we are planning a 'Burns Night' after the new year to continue our fundraising for our project. An official date is Wednesday 5th of February. The night will be filled full of amazing entertainment from pupils, a fabulous raffle, short bread, irn bru and plenty more Scottish traditions to celebrate Burns Night whilst raising money. We hope to see many of you come along to this event and support us. More information about tickets, dates and times are still to follow, anyone is welcome!

# Children in Need



Again our S6 pupils rose to the challenge of raising a great deal of money for Children in Need. Pupils across the school enjoyed activities during the week running up to Children in Need Day, filling buckets with loose change, buying raffle tickets and paying to attend activities.

We had:

Leg waxing

Ice Bucket Challenge

Board and Car Cleaning

Pie the Teacher – very popular!!

Staff v Pupils Dodge Ball

Bake Sale

Bush Tucker Trials

Senior Dance

Assault Course

Movie afternoon

Karaoke

On the Friday, the majority of pupils in year groups across the school took part in the fundraising day. At one point, the social area was full to capacity. Pupil behaviour across the day was exemplary.

Well done to all pupils and staff who contributed to this very worthwhile cause. Well done to our S6 pupils who organised events in school to raise funds.

The grand total raised for Children in Need this year is a fantastic £3206.20

**Well done to all pupils and staff who contributed.**



# Gleniffer's Successful Foodbank Appeal

Our Food Bank appeal was a tremendous success; a total of 5227 items of food was donated! The event took place between the 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October. It all started in a competition by the different House Groups, and by the Wednesday, we had already collected 543 items.

Food banks are all over the UK and distribute food to those in need. At least 1 in 5 of the UK population live below the poverty line and these food banks are an essential lifeline. Food is donated from schools, churches, businesses and individuals.

As a school, instead of bringing in a £1 for non-uniform, pupils brought in items that added up to a £1. Even if we didn't bring in items, we could still put a £1 in a bucket to support this cause.

The House Group breakdown: Thornly collected over 1180 items, then Brodie with 967. Moredun followed closely with 834 and Glen was not far behind with 820 items. Another 1426 items were collected by fundraising. House Points were awarded and if you brought in 5+ items, you would get a platinum token! Significantly, out of all of the schools in Renfrewshire, we collected the most for the food bank!

Mrs Walker in the Maths department won the hamper, congratulations!

**By Mollie Kyle**



# Christmas Panto

Well, we have had an absolute ball at the Pavillion's Pantomime "Pinocchio" this year. Oh yes we did! 155 pupils and 10 members of staff went to see this show on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of December at 11am. It was a star studded show full of fun and laughter and even the weather did not dampen our spirits. The pupils were an absolute credit to the school and they thoroughly enjoyed the singing, dancing and "The Magical Adventures of Pinocchio".



# House Competition

Our Glenny Gladiator Games were replaced this year by the Glenny House Competition.

An inflatable assault course and gladiator pedestal were hired by the school to allow pupils to have some fun on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. In houses, young people competed for points which will go toward our House totals.

They had an absolute blast and some of the staff enjoyed themselves too!

1<sup>st</sup> Place Brodie 498 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Thornly 464 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Moredun 448 points

4<sup>th</sup> Place Glen 422 points

Thanks to the PE department for organising the days events and to all the young people who participated!



# School Activity Day May 2020

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020, the school timetable will collapse and all S1, S2 and S3 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in an activity of their choice (S4, S5 and S6 pupils will be on exam leave).

## School Activity Day – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Please tick your choice, add your name/class & get it signed). See named teacher for more information.

Slips must be returned to MR WILSON by FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Activity	Teacher	No Places	Approx Cost	Tick choice (1 only)
Paintballing	Mrs McIntyre (ICT)	70	£35	
Trampolining	Miss MacDougall (PE)	30	£25	
Go-karting	Mr Jagger/Mr Allely (Technical)	27	£25	
Blair Drummond Safari Park	Mrs Bowie (Humanities)	35	£25	
Art Activity Day	Mrs Frew (Art)	20	£TBC	
Kayaking, Raft Building & Sailing	Mr Bleach (PE)	22	£25	
Golf Outing	Mr Gilles (PE)	22	£TBC	
Photography & Photo Editing Workshop	Miss Doherty (Pupil Support)	30	£5	
Cake Baking	Modern Languages Department	15	£3	
Lapwing Lodge Activity Day	Mrs Allan (Pupil Support)	20	£25	
Computer Games	Miss Maley/Ms Smith (ICT)	40	Free	
Board Games	Miss Bryan (Modern Languages)	20	Free	
Superhero Day	Mrs Foley (Pastoral)	30	Free	
Film Day	Miss Smith/Mrs O'Brian (English)	60	Free	

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please do not send money at this time)

# School Activity Day May 2020

All S1-3 pupils who are not going to Blackpool have been issued with the above activity option form. These forms were to be completed and returned to Mr Wilson by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Some pupils still have to return their forms. If your son/daughter has not returned this form, please have them do so as soon as possible. If your son/daughter has misplaced their form, they can get another from Mr Wilson (maths).

Any pupil who does not return the form will not be able to participate in an activity and will be in class during this day.

I am very aware that financing a trip may prove difficult for some. As an inclusive school, it is our intention to ensure that finance is not a barrier to pupil participation. If your son/daughter receives free school meals, the school will fund the trip – I will deal with this without your involvement. There may be other reasons why financing the trip may prove to be difficult - In this case please contact me at the school and we will do what we can to help.

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above please contact Mr Wilson at the school on 0300 300 1313.

Thanks

**Mr G Wilson**

## The Lion King

Miss Collins and Mr McMonigal from the Music Department organised a school trip to see Disney's Lion King at the Edinburgh Playhouse. 42 pupils from S1-S6 went along on the trip. Before the show, we went to an Italian restaurant for some pizza and ice cream. Then it was time to take our seats in the Gods for the show-stopping performance! The Disney classic was set against an African backdrop complete with all of the characters and songs from the film. The pupils had a wonderful time and it was great to see pupils from across the year groups singing along to all of the songs. Hakuna Matata!



# Gymnastics – Pizza in PJs

Our S1 girls celebrated their commitment to the schools Gymnastics club with a relaxing 'Pizza in PJs' evening. They have been working hard on their balances, vault work and tumbles. The gymnasts are also looking forward to enjoying some new equipment which they secured through a recent bid for funding. The club runs every Tuesday after school.



# Cani Coaching – Young Leaders

**How many went?** 16 pupils and 3 staff  
**When did you go?** Monday 18 November – Thursday 21 November  
**Where did you go?** Dumfries House, Cumnock.  
**What activities did you do?** Trust exercises, a Values walk, a Rescue Mission, Goal mapping, STEM garden, Fire pit walk were some of the activities we completed.

**Give a description of one of the activities**

In the Rescue Mission, we were practising first-aid rescue missions. We had to rescue a 'casualty' and transport them to safety. Using walkie-talkies to keep in touch with the rescue command centre, first we had to find our equipment, then locate the casualty. When we found them we had to make a stretcher out of wooden poles, a plastic sheet and some rope. Next we had to locate a place to set up a tent for the night as the rescue helicopter could not land as a result of the poor weather.

**Describe a funny moment.**

A funny moment happened one night after dinner when most of us went outside to play hide and seek – in the dark! It was great fun because it was really dark and we couldn't really see therefore we kept falling over when we tried to run away from the seekers!

**Describe the best moment for you.**

The best moment was when, after the fire pit walk, we went inside and got some of CANI's 'Legendary Hot Chocolate'. The reason that it is called the Legendary Hot Chocolate is because anyone who has tried it always says that it was the best they have ever tried. The other reason that it was legendary was that we used a twix bar as a straw!

**By Fraser Kydd and Chianna Marandola**



# Developing the Young Workforce

## Business Brunch

Our in-service day on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October was given over to 'Developing the Young Workforce' with a range of activities and workshops aimed at developing our strategies to support young people into positive destinations after school.

Staff worked collaboratively to create new departmental development plans to widen opportunities to Develop the Young Workforce as well as setting out a new set of core employability skills to be launched next year.

As part of the program, Gleniffer hosted its first 'Business Brunch' where over 20 local employers came in to meet staff and network whilst enjoying our hospitality. The event was a huge success and already departments have forged new partnerships.



## Flexible Work Placements

Throughout this year a number of our pupils within the senior phase have had the opportunity to participate in flexible and extended work placements designed to help them achieve a positive destinations in Higher and Further Education, Apprenticeships or employment. Kenneth in S4 has been working with Kustom Kruizers in Renfrew, a community bicycle building project, that teaches youth and young adults between the ages of 13 and 21, how to strip, build and restore bicycles. Having already taken part in the Bikeability course at Gleniffer, Kenneth has excelled in his extended work placement, and hopes to take the skills he has developed into a full-time position after he leaves school.



We are continually looking for diverse DYW opportunities like these for our young people and have been undergoing development work with Education Scotland to enable pupils to receive academic credit for taking part in work placements.



## STEM West

Pupils from Gleniffer and across the West Region enjoyed a day attending the STEM West event organised by DYW West and hosted by West College Scotland. Pupils met employers from across STEM related industries to inspire the future workforce in a fun and interactive way. With a host of innovative and interesting activities available on the day ranging from VR simulations and Lego bridge building, the pupils came back from the event with great enthusiasm and bags full of promotional material.



## Current opportunities

Several companies have recently launched large scale recruitment campaigns for Modern/Graduate apprenticeship positions starting in Autumn 2020. Amongst these are high profile companies such as BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, Arnold Clark, Morgan Stanley, Campbell Dallas and Thales.

All current opportunities can be found on the Apprenticeship.scot website:

<https://www.apprenticeships.scot/>

## Foundation Apprenticeships

As we come up to subject choice time in the new year, we are encouraging pupils and parents to find out more about the opportunities available for Foundation Apprenticeships in S5/S6. A Foundation Apprenticeship will take an S5 pupil two years to complete, and is the same level of learning as a Higher (SCQF level 6). As pupils are working towards their qualification they will spend time out of school at college and with a local employer. There are also short duration modules available for new S6 pupils. Further information on Foundation Apprenticeships available through West College Scotland can be found at:

<https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/courses/foundation-apprenticeship/>



# Skills Development Scotland

December has been busy working alongside our Careers Advisors from SDS. Catriona Makeham (Brodie & Glen) and Nicola Keane (Moredun & Thornly) have been meeting pupils from S2 for one to one careers appointments as the first stage of the S2 choices journey. There have been a lot of fascinating conversations happening with lots of exciting career plans. Thank you to all the S2 pupils who have been involved.

Please follow us GlenifferCareers Advisors @GlenifferCaree1 for up to date career planning, UCAS Applications, College, employment, training opportunities and much, much more.



If you would like a careers appointment please speak to pastoral or drop by the careers office in the upper library.

College Workshops will take place week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January. Pupils should keep an eye out for information on these workshops. Information will also be on the careers twitter page (@GlenifferCaree1).

Pupils can come along for support in applying for college courses. It is recommended that all pupils making college applications attend one of the sessions being offered.





## Important dates next term

6 <sup>th</sup> January	All pupils and staff return to school.	11-12 <sup>th</sup> February	Holiday
13 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 Work Experience Higher Prelims	13 <sup>th</sup> February	In-service
17 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 Transition Day	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Planning for Choices & Change (S3)
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Senior Phase Family Learning Event 6.30pm-8.30pm	19 <sup>th</sup> February	I Can Do Anything Day S2
27 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 Options interviews begin	25 <sup>th</sup> February	S2 Choices Interviews begin
30 <sup>th</sup> January	S4 Parents' Evening 5.00pm-7.30pm	28 <sup>th</sup> February	S2 Parents' Evening 5.00pm-7.30pm
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Freshen Up Friday – S3 Group	19 <sup>th</sup> March	S1-3 School Cross Country Championships
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Scotland & Malawi Cultural Evening	28 <sup>th</sup> March	S4-6 Certificate of Merit
7 <sup>th</sup> February	In-service	29 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for holidays. Non-uniform

# 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: 0300 300 1313

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

Find us on the App Store or  
Google Play Store

