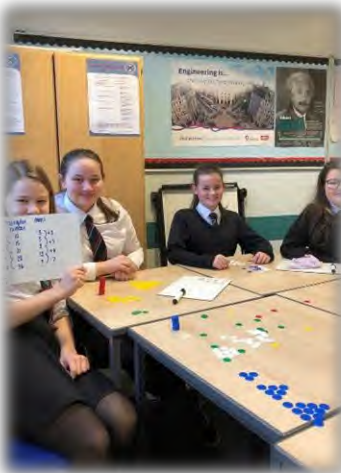
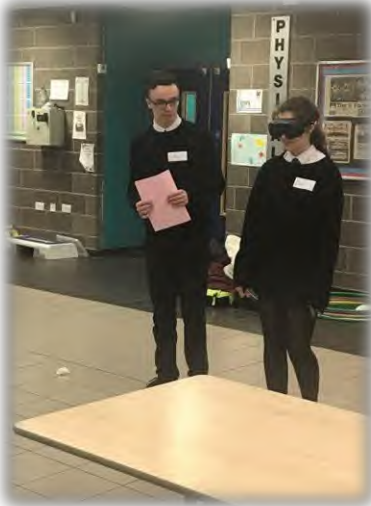


INSIDE GHS

December 2018



Winter Issue:



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 14th January.

We have been reviewing our school Vision, Values and Aims in recent months and at the end of November we had a Graphic Facilitator come in to work with parents/carers, young people and staff. The final results of our day are shown below and on the next page. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come in over a couple of days to help us move this forward.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and the very best for 2019.

Lisa Chalmers
Head Teacher

Gleniffer High School is committed to providing a high quality education in a caring and welcoming environment. It is our belief that the wellbeing of all young people promotes self worth, confidence and self-esteem, leading to high quality attainment and achievement

In Gleniffer High, we will engage with all our stakeholders to promote wellbeing and ensure that our learners have the opportunity to thrive in a stable school environment which will support their progress and prepare them for life beyond school and make our community a great place to live.



Our new school values.



S1 and S2 pupils will be part of a competition to produce a new tag line for the school with the deadline set for January!

S1

Can't believe how quickly the time flies! One minute S1 pupils were celebrating Halloween at the end of October with their Halloween disco (brilliantly organised by the PE department) where dancing, dressing up and face painting replaced lessons for the afternoon and an amazing time was had by everyone. This was then followed by a fireworks talk by representatives from the Renfrewshire Fire Service who gave a powerful safety message to ensure Bonfire Night went smoothly and with no mishaps. Also in November we had Anti-Bullying week organised by the Pastoral Team. As part of this S1 participated in welcoming an 'up and coming' boy band known as 'Halo' to our school who gave a fantastic performance to all lower school pupils with a focus on the importance of #Respectme message. This was, at times, hard to hear over a great deal of screaming and cheering but was certainly a lot of fun. Also as part of the week S1 participated in a range different PSE lessons which delivered a clear anti-bullying message, we all wore something blue midweek to support this and finally all pupils who wished to, signed the 'Respect Me' pledge which was proudly displayed in our school social area. The week was a huge success and was very important in reinforcing the anti-bullying message. The week ended with 'Children in Need' charity fundraising day where all pupils in the school participated in a variety of activities to raise a total of over £3,200 for a very worthy cause.

Over the past month Who Cares Scotland? have been visiting our school and delivering lessons to S1 in PSE. Lyndsey and her team from the organisation have been raising awareness of the challenges faced by 'care experienced' pupils in our school. These lessons have been very well received by our S1 pupils with many pupils popping in to the 'drop in' meeting for support or further information.

The month of December brought a very well attended S1 Parents Evening where parents and pupils got an opportunity to meet and discuss progress with their teachers. The attendance was very positive with 76% of all parents present..

On the run up to Christmas a group of S1 pupils have taken part in 'Freshen up Friday' litter pick with Miss Chalmers. This is giving something back to our local community and pupil help is well appreciated by our neighbours. The footpaths are litter free and look amazing –Well done S1!!

The Christmas activities are now in full swing with a packed programme of events crammed in to our last week before the holidays. On Monday we have Behaviour Awards in the morning, S1 & S2 Christmas Dance in the afternoon and the Carol Concert in the evening. On Tuesday S1 to S3 are off to the panto to see Cinderella at the Pavilion Theatre in Glasgow. Wednesday brings the Gladiator Games, Thursday the Senior dance and Friday the Christmas Karaoke and sing along. Phew !!.....After all that we will definitely need a holiday.



Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year!!

S2

The S2 Pupils have been working really well this session. So far, 150 pupils have 90% or more attendance which is really encouraging. Well done and please keep it up. The more you are in school the more you will learn! 37 pupils have 100% attendance which will stand them in good stead for preparing for their examinations in S4.

The S2 have had a number of really exciting activities this term. During Anti-bullying week, *The Hara*, an up and coming band, came to perform on the 12th of November a number of their hits. Throughout the performance the band spoke to the pupils about the effects of bullying and the importance of protecting yourself, especially when online.

On the 11th of December, a theatre group came to Gleniffer and performed *No Knives Better Lives*, which is a drama about knife crime. The pupils were really enthralled to witness the drama unfold and see the horrible consequences of knife crime. The NKBL campaign has a great website for teenagers and for parents. If you would like to find out more on how to discuss knife crime with your child please go to

<http://noknivesbetterlives.com/parents>

Some interesting facts about Knife Crime:

Possession of a knife carries a prison sentence of up to 5 years even if it's not used.

If you are caught with a knife it doesn't matter if it was for your own protection or you were carrying it for someone else - you will be arrested and prosecuted. Self-protection is not a reasonable excuse for carrying an offensive weapon.

Knife crime can affect anyone, not just people in gangs. Innocent bystanders can get caught in the middle of other people's disputes and suffer trauma, serious injuries or worse.

Even if it's not you who does it, if someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence you could be sent to prison for murder or attempted murder in what is referred to as 'joint enterprise'.



S3

S3 have made a really good start to their courses this year and generally behaviour is very good. I have the pleasure of leading S3 activities and assemblies so it has been great for me to get to spend more time with them as a year group.

I'm really keen to hear about their achievements which can be done through the pink card system or using the link to Report an Achievement on our website.

A number of our S3 pupils were involved in the German Exchange Trip, you can read more about it later in the newsletter. We also have some great pupil leadership examples from pupils via our Duke of Edinburgh, Hearty Lives, Litter Pick and Student Council participation. I will be organising more year group activities for later in the session, to help the young people prepare for S4.

I wish all S3 pupils and their families a very happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2019.



S4

After an incredibly busy term for S4 pupils can now relax and enjoy their Christmas holidays after all their hard work in recent weeks! Their first set of National 5 prelim exams took place at the beginning of December. Prelims are extremely important in setting pupils up for their final exams after Easter and they also provide pupils with an insight into how they are performing overall in their subjects. Our Chief Invigilator who runs the exams for us, reported that everything had gone smoothly and the pupils had shown great dedication and hard work.

All S4 pupils will have their Work Experience week in January and I am pleased to report that almost all of them have found a place. Well done to Mr Ramsay for all his hard work in getting pupils placed. Those who do not have a work experience place will follow a single timetable in school for the full week. Each morning, they should report to Mrs Prentice in the Social Area who will issue the timetable and check that they have provided work to complete. Pupils will have to ensure that they have work to complete!

Another big event for January and February is the options for S5 process. Pupils will be issued with the Senior Phase information booklet and options forms when they return. Further details of the process will be given at assembly on the first day back.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Departments in the Spotlight

Art & Design & Technical

Admin and IT

Music

English

Health & Food Technology

Physical Education

Modern Languages

Humanities

Business

Computing Science

Admin and IT

Our S3 Administrators have been developing a wide variety of skills this year. They have been using some of these skills to design a ticket for our school's very own G-Factor talent show.

Sophie McGillivray's ticket was chosen to be used this year, well done Sophie on your festive design!



Business – Stock Challenge

Our third year business managers have been learning about selling and buying shares. Part of this involved investing a fictional £300 in the shares of three different companies. Over the last three months they have been tracking the potential return on their investments, exploring the reasons why the price of their shares fluctuated.

They had to use their knowledge and understanding of how external factors may increase or reduce the price of shares. We reviewed the overall profit/loss of the investments at the end of December.

Well done to our winners who, had it been a real £300, would have made a healthy return on their investment!



Business – Apple Trip

On Tuesday 4th December, Mr Thompson and Mr Gould from Business and Computing took 19 pupils to the Apple store in Glasgow city centre. The pupils were chosen either because they had completed a lunch time technology challenge where they had to work in groups to deliver a presentation on how technology was impacting on Businesses in 2018, or they were selected for showing consistent excellent behaviour and effort in class. The workshop started by looking at business ethics. The Apple staff explored what an ethical business is and the pupils were given iPads to explore some web resources and report back on their findings. The staff discussed and showed videos on what Apple are doing to minimise their impact on the environment and the fact all Apple facilities are now 100% powered by renewable energy. The discussions also covered extracting natural resources, recycling, and Apple's plans to become a zero waste company. The second part of the workshop focused on code. Pupils were given Sphero robots and were shown how they can be coded using an iPad. The pupils worked in pairs to get their Spheros tracing out different shapes on the floor. Pupils were then split into teams to design a tape maze. They had to work together to code a path through the maze. A big thanks to the team at Apple for their time and enthusiasm with the pupils. There were great questions and discussions and they were very relaxed about the pupils getting hands on time with the equipment. The pupils were a credit to themselves and the school, and all thoroughly enjoyed the trip.



Art & Design - Design & Technical

STEAM

S2 Traditional Building Skills

In September a group of our S2 pupils once again took part in the Traditional Building Skills in Paisley Abbey in conjunction with Paisley THI, West College Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland.

The pupils had the opportunity to take part in traditional building skills workshops including Stone Letter cutting, Plumbing & Leadwork, Carpentry and Natural Roofing. The event also included a tour of Paisley Abbey where pupils could see how the skills they were developing were being used to maintain the historic building. Mr. Jagger (Technical) who took the group commented: “The kids really enjoyed themselves, two could have lined up apprenticeships if they were a bit older!”



S3 – Young Women into STEM

As part of Renfrewshire Council’s STEM fortnight, a group of our S3 girls once again took part in the Young Women into STEM event in partnership with DYW West and West College Scotland.

Taking place in West College Scotland, the pupils took part in 5 practical sessions focusing on different STEM careers.



S3 – Professional Skills in Construction

Just after the S2 event, S3 pupils attended an event set up with speakers from the construction industry explaining their route from school to where they are now and then a group task with all school pupils mixed up and asked to build a Lego tower considering time management, profit and costs. The pupils gained valuable insight into career pathways into the construction industry as well as a greater focus on the skills required.

S4 Practical Woodwork

IOSH

Following the success of a previous program where a group of our senior Lab Skills pupils competed a full IOSH Health and Safety qualification, Fred Cullum from Enable Safety will again be coming into the school and delivering a series of Health and Safety lessons to our S4 Practical Woodwork class leading to all of them gaining a professional certificate. Once again, we are the only school in Scotland to offer this opportunity and our thanks go to Fred for developing and organising this fully funded, bespoke program for our pupils.

City Gate Construction

During the new term we are also looking forward to a new partnership with City Gate Construction where our pupils will be undertaking a ten-week programme with one of their joiners in order to bring construction to life. City Gate Construction have kindly offer to fully fund the course including all the materials and time commitment from their team.

S5/6 Reimagining Paisley

As part of the Paisley Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, Renfrewshire Council appointed architects Collective Architecture and Lateral North to deliver a programme of architectural workshops in schools. A group of senior Gleniffer pupils studying Design & Manufacture, Graphic Communication and/or Art will be taking part in a series of workshops during Renfrewshire STEM fortnight. The students who all have an interest in pursuing a career in design will work with the architects to develop design ideas for the future use of a Paisley building of historic importance.

S5 Greenpower Challenge

Starting in September, three of our S5 pupils have been selected to take part in the Greenpower Course in conjunction with West College Scotland which uses the excitement of motorsport to inspire young people to excel in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Through a unique challenge of designing, building and racing a F24 Race Kart, the program aims to give students the opportunity to learn not only engineering skills but also business, presentation and teamwork skills. Students are given the chance to develop the skills, knowledge and experiences which will enhance their future career prospects and allow them access to further full-time education. Students will also be given support when applying for Modern Apprenticeships.



Computing Science

On Friday 14th December, Mr Gould and Miss Maley took a group of senior Computing Science pupils to the annual Christmas Cyber Lecture at Glasgow Caledonian University. The pupils heard from a range of engaging and entertaining speakers from Price Waterhouse Cooper Cyber, Cygenta, Pentest Partners and Police Scotland. Dr Jessica Barker from Cygenta spoke about her route into cyber security and how her background is not in code and hacking. Her job is based more in sociology and she talked about the wide variety of non-technical cyber security jobs available. Freaky Clown, also from Cygenta, then spoke about how he was a hacker but now works to help companies prevent cyber-attacks. He also spoke about how much of his job is now non-technical and instead is focused on stopping people falling victim to social engineering tricks. Andy Gill from Pentest Partners spoke about the possible future threat to health posed by individuals being able to hack into critical infrastructure and the need for skilled people to work in the cyber security field to prevent this. Finally Neil Gordon from Police Scotland spoke about how Policing has had to change to keep up with technology and he gave some good advice about thinking before posting online. It was a really inspirational and enjoyable lecture, and not just because of the thousands of sweets and Tunnock's Tea Cakes that were given out! Hopefully the pupils have been inspired to consider a career in cyber security. It was plain to see the vast array of opportunities available and demand is currently well outstripping supply.



English

Ten Things Found in a Grandpa's Pocket

A set of slimy worn out dentures
A black ashtray
A lit cigar
A confused granny
A huge set of WW2 medals
A long brown walking stick
Some important grandchildren
A half completed crossword
A family sized bag of Werther's Original
A pinch of family

Eoin Ramsay 1.6

Ten Things Found in a Scotsman's Pocket

A deep fried Mars bar
A keg of Irn-Bru
A Braveheart DVD
A deep Scottish accent
A wish to qualify for the World Cup
A set of overused bagpipes
An Old Firm ticket
A vocabulary of confusing slang
A secret hate of haggis
And a hope for independence

Matthew Parker 1.6

Ten Things Found in an Artist's Pocket

An alcohol based marker
A crumpled A4 piece of paper
A used paint brush
The sketch of an unfinished drawing
A throbbing passion for art and design
A book with tea spilt over it
The smallest apple ever
An old and cracked ruler
The tea bag that was used earlier
A variety of paints

Matthew Adams 1.1

Ten Things Found in a Gamer's Pocket

A broken PS4 controller
An unused £50 gift card
A picture of a game that is unaffordable
An empty drink
A number from an imaginary girlfriend
A half full green portable charger
A white wallet with curry stains on it
Gloves with a game logo
Headphones with an overused mic
A ripped notebook with a signature written inside

Liam Barrett 1.1

Ten Things Found in a Pirate's Pocket

An old, ripped map
A cracked, wooden oar
Two deflated lifejackets
A sharp but rusty sword
A mysterious type of coin
A bag of brittle bones
A lonely parrot feather
A chipped compass without the hands
Some pieces of a smashed telescope
Three empty bottles of rum

Alex Brown 1.1

Ten things Found in a Teacher's Pocket

A pile of sad unmarked essays
A chaotic desk
A lively class of pupils
A head full of brainy ideas
A shelf full of heavy folders
A tonne of small red jotters
A pencil tub with blunt pencils in it
A white board covered in smeary pens
A bottle of tippex, crusty at the lid
A loving heart

Fern Porter 1.6

English

Ten Things Found in a Scientist’s Pocket

- A worn out whiteboard pen
- An empty, grimy beaker
- A slimy spoon
- A bottle of chemicals
- An old ripped experiment book
- A piece of paper with a diagram on it
- A dirty conical flask
- A musky Bunsen burner hose
- An ancient note book
- A dusty computer for research

Dylan Bell 1.1

Ten Things Found in a Dancer’s Pocket

- Bright beaming stage lights
- Tons and tons of worn out dance shoes
- Dozens of glittering sequins
- An overload of accessories
- A bag full of flexibility
- A sprinkle of twirls and flips
- A handful of overdramatic fans
- A puzzle worth of dance skills
- A dash of perfect posture
- An oversized grin at the end of a show

Jessica Spence 1.6

Ten Things Found in a Queen’s Pocket

- A cup of tea
- A golden ring
- A £5 note with her face on it
- A diamond from the Victorian times
- A 50ml bottle of hand sanitiser
- A pair of gloves
- A very expensive purple hat
- A picture of her family
- A tea bag
- The Union Jack

Eniko Nyiro 1.5

Ten Things Found in an Equestrian’s Pocket

- A field of glorious green grass
- A lonely glove
- An old hat cover she didn’t know about
- A ripped picture of a ferocious Friesian
- A handful of grainy hay
- A letter from a waiting, worried vet
- A brush INVADED with horse hair
- A dressage entry form
- A mouldy half eaten apple
- A packet of polo mints

Anna Milne 1.5

Ten Things Found in an Archaeologist’s Pocket

- A dusty collection of bones
- A broken compass
- A map of a forgotten world
- A few notes of navigation
- An ancient coin
- A key to his trusty land rover
- A picture showing an unknown location
- A spare hat for his journey
- A long rope
- A large jewel

Kyle Craig 1.5

Ten Things Found in a Scientist’s Pocket

- A bacteria riddled agar plate
- A polished Nobel Prize trophy
- A lit Bunsen burner
- A proudly taken PHD
- A list of animal cell structures
- A messy lab coat
- A dripping wet scalpel
- A diagram of the planets
- A cracked 100ml beaker
- A second hand bio viewer

Callum Ward 1.6

Health & Food Technology

We have a strong partnership with local care homes and early years centres due to our Skills for Work Courses in Leadership, Care, Early Education and Childcare and Achieve.

This year we were part of an event which commemorated the end of World War 1. Pupils from Gleniffer completed completed pieces of art which were part of an exhibition to recognise the plight of soldiers in the Great War.



Our Higher Leadership pupils have also been raising the awareness of Homelessness through several charity projects. Fashion Shows, volunteering, photographic exhibitions, presentations to Parent Council and clothing bank have been just some of the events which have been organised from start to finish by the young people. They have done an amazing job in educating more of us about the plight of homeless people and what we can do to support them.

Humanities

The Modern Studies Higher class had the exciting opportunity to visit the Westminster Parliament on the 16th of November. Amid rumours of a leadership contest within the Conservative Party, we travelled down to London by train and braved the London underground to Green Park, from where we walked past Buckingham Palace, down to Trafalgar Square and then on to the Parliament. The pupils were given a tour of the Parliament and got the chance to stand on the floor of the House of Commons and hear a little of its history. They then took part in an interactive workshop before participating in a question and answer session with Lord Brian Paddick, a member of the House of Lords. The pupils discussed a variety of topics and Lord Paddick 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.



Modern Languages

Fürth Trip 2018

Being part of the trip to our partner school, the Hans-Böckler-Schule, in Paisley's twin town of Fürth was an amazing experience for both pupils and teachers alike. It was a chance to experience the sights, sounds and culinary delights of Fürth, Nuremberg and the Bavarian countryside as well as everyday life for a student living in this part of the world.

Pupils met with their partners and enjoyed various activities kindly organised for them by the students and their families, such as trips to theme parks and outdoor adventures. The kindness and hospitality afforded to them exemplified the efforts that their partners and their families went to in ensuring an amazing experience for our pupils.

As a teacher, I met with my counterparts over in Hans-Böckler-Schule and was made to feel so welcome by their hospitality and the range of activities planned for us all. Visits were planned to the carnival taking place in Fürth town centre; to a region known as 'Franconian Switzerland' - so-called because of the striking similarity to the Swiss countryside; a visit to the Pottenstein caves; sightseeing on the 'Skywalk' at Erlebnisfelsen and more than just a few runs on the toboggans. We also took a cable car to enjoy a short hike in the mountains and enjoyed the views across the surrounding Bavarian countryside, as well as plenty of sightseeing in the two cities themselves.

This experience was extremely beneficial for everyone involved, with pupils using this opportunity to exercise their German, experience a thorough and varied programme of activities and make new friends along the way. As a teacher, I don't think I've been on a trip that has had so much to offer and had such a positive impact on the pupils involved.

A big thank you has to go out to Mrs. Quinn of the Modern Languages department for all her efforts and hard work in planning and preparing the trip to Fürth and in fostering the partnership between our two schools and I am looking forward to welcoming the German pupils and teachers involved to Scotland in October of next year.

Mr. Allely, Technical Teacher

S3 Girls' Account

As soon as we heard of the German Exchange Programme, we knew that we wanted to be a part of it. The German Exchange programme is a great opportunity to gain confidence, form new relationships and make memories to last forever.

In the beginning, it was quite nerve-racking being in a new country surrounded by unfamiliar faces, but once we got to know our partners and their families better, we became more confident around them.

Even though we were only there for a week, we managed to fit in many activities, including meeting the deputy mayor of Fürth, riding cable cars, shopping, visiting a theme park and doing a tree-top adventure (like Go Ape) and being there for the Fürth festival.

The main event with our partners was the Fürth festival. It is the biggest fair in the South of Germany. The street festival has a mixture of culture, market stalls and rides. A favourite ride of the group was the biggest one – Apollo 13.

We tried many new foods like German Potato Dumplings (Kartoffelklöße), German sausage (Bratwurst) and roasted pork (Spanferkel). We also ate common foods that you have in Scotland, such as Pretzels, Gingerbread, cold meat and cheese.

Overall, our experience was amazing. The views we saw were beautiful and we will keep the memories forever. We are glad that we took this opportunity, and would recommend it to anyone who gets the chance.

Danke!

Aimee-Ellen Anderson, Jennifer Kane, and Holly Reid (S3)

Modern Languages

S3 Boys' Account

We really enjoyed Germany as we had so much fun. The food was great and the staff at the youth hostel couldn't have been more helpful! The people we met were amazing and the activities we did were great! We met friends for life. I would recommend this trip to anyone!

Allistair Halliday, Christopher Maltby, Cameron Wright (S3)

S4 Girls' Account

Germany was a great experience for us. We explored Nürnberg and got a real taste of German culture. We made many long-lasting friendships and created memories that will stay with us forever.

We reached out of our comfort zones, tried new foods, reached new heights (literally) and overall became quite close as a group. We loved Germany so much that we plan on visiting again as a group!

Bethany McPherson, Ebo Anyebe, Marcella McLatchie and Sophie McGowan (S4)



Music

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

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

We have a group of professional jazz musicians coming in from SYJO after Christmas to work with some of our pupils. Our fifth year pupil Sam Braes has been selected after audition to rehearse and perform with SYJO which is a great honour.

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 will be raising money for Ronald McDonald House with carol singing from the choir in the Paisley Centre. We joined with Paisley Philharmonic choir to provide an evening of music in Paisley Methodist Halls to raise money for the halls renovation. This was an excellent event.



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



Music

Lisa Gray, Anna Whiteford and Jessica Fraser were selected to perform at SQA Star Awards Ceremony in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. This prestigious event was introduced by Kay Adams and attended by John Swinney. Our pupils were outstanding and excited to follow the lovely comments about them on SQA Twitter Feed.



The same group of pupils performed at Renfrewshire Leaders Forum in Johnstone Town Hall which was also a resounding success.

They have another exciting event planned joining with Johnstone Brass Band on the evening of 11th December.

Our congratulations go to Jessica Fraser who is delighted to have an unconditional offer of a place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to study traditional Scottish music next year.

A small group of our junior pupils sang at the PTA Christmas Fayre mentored by Eve Davidson and Yasmin Hose.



Our next school event is our Christmas Concert on the evening of Monday 17th December. It promises to be an excellent showcase for our many talented pupils. This year our senior pupils are leading a number of our ensembles which will contribute towards their 'Young Leaders Scotland' award from the Royal conservatoire of Scotland. You are most warmly invited to join us on this festive occasion.

Physical Education



Netball

A huge congratulations to our 4 Scottish Cup Netball teams for making it to the knock out rounds of the next section of the Competition.

All teams have made it into the gold section of the competition , a great achievement and the first time in many years where all age groups are in this section.

Let's hope the girls continue to play as well in their games scheduled in January against Eastwood and Craigmount.

Good Luck Girls!



Renfrewshire Schools Badminton Championships.

Gleniffer High School, for the first time in a number of years, was involved in the local authority Badminton Championships which took place on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 29th November.

We entered both an S1 and S2 team to take part in the competition. This was a great experience for the individuals involved and they thoroughly enjoyed the event. It gave them a greater insight into the game of badminton and a chance to develop their skills in both singles and doubles match play.

Well done to the following pupils that represented their year group and Gleniffer High School.

S1 = Ross Muir, Matthew Parker, Teddy Shanks, Jack Caveney, Dylan Scott, Sophia Bell and Courtney Fairbrother.

S2 = Lewis Brooks, Daniel Coutts, Ben Punton, Shaughna Connelly and Rachel Meighan



Physical Education

S1-2 Girls Basketball Development Day

On 1st of November, 13 S1 and S2 girls participated in a Basketball Development Day for S1-2 girls. This day was organised by Active Schools and basketballpaisley. For many of the girls, this was the first time competing in a basketball tournament or playing any basketball games.

The girls played fantastically and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The games gave the girls a chance to improve their game play, team work and practical skills. There will be another girls' day in February!

Well done to the following girls for representing their year group and Gleniffer High School.

S1 – Jenna Bird, Leia Brown, Katie Carmichael, Olivia Churcher, Ellie Clark, Anna Milne, Connie Muir, Hannah Price, Kacia Simpson, Jessica Spence and Mia Stevenson

S2 – Aimee McDermott and Emma McGregor



U13 Football

Our U13 football team have had an excellent first half of the season. We finished top of our league section with 9 points after beating St Ninians (7-5), Renfrew (3-2) and Gryffe (8-0). This takes us into the 'Champions League' draw for the New Year against all the top 2 teams from other sections.

Unfortunately our very first game of the season was our Scottish Cup Round 1 tie. Following a cancelled friendly match from the week before (due to a storm) and then sickness hitting the coach, the boys weren't as prepared as they could have been and lost out narrowly 3-4. I am certain that if we played the same game today we would win comfortably. Regardless, we are hopeful for a good run in the Plate Cup starting against Douglas Academy on the 17th January.

Following a bye in the first round, we defeated Renfrew 3-2 in the St Mirren Cup and have progressed to Round 3. Again, we are looking forward to progressing in this tournament.

I am very proud of the boys for their success, but more so the way they play football and how they support each other in games – the standard is extremely high. I will post on Twitter about games coming up and if you are available to support I'm sure the boys would welcome it.

Congratulations to our u-13 'Top Scorers' and 'Man of the Match' candidates so far:

Scorers:

Cole Wright 9

Callum Ward 6

Ryan McCusker 4

Ross Denny 2

Alex Brown 1

Teddy Shanks 1

Man of the Matches:

Callum Ward 1

Cole Wright 1

Tyler Lau 1

Alex Brown 1

Events this term

S1/2 Christmas Dance

In the run up to the festive period the PE Dept organised a number of great events for S2 and S2 to participate in.

On Monday 17th December S1/S2 Christmas Dance took place in the Games Hall with DJ Gorman on the Decks. The pupils had a fantastic afternoon dancing, playing games and enjoying the goodies at the tuck shop. We had over 200 pupils attended the dance this year, and it was great to see our pupils socialising and enjoying the festive fun.



Glenny Gladiator Games

On Wednesday 19th December, the Glenny Gladiator Games took place and the S1 and S2 pupils battled it out in three events against the big bad S6 Gladiators to win the 2018 title. It was lovely to see pupils from S1, S2 and S6 along with staff enjoying the festive fun together. For the first year, we had a double house winner, well done to Brodie house for taking the trophy for S1 and S2. I am sure Mrs Foley will be very proud.



Christmas Panto

On the 18th of December, 150 pupils from S1-S3 and 15 members of staff went to see *The Magical Adventures of Cinderella* at the Pavilion Theatre in Glasgow. What a treat we had! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance. There was plenty of slapstick humour, sing-a-long songs, laugh out loud moments and traditional audience participation for our pupils to enjoy. The costumes, make-up and set were all fantastic. It really was an unforgettable performance!



S1-3 Activity Day May 2019

The school Activity Day will take place on Thursday 23rd May 2019. On this day, the teaching timetable is suspended to allow pupils to take part in an activity of their choice.

In early December, pupils had the chance to browse a booklet briefly detailing the available activities.

Each pupil was given an activity choice form, which they were asked to return by Thursday 20th December.

Any pupil who has not returned this form can still do so, but be aware that activities are filled on a first-come-first-go basis and popular activities will fill quickly.

Forms to be returned to Mr Wilson (maths department). If you have lost your form you can get another from Mr Wilson.

Thank You

Mr Wilson

Children in Need

Children in Need was a huge success this year! S6 pupils organised and took part in loads of activities- hair shaving, leg waxing, football, netball, their annual Show Dance, soak the teacher. Pupils across all year groups got to take part on Friday 16th with non-uniform and bake sales. The final total raised for charity was.....



Netball



Netball



Staff vs Pupils Football



Dressing Up



Leg Waxing



Sponge the Teacher

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1063745438388576257>

Foodbank Friday

As always the Gleniffer High community came together to produce our best donation yet to Foodbank.

Over 5000 items were donated, weighing 1577kg, which provides over 3755 meals to individuals and families in our local area.

Thornly were the winning house with in excess of 1800 items collected. Two years running for them!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported this, we are very proud. Bring on next year!!



Rollathon

The S2 Gleniffer High Gymnastics Club performed their Sponsored Forward Rollathon on Thursday 29th November in a bid to raise funds for their upcoming residential stay The National Sports Centre in Largs.

The team of 14 gymnasts have been participating in the school club since the start of S1 and have previously attending the fully facilitated gymnastics centre in Largs to work with Scottish gymnastic coaches.

The Rollathon was tough challenge, however the team performed 2400 forward rolls in just over 30 minutes! It was a great effort by all and each gymnast contributed points towards their house group. Well done GHS Gymnastics Club!



Achievers

Congratulations to Oscar Dickie who came 20th in the Scottish Schools Skier Cross Competition!

Oscar started skiing when he was just three years old. He was told about this competition by Mr Bleach and decided to enter. The completion took place at Soar on 29th November.

Ski cross is a type of skiing competition where skiers race head to head down a course of gates with jumps, banked corners and three dimensional features. It is considered a freestyle, rather than an Alpine discipline by FIS (The International Ski Federation).

What sets ski cross apart from other alpine skiing disciplines is that there's more than one skier racing down the course. Any intentional contact with other competitors leads to disqualification.

In a ski cross competition there are normally two rounds:-

A time trail or qualification round

A knockout round and then finals.

Well done Oscar!



Diary of a Paisley Abbey Chorister

My name is Lauren Cassidy and I am a member of Paisley Abbey Choir. I have been a member for over a year.

The Choristers practise on a Tuesday and Thursday after school apart from school holidays. We also have a practice most Friday nights with the Adult Choir. We sing every Sunday morning at the Morning Service with a practice before the service. Once a month we also sing at Evensong, which is a short service lasting about an hour, starting at 4pm.

We have sang at various different locations including Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow and St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Obviously we have two really busy times of year, which are Christmas and Easter. At Easter, we sing at various different services during Holy Week, including singing with an orchestra on Easter Sunday. At Christmas every year we have a Christmas Carol Service at Netherby Hall in Cumbria, England. We also go Carol Singing to to Hunterhill Care Home. We sing on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day we have a small orchestra to accompany us.

We sing various styles of music and in different languages including German, French, Latin as well as English. Last year we sang with James Grant at his concert in Paisley Abbey as part of the "Spree" festival. We were also part of the Children in Need concert, which was broadcast live on BBC Scotland Radio.

We have an Annual Choir Concert which is held in Paisley Abbey in April where we are accompanied by an orchestra.

Every January we take part in "Come and Sing", whereby members of other choirs can come and join us to sing various well known pieces. Last year we sang Handel's "Messiah".

I really enjoy being part of the choir, it is hard work but we have a lot of fun. We have been to Millport and stayed at The Cathedral of Isles. We cycled round the island, went on walks and had time on the beach.

If you would like to audition to join the choir or to find out more about us please contact our Choir Master, Professor Dr George McPhee on 0141 889 3528. You can also find out more at www.paisleyabbey.org.uk



Arran Outdoor Expedition

Our S3 pupils enjoyed a great weekend away to Arran in November.

The 27 pupils took part in an Aspirations Weekend at Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamlash. Throughout the weekend staff and pupils completed a number of team challenges testing their, problem solving, team building, communication and organisation skills.

Each challenge encouraged the pupils to work together, get to know one another better and learn new skills as well as baring the outdoor elements.

Below are some photos of the pupils taking on the challenges.

Staff and pupils had a fabulous time and to top it off the weather was fantastic!



Duke of Edinburgh

The new S3 group of pupils working towards their Bronze Award is now well and truly underway. They have been meeting every Tuesday after school, developing their skills and the knowledge needed to fully participate in the expedition. They are also finding activities/clubs to start working on their volunteering, skills and physical sections.



Pastoral Support

Anti-Bullying Week

S1 & S2 pupils recently enjoyed a special assembly taken by band “The Hara”. The message from the performance was about relationships and respect with an anti-bullying message.

RespectMe visited Gleniffer during anti-bullying week and were very impressed with the activities taking place. So much so, there is now a feature on their website recognising the efforts of young people throughout the week.

A parent/carers survey has been issued via text message to all households which will help us inform our own anti-bullying policy. We are developing our new policy with consultant Brian Donnelly and in line with Renfrewshire Council’s anti-bullying policy.



Pastoral Support

Glen House

This term has flown by so quickly! Glen House have been very busy over the past few months and for our foodbank collection we managed to collect 1137 items. Well done!

The Glen House pupils won the Maths Week and we are expecting to do well in the Gladiator games at the end of the term too.

Our Glen House Captains Yasmin Jose and Keira Kelly have been working very hard to raise money and awareness of their chosen charity, The British Heart Foundation. Both Yasmin and Keira felt that the British Heart Foundation was a good choice for Glen House to support due to personal reasons.

Already they have raised £100 to go to the British Heart Foundation from the Halloween Disco. A quarter of the proceeds from the "G Factor" will also go to the chosen charity. Both Yasmin and Keira are working hard with the other House Captains to produce a great production on the last day of term.

At our House assembly the pupils were introduced to the work of the House Captains and were given their very own red pin badge to increase our House identity. Mrs Denny has announced our House slogan, "We put the Glen in Gleniffer". I'm really looking forward to increasing the profile of Glen House and support our House Captains to raise as much money for their chosen charities!

LGBT+

The LGBT+ group meet every Thursday at lunchtime in F035. This is a welcoming group for LGBT+ folks, their friends and people who have questions regarding LGBT+ matters.



New developments – The Learning Hub

With great excitement and pride the Pupil Support Department are delighted to unveil a completely refurbished Learning Hub within the department. Funded and supported by the PTA, the department, led by Mrs Sangster, have created a modern and welcoming environment conducive to effective teaching and learning for pupils who require additional support on a daily basis.

The Hub is divided into four distinctive functional zones and caters for between forty and fifty pupils each week. It was important to use school colours to emphasise that the Hub is an integral part of our school.

First we have our teaching and learning zone where individual pupil /teacher interaction takes place or small groups may work together around the large round table facing the interactive whiteboard.

Our second zone is a computer suite with eight computers available for pupils to use for research purposes or to access online literacy and numeracy resources. These computers are accessible to all pupils who need them and are especially popular when English folio pieces or National assignments and AVU's are due.

Our third zone is the Nurture zone and is the most innovative and different addition to the Hub. This is an enclosed area with soft seats where pupils who are upset or suffering from any emotional issues might spend some time. This is an area to de-stress. Listen to music or audio books, complete a jigsaw or mindfulness activity or take time out and perhaps chat with the Pastoral PT. Zones of regulation are in place here and are operated by the PS staff.

The fourth zone is where all pupil materials and resources are stored. Materials have been collected from all departments in the school for all subjects and all levels from S1 to S3 through to materials to achieve National qualifications. It is important that all pupils who attend the Hub have a structured work programme in place with a meaningful individual plan to ensure pupil progress is positive and the PS staff are working hard to put this in place.

The staff and pupils in Pupil Support are delighted with new redesigned Learning Hub. Although there is still work to be done to maximise the potential of our young people, we believe the ground work we have completed so far is a really positive step forward towards supporting our pupils to achieve their best possible outcomes.

Developing the Young Workforce

Royal Navy Youth Engagement Team

In November, Gleniffer High School pleased to once again have the Royal Navy in to the school to work with some of our S2 classes in practical cookery and with our Higher Leadership group looking at Leadership and Team Building tasks. As always the pupils had a brilliant experience and we had the opportunity to try out some of the new activities they had on offer.



Coming Soon....

Very soon into the new year we will be hosting our annual careers events to help our S2 and S3 make informed subject choices.

The S3 Planning for Choices and Changes event is to held on the 14th of February closely followed by the S2 I Can Do Anything Day. During both days pupils work with local employers, organisations and educators on a variety of tasks to help develop their career management skills. All pupils will also have the opportunity to register with the My World of Work website developed by our careers service Skills Development Scotland and complete personal profiles to help them think about future career paths. We are fortunate to have had a number of parents and former pupils support these important events and would welcome any parents who would like to help bring the world of work alive.

If you are interested in supporting either or both events please contact Mr. Marshallsay (PT Employability)





Important dates next term

7 th January	All pupils and staff return to school.	13 th February	In-service
10 th January	Parents in Partnership Block 3	14 th February	Planning for Choices & Change (S3)
14 th January	S4 Work Experience Higher Prelims	19 th February	I Can Do Anything Day S2
18 th January	NEW ** P7 Transition Day	25 th February	S2 Choices Interviews begin
28 th January	S4 Options Interviews Begin	28 th February	S2 Parents' Evening 5.00pm-7.30pm
31 st January	S4 Parents' Evening 5.00pm-7.30pm	19 th March	S1-3 School Cross Country Championships
4 th February	S5 Options Interviews	28 th March	S4-6 Certificate of Merit
7 th February	S3 Parents' Evening 5.00pm-7.30pm	29 th March	School closes for holidays. Non-uniform
11-12 th February	Holiday		

****We are organising an additional P7 Transition Day on Friday 18th January. This will be a great opportunity for P7 pupils to get to know some staff within Gleniffer High and also start meeting their peers from our cluster primaries. More information will be available in the new term and pupils from non-cluster primaries who have submitted placing requests will also be invited.**

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

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



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

