

INSIDE GHS

March 2019



Spring Issue:



Welcome to our spring newsletter

Dear Parent / Carer,

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

On March 13th our link Education Manager visited Gleniffer High with another secondary head teacher, to evaluate the quality of learning experience in our school. This is part of our annual quality improvement infrastructure. The day was a huge success and I was incredibly proud of the young people and staff who took part and showed what a fantastic school we are! I was also able to visit another school to carry out the same exercise. This was a great experience and has led to stronger links being formed between the two schools, good practice shared and ideas stolen!

I'd like to wish our Senior pupils success in the upcoming SQA exams, whether sitting an exam or finishing course assessments. There are only a few weeks now until the actual exam diet commences but still plenty of time to continue with revision. It is also important to ensure young people are looking after themselves in what is a very stressful time – be kind to yourselves and make sure you get the balance right!

I would also like to wish all our leavers the very best for the future. I am sure Gleniffer High has helped equip them with the skills and attributes required to make a success of their lives. Please remember to share your good news stories with us.

Lisa Chalmers
Head Teacher

Gleniffer High School

PTA

Car Boot Sale



Saturday 1 June 2019
1000 to 1200

Watch the school's **Twitter** page for
details on how to book a space:

Cars £5

Vans £7



Departments in the Spotlight

Design & Technical

Music

Health & Food Technology

Physical Education

Modern Languages

Science

Humanities

Design & Technical

Since the beginning of the school term, pupils within the National 5 Practical Woodworking group have had their curricular learning enriched whilst studying for an IOSH Health & Safety Certificate within training provided by Enable Safety.

Enable Safety kindly funded the course for the pupils and through the excellent tutelage from Fred Cullum, all the pupils passed their final tests and received their certificates in February. This is the second time Enable Safety has provided this training to students in Gleniffer having previously done so for our S5 Lab Skills Class. This is a bespoke program developed specifically for our pupils and we are the only first school in Scotland to provide this valuable qualification which will help them move in to the world of work.



Enable Safety Ltd
“Helping you to look after your safety”



Health & Food Technology

Pizza challenge

S1 pupils compete in a Food Product Development challenge, by designing and preparing a pizza for a retailer. The prize for the successful winners was to prepare and serve their pizza recipe in the school canteen. Congratulations to: Rebecca Fulton, Morven Gibson, Ethan Dock and John Keenan.



NPA Bakery

Our senior pupils visited Glasgow College to work with chefs in a professional setting. Pupils participated in a number of activities including batch baking which is a mandatory component of the NPA Bakery award. The trip was a great success and well done to all pupils who took part.



Health & Food Technology

Young Carers – Leadership

We are pupils in S6 and are currently studying higher leadership, during this course we decided to devote our time in helping Young Carers.

We started fundraising to raise money for the Young Carers Association Renfrewshire. This involved going to two different primary schools in the local area, which were Heriot Primary School and Lochfield Primary School, where we hosted a game event. At the start of the event we took time to present information about what a young carer is, what they do, how to support them and also answered questions from pupils about the Young Carers and about what to expect in Gleniffer High School. The Game Event consisted of quizzes and physical games that are usually played in schools. We decided to do these to help their transition into secondary school as they used different skills including verbal communication and team working in a team of people that they usually don't talk to. Both schools really enjoyed the experience and understanding a bit more about secondary school and young carers. Our last fundraising event was a bag pack in B&M Linwood. This was done on the 22nd December with the members of our leadership group.



Chloe and I also decided that we would like to offer a place of support for the Young Carers that are currently pupils in the school. This club is ran on the last Friday of the month at lunchtime, where we are available for the pupils to talk to as well as staff member, Lauren McGowan from Young Carers Association. During the club we have activities and snacks to keep the pupils busy. The club has been a success to the school.

In school we also helped set up for the Young Carer Awareness Day, where Chloe and I presented the cheque with the money that we raised which was a total of £390.50 in front of the newspaper camera man. During this we met with other young carer workers and also other young carers in the school.

During this school year, we have been grateful for the chance to work alongside young carers. We would like to say many thanks to Mrs Denny and Lauren McGowan for making this time with the young carers possible.

Bregen Jarvie and Chloe Thompson

Humanities

Dynamic Earth was so fun. Our favourite part was the 360° Showdome where we watched a film about Supervolcanoes, but let's start at the beginning. When we arrived, we got off the bus and went to a classroom to do a workshop. We did a quiz about volcanoes, rocks and we got Dynamic Dollars for getting questions right! When we finished the quiz we got to choose a zone to be in to see if we would survive a Supervolcano eruption. Our group was the first to survive! After the workshop we went to the Showdome to see the movie. Soon after we went for lunch before starting the tour. We started the tour billions of years ago when the galaxy was formed. We went on a Time Machine to take us back 9 billion years before entering a space craft. The space craft told us how the galaxy and planet Earth was formed. We survived an earthquake when the world was covered in volcanoes before travelling thousands of years to the last Ice Age. There was a real ice berg that we got to touch! Next we went on a 4D plane journey across the different continents of the world. We landed in the rainforest and got off. There was a storm in the rainforest (with real rain!) and we saw lots of different plants and animals that were found there. After the tour it was time to get on the bus and go home. We loved the trip!

By Emma McLintock & Olivia Wilson



Modern Languages

German Educational Trainee

Hello, my name is Laura and I am from Germany. I have been in Scotland for 7 months working at Gleniffer High School as a GET (German Educational Trainee). Besides working with small groups in GHS, I also had the opportunity to work in Langcraigs Primary and teach full lessons in German there. My experience in Scotland was very pleasant. Even though I had some trouble getting used to some of the things here and I missed German bread, I will always recall how kind everyone was and how beautiful Scotland's landscape is. My time in Gleniffer has been amazing. All of the teachers I worked with have been very friendly and helpful and I am sure that spending my time here will be good for my future career. Gleniffer was a bit bigger than the schools that I am used to and even though I study English in University, I had to get used to some of the vocabulary that was used during lessons (like jotter, because we call this an exercise book). I found that the pupils worked hard in German and made good progress.

UWS French Students

I am Marie Sabatier, I am 20 and I come from Saint-Etienne (France). Since January 2019, I have been studying at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) in Paisley. Soon after I arrived, I volunteered to come and help in French classes at Gleniffer High School. I came to the school every Wednesday for 3 months to help pupils by talking French with them, correcting their pronunciation and giving them advice to improve their level and prepare for the exam.

Usually I would take a group of pupils (from 2 to 5) in another classroom and get them to practice what they had learned in class (food, house, opinions...). It really helped them gain confidence because it can be hard for them to talk in front of the class. Therefore, having them in small groups made them confident to talk, ask questions (about vocabulary for instance) and practice.

I am very glad I was able to help here and I have learned a lot from the teachers and the pupils. I hope my help was useful for the pupils.

Kind regards,

SABATIER Marie.

My name is Laura Granger, I am 21 and I live in Montbrison (France). I have been studying languages for 3 years in Saint-Etienne and I will graduate this year. I am currently studying in Paisley at the University of the West of Scotland. I decided to offer my help to the pupils at Gleniffer High School, where I attended every Wednesday.

I worked a lot with them, usually in small groups. We did many different activities together such as games in order to give them the basic vocabulary. I think that working in small groups is an efficient way to learn a language. During 3 months, I tried to give my best to improve their level and give them confidence for their future.

I am very happy I was able to help with the teaching of French classes here and it was a very good experience for me.

Kind regards,

GRANGER Laura.

Music

Our practical SQA practical exams took place recently and every pupil involved played or sang a live programme of pieces to our visiting examiner. Our examiner was delighted by the wide range of music we presented from musical theatre to brass band to trad, Scottish, jazz, rock pop, classical and much more reflecting the personalisation and choice our pupils experience.

Many of our pupils have participated in Renfrewshire spring concerts, in percussion ensemble, concert band, jazz band, orchestra and Celtic group. This is an excellent opportunity for all pupils involved.



Our music department term finishes with us providing music for our school Senior Certificate of Merit award ceremony. We will celebrate with all our award winners, especially those going on to study music/musical theatre at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Jessica Fraser) and various other universities (Lisa Gray, Eve Braes, Gemma-Claire Williams, Katie Macleod and Yasmine Jose).

A group of S4-6 pupils have been working on a 'Behind the Noise' concert. They are now preparing for a studio recording session, and a live performance in the Classic Grand. This has been a most successful addition to our curricular activities and has prepared the pupils well for entering college/university courses in the future.

Beth Hannay is busy completing her Young Leaders Scotland Award in conjunction with The Royal conservatoire of Scotland. This involves Beth performing and also leading our chorus rehearsals for our school show along with organizing performances of her own..

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

Physical Education

U13 Football



Our U13s have had an excellent season so far. We won every game in the league section to finish top of our division followed by an undefeated run in the 'Champions League'. We have 2 games left to play and if we win one (or draw both) we will finish top to play in the league play-off final. Similarly, we are undefeated in the St Mirren Cup and have a Semi-Final to look forward to. We will know by the 26th April if we are in both finals (due to be played 10th and 17th May so watch this space to come and support us!).

A run in the Scottish Plate Cup took us to the Quarter-Finals where we should have won in regular time. However a robust opposition kept the score at 0-0 and beat us 5-4 in penalties.

The team is very motivated with a real quality of play for such a young team and I am excited about where this team might take Gleniffer in years to come.

Top goal scorers this season are:

1st - Cole Wright (18)

2nd - Callum Ward (10) and Ryan McCusker (10)



Cross Country

School Championships

Congratulations to the 100s of S1-S3 pupils who took part in in the School Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 20th March.

Results (1st, 2nd, 3rd and team winners respectively):

S1 Girls - Anna Milne, Lauren McMahon, Millie McSharry, Brodie

S1 Boys - Ryan McCusker, Tyler Lau, Brodie Dalling, Thornly

S2 Girls - Sophie Allan, Orla Kidd, Robin Allan, Brodie

S2 Boys - Daniel Coutts, Blair Logan, Fergus Dunlop, Moredun

S3 Girls - Abbie Alemu, Holly Reid, Laura McGilp, Brodie

S3 Boys - Blair Devine, Martin Burnhope, Aiden Brady, Brodie

Renfrewshire Championships

After a successful School Championships, over 40 pupils went on to represent the school at the Renfrewshire Cross Country Championships on Tuesday 26th March. The quality of runners was exceptional and Gleniffer came home with some fantastic achievements:

S1 girls won BRONZE in the team prize

S2 girls won SILVER in the team prize

S3 girls won SILVER in the team prize with Abbie Alemu winning BRONZE for the individual prize

S3 boys won GOLD in the team prize (with 5 pupils finishing inside the top 10!) and Blair Devine won BRONZE for the individual prize.

The pupils were a credit to the school both in effort and behaviour throughout the day. Well done!

Physical Education



S1 Cross Country House Champions

Boys – Thornly

Girls – Brodie



Medal Table



S1 Presentation X Country

Physical Education

Basketball



The junior (S1-3) and senior (S4-6) boys have participated in many basketball tournaments over the course of the term.

The junior league has been primarily for participation and enjoyment and has generated great success for our boys. The boys have shown great skill levels, teamwork skills and sportsmanship throughout the games and the tournaments.

The senior league has been more competitive and as such allowed the boys to demonstrate their improved skill levels in a competitive environment. The older boys acted as great mentors and role models to the younger boys, which has helped to create a great team ethos.

Well done to all the boys that have participated in the tournaments!



Allan Sinclair, Cameron Bain, Stan Mudzamir, Matthew Braes, Luke Bachetti, Gio Nanni, Alistair Halliday, Kerr MacKenzie, Darryl Brown, Jamie Hartley, Jacob Muirhead, Callum Hunter, Lucas Mullholland, Fraser Carstairs, Ben Terris, Callum Hunter

Science

We are very lucky that the Energy Quest team come in to our school twice a year, when possible, to work with our S1 on the topics of Renewable Energy and Engineering. They complete each session with a competition to build an electric car which will travel a given distance – or as close as possible.

The winning teams on the day were:

Morning Session: TBC

Afternoon session: Freya Minto, Ellie Brooks, Rebecca Elliott, Chloe McPhee and Emily Kirkwood

Thanks once more to Tom for adding something extra to our Science experience.



S2 Go4SET

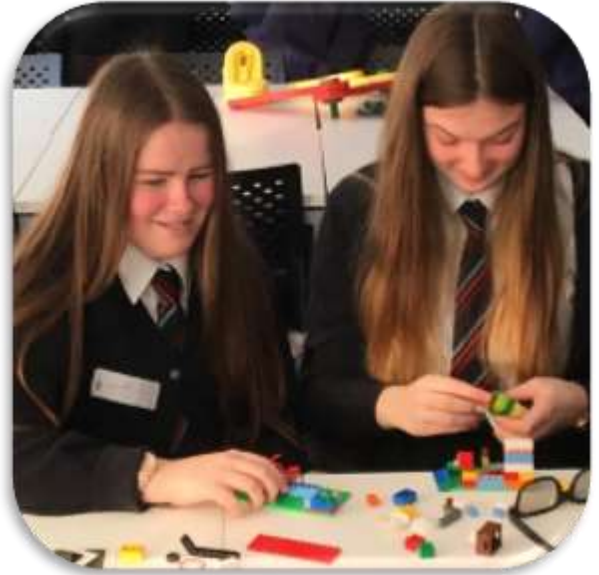
The Go4SET team this year have attended the launch day and were second in the challenge to build a chair from balloons. The theme this year is to “Design a Building for Climate Change”. The team are already well into the build of their model and are looking forward to visiting Taylor and Fraser on our Company Visit with Mike Young our Mentor and the “Judgement Day” in May.

Our team this year is: Lewis Brooks, Daniel Coutts, Craig Gibson, Ben Punton, Rhys Turner, Jonathan Wright

Science

S3 attending Women@Strathclyde in Physics

A group of S3 girls attended this excellent event and took part in 8 workshops. The workshops included producing Digital Video arranged by Glasgow University and Building a Wind Turbine arranged by Fife College. Some of the girls can be seen preparing materials for both of these workshops in the photographs.



The other workshops attended were:

- Building a Tower - ICE
- Building a Rocket – Edinburgh University
- Engineering Skills – RAF
- Building a Land “boat” – University of Strathclyde
- Deciphering Codes – Skyscanner
- Biomedical Engineering – University of Strathclyde.

An excellent day showing the wide variety of careers available when you study Physics.

Malawi 2020

When asked about Malawi and its people, for the Gleniffer Malawi 2020 team many words come to mind: hard working, invested in community and a landscape Scotland could never compete with!

The expedition to Malawi, in partnership with Steka and Orbis Expedition, is a way for not only the school community but also Paisley as a whole to enhance the ongoing Scotland-Malawi partnership and as an expedition team we have been exploring this partnership further in our weekly meetings. An especially important meeting was learning the basics of the local language, Chichewa, which will help us to develop closer relationships with our Malawian peers by showing an eagerness to get as involved in their culture as we can (even if that means saying “Zikomo”, which translates to thank you, one too many times!). Other meetings have included planning our itinerary for some days and learning how to manage money wisely in the fundraising process, which was led enthusiastically by Mr Thompson!

Although the main part of the trip to Malawi is supporting our partner school, Dzenza Primary and tightening our partnership with the local community, another key element of the trip (and Miss Aitken’s mantra!) is Personal Development or in other words using the many opportunities in this trip to mature as young people. Despite the small time we have had as a group, there have already been multiple chances for personal development such as addressing the stigma behind African countries, such as Malawi, by meeting with a Malawi Youth Congress Leader and our link to Steka Orphanage, Gift, and openly discussing our views on Malawi and afterwards being taught how to avoid the “white saviour” concept.

Although we should make an effort to look at Malawi under a positive light, we cannot ignore the pressing day to day issues occurring in Malawi. Take the recent floods which have displaced thousands, killed dozens and put many at risk, we should use circumstances like this to recognise the real problems Malawians face with an attitude of admiration to their perseverance rather than an attitude of pity.

Another chance for Personal Development was picking out the colours and designs for our team jumpers. As simple as this may sound, it took multiple polls, an elimination process and a couple of arguments before finally deciding on the details! We were also required to design a logo, which the more artistic in the group handled, creating a lion head which incorporated the Malawian flag with the Paisley pattern to represent the fusion between our two cultures.

A vital part of the lead up to the trip is raising the requires funds and as a group, we plan to do multiple fundraisers to supplement the expenditures involved and we encourage the whole school community to come along and support in any way you can!



Malawi 2020

We travelled to Edinburgh University for the Malawi Congress in late February.

The Malawi Congress is an annual event hosted by Scotland and Malawi Partnership. It allows young people around Scotland who have a partnership with Malawi to come along participate in workshops and communicate with other young people who are travelling to Malawi.

One of the workshops we completed was a lesson in “Chichewa” one of the languages spoken in Malawi. We have already started to develop our Chichewa further for when we travel to Malawi in 2020. We also completed a workshop where we got to express our feelings about travelling to Malawi as well as hear some personal stories from other young people who have already travelled to Malawi. One of the favourite workshops was a lesson in playing traditional drum played in Malawi. It was difficult to pick up but we gave it a good go.

We will be returning to the Malawi Congress next year in 2020 before we embark on our Malawi 2020 expedition. In preparation for the Malawi Congress we got given the personal development challenge of organising, budgeting and making the lunches for the 2020 expedition team (including the teachers.) We organised ourselves into 2 groups the buyers and the makers. We were given a budget of £25 which had to feed everyone. We created a “menu” for sandwiches with 3 options which fit the dietary requirements within the group. We were also able to budget a packet of crisps and even a donut for everyone. The lunches were a success, there were no complaints (that we know of), everyone was satisfied and we had one pence to spare.

Kirsty Lyle, Malawi 2020 Expedition Team



John Muir Award

Our John Muir Award group has started with great success! We have explored our local community on foot and on bike. We have explored to Gleniffer Braes by engaging in teambuilding exercises, team hide and seek and using communication skills to guide our blindfolded partner! The participants have engaged well and has a result have displayed lots of smiles!!

Recently, we visited the RSPB centre in Lochwinnoch to learn more about birds, their habitats and how we can help bird thrive. The boys were interested in the different habitats and bird species that we found! Soon, we will be hanging up our self-built bird boxes and bird feeds in the local community to further allow birds to thrive.

The John Muir Award in Gleniffer High School provides an opportunity for the participants to develop their social and interpersonal skills in their local community. We have already seen improves within some of our participants and we're looking forward to seeing more team developments!!

Well done to the boys so far!



Learn about **Jamie-Louise Murray** who won the Carers Award 2019 via the link below.

[Carers Award 2019](#)

I would just like to extend my gratitude to both Bregen and Chloe for their support in leading our Young Carers Project this year. We have made tremendous progress in raising awareness of Young Carers in schools and in supporting and building relationships with Renfrewshire Young Carers. It has been a joy to see these two young woman flourish over the past few months and witness how dedicated they both are in supporting others around them.

I am currently in the process of meeting with our identified Young Carers and helping them to create a school prolife that will help staff to better understand some of the challenges they may face and what support they could offer. If you would like any further information about this or would like to chat more about Young Carers, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Mrs Denny – PT Pastoral Support

[Congratulations to Mr Thomson for winning at the Scottish Brass Band competition this month!](#)

Ministerial Visit

Clare Haughey, MSP for Mental Health visited Gleniffer High on 4th February as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

Staff, pupils and parents talked about our approaches to supporting good mental health via a range of supports. This included how we have used Pupil Equity Funding to procure additional Lifelink counselling, our Hearty Lives group and our Welbeing Coach initiative.

It was wonderful to see how all the work we have undertaken is coming together to support young people and how the opportunities they have to develop their own leadership are having a positive impact on the school community.



Pupil Equity Funding

We have been notified of our Pupil Equity Fund allocation for session 2019-20. I plan to hold information sessions in the new term to update parents and carers on how we have spent this year's budget and the impact of the work as well as consulting on the planned spend for next session. All parents and carers are invited to attend.

Developing the Young Workforce

City Gate Construction

As part of a new partnership, Gleniffer will be welcoming in joiners from City Gate Construction into the school to deliver a series of lessons to our Practical Woodworking group. Pupils will be gaining invaluable experience and skills as well as seeing their curriculum come to life.

S5 Greenpower Challenge

As part of the Greenpower Trust Challenge, three of our S5 pupils have been going from strength to strength as they continue to develop their skills and enhance their future career prospects. As part of the Dhu Racing team, the boys (along with pupils from other Renfrewshire schools) have been building their car and pitching to the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce for additional sponsorship. Paula Leca from DYW West commented “The boys were absolutely amazing today – you should have seen them – you would have been so proud”. We are very proud of these three young men who have thrown themselves into the challenge.

S5 pupil Nicholas Adams says “I think the GreenPower course is really good for people like us because we are getting to build a F24 Kart and race it around a track against people from all over Scotland.” Another pupil, Jamie Calder added “We get to work in a garage environment, work on cars and learn about how things work in a garage.”

We wish the team the best of luck in their first race at the end of March.



Developing the Young Workforce

S2 'I Can Do Anything!' Day and S3 'Planning for Choices and Changes' Day

February is always a busy time for our S2 and S3 pupils as they embark on their subject choices for their next year. To help support them in making the right decisions, Gleniffer High School invited employers and training organisations to our two annual careers events.

Careers Carousels, Dragon's Den and Team-building were just some of the activities on offer and all pupils also had the opportunity to register with the Skills Development Scotland My World of Work Website.

Feedback from employers and pupils has been extremely positive and our thanks to Mrs. Thompson and Miss Bowie for organising the events and all of our supporters on the day – particularly DYW West and the Chamber for helping with contacts.



Developing the Young Workforce

Renfrewshire STEM Fortnight

As part of the Renfrewshire STEM Fortnight and International Women's Day, a group of S3 female Physics pupils visited facilities at British Airways Maintenance Glasgow and Rolls Royce in Inchinnan. The event was aimed at encouraging young women into engineering apprenticeship roles within the aeronautical industry. Pupils has the opportunity to see Airbus engines being stripped, aircraft interiors being re-fitted as well as examples of non-destructive testing. At Rolls Royce, pupils were treated to a tour of the facilities as well as an insight into the work of current apprentices.





Important dates next term

15 th April	Pupils Return	17 th May	S3 YPI Final
17 th April	S6 Day Out	23 rd May	S1-3 Activity Day
19 th & 22 nd April	Holiday	24 th & 27 th May	Holiday
24 th April	SQA Exam Leave commences	31 st May	P7 Sports Day (all pupils starting August 2019)
25 th & 26 th April	S3 Live n Learn	3 rd June	Senior Pupils Return Timetable Change
2 nd May	P7 Parents' Evening 6.30pm	6 th June	S1-3 Certificate of Merit
6 th May	Holiday	13 th June	S6 Leavers' Dance
7 th May	In-service	17 th & 18 th June	School Show
14 th & 15 th May	P7 Induction Days (all pupils starting August 2019)	27 th June	Carni Malawi
16 th May	S1-3 School Athletics Championships	28 th June	Non-uniform Last day 1.00pm finish



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

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

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



Website:

www.glenifferhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk