



# Autumn Newsletter

## Contents

Staffing changes

Pastoral Support

Student Leaders

SQA Prizegiving

SQA

Skills Development Scotland

P7 Transitions

Foodbank

Millport Environmental Science Trip

Our Curriculum

Business and Computing Department

Maths Department

Extra-Curricular

Eco-Committee

Renfrewshire Road Race

Netball

Young Sports Ambassadors

Uniform

PTA Christmas Fayre

Calendar Dates

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

We have had a busy start to the school year, welcoming our new S1 pupils and new staff. Already there has been a lot of activity including SQA Prizegiving, GHS Maths Week, Environmental Science Trip, Foodbank Collection and even a visit by the band The Mercians.

The fears of S1 pupils getting lost have been overcome as they settle into life in secondary school, making new friends and learning in a range of new subjects. They have also had their first parents' night in secondary school.

Our S6 pupils are now busy preparing for fun activities for the school session including Children in Need and Halloween activities. They have also held their first fundraiser, a Quiz night.

Student Council have launched our Equalities Policy and are working on a series of inputs to assemblies and PSE to help educate our school community.

I hope you enjoy this insight into our first term of session 2023-24.

Miss Chalmers

## Staffing Changes

We welcomed a number of new staff to Gleniffer High at the start of the session:

- Miss Haining - Mathematics
- Miss Banach - Humanities
- Miss Cameron - Humanities
- Miss Nicholl - Science
- Mr Carr - PE
- Miss Fussili - Design & Technology
- Mrs Steedman - HFT
- Miss Rosling - ASNA
- Ms Dutta - ASNA
- Ms Black - ASNA
- Mrs Cowie - Music
- Mr Ceballos - Music
- Miss Bolton - Music

Unfortunately Miss Nicholl has already left us as she moves to Japan, however Miss Drysdale has since filled her post in Science.

Ms Smith is now Acting PT Inclusion, Dr Davis Acting PT Employability and Dr Winter Acting PT Attainment.



## Pastoral Support



Following some changes to posts last session, I am delighted to be able to confirm the Pastoral Team for this session. These staff are your first port of call should you need any information, advice or support for your children.

Brodie - Mrs Collins

Glen - Miss Bowie

Moredun - Miss Cameron

Thornly - Mrs Harris

Miss Denny continues in her role as PT Enhanced GIRFEC this session, working with a specific caseload of young people.



*1 - House Captains 2023-24*

## Student Leaders



We are looking forward to organising events and working closely with pupils and staff across the school year. We plan on holding many fundraisers throughout the school year. We recently held our first event which was a pizza/quiz night. It was a great success and a solid introduction to our list of events. All proceeds go towards funding our prom. Currently, we are planning the Halloween Disco and at the end of the year, the Snowball. We strive to provide a fun filled year for everyone.

Thanks, the S6 Student Leaders



## SQA Prizegiving



Our annual SQA Prizegiving took place on 7th September.

This was a fantastic celebration of our young people and their achievements in last year's SQA diet. Strong achievement in National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher was recognised, as well as Special Achievements. Musical performances from Katie Colquhoun and Ann Anyebe showcased the talents of Gleniffer High's young musicians.

Congratulations to Jenna Wyllie Proxime Accessit for session 2022-23 and Katie Heasley Dux for session 2022-23.



*2 - S4 National 5 Prize Winners*



*3 - S5 National 5 Prize Winners*



*4 - S5 Higher Winners*



*5 - S4 Academic Excellence*



*6 - S5 Academic Excellence*



*7 - David Nicholls Award - Lucy Main*





*8 - Jane Elliot Award - Abbie Docherty*



*9 - Marilyn Stirling Award - Connie Muir*



*10 - Contribution to School Shows - Katie Colquhoun*



*11 - David Jack Award - Eilidh McCafferty*



*12 - Contribution to School Concerts - Ann Anyebe*



*13 - Proxime Accessit 2022-23 - Jenna Wyllie*





*14 - Dux 2022-23 - Katie Heasley*

SQA



Our prelim diet for National 5 examinations begins on Monday 4th December and Wednesday 10th January for Higher and Advanced Higher candidates.

I cannot stress enough the importance of excellent attendance. Already we are seeing pupils performing less well than their peers, when they have lower attendance. Departments work hard to put work on Satchel One and/or MS Teams so that young people can access work from home. However, this does not replicate the experience of working in class with teachers on hand and peers to collaborate with.

This session we have a team of staff supporting the pastoral team with attendance. All of these staff are there to support young people and their parents/carers, however the best way to do this is through regular communication when there are issues.

S4 Tracking issued: Tuesday 10th October 2023

S5/6 Tracking 1 issued: Wednesday 25th October 2023

S4 Parents' Evening: Monday 6th November 2023

S5/6 Parents' Evening: Monday 27th November 2023

The 2024 exam diet can be accessed here [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2024-exam-timetable.pdf)

E-sgoil also provides good support for Senior Phase students, offering webinars and evening sessions. You can find out more here <https://www.e-sgoil.com/senior-phase/study-support/>



*15 - 7As at National 5*



*16 - 5 Highers*



*17 - 5As at Higher*

## Skills Development Scotland



The School Careers Advisers, Catriona Makeham (Brodie and Glen houses) and Nicola Keane (Moredun and Thonly houses) recently met with all S1 during PSE to let them know what we do in school and get them to start thinking about their Career Management Skills. Last week, we have been going around S2 PSE classes. In December, we will be meeting with all S2 pupils for a 1 to 1 careers interview to look at their options and discuss what they need to consider when picking subjects. As always, any senior phase pupils can request a careers interview at any time by emailing or texting Catriona ([Catriona.makeham@sds.co.uk](mailto:Catriona.makeham@sds.co.uk), 07887948242) or Nicola ([Nicola.keane@sds.co.uk](mailto:Nicola.keane@sds.co.uk), 07881517828).

Pupils and parents are encouraged to follow the Gleniffer Careers Advisers on twitter **@GlenifferCaree1** for up to date career planning, UCAS Applications, College, employment, training opportunities and much, much more



## P7 Transitions



We are so fortunate to have strong relationships with our Cluster Primaries. This term we started visits to P7 classes, which will be ongoing throughout the year. P7 pupils will have the opportunity to work with Gleniffer staff in their own schools in PE, Modern Languages, Health and Food Technology, Business and Computing and Humanities. In addition, we have opened our doors to primary pupils of all ages to take part in Volleyball and Music lessons, the latter led by our own senior pupils. We are also now running a pilot project of Talk for Writing, which is used in all our primaries.

Our Open Evening takes place on **Wednesday 1st November** - mark that one in your calendar! This event lets you see round Gleniffer High School and meet many of the staff who will be working with young people throughout their time in Gleniffer.





## Foodbank



As always, we had a fantastic response to our Foodbank collection which took place over the last week. House Captains were drumming up support throughout the week which led to an amazing 3000 items being collected for Foodbank. Once again, Thornly house collected the most items but well done to all who were able to contribute.



Thank you so much for these generous donations which make a massive difference to our community.

Our House Captains have chosen the following charities to support this year:

**Brodie - Beatson Cancer Care**

**Glen - Operation Smile**

**Moredun - Accord Hospice**

**Thornly - National Deaf Children's Society**

The events they organise will be to support fundraising for these charities. Their next event is the Halloween Disco and Movies on the afternoon of Friday 27th October.







## Millport - Environmental Science Trip



Our Higher Environmental Science pupils completed another successful trip to Millport this year and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Pupils worked closely with the Field Studies Council over 3 days to develop their practical skills in biodiversity sampling. This included small mammal traps, surveys of the rocky shore and soil sampling in the woods. As a result, our pupils now have some really interesting and meaningful data to use in their assignments.









## Our Curriculum

Plan for 2022-2023  
Where did we start?

- **Inward:** Consultation took place with stakeholders prior to Covid and then again last and this session.
- **Outward:** Curriculum Working group formed
- **Presentation** took place with ELT, feedback collated.
- **Challenge questions set:** 'Where does a pupil with N5 C progress to in dept?' creativity encouraged.
- **Rigorous and Robust** moderation of levels in BGE (S2 focus). Pace and challenge.
- **Curriculum Maps** produced and presented.
- **Curriculum Entitlement**



Totality of Experiences

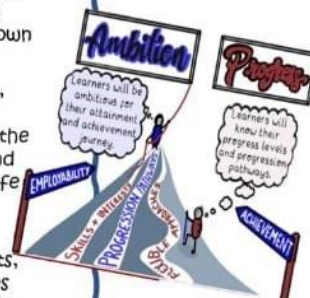
## Our Vision

Pupil needs are at the very heart of our Curriculum in Gleniffer High School.

Through a range of experiences, our young people have access to flexible, innovative and progressive pathways, where they attain and achieve at the highest level appropriate to their own learning journey.

Health and wellbeing is central to our curriculum. Together, we provide equal access to opportunities where all learners engage in an inclusive curriculum. As a community we meet the needs of our young people by providing equitable support and challenge and offer bespoke curricular opportunities in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Through extended personalisation and choice, partnership working, careful consideration of local and national contexts, our curriculum provides young people with the opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes to thrive in life, learning and work, adding value to our community and the world in which we live.



This year we have implemented a number of changes to our curriculum to provide a stimulating, engaging and inclusive learning experience for our learners. Throughout last session, departments developed a number of new courses which are now running in our school. Next, you will hear directly from the young people about their learning experiences and how they are helping them to develop.





### **NPA Art**

I chose this subject as the idea of studying the practical side of art, achieving a qualification and building a folio while having no final exam was really appealing. I absolutely love the subject. We have been using all sorts of medium - crayon, pastel, paint and oil while looking at floral and eye studies to work on our techniques. By the end of this session, I will have my own folio of work and SQA qualification without a final exam. I think this is a good option for pupils who enjoy the practical side of Art but struggle with exams.

***Rebecca McDonald S6***

### **Events Management - SCQF Level 6**

I love it! This is my favourite subject. We have been learning so much in terms of work skills. How to communicate and work in a team. I knew the people in my class before, but they are actually my friends now as we have to work on tasks together all the time. I feel so much more confident and able to talk about work - rather than just talk. Mr Thompson is such a good teacher and has really helped me settle into the class. I like the fact the assessments are ongoing and not a final exam. It makes it so much more manageable but at the same time I'm getting the equivalent of a Higher.

***Niome Adam***

I love this subject and it's one of my favourites. To be honest I didn't really know what it was and was struggling to find something in that empty column and Events was recommended. I'm so glad I picked it. We are working on Customer Communication Skills and have events to plan, this includes all the organisation, selling tickets, things I haven't done before. This subject has really pushed me out my comfort zone but I'm so glad I picked it.

**Rhys MacNaught**



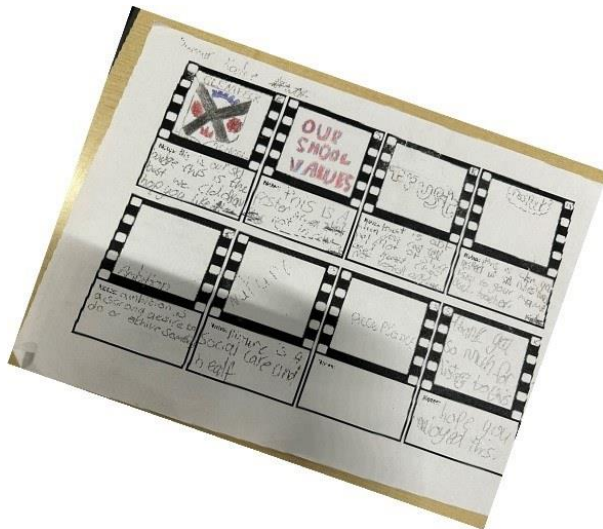
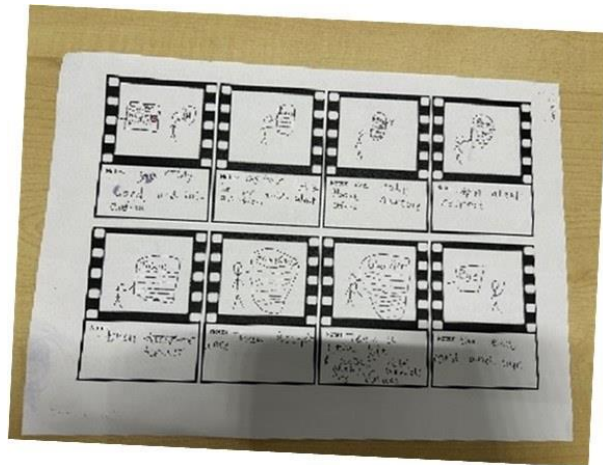
18 - Niome Adam

## Business and Computing



### S1 Values Project

In ICT this term, pupils have been working on creating short videos about what our school values means to them. Pupils have been developing storyboards, recording video clips and stitching the videos together using editing software. Keep an eye on the department Twitter page over the coming weeks to see some of the completed videos! **@glenifferc**





## Maths Week



Maths Week Scotland was interrupted by strike action, so we decided to recognise it from 2nd to 6th October.

Our main event was the S1 maths competition on Thursday, taking part in the Social Area for all S1 pupils. The pupils were a credit to Gleniffer during the competition, showing persistence, teamwork and some excellent mathematical skill.

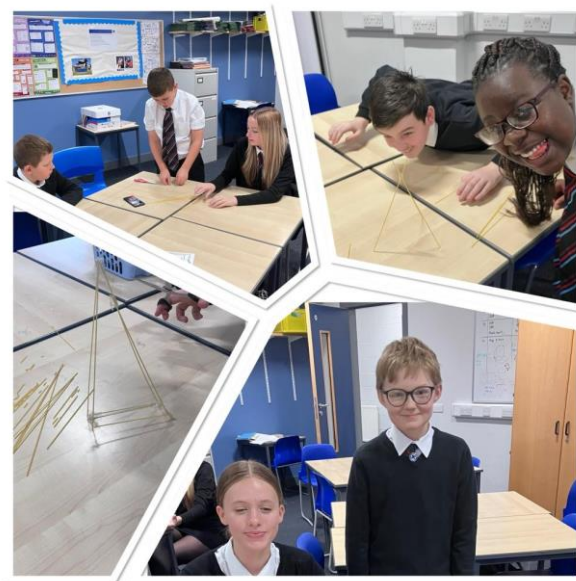
After battling it out over three rounds, our eventual winners were group 23, consisting of Rio Cameron, Millie Haughie, Maisie McPhail and Cooper Simpson

Well Done to all that took part!

Throughout the week there was also competitions for Countdown, Chess and Tower Building as well as opportunities to win MWS tokens in subjects across the school.



*19 - S1 Maths Competition*



*20 - Active Learning in Maths*



## Mathematicians of the Month



The maths department awarded their inaugural Mathematician of the Month awards. The worthy winners for September are:

Sophie Babington (1 Brod)

Abbie Burt (1 Thor)

Kayla Turley (1Thor)

Keiran Singh (2 Thor)

Mason Mkgangama (2 More)

Yoana Angelova (3 Brod)

Liamsalih Aydemir (4 Brod)

Nathan Gold (4 Glen)



Rachel Simpson (4 Thor)

Stephanie Hoeger Jerez (5 Glen)

Kyle McKay (5 More)

Olivia Milton (5 More)

Harry Ellis (6 Glen)

Erin Harwood (6 Thor)



*21 - S1 Landmark Models - Eiffel Tower*



22 - The Leaning Tower of Pisa



23 - St Mirren Stadium



24 - Easter Island



## Extra-Curricular



We have a wide variety of clubs running in school. Extra-curricular activities are a great way for young people to make new friends, learn new skills and become a wider part of the school community.



25 - Art Club making Halloween decorations for events.







*26 - American Football NFL Club*



*27 - Chess Club*





## Eco-Committee



The Eco-Committee have been working hard every Wednesday lunchtime to conduct an audit of how environmentally friendly our school is. Once we have completed this we will be setting targets and devising an action plan so that we can become greener as a school and achieve our Bronze Eco-



Schools award. We are always looking for more members for our committee - all year groups are welcome! We meet every Wednesday lunchtime in F038 - come along and join us!

## Renfrewshire Road Race



Pupil's from Gleniffer competed in the Renfrewshire Road Race on the 5th October. It was a very wet day but the pupil's showed maximum resilience and determination to perform and represent their school.

Leo McLeod won Bronze in a highly competitive S3 boys race closely followed by 4th place Noah Simpson and 5th place Paul Corrigan. This outstanding placing saw the S3 boys win Gold for the S3 boys Team.

All pupils were an absolute credit to the school through behaviour, sportsmanship and determination.

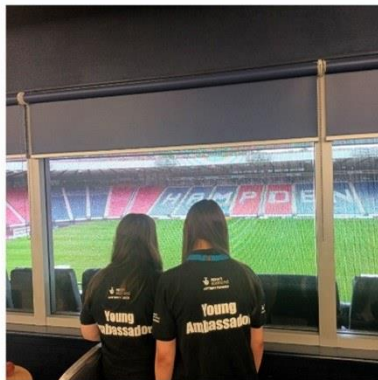


## Netball



Our Senior netball team started their Scottish Cup journey this week. They played against Renfrew High, winning 49-8. Watch this space for more first round game news this month. They have a game against St Andrew's and Johnstone High after the October holiday.

## Young Ambassadors



Our Young Ambassador's for 2023/24 session are Iona Lang and Taylor Cameron. They attended this year's conference at Hampden Park and had a really valuable experience meeting other YA's from the surrounding area. This years YA's have already actively helped with Active girls' day and helped Mrs Thomson and Miss Robb with a Zumbathon for S1-4.

## Uniform 2023/24



Almost all of our young people turn up to school smartly dressed for school and showing us they are happy to part of the Gleniffer High community. This leads to an increased sense of belonging and safety. I ask that all parents and carers support us with high standards and if there are any issues with organising uniform, please get in touch so that we can help.

Applications for free meals and clothing grants can be accessed here:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

We also keep a stock of new, good quality ties, shorts, trousers, skirts and jumpers as well as tights and socks.

We look for the following uniform items in the new session:

Black trousers or skirts, not leggings or tracky bottoms.

Black jumpers, sweatshirts or cardigans.

White shirts

School tie

Black footwear

S6 pupils may choose to wear a blazer and the S6 tie.



Pupils are reminded that kit should always be brought for PE, even if you are unable to take part due to injury. You will still be involved in the lesson and given other tasks to complete such as refereeing, judging, providing peer feedback. Pupils in PE Period 1 should report to school in full school uniform, however if you have PE last period, you may travel home in your kit. It is advisable to consider weather conditions when packing kit as you may well be outside in the rain!

## PTA Christmas Fayre - Wednesday 29th November



Gleniffer High School's PTA are organising a Christmas Fayre to raise funds for activities/resources which support young people in our school.

This year this takes place on Wednesday 29th November 6.00pm-8.30pm.

This is a great opportunity to start the Christmas shopping while supporting the young people of our school. Donations for the bottle stall and home baking will be gratefully received and can be handed in to the school office.

Santa is making a visit for the wee ones too!

£2 entry for adults includes tea/coffee and shortbread.

Children are free with a paying adult.

£1 Unaccompanied children which includes a drink and shortbread.

We hope to see you there!

## Calendar Dates



23rd October - In Service

25th October - S5/6 Tracking Issued

26th October - S4-6 Halloween Dance

27th October - S1-3 Halloween Movies or Disco

1st November - P7 Open Evening 6.00pm

3rd November - Iceland Trip

6th November - S4 Parents' Evening

7th November - S3 Tracking Issued

10th November - Remembrance Assemblies

13th November - Parent Council, Flu Immunisations

14th November - Flu Immunisations

17th November - Children in Need Day

23rd November - St Andrew's Celebration Event

27th November - S5/6 Parents' Evening

29th November - Christmas Fayre (evening)

30th November - St Andrew's Holiday

4th December - National 5 Prelims begin

18th December - Christmas Concert 6.30pm

21st December - S4-6 Snoball

22nd December - Close for holidays 2.30pm

8th January - Staff and pupils return to school



*28 - Eco Garden taking shape!*







*29 - The Mercians performing and talking about Mental Health to S1.*