

Leith Links

Dec 2019

Head Teacher's News

We are approaching the end of this decade as we approach the festive season. As ever this is a very busy period in the life of Schools and young people. This edition of Leith Links will hopefully give you a snapshot of the rich, varied and busy days that the life of Leith Academy provides.

The following pages will provide for you an insight into many trips, excursions, activities and events. Our dedicated team of staff complete many of the articles; though some are also opportunities for our pupils to get creative and produce work that is then published through this forum.

Since we arrived back in August we have made progress in many areas across the School in the hope that we can impact on our young people in a positive way. One of the developments we keenly await is the beginning of our new astro turf project. For some time, this space has struggled to meet the demands we need from a playing surface. Working with Edinburgh Council we hope that the work will begin during the spring term. This will bring a fantastic new surface primarily for our young people to benefit from during their school day and for the wider community to make use of.

Our trip to China was certainly a highlight and it is well covered inside this edition of the Leith Links. Not only was it a fantastic cultural experience for those involved, but it was also a powerful reminder of the educational link we have overseas with our partner School - TianJin No1. One of our values at Leith is Diversity and we celebrate the many cultures and countries our pupils, parent, staff and partners come from. This trip certainly galvanised our ethos of always keeping our door open and welcoming those from different countries into our School community.



The work of our Big Leith Give Away has been geared towards bringing our community together not only in School but beyond School into our community of Leith. We have seen large numbers of families' access supports that perhaps they were unaware of or not sure how to access. Our last event, which is covered in this edition, was a positive example of how people from all walks of our Leith community can come together to support each other. The Big Leith Give Away goes from strength to strength.

Our Edinburgh International Festival continues. Just last week we launched our official 'brand' for the Leith Academy residency 2019-2021. This involved young people creating and then being involved in the production stages of bringing a brand 'to life!'.

This week our outstanding Christmas concert once again showcased the many skills and abilities across our great school. The quality sound and light tech will be supported for the second consecutive year by some industry expertise provided by the EIF. It is examples like this, where young people get to see real life industry at work, in our school, that will hopefully inspire and motivate young people going forward.


Our usual channels of keeping you informed are outlined in this edition, as well as our newly developed website <https://leithacademy.uk/> which is taking on more useful content as we become familiar with it.

Our term will end in the usual way with our Christmas Service at the South Leith Parish Church, organised by our Pupils and supported by Rev Iain May. There will also be musical performances and readings from pupils. All pupils attend the Church and are accompanied by all staff. The service ends and the pupils are dismissed from the Church at approximately 12 midday on Friday December 20th.

On behalf of my entire staff team here at Leith Academy, we wish you a restful and happy break and look forward to seeing all of our young people back for a busy 2020! Parents please be aware that....

...School resumes for Pupils on Thursday January 9th at 8.30am

Mike Irving

 : 0131 554 0606

 : www.leithacademy.uk

 : admin@leith.edin.sch.uk

Useful Contacts

Senior Management Team

Mr M Irving - Head Teacher

Ms R Watson - DHT

Mr B Stewart - DHT

Mrs A Fair - DHT

Ms M Peebles - Business Manager

Pupil Support

House Heads

Mrs F Stevenson (Anderson)

Mrs M Yeoman — Acting (Barton)

Mrs J Connell

(Cowan)

Mr B Connor (Port)

ASL Manager

Ms A Taylor



Important Dates for Your Diary!

DEC

2—13	Senior Phase prelims
6	Adult classes end
18	Christmas concert
19	YPI Finals and Swimming Gala
20	Christmas Service— TERM ENDS

JAN 2020

7 & 8	ADDED In-service Day
9	Pupils resume
16	S2>S3 Parents' Info Evening (SLT only) (7.00pm)
23	S2 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)
20—31	S2>S3 coursing—do not return forms until after Parents' Evening
30	Parent Council (7.00pm)

FEB

3	w/c Diversity Week Leith
10—14	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
Tbc	Various vaccinations—Dip, Tetanus, Polio
27	S3 into Senior Phase Parents' Info Eve (SLT 7.00pm)
24(-6 Mar)	S4>S5>S6 coursing

MARCH

Tbc	S4 Live N Learn—target group am
3	Mathematiques sans Frontieres
8	P7 Challenge Maths competition
Tbc	Num/Lit Family Learning evening
9	Challenge Maths competition
12	S3 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)
9—20	S3>S4 coursing—do not return forms until after Parents Evening
Tbc	HPV Vaccinations/injections
27	DofE (Duke of Edinburgh) day walk

APRIL

3	TERM ENDS
6—9	Easter Revision Programme
Tbc	Easter Sports Camp
21	TERM STARTS
Tbc	SQA Exams start
30	Parent Council (7.00pm)

MAY

4	In-service Day
8	May Day Holiday
Tbc	National Numeracy Day
W/C 11	S1 Teambuilding event
15	P7 Magic Maths Morning
18	Victoria Day Holiday
22	Enhanced Primary Transition
25 (w/b)	S2 Drama Festival Week
27	S1 Parents' Consultations (4.30—6.30pm)
28	BGE Celebration

PE Department



Supported Study

Leith Academy now runs three supported study sessions every week for pupils taking National or Higher PE. Dance, badminton, volleyball, basketball and swimming all run alongside theory revision on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Leith's new netball club

On the 27th of November Leith Academy will play their first netball match in years away at St Augustines. Good luck girls!

S3 Trips to Ratho International Climbing Centre

In December the PE department will run two trips for S3 pupils to the international climbing centre in Ratho. Please keep your eyes peeled for more details in pupil bulletins and on Twitter.

S3 Climbing Trip

On Friday 6th December, 18 S3 pupils went on a trip to the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena in Ratho. The pupils enjoyed an hour of clip n' climb and had a great time. They were a credit to the school and some pupils even competed against Mr Ferns and Mr Hodgson at speed climbing!

Volleyball Scotland

India D'Ambrosio (S1) has been put forward by the school to take part in a school select squad trial for volleyball - taking place in January 2020.



Hibernian Community Foundation

Hibernian Community Foundation Link

We are very lucky to have a fantastic link already developed between our School of Football (Steven Moffat- PE Teacher) and Hibernian Community Foundation (Gary Hocknall- Football Development Manager). Our link continues to strengthen with additional opportunities offered from Gary and Lewis Melee (Community Development Manager) for S3-6 pupils.

S3 Employability Master Class

All S3 pupils have been presented with the opportunity to be part of a Masterclass Employability Programme at Easter Road Stadium with the Community Hibernian Foundation. This 6 week course enhances the knowledge and skills required relating to professions with a football club. Pupils will also improve on communication skills, interview style and research abilities, all essential and transferrable employability skills for future use. This Employability Masterclass will run every Tuesday from the 14th Jan to the 25th Feb (inclusively). A letter will have been sent home with your child if they expressed an interest in this. There are still spaces to sign up in the first week back after the Christmas holidays.

S4-6 Careers in Sport

Senior pupils who have taken a certificated PE subject (N4/5/H PE, Sport and Recreation, Exercise and Fitness Leadership or SQA Leadership) have the opportunity to attend the Young Football Volunteers Coaching Conference 2019 at Easter Road Stadium on Wednesday the 18th of December. This conference is hosted and run by Hibernian Community Foundation alongside Edinburgh College. The main aim is to present employment opportunities and pathways to senior pupils through the medium of football. For some pupils who are not interested in football, there are many skills and experiences that will be shared that are transferrable to other areas of employment. At present we have had over 50 pupils sign up to attend the event!



**School Resumes on
January 9th at 8.30am**

- **Uniform -**
- **White Shirt**
- **Leith Tie**
- **Black Trouser/Skirt**
- **Black Jumper/V Neck (optional)**
- **Black Footwear**

Maths Week 2019

The annual Maths Week Scotland took place from the 30th of September to the 4th of October. Pupils and staff at Leith Academy took part in a variety of activities during the week that promoted and raised the awareness of numeracy across the school.

Leith Academy

is participating in lots of activities from 30th of September to 4th of October for

Maths Week Scotland 2019

Famous
Mathematicians



What Number Am I?
Get involved!

S1 pupils took part in a numeracy relay race. This involved all S1 pupils getting into teams and competing against each other to see how many numeracy questions they could answer and how quickly they could do it. The picture below shows pupils hard at work answering questions. S1's also completed a project during the week on Famous Mathematician's, they researched a mathematician, produced a poster and gave a presentation to the rest of their class.

S2 pupils all took part in Sumdog. This is a computer program where pupils play games by answering numeracy questions.



During the week staff wore a badge with a numeracy question on it. All pupils could then enter the 'What Number Am I?' competition where they had to match teachers' names with answers. Congratulations to the winner Zoe Van Den Driesche.

Finally staff also took part in a round of 'Numeracy Ninja's'. This involves answering 30 numeracy questions in 5 minutes, if you get them all correct you are a black belt. Pupils in S1 and S2 regularly start lessons by doing Numeracy Ninja's so it was interesting for the pupils to see teachers having a go, the results have been displayed on the board shown in the photo below.

LEITH ACADEMY in China – October 2019

On October 8th a group of twenty-two pupils and four staff flew to Beijing from Edinburgh airport. All of us knew this was going to be an unforgettable experience where we learnt so much about the culture, the language, the history of the country. Most of us felt like celebrities there as so many people took photos of us. The memorable overnight train took us from the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace in Beijing to the Terracotta Warriors, the Hot Springs and the cycle or walk around the City of Xian and back. The acrobatic and Kung Fu shows were breath-taking. And we ended our China trip on the bullet train taking us to an amazing time in Tianjin visiting our partner school Tianjin N°1 school where we had such a warm welcome. There we embraced mask painting, shadowing classes in our partner school. The evening with the local families in Tianjin was an incredibly fascinating experience. Obviously we saw the beautiful pandas in Beijing zoo. All of us found the food in the hotels, restaurants, school canteen, family homes excellent; not to mention the local delicacies that some of us ventured to try and the delicious Chinese tea ceremony. Numeracy and business skills were certainly put to the test in the shopping trip to the Pearl Market in Beijing. The trip took us to two of the Wonders of the World. On October 17th we landed back in Edinburgh with new friends and many stories to share. We are very grateful to the very kind people who let us have this trip of a lifetime. Many photos can be viewed on the Modern Languages Twitter. Here are a few comments from a few participants.

“I really enjoyed the trip to China, we saw loads of cool things, such as, Pandas, the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors and the Forbidden City. The food there was great although it was very different from the Chinese food in Scotland. My highlight was eating scorpion, reaching the top of the Great Wall and seeing the Terracotta Army. The only bad thing was the jetlag. 9/10 would go again.”

MAGNUS ORD



"China was a great trip. We did a lot of things like a visit to the Great Wall of China, the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Army and many more amazing places. We were there for 10 days and it was the best trip I have been on and will go on, and it was an experience I won't forget."

MURRAY THOMPSON



"My trip to China was such a great experience! I got to experience a lot of Chinese culture and made acquaintances into friends. My favourite part would have to be going up the Great Wall even though I struggled quite a lot and wasn't able to do much. I also really enjoyed our time in Tianjin, seeing Susan and Anna again and sitting in on the class. The food there was really nice."

ALEENA EDWARDSON



"My favourite parts of the China trip were when we got to climb the Great Wall and when we cycled round the Xi'an wall. Although climbing the wall was tiring, it was definitely worth it as the view from the top was incredible. I really enjoyed the time we had in Xi'an, I loved seeing the Terracotta Warriors and the food was definitely the best there."

NINA BARNETT

China, where does one start, perhaps the very beginning? That feeling of excitement and joy, the sheer exhilaration of realising that, well, that you were in China. Perhaps but for me, the experience would have to be cycling around Xi'an city wall.

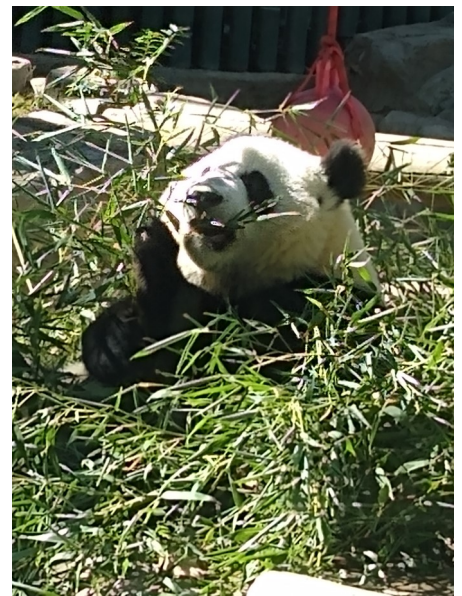
We had driven through Xi'an before but as soon as we entered the old town, there was a difference, gone were the skyscrapers and they were replaced by quaint old buildings. After climbing the steep stairs, we boarded our bikes and set off on the (very bumpy) wall. It was great, chatting to others, viewing the city, avoiding potholes and taking dodgy photos whilst on the move. It was just such a great experience getting to view the different (almost dystopian) architecture and just breathing in the fresh-ish air.

LUCA BIRD



Some more great photos from the China Trip...





China Trip—October 2019

I thought that my trip to China was Amazing. I have never been out of Europe before and this was my first time doing so. The cities were beautiful and the food was great. I am glad that I got this opportunity and I got the chance I would definitely do it again.

Jack Stenton



SCEN youth summit November 8th

Andrew, Jamie, Ava, Maddie shared their experience from the recent trip to China at the SCEN youth summit in the EICC in Edinburgh. They impressed the audience relating their favourite memorable moments from Beijing, Xi'an and Tianjin with the support of great photos.



Mental Health Awareness Week

Our Mental Health Awareness Week in October focused on different ways in which our pupils could use self care and get their '5 A Day'. Each morning we looked at 5 main self care strategies- Rest and Relaxation, Being Kind, Connect with Others, Being Active and Be Yourself. Pupils took part in a range of activities throughout the week to demonstrate how they can self care using the 5 A day concept.

Activities such as yoga, mindfulness, arts and crafts, ukulele lessons, bracelet making, lunchtime sports clubs, board games, whole school mile walk n talk, photo booth, LGBTQ+ badge making and postcards and finishing with a 'Be Yourself' non uniform day were just some of the activities held during the week. The PE Department also ran a whole school inter-house for every pupil in each year group in basketball, football, rugby, capture the flag and dodgeball. Pupils were also issued a 5 A Day reward card. Over 140 pupils handed in their completed cards at the end of the week, demonstrating they had actively been using the self care strategies suggested and getting their cards signed by their teachers, staff members or prefects. The cards were put into a prize draw and our lucky winner Khadija Sharif (S3) won a cinema voucher and other healthy goodies. We will issue the cards again in February and re-run the fun to try and get more entries and bigger prizes as we continue to raise awareness on support our own and other's mental well-being.





Mental Health School Award

Leith Academy has just begun its journey to strive for the Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Award, in partnership with Leeds Beckett University. Through undertaking this award we will be working very closely with pupils, staff parents and partners in order to increase the awareness of Mental Health and improve self-confidence, resilience and emotional intelligence for all of our young people. We have also introduced a Mental Health and Wellbeing qualification at National 4 and 5 level for a group of senior pupils.



S4-6 Mental Health Awareness Group- supporting seniors through their examination

We are also in the first stages of creating a s4-6 Mental Health Awareness Group. This learner participation group will aim to investigate strategies and support in school that can be advertised to and used by all senior pupils and staff so we are all working together to support each other's mental wellbeing. The main aim will be to have these strategies put in place by Feb 2020 to support senior pupils in the build up to their final exams in May. We had our first meeting at the end of November to brainstorm our ideas. We are now going to meet every Thursday lunch time in Jan/Feb to create our strategies and advertise them to the school community.

MVP

In the last month 34 S4-S6 pupils have been trained as Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP). MVP is a peer mentoring programme that gives our young people the chance to explore and challenge attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin bullying and negative behaviours in school. Pupils attended a two day training course at South Leith Parish Church. Training included group discussions, mental health, a session from our school police officer and leadership skills. Senior pupils have since taught two MVP lessons to all S1 and S2 pupils. MVP mentors addressed an active bystander approach teaching pupils that they have the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way. Congratulations to all MVP mentors, your contributions in training and delivery to younger pupils has been brilliant!



Your 5 A Day- our 5 self-care strategies for supporting your wellbeing





Visit from Silkeborg Gymnasium, Denmark

In September Leith Academy was pleased to host students and staff from Denmark. This was the second visit to Leith from Silkeborg Gymnasium which is Denmark's biggest post-16 college with approximately 1450 pupils. Across the two days, 57 students and 4 staff visited a variety of lessons culminating in Tuesday evening's Ceilidh and Haggis-tasting. This added to their experience of Scotland as some students were particularly interested in young Scots' views on topics such as the EU, Brexit and Scottish independence, and others visited the Roslin Institute. Here's just a taste of their feedback:

- We would first like to thank the entirety of Leith Academy for the exceptionally warm welcome and your outstanding hospitality. Leith Academy is a beautiful school and we are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience it for a day. We really enjoyed our stay in your beautiful city and our visit to Leith Academy! We liked learning about your culture, dancing and tasting your national dish "Haggis". It was an exciting experience!
- The whole school day was very educational and gave us a picture of how school in Scotland is like. It was interesting to see how the lessons work, and how it's different from here in Denmark. The concept of inclusion at your school was cool with people from around the world - wow!
- We are used to a different teacher-student relationship, which is a little bit more relaxed in Denmark. Your teachers were more authorized with the use of titles "Mr" and "Mrs". We now have something to compare our own school day to which is actually quite interesting as we have never before been able to put our school into perspective. What surprised us the most was the use of iPads instead of computers. Also, it seemed like the school always provided pencils, calculators or iPads which is the student's own responsibility to bring in Denmark.
- Some of us attended a double journalism class planned especially for us. This worked astoundingly well. The class was comprised of a small number of students from Denmark and Scotland and it functioned as a dialogue between two cultures. This conversation turned out to be very interesting and informing for both parts, thus leading to a broader cultural understanding among the attendees and across nations. We talked about school, politics and activities as well as youth culture in general. The close and intimate forum lead to an honesty and openness which was greatly appreciated. We all agreed that this was our favorite part of the day.
- The best experience we had was the Ceilidh with your students. Besides being a lot of fun, it was also a learning experience for all of us as we got an insight into Scottish norms and customs even though it got pretty hot and sweaty. It was also pleasing to see how much the students from Leith Academy were enjoying it; this made it so much funnier to participate in. There was just a lot of joy that evening, and we were very tired and exhausted after the dancing.

Thank you to all the staff and students who made this such a successful visit.

"Mr" Robinson.



BIG LEITH GIVE AWAY



Thank you to everyone – who donated and or helped out on the day at this years Big Leith Give Away. It was another excellent day, with a huge number of people turning up to support the cause and the school. The generosity, thoughtfulness and dedication from Leith Academy staff never fails to amaze me – It really is the school with heart.

Hopefully we have helped a great number of families within the local area at this emotive time.

Many thanks,

Blair



Christmas 2019
BIG LEITH GIVE AWAY



Pupil Leadership





Christmas 2019
BIG LEITH GIVE AWAY



Edinburgh Bright Green Solutions





Partner Agencies



Christmas 2019
BIG LEITH GIVE AWAY





Feedback

Christmas 2019

BIG LEITH GIVE AWAY



Tell us your thoughts

What did you think?

An Excellent opportunity for the Wider Community to access what other will might be impossible

Did we help?

Very helpful.
(May it continue)

What could we do next?

Continue to have similar open days where organisations would be accessible



Tell us your thoughts

What did you think?

I thought it was a great idea, it will help many families at this time of year

Did we help?

Great advice on Nutrition and cooking meals from scratch.

What could we do next?

This appears to work.



Tell us your thoughts

What did you think?

It was excellent. A great and happy ambient.

Did we help?

Very helpful, I wasn't sure I could decorate a Christmas tree but now I will. We love the books for kids and the clothes were very helpful

What could we do next?

Maybe have a bigger space for coffee and tea and to sit and talk...



Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to the pit we go!

On Monday my history class went on a trip to the Coal Mining Museum in Newtongrange. When we got there a man who was an ex-miner took us around where the coal is brought up and shredded. I learnt that children as young as 6 would go down and that the underground passages went along for miles.

After the tour we went around a few exhibits and we had a little booklet with questions connecting to the answers. I learnt that when the miners got really dirty they would all go in one long hall and have showers. They would all be squashed together. The first lamp for the coal mines was called a Davy Lamp.

Overall it was a really good trip. My favourite part was when we went down to the coal mine.

Ruby B



Criminal Justice on the Agenda

AH Modern Studies pupils again enjoyed a very thought provoking and informative conference at George Watsons College. This year over 200 pupils from 17 schools across Scotland converged on GWC for a series of workshops and lectures.



There were representatives from the Procurator Fiscal's office, 'Navigator' a branch of the Violence Reduction Unit, Criminal Justice Scotland, Families Outside, Aid and Abet Scotland and Heavy Sound. As well as providing terrific exemplification of work in the field of criminal justice, the speakers also provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to ask questions and use primary research methods for their dissertations.



A highlight of the day was the lecture from Ian Millar, PA for AH Modern Studies. The pupils gained invaluable insight into how to maximise their marks in the questions paper and what makes a great dissertation.





Pupils in the S4 Achieve class have been working hard to develop their own business in school. The pupils have established a fully equipped milkshake bar – Mooshakez - at Leith Academy, that has been providing hospitality services as a project aimed at improving pupils' employability. The pupils received a Prince's Trust Development Award to support them in getting started, and their business has went from strength to strength.

Through the project, pupils have all successfully undertaken training for the REHIS Elementary Food and Hygiene Certificate and are working through Prince's Trust Scottish Personal Development units in Enterprise and Customer Service at Level 5.

By establishing Mooshakez, pupils have regular opportunities to put their skills in to practice and develop the employability skills required to gain positive and sustained destinations post-school.



Leith Academy is the first school in Edinburgh to receive this award, and the official launch took place on Thursday 5th September, with officials from The Prince's Trust, Councillor Ian Perry and MSP Ben Macpherson in attendance. In addition to running Mooshakez every Thursday breaktime, the group have also run the business at the Prince's Trust Edinburgh centre for CEO Nick Stace, and at the S1 Settling-In Parents Evening.

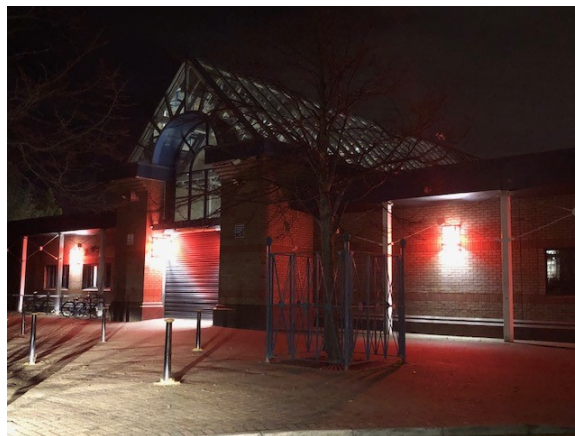
Feedback from pupils, partners and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting that the pupils involved are growing in confidence and conducting themselves more professionally each week. Mooshakez will continue to run in the new year and pupils are focusing on developing new flavours to meet customer demand.

Bud THE POPPY BUS

This week we went on a poppy bus with The Scottish Poppy Charity where we had spoken to people there about what the charity does and got to hear stories of veterans they've helped.

We got to make poppies and go in a factory with the Virtual Reality Headset and everything you touched had a lot of interesting information. It was very interesting. Every volunteer who works there has been in the military.

We got to see what poppies look like from all around the world. We got to read stories about veterans who work in the poppy factory we got to write about why or if we wear a poppy and the best part was making the poppies.
Craig O'Brien and Reece Brunton



Slavery Walking Tour

In the freedom of the bright sunshine it was hard to imagine how the slaves must have felt. We started off at St John's Churchyard, where the shadows from the past came over us a bit more— we even saw a rat! We saw the grave of Malvina Wells, who is the only known person who was born enslaved from birth in Edinburgh. I can't imagine not ever having known freedom, but perhaps to her, her life was free. Or perhaps she knew, that sadly she was always going to be at a disadvantage. She was born in Grenada, and moved to Edinburgh as a teenager. I wonder if she found the language hard, or was punished if she misunderstood the commands. She was a lady's maid, and may have had genuinely good relationship with the family she served since her grave reads "A faithful servant and friend", although few people had this luxury. While we were there, we were also horrified by some of the adverts for runaway slaves, and the threats that were made, and the fact that in their day the slaves' worth would be determined by the reward put up if they ran away. We saw the side that many wealthy investors saw of the slave trade when we walked down to see the sugar refineries on the Royal Mile. There were many jobs brought by the sugar business, but was it worth slavery? Of course not, although they would have disagreed. The profits Britain made of sugar and tobacco were huge, so they probably saw nothing wrong with making it. We also saw the former tobacco shop of James Gillespie of Spylaw. I was shocked that that was who James Gillispie's was named after, of course, though many wealthy merchants did invest in schools or hospitals. If it was me I definitely would have changed the name but I suppose having such a huge reminder of slavery reminds us that it can never happen again.

By Ailsa Thompson



Higher Geography Fieldwork



In September, the Higher Geography class had two days out doing fieldwork to collect data for assignments. We completed our rural fieldwork with the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. We started at Harperrig Reservoir and moved downstream to Craiglockhart Dells and then to Stockbridge, measuring the river at each site. We measured the width, depth, bedload and velocity of the river at each location. On the other fieldtrip, we completed an urban transect, from Princes Street out to the Gyle, to gather data for an urban assignment. We used a number of useful geographical techniques, including environmental quality and traffic surveys, land use surveys using RICEPOTS and taking a decibel reading to measure noise pollution from traffic.



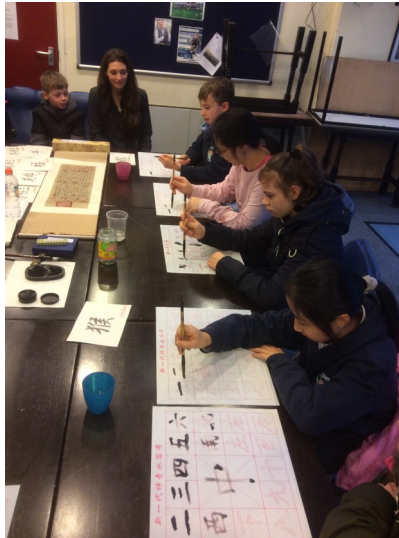
'Leith Languages Fair 2019

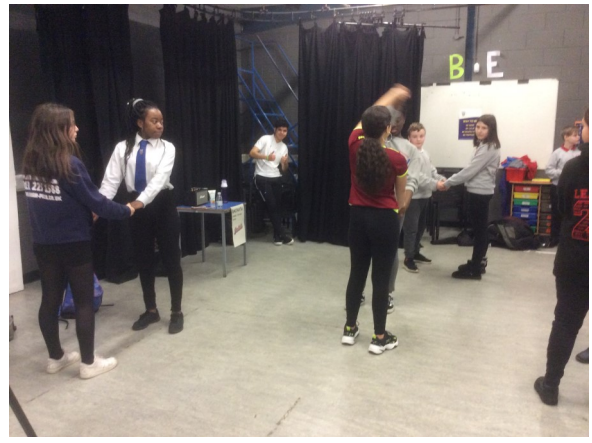
Leith Academy and the 4 primary schools in the cluster count with a multicultural student body where more than 50 different languages spoken. The 1+2 Leith Cluster team decided to organise a Languages Fair for primary 7 pupils with the aim to celebrate the linguistic diversity of our pupils. Pupils from Craigentenny, Hermitage Park, Leith primary and Lorne primary schools and their parents were invited to attend this event and experience short taster activities in different workshops. They also had a chance to listen to people with experience in life and in the world of work with languages. 160 primary 7 pupils, their parents and their teachers took part in a range of workshops led by some of our bilingual pupils and some guests: Dr Hazel Crichton for University of Glasgow, Valeriya Kolpakova from JP Morgan, Catherine Guiat from the French Institute, Xiaobin Wei, a Hanban teacher at Leith Academy and a former Leith Academy pupil, India Murray, who is currently studying Languages at Edinburgh University. Special mention to our bilingual pupils for S1 to S6 who agreed to run the workshops and did it extremely well.

During the whole morning, primary 7 pupils and their parents had a chance to learn the basics in some foreign languages (Italian, Polish), played some clapping games in Spanish, listened to some stories in French and also experienced cultural aspects (Chinese Calligraphy, Henna tattoo, bachata dancing).

Everybody seemed to have enjoyed the event which was a great success. A massive thank you to everybody involved and see you in December 2020 for our 2nd Leith Languages Fair!

Natalio Martinez'





History Film Club

The history film club is on every Thursday at lunch. We watch historic films and get free popcorn! You can take your lunch with you. It's a really fun club and we learn about things that happened in the past in a fun way.

The first film we watched was "A Knight's Tale". It is a hilarious film about a guy that pretends to be a knight so that he can compete in a tournament and get rich. We learnt about what life was like in medieval times and how duelling worked for them. We also learned about how unfair it can be as rich people treat poor people badly and look down on them.

At the moment we are finishing off "Night at the Museum" which is another really enjoyable film about a man that becomes a night guard at a museum and at night all the statues come to life. It teaches you the history behind lots of exhibits that you wouldn't have known otherwise.

I really enjoy the history film club. I give it 5 stars and I recommend it for anyone who's interested in learning a bit of history or anyone that enjoys films. It's a nice way to make new friends as well as something you can do with your friends and have some fun with them.

Zoe Van Den Driesche

Language in Parliament

In November, three higher Modern Studies pupils along with Miss Murray enjoyed a workshop at the Scottish Parliament on the language in political process.

Francesco, Siobhan and Jula enjoyed workshops on report and speech writing as well as bills and legislation.

There was lots of interaction on the day from all of our pupils, the Parliament was keen to get the young people's views on parliamentary processes and Siobhan, Jula and Francesco did not disappoint.



Auschwitz Visit

In October, a classmate and I visited Auschwitz for a day with the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, alongside around 200 Scottish students. It was inevitably going to be a deeply emotional experience, but I came out of the visit more impacted than I prepared for. It was an early start, almost 3 am, and we didn't get back until midnight: at Auschwitz we visited the three main camps: Auschwitz 1, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Auschwitz 3. The visit was a mix of jolting (especially in Auschwitz 1) and intensely harrowing (Birkenau and Auschwitz 3), but, as we were split into small groups, we were able to process the experiences in a healthy environment. I can't call it a "good" or "fun" experience, but as a learning experience it was methodical, well-managed and left a deep impression. If you have the opportunity to go, it is entirely recommended. Visiting Auschwitz gave me such a deeper comprehension of the Holocaust and the Second World War. I'm truly glad I went.

Maddie Wallace

Achieve Christmas Hamper Appeal

The S3 Achieve group decided to support the Destiny Angels Christmas Hamper Appeal as their Community Project this year.

They followed on from the success of the 'Geez Ur Smash' collection that last years S3 did but decided they wanted to go a step further.

They approached local businesses for help with raffle prizes and would like to thank Cloud 9, Logan Malloch, Carolyn's Florist and the Edinburgh Honey Co for their generous donations of raffle prizes. Thank you also to staff who handed things in to be added to the raffle prizes.

Thank you, also, to Canderson's for their kind donation of a jar of sweets which the pupils used in a 'Guess the Number of Sweets' competition. Lia Sellar was the lucky winner of the sweets, remember not to eat them all at once Lia!

In total the group managed to raise over £120 and could then make a difference to some families by helping them have a few extras at Christmas.

A HUGE Thank You to all the staff & pupils who supported us in this Appeal. We couldn't have done it without you.

We hope everyone has a very Happy Christmas.

S3 Achieve



Waterstones Visit

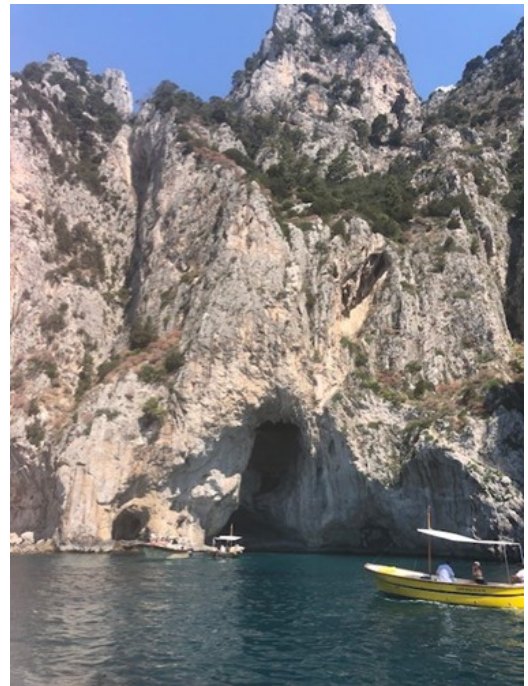
On the 3rd of December we were invited to visit Waterstones at the West End.

Jasper showed us a fantastic selection of books which we might be interested. He read some bits of the books to us & we really enjoyed our visit.

It was made extra special when we were given tokens to have a hot chocolate at the café before we headed back to school. Thank you Waterstones for a fantastic visit!



Social Subjects—Trip to Italy June 2019



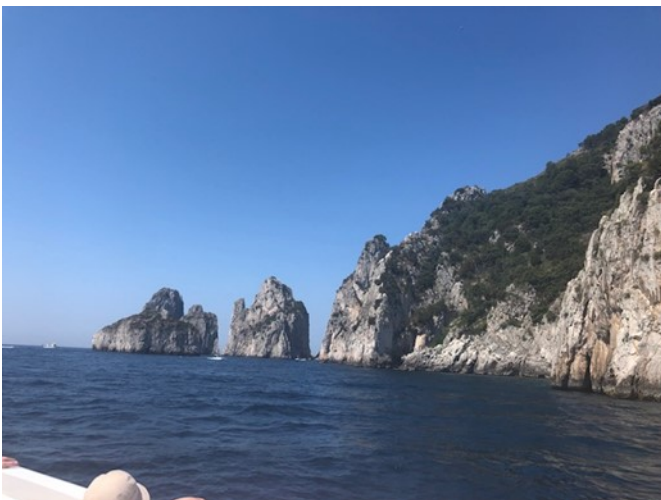
In June this year 40 students and 5 staff flew to Italy for 5 days. We had a full packed itinerary, highlights including a climb up Mount Vesuvius, a visit to Pompeii and a boat tour around the island of Capri. The weather was very hot but this didn't hamper our sightseeing tour and learning experiences. School trips become some of the most memorable times for students at high school and this trip didn't disappoint. With some fantastic comradery between students from all year groups; there were lots of new friendships made and students represented the school so well on this trip abroad. We ate lots of pizza, pasta and amazing gelato! We even had a gelato making lesson in Sorrento. Staff were hugely grateful to be away with such fantastic enthusiastic young people; we learnt some



Italian, spotted lots of Geography features and experienced a culture a wee bit different from our own. A lot of work goes into organising a big trip abroad and the young people we took with us made it very much worth it with their smiles and cheers at the top of Vesuvius and their awe at the incredible views on Capri. Thank you to all the young people who joined us. Mrs Hannay and the whole staff team.

Logan Armstrong S3 writes about her favourite moments from the Trip

My favourite thing was the trip to Capri. It was such a pretty island. When we first got to Capri we went on a boat trip around the island, we got to see lots of caves and the water was so clear. Another thing I enjoyed was the pizzeria after the trip to Vesuvius. The pizza taste sooo good! I really enjoyed going to the water park after Pompeii, we all had so much fun. I made loads of new friends and made lots of great memories.



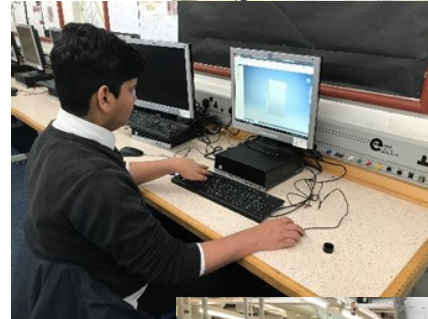
Formula 1 in Schools

Leith Academy's first Formula 1 in Schools team, Falcon Flow, have been working hard in Design and Technology since the summer holidays.

F1 in Schools is an international STEM competition in which groups of 6 students have to design and manufacture a miniature car from a foam model block using CAD/CAM design tools. The cars are powered by CO₂ cartridges and are attached to a track by a nylon wire. They are timed from the moment they are launched to when they pass the finish line by a computer.

The team are making great progress in their project, preparing for the Scottish final on the 21st of February. In addition to working on a wide range of ideas for their car, they have branded their team, are making their own uniforms, and have raised all money required to enter the competition themselves.

If any parents or guardians have any knowledge, skills or expertise that you think may enhance the experience of our pupils in the area of STEM please get in touch at angela.leggatt@leith.edin.sch.uk.



Widening Participation

Leith Academy's is one of Edinburgh Universities partner schools for its Widening Participation programme.

At the start of December a group of 25 S3 students spent the day at the University attending a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning and teaching day. This aimed to bring relevancy to the science and technology curriculum, connecting it to the world of work through college and university study.

During the day the pupils met university staff, students and individuals working in various science and engineering professions beyond the university. The pupils attended lectures and took part in a variety of workshops during the day.

The pupils had a fantastic day, they were engaged and asking challenging questions! They were a credit to Leith Academy.

If any parents or guardians have any knowledge, skills or expertise that you think may enhance the experience of our pupils in the area of STEM please get in touch at angela.leggatt@leith.edin.sch.uk.

NPA Jewellery: Basic Techniques

The SQA National Progression Award; Jewellery: Basic Techniques has just been introduced by the Design and Technology department. An S5 Wider Achievement group are the first pupils at Leith Academy who are working towards the units of this course.

During the course pupils learn to work with a range of materials, including aluminium, copper, brass, and eventually silver. They develop their skills working with sheet metal and wire, designing, piercing, texturing, finishing and polishing, and soldering to create original pieces of jewellery.

The pupils are working hard, and as they progress through the course they are becoming confident using their new skills to produce some fantastic work.

I am really looking forward to seeing what they produce as the course progresses.

If any parents or guardians have any knowledge, skills or expertise that you think may enhance the experience of our pupils in the area of STEM please get in touch at angela.leggatt@leith.edin.sch.uk.



Music and Drama at Leith Academy

There has been lots of exciting events and performances happening in music and drama this term!

Children in Need Performance

Many of our pupils travelled to Glasgow to perform live on Children in Need. A fantastic experience for all involved and a great cause.



S3 Christmas Shows

In December, we had three S3 classes perform their Christmas shows for some Primary One pupils from Hermitage Park Primary School. The pupils scripted and devised these performances all by themselves and the children were so excited to meet Santa and his elves.



S1 Missions

Our S1 drama pupils performed their Superhero mission dramas for their peers and the senior management team. Well done to all the S1s for their excellent shows!



Spreading the Christmas Cheer

Some of our 1st to 3rd year music pupils performed Christmas songs at the Edinburgh bus station and Letham Park nursing Home. Thank you to all these pupils for helping everyone feel festive!



Here are some events to look forward to in the New term in Creative Arts

Diversity Day, 6th February 2020

Taste of Honey, performed by higher drama pupils, January 2020

Alice in Wonderland Pantomime, 30th January 2020

S1- S3 Music Concert, 14th May 2020

Battle of the Bands, 22nd May 2020

S2 Drama festival, 25th May 2020

History Department

Mark Levy—the American Civil Rights Activist

Oh, what a day. After many tales of the fabled 'cheese sandwiches' and many days of anticipation, he finally came. It was odd at first, seeing someone who had actually been there, in all the places that we had pored over in books, seeing someone who had actually taken part in all of these wonderful events. It was just so interesting hearing all of these things first hand. He talked about so much interesting stuff, from the freedom summer to the much anticipated 'cheese sandwiches'. Apparently, as the story goes, Mark Levy, the man himself, and many other organisers made around 30,000 cheese sandwiches for the March on Washington. What a lot of sandwiches, and even then, it was still not enough. It was so odd though, because, looking past the sandwiches and the statistics, Mark Levy shared a more personal side of the story, showing how it affected just the ordinary people trying to live their lives in the wake of history.



Green Plan It

A group of 5 S2 pupils took part in Green Plan It on the 3rd of December. Green Plan It is a garden design challenge run by the Royal Horticultural Society to encourage young people to think about the role that plants play in our lives, to help both us and the planet.



The pupils identified an area in the school grounds they would like to design a garden for, did a survey to see what people would like to use it for, and worked in conjunction with a mentor from the RHS to decide what plants and furniture they would put in. They then made a model of the garden and worked on a presentation to show their ideas.

Although they didn't win any of the big prizes, a good day was had by all, and they won a bird box for coming first in the quiz!

"Before the event we decided what area in the school we could make it in with our mentor. We then planned what we should change and what things we could put in the garden. Finally we made a model of the space with the things we decided to have in it with the help of some of our teachers." – Sadie, S2

"we went to the Botanics for Green Plan It. When we were there we did a presentation, which encouraged us to show off our presentation skills and get more comfortable with public speaking. It was also a great team building event and we all had a very good time." – Marianne, S2