

# Leith Links

Dec 2020

## Head Teacher's News

It is hard to comprehend and put into words the difference between the run up to Christmas 2019 and the run up to Christmas 2020. Though we all look forward to the break and to the Christmas period, there is clearly ongoing work to do around being able to return to some sort of normality in 2021. This will be the challenge we face in January and beyond but I do hope that as 2021 develops and progresses towards spring, we will begin to realise a more positive year is ahead. This slimmed down edition of Leith Links will hopefully give you a sense of some of the activities we have been able to engage in with our young people in a Covid secure way.

Our Values and Vision as a School are constantly referenced through our day to day work. Our vision statement is **'Success in Learning for All'** – we believe that every young person at Leith Academy can achieve through hard work, this is as important as ever through Covid times and we will continue to work within the changes to improve outcomes for all young people.

Our Values are **RESPECT, DIVERSITY, HONESTY and FAIRNESS** and these permeate the work we do at School, and I'm sure form part of your structure at home. These are values we hold in high regard and if for any reason situations take us away from these, we work with young people and families to rebuild and educate going forward.

Our motto as you will know is **PERSEVERE**. We translate this to our pupils as being resilient, sticking with things, and seeing things through... even if they are hard. I must say in reference to the pandemic our young people have handled the situation regarding masks, space, one-way systems and hand sanitising with maturity.


Over the Christmas period we are working with local organisations and partners on the 'Leith Gives' project. We received food boxes for around 20 families who would benefit from this support. There were further families being supported across the Leith community. We also delivered food boxes to South Leith Parish Church through our S3 Achieve Program, more details and pictures on that within this edition.



As the weeks and months have progressed, restrictions have changed and modified to try and strike a balance of providing as full and positive a curriculum as possible alongside keeping our pupils, staff and partners safe. One of the aspects we were able to do quickly was identify the power of being outside in a physical way. As we know this helps our health and wellbeing in so many ways, especially in times like these. There are further examples of our pupils enjoying the balance of study indoors and getting outside to exercise with peers.



Getting our first winter use of our new astro has been a game changer for the quality of learning and sporting performance our pupils are experiencing as you can see below and throughout this edition.

 : 0131 554 0606

 : [www.leithacademy.uk](http://www.leithacademy.uk)

 : [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto: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)*

*Ms L Lindsay (Barton)*

*Mrs J Connell (Cowan)*

*Mr B Connor (Port)*

**ASL Manager**

*Ms A Taylor*



# Important Dates for Your Diary!

## DEC 2020

30-11	Senior Phase prelims
17	Virtual Christmas concert
17	Virtual YPI Finals
22	<b>TERM ENDS 12pm</b>

## JAN 2021

5	<b>In-service Day</b>
6	<b>Pupils BEGIN ONLINE LEARNING</b>
18	<b>Pupils resume in school learning</b>
14	S2>S3 Parents' Info Evening (6.30pm)
20	S2 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)
20-3 Feb	S2>S3 coursing—do not return forms until after Parents' Evening
28	Parent Council (7.00pm)

## FEB

8-15	<b>HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</b>
16	All resume (Tuesday)
16-May 21	SNSA window opens for all S3
22-10 Mar	S4>S5>S6 coursing
25	S3 into Senior Phase Parents' Info Eve—SLT 6.30pm

## MARCH

Tbc	S4 Live N Learn—target group am
10	S3 Parents' Consultation (4.30—6.30pm)
9—20	S3>S4 coursing—do not return forms until after Parents Evening

## APRIL

1	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
5—9	<b>Easter Revision Programme</b>
20	<b>TERM STARTS—All resume</b>
w/c 26	SQA Exams start
Tbc	Sports Achievement Awards
29	Parent Council (7.00pm)

## MAY

3	<b>May Day Holiday</b>
4	<b>In-service Day</b>
W/C 10	S1 Teambuilding event
14	P7 Magic Maths Morning
21	Enhanced Primary Transition
24	<b>Victoria Day Holiday</b>
27	S1 Parents' Consultations (4.30—6.30pm)
tbc	BGE Celebration
Tbc	SQA Exams end
	S3 Maths Num/English Lit Assessment
28	Enhanced Primary Transition Day

## JUNE

3	Parent Council AGM
7	New timetable
7	S6 Induction
Tbc	P7 Leith Experience
11	S1-S5 School Sports Day
14	P7 (new S1) Parent Info Eve
15-17	P7 Induction
23 tbc	Evening of Celebration
25	<b>TERM ENDS 12 MIDDAY</b>



*Going Cashless has never been more important*

*Keep everyone safe and reduce contact*

It's easy to sign up for Parentpay.

Letter with activation codes are available from the school office.

Money can be added electronically for: School Lunches, School Tie, Department Resources, iPads, Trips (when they can resume) and many more things...

We would encourage all parents to sign up to Parentpay as cash is no longer accepted in schools to reduce contact due to the Pandemic.

If you need help setting up your account contact the school office team on:

Tel: 0131 554 0606

Email: [admin@leith.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@leith.edin.sch.uk)

## Contact Details

*Are all your contact details up to date on the School System?*

If you have moved recently and have changed your address or telephone number please contact the School Office to update.

It is important that we have the correct details for all pupils during these unprecedented times.

Most correspondence from the school is now sent by email to reduce transmission of the virus through paper contact. Please ensure your email address is up to date. You don't want to miss out on important school information.

Thank you  
The School Office



We have many groups of youngsters working on developing aspects of learning they are passionate about. An example of this is our Language Ambassador group. The group work with our Mod Languages Team to celebrate the diversity of language and culture which sits well within our value and reflects the diversity not only of our school but of our local area / community in which our pupils live and grow up. Our Language Ambassadors are below.



We have not been able to hold our Christmas concert as we usually do this year. We look forward to demonstrating the creativity, confidence and talent of our pupils in 2021. To help provide some sort of event we pre-recorded some aspects / themes of Christmas that we usually associate with at the end of term. The pupils were shown this on the last day as a pleasant way to the end the year.

Our usual Young Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) <https://ypiscotland.org.uk/> event was held virtually. This is an event we hold every year where young people work in teams to create, design and present a 'pitch' to the panel of a charity they want to support. The winning team wins £3000 for their chosen charity. Like so many things this year, the staff involved did a great job of providing a Covid safe version for this year. Well done to the winners for 2020!

So a year like no other, thank you for the support you have given the school as we have tried to navigate the many challenges whilst providing a supportive and challenging year for our youngsters of Leith.

I wish you and your families a restful Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Following the announcement from the First Minister, adjusted plans are below. These will be continually reviewed with updates available on our website;

**ONLINE LEARNING begins for Pupils on Mon  
11th Jan 2021**

**IN SCHOOL LEARNING begins for Pupils on Mon  
18th Jan 2021**

### **School Uniform**

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



# S3 ACHIEVE



## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

While discussing social issues as part of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, our S3 Achieve classes were moved to learn how prevalent food poverty is and how people in the local community have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, they decided to focus their Community Project on supporting those in the community who may find the Christmas period a challenging time.

The classes sought the support of staff to donate cash, non-perishable foods, essential items and gifts. They were also 'sponsored' by last year's Achieve enterprise initiative Mooshakez to help them purchase items to make hampers to be donated to a local charity for distribution.

The class identified which items would be most helpful and developed useful life skills by costing a full hamper within a set budget and then purchasing what was needed. Altogether the classes were able to make eleven full hampers, as well as donating Christmas gifts, various toiletries and Christmas crackers.

Keen that their Christmas hampers benefit those in the local community, they chose to donate the items to the Edinburgh North East Foodbank at South Leith Parish Church where they were gratefully received. The young people involved are keen to continue to support similar initiatives, recognising that food poverty does not only affect people at Christmas, and hope to be able to build on this project in the new term.









## Return to extra-curricular activities

October saw a triumphant return to extra-curricular activities at Leith Academy. Pupils from all years have taken part in volleyball, netball, football, basketball and rugby clubs this term. The PE department has been so impressed by the attitude shown by ALL pupils returning to clubs this term!











## Attitude of LA pupils in curriculum PE

With changing restrictions and guidelines throughout the year, pupils at Leith could not access indoor PE facilities until October. Despite some chilly conditions, pupils at Leith Academy showed immense perseverance and resilience to continually brave the conditions and embrace outdoor learning. A massive thank you and well done to all our pupils!







# THE PERSEVERE GARDEN PROJECT

**Get your green thumbs ready!**

We are looking for a few volunteers to help make over the planters at the Lochend Road entrance and put in a rainbow of colourful flowers that will blossom this coming spring.

If interested, please contact Mr Stewart.

## Online YPI at Leith Academy

YPI had a new look at Leith this year and S3 took the lead role in digital learning about their community. Instead of the usual experience of a charity speed dating event in October, followed up by contacting local Edinburgh charities and developing independence and interpersonal skills by going out to visit the charity. This year, the school wasn't able to welcome visitors and meetings between pupils and charities had to take place via Teams.

S3 rose to the challenge. The usual array of charities were championed by their classes and the final had presentations from The Junction, Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, the Joshua Nolan Trust, Edinburgh NE Foodbank, Refugee Survival Trust, Leith Ladies Rugby.

Poetry, art, animation, role play, cartoon, iMovie were some of the formats used to present the case for the charities in the final. New skills were gained and other skills were enhanced, and not just by the pupils!

It was a tough decision for the judges but the winning charity was the Joshua Nolan Foundation. This organisation provides mental health counselling, a huge issue in Scotland as tragically two people take their lives everyday. JNF will now be able to provide more counselling with the £3000 they receive from The Wood Foundation.

Leith Academy was also able to make a £100 donation to the groups which were judged to be the runners up; The Junction and Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre.

All of the finalists put a huge amount of effort into their research and presentations and Social Subjects were very proud of them. Well done!

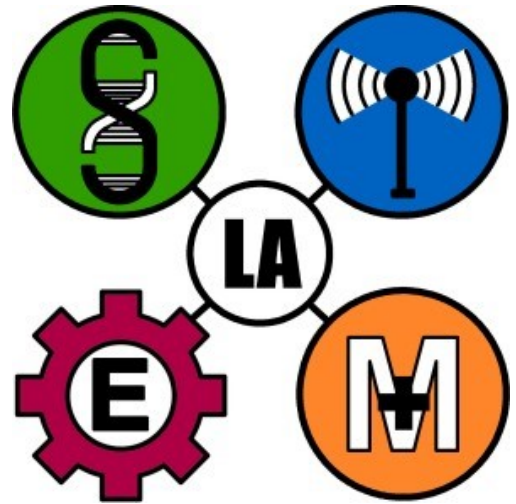




## STEM Nation Award

Last year Leith Academy was part of the pilot to become a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) Nation School. There are 5 elements of this award, which we are planning to complete over 2 years. Just before lockdown we submitted the evidence for the first 3 elements:

Equity and Equality; Partnerships; and Curriculum and Pathways. We are so excited to have found out that we have passed these three elements, which was most definitely a whole school effort! Every faculty in the school submitted



The final two elements are Leadership at all Levels and Family Learning. Although it is more difficult now due to the Covid situation, we hope to submit the evidence for these two elements this year.

Once we have passed all five elements of the award, Leith Academy will become a STEM Nation School; this is really exciting and highlights the amazing STEM work that is going on across the school.

