



Lesmahagow High School

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December 2017

Newsletter

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that the first term is almost over. The school has been so busy that the time has flown in. It has been a very good term. We are delighted with our S1 and the range of trips, events and extra-curricular activities on offer continues to be impressive.

Congratulations to Ms Dickie who has recently been appointed as Principal Teacher—Support for Learning (Mon/Tues). In addition, congratulations to Mr Burns who has recently been appointed as Principal Teacher—Mathematics & Numeracy. Also we will welcome Mr McIntyre to the Mathematics Department in January 2018 as a new Mathematics Teacher. Congratulations to all of these colleagues!

We are now on the final sprint to the holidays with Christmas Dances and Christmas Concert. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, on behalf of the whole staff, a Merry Christmas. I hope you have a relaxing break. I would also to thank you warmly for the support shown to the school by parents generally. It really helps and is much appreciated.

Richard McGowan

Find out more about Lesmahagow High School by following our various Twitter feeds:

@LesmahagowHigh

@LesmahagowMaths

@LesmahagowDrama

@LesmahagowRMPS

@LesmahagowGeog

@gowPST

@LGowPE

@LHSTechnical

@LesmahagowBIO



Parent Council

Next *Parent Council* meeting is on Monday, 15th January at 7pm in the Conference Room.

I hope you are able to join us.



Christmas Holiday

School Closes on Friday, 22 December at 1.10pm.

School Re-opens for pupils on Monday, 8th January at 8.45am

Key dates for January 2018

Thursday, 11th January - S3 Parents' Meeting - 4.30-6.30pm (letters will be issued soon from Mr Parry)

Friday, 12th January - S3 Options Process starts

Tuesday, 16th January - Friday, 26th January (inclusive) - Senior Phase Assessment Period

Monday, 29th January - S6 Blood Transfusion Assembly

Tuesday, 30th January - Holocaust Memorial Assemblies

Thursday, 1st February - S2 Parents' Meeting - 4.30-6.30pm

Aspiration ■ Respect ■ Compassion ■ Honesty ■ Fairness

School Captains/Vice-Captains

Captains/Vice-Captains 17-18

Neve Crooks - Vice-Captain
Jack Alexander - Captain
Amy Cornett - Captain
Luke Campbell - Vice-Captain



Milton House

Harrison Broadhurst - Captain
Katie Spence - Vice-Captain
Emma Bell - Vice-Captain
Emma Bruce - Captain

Logan House

Poppy Murphy - Captain
Drew Gupwell - Vice-Captain
Isla MacDonald - Vice-Captain
Greg Rollo - Captain



Kerse House

Anna Martin - Vice-Captain
Eva Postma - Vice-Captain
Vicky Haddow - Captain
Andrew Leggate - Captain

Mathematics

Maths Week Scotland 2017

September 2017 saw the inaugural Scottish “Maths Week”, and Lesmahagow High School pupils can be very proud of their success!

The Mathematics department was alive with challenges and competitions taking place all week. Pupils learned new problem-solving skills and developed mathematical thinking and numeracy skills that will support learning across the curriculum.

Staff and pupils took part in our ‘Prize Problems’ competition, with solutions from pupils across the year groups. Well done to everyone! Our prize winners this time were Frazer McCourt (S1), Aimee Balfour (S3), Karen Anderson (S2), David Docherty (S1), Jake Richmond (S2), Kara McLachlan (S1), Elle Grenfell (S2), Mason Shankley (S2) and Willow Murphy (S1). A special mention is deserved by our top three staff winners – Miss Iqbal, Mr Parry and Mr Ross!

During Maths Week, classes were given the opportunity to take part in a national competition run by “Manga High”, an online environment in which students practice their skills through games and challenges which dynamically adapt to the learner’s abilities and learning needs. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards were won by 275 LHS pupils and, despite fierce competition from schools all over Scotland, we ended the week in the **top 5 schools in the country**. We couldn’t be more pleased at the effort LHS pupils put in to this competition. Ten of our pupils - Aaron Meikle, Shantelle Bambrick, Becky McAuley, Megan Frame, Heather Fell, Rachael Troup, Demi Slater, Riyan Siddique, Aneesa Mohammed and Charlie Wilson – earned *over 150 points* and were presented with a certificate, a medal and a share in the school’s prize of Amazon vouchers. As if that were not enough, Aaron Meikle and Shantelle Bambrick also finished in the *top ten individual pupils in the whole of Scotland* and were sent an extra prize from Manga High. Well done to all who took part!

Keep an eye out in the Mathematics corridor and the LHS Maths Twitter feed (@lesmahagowmaths) for future competitions.



Aaron	Meikle
Shantelle	Bambrick
Becky	McAuley
Megan	Frame
Heather	Fell
Rachael	Troup
Demi	Slater
Riyan	Siddique
Aneesa	Mohammed
Charlie	Wilson

Buddy Programme

Since the start of the session the senior pupils have been supporting our new S1 through the buddy programme. The seniors meet with a small group of S1 pupils every Friday for twenty minutes to offer advice and discuss any issues or concerns in relation to starting a new school. The senior pupils are also able to offer advice about studying, planning homework, organising schoolbags and how to get the best out of school life.

It is hoped that this type of peer support will help all our new pupils to settle to the new daily routine of life in Lesmahagow High School. In addition to this it provides the pupils with another friendly face around the school and in the community!



School Improvement

Our School Improvement Priorities - Session 2017-18

- ♦ To improve the literacy and numeracy skills of every pupil, through high quality learning and teaching and targeted support, to raise attainment.
- ♦ To ensure positive, sustained destinations for all pupils through increased emphasis on skills for work and an improved curriculum
- ♦ To monitor the impact of our work to ensure that we deliver excellence and equity for all pupils, in conjunction with developing a culture of growth mindset.

A full copy of our School Improvement Plan can be downloaded from our website at: <https://goo.gl/GNqc7V>

During our recent Senior Phase Parents' Meetings, we surveyed parents views about the school which are detailed below. Thank you to everyone who contributed their views. All other parents will be asked their views in the new year.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The school responds to any concerns I raise regarding my child	41%	49%	3%	1%	6%
The school has high expectations of my child	43%	47%	3%	1%	4%
My child receives the support they need to make good progress	41%	56%	3%		
I receive the information I need to judge whether my child is making good progress	32%	52%	13%		4%
My child knows where to go for help and advice whilst at school	48%	48%			3%
My child is happy at school	29%	63%	4%		1%
My child is progressing well in their learning	33%	61%	3%		
I am happy with the school	39%	52%	3%	1%	1%
The school keeps me well informed	41%	47%	5%	1%	1%
The school seeks my views	25%	48%	10%	3%	9%
The school takes my views into account	24%	43%	6%	3%	18%

HT Open Door - from January 2018

As a school we consider we have a very inclusive and open door policy with regard to communication on any school related issues. In addition to the normal availability of the Leadership Team, it is my intention to set aside a specific time once per month after school as I know parents/carers can sometimes find it difficult to manage to school during daytime hours. This open door will run from five o'clock until six o'clock. If there is an issue or area of school life where you require further information or want to share your views please contact the school office to agree an appointment time and I will be happy to meet with you to discuss further at this time. The next drop in is planned for—Tuesday, 16th January. Future dates are: Tuesday, 20th February and Tuesday, 20th March.

Richard McGowan

Head Teacher

Sports Clubs



	Lunchtime	After School
Monday		Netball - S1-3
Tuesday	Basketball Club	Running Club
Wednesday	Dodgeball S1-3	Rugby
Thursday	Football S1-3	Volleyball
		Netball - Seniors
		Rugby
		Girls Football

LGBT Group

Lesmahagow LGBT group was set up to support our LGBT young people during their time at school and beyond. In 2012, LGBT Youth Scotland undertook a survey on Life in Scotland for LGBT young people, aged 13-25. The survey revealed that LGBT young people identified education as the environment where they faced the most discrimination.



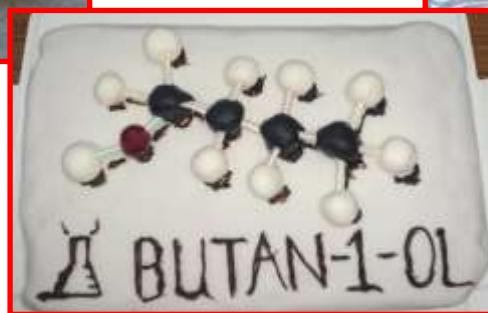
Lesmahagow High School's LGBT group have had a busy term, learning about what support is on offer for LGBT young people and producing a wonderful selection of crafts and gifts for the Christmas Fayre.



Science

Biology Week and Chemistry Week

The science faculty celebrated their national subject weeks in appetising fashion, with a biology bake off and a chemistry cook off! Hearts, lungs, ducks, alcohols and the chemistry of an ice cream cola float!



S1 Science Club

Every Tuesday lunchtime budding S1 scientists have the opportunity to carry out some interesting everyday science – like lemon or coke batteries and skittles diffusion!



S2 STEM Challenge

The external engineers who were judging our competition have returned their results!

Best Design for an earthquake resistant building

Laila Eaton; Euan Dempster, Jenna Rollo, Karen Anderson

Most Attractive earthquake resistant building

Kyle McMillan (2L), Alan Traynor, David Wadsworth, Ruairi Smith

Runner Up to best Overall Cost Effective earthquake proof building

Dylan Wiseman, Aaron Milligan, Kirsty Russell, Terry Sloman with additional late entrants to the team - Emma Kerr and Rachel Cornock.

Best Overall Cost Effective earthquake Resistant Building

Rebecca McCann, Finlay Mitchell and Finlay Baxter

A small selection of photos...



S1 STEM Challenge

The external engineers who were judging our competition have returned their results!

Overall Winner:

Jake Fletcher, Blair Elliott and Rhys Robertson

Runner Up:

Kyle Thomson, Mark Tompkins, Farhaan Siddique, Demi Slater

Best Design

Murray Johnston, Findlay Hynd, Christopher Barrett, Josh McConnell

Most Attractive:

Kaylee Paton, Aneesa Mohammed, Skye Kerr and Emma Spence

A small selection of photos...



Christmas Fair



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Fair a great success! Thank you for making gifts for us to sell on the stalls, donating raffle and tombola prizes, baking delicious cakes and biscuits, helping with the organisation of the event and on the day, providing musical entertainment, encouraging friends and family members to take a stall and for coming along on the day to support the event. Special thanks to the Fairtrade group for donating the tea, coffee, sugar and hot chocolate for the event, the Parent Council for serving the teas and coffees, the Youth Achievement Award and Leadership classes for all their help and all pupils and staff who gave so much of their time and energy to ensure the event was a great success. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the talents of our pupils and for friends and family to visit us. We have raised an incredible £3,287.07 for school funds plus £44.83 for St. Andrew's Hospice. Well done!



Christmas Dances



Christmas Jumper Day



Art & Design



Amy Leggate



Chelsea Miller



Laila Eaton



Darcy Ward, Euan MacPherson, Marcella McEvoy



Luke Martin



Maria Chirokova

Christmas Concert



Parent Council

Please note that our Parent Council meets about once or twice a term and the dates are listed below.

The dates for the remaining meetings this session are: Monday, 15th January, Tuesday, 20th February, Wednesday, 28th March and Monday, 14th May. All meetings start at 7pm.

Mrs Ruth McArthur is our chairperson of the Parent Council and can be contacted at

office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk.

All parents form part of the parent forum and we would encourage you to become involved through surveys or through contacting the chairperson or the Head Teacher to share your views and offer suggestions for our improvement plans.

Be at the heart of your child's learning.



Inspiring Lesmahagow



Some of the Inspiring Lesmahagow pupils took part in a Health and Well-being enterprise project to create and run a café that would be available for staff and parents/guardians. They decided it would be Christmas themed. The pupils created invites, budgeted and it was decided the money raised would go to Alzheimer's Scotland. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience making tea and coffee for everyone and presenting the lovely baked items they had made. The pupils also decorated the room and promoted a positive and nurturing environment for all who came to their café – so much so they have asked to do it again!



Technical Department

The third year Design and manufacture class started designing their clocks from an initial design brief. They all completed their research, came up with a specification to finally drawing out and modelling their design ideas. The students completed their solution which involved producing a working drawing and cutting list. Their individual designs reflects their own personalisation and choice from their initial steps. A great performance from the whole class.



P7 Transition Programme 2018

September	P7/S1 Parent Open Afternoon.
October/November	Science Transition events begin with visits to associated primaries.
January - March	Pupil Support staff visit primary schools to collect information about each individual learner.
March – May	Lesmahagow High School Depute Head Teacher will be available at P7 Consultation Evenings to discuss individual questions and queries.
March	PE Transition events on 15 th and 22 nd March, 9.30am to 11.30am.
April	Arrangements are made for P7 Induction days.
May	PE Transition event at Lesmahagow High School on Thursday 10 th May from 9.30am until 11.30am (all schools). Enterprise Transition event all day on Wednesday 23 rd May. P7 induction days are Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th May 2017. P7 Parent Information Evening Wednesday 30 th May in Lesmahagow High School at 6.30pm.
August	Welcomed to Lesmahagow High School as new S1.
September	P7/S1 Parent Open Afternoon.
October	S1 Interim Reports Pupil Support S1 Parent Consultation Evening

Please do not hesitate to contact **Mr Alastair Gray** at Lesmahagow High School if you have any questions or concerns. The school number is **01555 896010**.

Further information can be found on the school website www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk

Transition Events in Science

Every year, P7 classes begin their high school science careers early when teachers visit each of the primaries to deliver some lessons on colour science. In January, they will come up to visit the labs and carry out some experiments making their own dyes. Here are a couple of pictures from the last of our transition lessons last year!



Support for Pupils

All members of the school staff continue to help and support pupils on a daily basis to ensure they learn in a safe, secure, healthy and happy environment. Partnership with parents/carers is essential in ensuring that all pupils receive the appropriate support to reach their potential.

The **Principal Teachers of Pupil Support** are directly responsible for pastoral support and as such pupils will have most contact with them throughout their school life. They work closely with parents to support pupils. You can follow the work of the team @gowPST on Twitter.

Pupil Support Teachers:

- Help all pupils settle into school
- Are available to speak to pupils when they need someone to talk to
- Are the main point of contact between school and home
- Check attendance and time keeping
- Check progress in all subject classes
- Help with transition and change throughout a pupils' school career e.g. with options choices and planning for life after school

Mr Mallaghan is responsible for Kerse House

Mrs Wright is responsible for Logan House

Mrs Laird is responsible for Milton House

The **Support for Learning** team is responsible for providing support in class and in small groups so that learners can achieve their full potential. Staff work in collaboration with teachers and subject departments within the school, supporting pupils, parents and staff to reduce barriers to learning, build confidence, raise self-esteem and provide the best learning environments for pupils to flourish. Please contact **Ms Dickie, Principal Teacher Support for Learning** on a Monday or Tuesday if you have any queries about additional support needs.



Religious Observance

Religious observance provides opportunities for the school community to reflect on, and develop, a deeper understanding of the dignity and worth of each individual and their contribution to the school wider communities. In recognition of Scotland's Christian heritage, schools are encouraged to use the rich resources of this tradition when planning religious observances. We are fortunate to be supported by a good Chaplaincy Team who play an integral part in the life of the school. Our school community contains pupils and staff from faiths other than Christianity or with no faith commitment. This is taken into account fully in supporting development. It is of central importance that all pupils and staff can participate with integrity in forms of religious observances without compromise to their personal faith stances. For more information, please refer to the most recent Scottish Government advice, including information about parental rights to withdraw, using this link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ReligiousObservance>

Our Chaplaincy Team members adhere to these guidelines on religious observance and have been made aware of, and discussed, South Lanarkshire Council's updated "Policy guidance for schools regarding chaplains and chaplaincy teams in non-denominational schools". They are fully committed to operating within these guidelines and the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team ensure that they do.

Our Chaplain is Alex Kelly.

Parent Pay



A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

Pay online for

- School meals
- Trips
- And more

How to pay online.....

- Step 1—Have your activation letter ready (from school)
- Step 2—Login at www.parentpay.com
- Step 3—Follow instructions to activate account
- Step 4—Click on 'Items due for payment'

www.parentpay.com

Dressing for Success

Our uniform from August 2017

- White shirt/blouse;
- School tie;
- Plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan without logos;
- Black trousers/black skirt;
- School blazer
- Plain black footwear (including laces); and
- P.E. kit (white, red or black t-shirt, black shorts, leggings, track suit bottoms and trainers).

Unacceptable clothing:

- Jeans (all colours/types) and denim jackets;
- Hooded tops;
- Leggings (except PE);
- Football colours/team tops (this includes PE lessons);
- Track suits and sports/leisure wear;
- Clothing with slogans or large logos;
- Clothing which is deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety;
- Shorts.



Blazer Stockist

Scotcrest

41 Quarry Street, Hamilton, ML3 7AH

01698 760438

Blazers can be ordered in the shop or online at <https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/>



Education Resources

School holiday Dates Session 2017/2018

Break	Holiday dates		
Christmas	Close on	Friday	22 December 2017
Second Term	Re-open	Monday	8 January 2018
February break	Closed on	Monday	12 February 2018
		Tuesday	13 February 2018
	Re-open	Wednesday	14 February 2018
Spring break/Easter	Closed	Friday	30 March 2018
	Re-open	Monday	16 April 2018
Third Term			
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday	7 May 2018
Local Holiday	Closed on	Friday	25 May 2018
		Monday	28 May 2018
	Re-open	Tuesday	29 May 2018
Summer break	Closed on	Friday	29 June 2018

Notes

- Good Friday falls on Friday, 30 March 2018
- *Lanark schools will close 7 and 8 June 2018*
- Schools will close at 2.30pm on the last day of terms 1 and 2
(Friday, 22 December 2017 and Thursday 29 March 2018)
- Schools will close at 1pm on the last day of term 3 (Thursday, 28 June 2018)

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!