Charitable Champions

ST ANDREW’S HOSPICE 6K – SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2013

The annual running of the St Andrew’s Hospice 6K has become something of an institution here at LGS – and every year, there are many Upper School and Staff turn out in support of our local charity. This year proved to be no exception, with 118 people signing up from the school. This commitment required an early start (9am at the bus stand in Lanark), the ability to run or walk round Strathclyde Park (a distance of 3.75 miles) and the ability to raise some money for the Hospice afterwards. Some people’s commitment to the event was indicated in their fancy dress costumes…others in their performance on the day. First home for LGS was Stuart Mitchell, followed by Stuart Torrance. Not everyone was so fast, but everyone managed to get round inside 1 hour 15 minutes which was an excellent performance. The weather made the whole day – the sun shone on the righteous, and a grand time was had by one and all. We headed home happy that we had done something good for others.

However, by Tuesday, the news got even better. It turned out that the top 12 finishers in the school had won the Schools Challenge Cup for LGS – we had won the whole race! This was an amazing achievement – something to be really proud of! The Cup will be presented within the next few weeks at an assembly by Margaret Donald of St Andrew’s Hospice. Many thanks to everyone, and an extra special well done to the 12 fastest runners! (That means Stuart Mitchell, Stuart Torrance, Grant Malone, Sebastien Flowerdew, Liam Egan, Fraser Prentice, Lorna Gemmell, Greg Cherry, Jamie Macdonald, Callum Cle merson, Cammy Peters and Sarah Richardson – you won the Cup for us!)

Now keep getting that sponsor money in!

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On the Monday 23rd September, the RME department took 30 pupils up to Edinburgh to explore themes of the supernatural and to consider how useful this is in supporting the claim that perhaps death is not the end. This supports the S3 study on Life after Death.

In the morning the pupils visited Mary Kings Close, and learned all about Edinburgh’s history which lies underneath The Royal Mile. They toured the dark streets of the close and were introduced to the real residents who frequented the close and were told about how they were mostly all wiped out by the plague. They learned about a ghostly apparition of a small child who has been sighted on the close various times. Her name is Annie and she can be heard crying. The pupils were also told how a medium, who visited the close, was able to communicate that she was in fact crying as she had lost her dolly. The public have since made it tradition, that when you visit you can leave a small toy for her. Our pupils had the opportunity to do this.

After lunch on The Royal Mile we then visited the Niddry Street Vaults, said to be the most haunted place in Edinburgh. It often features on Living’s programme ‘Most Haunted’. The pupils were given a tour of the torture chamber, where real implements of torture were showcased. Then the pupils were lead along the dark corridors to The Vaults which is complete with a witch’s temple in one of the rooms that is still in regular use by modern day witches (The Wiccans). It also claims to have a dark and morbid history of death and suffering going back hundreds of years caused not only by mischief and murder but masses of deaths caused by illness and disasters. The pupils took many pictures in the vaults; some of them were extremely interesting with some visible light orbs. Most of our pupils who attended are still keeping an open mind that perhaps the supernatural can be used for evidence for Life after Death.

Over 150 parents and carers attended Lanark Grammar School’s first S1 Parent’s Open Evening on 19th September. As a new part of the Primary – Secondary Transition programme, the evening focussed on informing parents about the S1 Curriculum, S1 Homework expectations, practical suggestions on how to help with homework and the experience of a typical lesson in a classroom. Each parent received a mini timetable as they arrived which allowed them to visit four curricular areas throughout the evening and hear from teaching staff about each of the above topics.

During the evening there were refreshments in ‘the street’ and parents were entertained by a number of talented pupils from the Creative & Aesthetic Department including Tom Reid on Trumpet, Ruth Elliot on Guitar and the Lanark Rotary Club Young Singer of the Year, Iain Millar.

Feedback from parents was extremely positive and here are a few of their comments.

“We had an insight into what is required from S1 pupils, from the coursework they will be undertaking to homework.”

“Super productive evening”

“There were lots of tips on how to help with homework – which always comes in

Very worthwhile evening”
Kyle McEwan Swims with Hannah Miley.

Kyle McEwan recently won a competition to swim in Hannah Miley’s relay team in the Swim Britain Challenge at the Commonwealth pool on Sunday 29th September 2013. Kyle along with two other winners, Josh Broadfoot (age 12) from Larkhall and Chloe McNicol (Age 10) from Aberdeen were the lucky three who were picked to swim along with Hannah in Hannah’s Relay team. They all had to do 1000 metres each totalling 4,000m and swam it in a time of 01.09.39 There were another 18 teams taking part so lots of people in the water at the same time... In the afternoon session, Hannah's team finished 2nd, the team that were first were called Lexi made up of the GB swimmers James Clegg, Andrew Mullen, Scott Quinn and Craig Rodgie.

Further to our previous report on the very talented Walker brothers we are very pleased to inform everyone that Lewis, currently in S5, has been picked for the Scotland Tae Kwon Do team and will represent Scotland in Benidorm, Spain for the week beginning 21st Oct. His elder brother Lyle, a former pupil at the Grammar, has just gained a place in the Olympic Tae Kwon Do team and is training with them in Manchester.

Good Luck to both Lyle and Lewis in their training and future competitions and we will keep you posted about their progress.

CALLING ALL FORMER PUPILS! CAN YOU HELP US?

As part of our “Celebrating Success” initiative we would like to establish links with former pupils who have been successful in their careers and who could act as an inspiration to pupils currently at Lanark Grammar School.

We are hoping to contact former pupils who

- run a successful business in Lanark or elsewhere
- have achieved success in sport or entertainment
- have reached the top of their profession
- have an exciting job – in Scotland or abroad
- could inspire a generation of pupils to follow in their footsteps in any way!

If you think you could help us, or know of anyone who would be of interest to us, please contact Mrs Colquhoun at Lanark Grammar School 01555 667520.

Please get in touch! We are looking forward to hearing from you!
SQA Appeals

From the 2014 SQA Examination diet onwards, the system of Appeals is changing for all course assessments (National 5, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher).

Two new services will be in operation for pupils. These are: Exceptional Circumstances Consideration; and Post Results Service.

The ‘Exceptional Circumstances Consideration’ will ensure that candidates, who their school or college believe have suffered as a result of exceptional circumstances, such as bereavement or illness, will be able to submit alternative evidence of demonstrated attainment before results are published. This ‘alternative evidence’ will take the form of coursework, class assessments or preliminary examinations.

The ‘Post-Results Service’ will ensure that if, after results day in August, a school or college is concerned by a candidate’s result, they can request an administrative review of the script and/or a request to have the marking of the script checked. This could result in a candidate’s grade going up or down.

There will be no consideration of ‘alternative evidence’ with this service and, to ensure that costs are covered, there will be a charge to the school or college for an unsuccessful request.

The SQA are of the opinion that the new arrangements will mean that the appeals process will revert to how it was originally intended which was as a safety net to assist those candidates who had suffered disadvantage due to exceptional circumstances such as bereavement or illness and whose school or college had convincing alternative evidence to back up such a claim.

S2 Pupils: SALSUS Survey

Pupils in S2 have been invited to take part in an important research study on behalf of the Scottish Government. The survey is called SALSUS and is run by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Pupils who take part in this survey will be asked to fill in a questionnaire during their Social Education class. The questions cover health and lifestyle, including attitudes towards smoking, drinking and drug use among young people. The survey has been running since 1982 and the results have helped in the planning and development of services for young people in Scotland aimed at reducing smoking, drinking and drug use.

Completed questionnaires will be kept in the strictest confidence and pupils will be asked not to put their name on the questionnaires and they cannot be identified in the results. Your child will be given a consent form to take home, which will provide you with more information about the survey and what to do if you do not wish your child to take part.

Mrs Buchanan, Depute Head Teacher for S2 will be communicating with parents of S2 pupils in the near future.

New National Qualifications

A large number of S4 parents attended our recent evening designed to provide an overview of New National Qualifications. This included information on the construction of new courses, assessment, support for S4 pupils, and the strategies in place to raise attainment at S4.

The presentation from the evening has been placed on the school website and a parents’ update will be issued very shortly (and placed on the website).
Lanark Grammar School has been working hard on being recognised as an anti-sectarian school and is aiming for the Champions for Change accreditation from Nil by Mouth, a registered charity, based in Glasgow.

Their sole purpose is to achieve a society that is free from sectarianism and where cultural and religious diversity is respected and celebrated by everyone.

Last year our pupils successfully organized an inter-faith football match with St Aidan’s High in Wishaw. We are hoping to run the event again this year and are looking for responsible S6 pupils, who would like to gain the Platinum Youth Achievement Award, to help make this happen.

We are expecting Nil by Mouth to visit the school early November to assess our progress. In order to be successful in this accreditation we require more pupils to join the Anti-Sectarian steering group which is run by the RME staff and meets on Monday lunchtimes.

We also require input from parents on the day of the assessment and any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested then please contact either Miss Clark (RME) or Mrs Ewing (PT Pupil Support), to participate in the assessment.

Lanark Grammar School is hosting a Careers Convention on Thursday 7th November for pupils and parents/guardians of S3, S4 & S5 pupils.

With Universities, Colleges and Training Agencies represented as well as employers and the Armed Forces, this is an unmissable event for young people who are making their subject choices this year. Whether you are looking for information on a specific career or some general advice on what subjects to take, the Careers Convention will aim to provide information and guidance.

Our current list of institutions represented includes:

RAF
Heriott Watt University
Edinburgh University
East Kilbride Group Training Association
Glasgow University
Stirling University
University of West of Scotland
City of Glasgow College
Stow College
St Andrews University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Procurator Fiscals Office

Doors open at 6.30pm until 8.30pm.
September saw the launch of our new school values. Over the course of last session, pupils, staff and parents worked together on deciding what values were important for our school community. We are delighted with the outcome and very proud of our chosen values. They are:

- **Achievement**
- **Community**
- **Endeavour**

Throughout this academic year, we will be devoting time to our values during assemblies as well as recognising and encouraging them in every day school life. We will be focusing on one value each month, starting with Achievement in October. We are currently compiling resources to be shared via our website which will help support and encourage the development of our values not only in school but also the wider community and at home.

We are also working closely together to create a new school motto relevant to today’s society.

It is hoped our recently elected School Captains, House Captains and Prefects will help in setting an example to their peers and command a leading role in promoting our school values.

### S6 Student Leadership Appointments

Our School Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains and Prefects have now been appointed. Well done to all who have been appointed to these positions of responsibility. Our new School Captains are Lauren Cockburn and Iain Millar and the Vice Captains are Alex Rea and Morgan Cardwell.

#### Prefects 2013 - 2014

**Braxfield**

**Hyndford**
Lisa Brown, Grace Ewing, Libby Fleming, Grant Hamilton, Courtney Jones, Simone Kelly, Robert Mathershaw, Deborah Richardson, Caroline Wood and Kris Bullock.

**Jerviswood**
Keir Hamilton, Eleanor McCann, Andrew Murray, Angela Thorpe and Graham Scott.

**Lockhart**
Lindsay Beveridge, Christopher Graham, Jade Haggarty, Graeme Hall, Eilidh Martin, Mhairi McClafferty, Andrew Nolan, Eve Walker, and Sebastian Flowerdew.

**Wallace**
Emma Campbell, Ruth Elliot, Kelly Gallagher, Lorna Gemmell, Alexandra Millar and Sean Murray.
Since the beginning of term S2 have been working on a design brief: “Design and make a new recipe using a meat product from the ‘Damn Delicious’ range to be featured in a four ‘Seasons’ calendar’.

Pupils have been working in ICT to research ideas and recipes and using seasonal ingredients in Home Economics they have developed and produced their dishes.

All the meat has been kindly supplied by Michael Shannon from Damn Delicious and after the first round of cooking there have been some excellent results. We’ve had spicy chicken kebabs served in a salad pitta pocket, strips of minute steak in a spicy tomato pasta and sticky glazed pork with spring onions and couscous and many other wonderful dishes.

S2 pupils will be cooking again this week and they will then have the opportunity to make changes to their recipes and decide which one they would like to cook in the class competition. Two of the best recipes will be chosen from each class by the pupils and the winning teams will compete in the final ‘Cook Off’ where they will cook their recipe for Mr Shannon and a panel of judges to decide the overall winner.

At the end of the challenge the 12 best recipes will be printed in a calendar for 2014, by the Lanarkshire Printhouse and this will on sale in the school with all proceeds going to a local charity.

**Important Dates**

Please find below, information about important dates in the school calendar. This includes parents’ evenings; parents’ information evenings; and holidays. I hope that you find it helpful.

**Parents’ Evenings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S5/6</td>
<td>Parents’ Evening</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 December 2013</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S4</td>
<td>Parents’ Evening</td>
<td>Wednesday 15 January 2014</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S4/5</td>
<td>Parents’ Information Evening</td>
<td>Wednesday 22 January 2014</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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<td>S3</td>
<td>Parents’ Information Evening</td>
<td>Thursday 30 January 2014</td>
<td>7.00-9.00pm</td>
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<td>S3</td>
<td>Parents’ Evening</td>
<td>Thursday 6 February 2014</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>S1/2</td>
<td>Parents’ Information Evening</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 February 2014</td>
<td>7.00-9.00pm</td>
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<td>S2</td>
<td>Parents’ Evening</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 February 2014</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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<td>S1</td>
<td>Parents’ Evening</td>
<td>Thursday 13 March 2014</td>
<td>4.30-7.00pm</td>
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