



Liberton High School Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to introduce our March Newsletter highlighting the many and varied successes as well as keeping everyone up to date with key information relating to our school. Plans to replace our PE facilities by extending our new games hall have now been accepted by the planning department. Work is scheduled to begin in May 2015 with a completion date targeted to be May 2016.

As we approach the SQA exam diet it is important to recognise that for our senior pupils a huge effort at this time will make a massive difference when sitting the exams in May. Every spare moment has to be used to revise, in most subjects this will involve completing past paper questions, with notes in hand and generating questions for their teachers. You can help them in their bid to get the best possible grades by; ensuring your child is organised with a study timetable for every week, providing a quiet space for study and by reinforcing the message that if you work hard you will achieve.

Dance Show 2015

Our dance show gets better every year! I would like to congratulate each and every one of our fabulous dancers, the progression they show year in year out is an excellent example of how hard work and practice results in improved performance. I would like to thank Kirsty Hamilton, Kerry Sweeney and everyone else involved in producing the show.



Our Business Class Partnership

The engagement of Sharkey and OCA with Liberton High School as part of a 3 year Business Class partnership is a significant development for our school in meeting the recommendations of "Education Working for All!" (Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce Final Report). In addition to this, the partnership has already proven to be successful in the first academic term across a number of the four 'pillars' as described by BiTC.

Enterprise and Employability: As an initial activity to develop a relationship between the school and Sharkey, nine young people who were at risk of failing to move into a positive destination on leaving school have been well supported through a series of Pre-Employability Workshops which provided training and opportunities for personal development; one of these young people experienced sufficient success that she was offered full time employment with Sharkey at the end of the programme.

The Curriculum: Sharkey have committed to engaging with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) education in the school, with a very productive first meeting with Liberton's STEM coordinator to plan site visits and practical manufacturing projects for pupils to work on as part of their Broad General Education S1-S3.

Wider Issues: We have agreed to develop a programme of 1:1 and group mentoring for 'Looked After' young people and 'Young Carers'.

We welcome our colleagues at Sharkey, OCA and BiTC to our team and look forward to improving outcomes for young people together.

Fashion Design Project in Art

The Art and Design Department are excited to announce a new collaborative S3 T-shirt Design project, in conjunction with Libertus Services, See Me Scotland and Jaggy Nettle. The fashion project with focus on communicating a positive message regarding mental health. A selection of the pupils' final designs will go into full production via Jaggy Nettle and go on sale globally. The S3 class will be involved in every part of the design process: Working with fashion designers to create initial concepts and design developments. Manufacturing and screen printing sample designs at Herriot Watt University School of Textiles & Design. Conceiving and creating their own marketing campaign. This is a fantastic learning opportunity to experience a real-life project while forging links with the local community, industry and higher education. Regular updates regarding this interesting project will be posted to our Twitter feed [libertonart@LibertonArt](https://twitter.com/libertonart) or on the homepage of the school website.

Go4Set - The Business of Recycling

A group of six S2 Liberton High School pupils are working together; Pedro Salazar, Megan Steen, Sarah Steadman, Rona Coppola, Mariama Bindi, and Hannah Macrae on the annual Go4set challenge.

The Go4Set challenge this year is to investigate how materials are used and disposed of in your school and identify ways you can reduce waste, the impact on the environment and save or even make money for Liberton High School. The team are working with teachers from LHS and Mr Stewart Livingston, Civil Engineer with Grontmij Limited. Grontmij is the winner of BREEAM's Assessor Company of the Year Award 2014. The team will be required to produce a Project Report, detailing their research and proposals. The project report must include an account of a company visit and how it influenced their ideas. The team have 10 weeks to complete the project and it will be fully assessed at a Celebration and Assessment Day event at Heriot Watt University on Tuesday 10 March.

Parents/carers can you please help with the Team's project by completing this short survey on recycling – link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N5VCMR3>

Ingenious

Liberton High School is one of two schools in Scotland selected by Heriot Watt University to participate in The Ingenious Project. Two classes of S2 Science pupils are working with Heriot Watt staff and Graduates on the Ingenious project. The Heriot Watt team led by Maiwenn Kersaudy-Kerhoas, Helen Bridle and Jonathan Morton have visited LHS to work with Science teachers and pupils on The Ingenious Project - Small Plumbing: Empowering the next-generation of microfluidic engineers. The Ingenious project aims to stimulate engineers to share their stories, passion and expertise in innovative ways with wider audiences, develop engineers' communication and engagement skills and create debate between engineers and people of all ages to raise awareness of the diversity, nature and impact of engineering. The LHS pupils have worked with Heriot Watt University engineers on designing Microfluidic designs – which are in process of being made at Heriot Watt. The Engineers will return to LHS in February with the Microfluidic “chips” made and help our pupils write a report on the project. Pupils are entered into a competition with winners attending an Award ceremony at Royal Society of Edinburgh (May) and Winning team to attend Science festival with their chips (May-June).

Silver of the Stars

John Creed Silversmith and one of Scotland's leading artist is visiting Liberton High School to talk about his work with metals to the school's S3 Chemistry pupils on Tuesday 10 February. He has made many large spectacular sculptures in various metals while also working in silver

on a smaller scale. John hopes to enthuse pupils in the upcoming chemistry topic; Metals and their uses. He will bring some of his worked metal objects so that pupils can handle them and find out about the process of finishing. John will talk about his work as a silversmith and craftsman of metal object. Some of John's recent work in collaboration with the author Ian Rankin formed part of the Silver for the Stars collection;

<http://vimeo.com/channels/810066/page:3>

Outward Bound 2015

Final preparations are being made to launch the 2015 Outward Bound adventure week. The current P7 pupils at local Primaries will be invited to join the adventure week to help start their High School life in the best possible way, current S1 pupils can take part in their John Muir Award, current S2 pupils will be able to sign up for their Adventure and Challenge Award.

Active Schools

We are offering an increased number of targeted girls only activities such as fitness on a Monday, gymnastics on a Tuesday and cheerleading on a Wednesday. These clubs have been started from feedback collected from the girls themselves and their desire to have gender specific classes in school. All three of these clubs are open to all age groups and are free to come and try.

We now have a free athletics club which runs on a Thursday after school, this is open to boys and girls of all ages. Last week we took a team of 16 boys and girls to the giant heptathlon at Ainslie Park. The pupils excelled in most events and were given huge praise for their determination to succeed and their team work. Our next event will be the cross country at Cavalry Park on Monday 16 March. The Athletics club will focus on cross country training until this date. If you would like to represent your school in any athletics events please see Ellie Forgan.

In football our under 15's host Dalkeith at home as a rescheduled match at 1:30pm, please come along and show your support. We would like to welcome Craig Bell from elite soccer, who is an ex university football coach, he has taken over the role of head coach for the under 15's team.

Basketball training continues to go from strength to strength and we are competing at under 15's and senior age groups. Our senior team qualified for the Scottish Cup Plate competition which is a first for our school. The S1 & S2 handball team will be playing in the East Region Schools finals at Ravenscraig on Friday 13 March. Training takes place on a Monday at 4:30pm and is run by one of our parents, Raymond Wilson.

All of our Young Sports Ambassadors are now involved in coaching and assisting at least one after school club. They have all been taking part in sports coaching courses outside school and three of our ambassadors are now part of a citywide Young Sports Ambassadors Development Group (YADG). This is a group which has been set up to discuss fundraising strategies for sport and activity, address barriers to participation in sport and generally discuss and plan how to best promote sport and activity within schools. Liberton High School is the only school where all of the Young Sports Ambassadors attended a residential and has the largest representation of young people on the development group. We are extremely proud of them. Their next big challenge is to plan, organise and deliver our first ever sports awards which will take place in March. Please look out for the survey monkey which will be coming out to pupils in the very near future, we want to know about ALL of your successes in sport, dance and physical activity.

Ellie Forgan

LHSA

The LHSA has raised over £460 since the beginning of December for school causes. This has been achieved by providing refreshments at parents' nights, school events and holding cake sales. Our next big event is a Quiz night on Friday 15 May in the Inch Park Community Sports Club at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale in April, £5 per adult and £3 if you are under 18 or still at school. Please contact liberton_pta@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested in coming along. We are also bag packing in Morrison's on Saturday 30 May and Sunday 31 May and we will be looking for lots of help.

THE GIVING MACHINE

If you are shopping on the internet, please consider using The Giving Machine.

The Giving Machine is a not for profit social enterprise whose sole aim is to raise money for UK schools and charities. Every year your favourite online shops pay £millions in sales commissions to websites who drive shoppers to them. By shopping via www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk you can ensure that any commission paid on your purchase is converted into a cash donation. The Giving Machine receives the commission and converts 75% of it into cash, the remainder is used to help towards their operating costs. With over 400 stores like Thomas Cook, Amazon, EBay, M&S, NEXT, Tesco, Getting Personal, Sainsbury and John Lewis taking part you are bound to find what you want from your favourite shops at The Giving Machine. You can join to become a Giver by visiting www.thegivingmachine.co.uk - entering your name, e-mail address and postcode and selecting our school as your chosen beneficiary. Then, every time you shop online, logon to The Giving Machine before you shop and you will make free cash donations with every purchase you make. It doesn't cost any extra and you do not have to make special purchases to qualify. You will receive e-mails from The Giving Machine thanking you for your support and letting you know when the school receives a payment. Apart from helping us for free, the benefits of becoming a Giver include exclusive special offers from the online retailers and access to free fun giveaways and

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competitions. It really is as simple as that. Please ensure you don't miss this opportunity to give while you are shopping and help spread the word to friends and family so we can raise as much as we can from this amazing scheme. Your help will make a difference to our school.

We are always looking for new ideas to raise funds for the school so if you are interested in joining the committee and/or helping at events, please contact us by email at liberton_pta@yahoo.co.uk . Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 7.15pm in the staffroom. Everyone welcome. Thank you very much. DIANE PATON.

School Holiday Dates Consultation

The City of Edinburgh Council are consulting on school holiday dates, please follow the link below to share your views.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolHolidayConsultation>

We want your feedback to help us get better

We are committed to working in partnership with our pupils and parents/carers and what you tell us makes a difference. Please communicate your views by emailing:

admin@liberton.edin.sch.uk



Stephen Kelly

Headteacher

Twitter: @LibertonHighHT