



Lesmahagow High School

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December 2018

Newsletter

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parent/Carer

This edition marks our busy first term drawing to a close and as we prepare for our Christmas Break, it is gratifying to reflect on the many fantastic opportunities that have been on offer to our young people this session. This newsletter highlights a selection of these, and looks forward to continued success as we move forward together into 2019.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our young people and their successes in this edition and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils, parents and staff a peaceful and very Happy Christmas, and a joyful and prosperous New Year in 2019. Thank you for your continued support of Lesmahagow High School.

Yours faithfully, Richard McGowan—Head Teacher.

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

@LesmahagowHigh

@Lhsmodernstudi1

@LesmahagowMaths

@LesmahagowDrama

@LesmahagowRMPS

@LesmahagowBIO

@gowPST

@LGowPE

@LHSTechnical

@LesmahagowH

@LesmahagowRMPS

@LesmahagowGeog



Key dates for January 2019

Thursday, 10th January - S3 Parents' Meeting - 4.30-6.30pm (letters have been issued from Mr Parry)

Friday, 18th January - S2 Report issued

Tuesday, 22nd January - Careers Event

Tuesday, 29th January - S2 Parents' Meeting - 4.30-7.00pm

Road Safety Calendar Competition

This year's SLC Road Safety Calendar Competition saw 105 schools participating with 3091 entries being received by SLC.

Anessa Mohammed (S2) is the overall SLC winner and is the successful artist whose road safety artwork and message will be featured on 10,000 wall calendars and 5,000 desk calendars distributed across schools and offices within South Lanarkshire. A huge congratulations to Anessa!!!!

In addition, we have two additional group winners as well.

Mia Crooks (S2)

1st place winner for Group 5

Emma Falconer (S2)

3rd place winner for Group 5

Highly Commended Certificate Winners;

Zoe Schoneville, Olivia Smith, Elise Ward, Terri Mitchell, Shantelle Bambrick and Alyssa Feeney.



Anessa Mohammed



Nurture

Nurture:

We have started running a Nurture group to support the wellbeing of young people. The group is run by Mrs Storry, Mrs Laird and Mrs Abercrombie. The young people have been exploring ways to talk about emotions and have been developing their self-awareness. The group meet every morning and share a breakfast together and have established positive relationships with staff and other pupils in the group.

Lego Therapy:

As part of the nurture group some of the young people have been using Lego to express themselves. This is an innovative approach based on The LEGO Education approach to learning.

Therapets – Reading with Dogs

The Nurture group has been visited by John Kerr from Canine Concern and his dog Honey. Honey is a Therapet and visits schools, hospitals and care homes across the region. Some of the young people from the Nurture group met with Honey and read to her. This is a new approach to engage young people with reading and there is research to suggest that the presence of a dog allows the young person to relax and enjoy the reading rather than worrying about the task of reading the book.

If you have a well behaved dog and would be interested in becoming a Therapets volunteer, please get in touch with Mrs Storry in the Support for Learning department for more information.



Modern Languages

Thank you to all the BGE pupils who took part in the very successful French film trip on Wednesday 21st November to Moffat. We saw the film 'Ernest et Célestine en Hiver' which the pupils really enjoyed.

Thanks as well to Mrs Abercrombie, Mrs Katzig and Mrs White for coming with us.

We look forward to organising similar events in the future.







Chocolate Factory Trip

Our S2 pupils visited The CocoaBean Company in Dumfries recently where all the pupils had a great time!



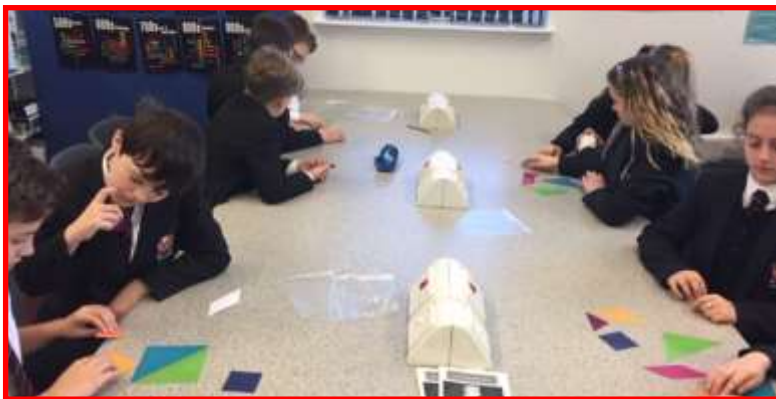
Sports Clubs

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



Inspiring Lesmahagow

Our Inspiring Lesmahagow Numeracy group have been working with AS Creatives this month on “The Trading Game”. Pupils have been further developing their skills in team work, communication, negotiation and tessellation – and of course numbers!

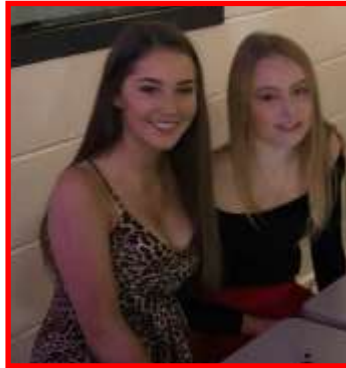


Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair, which allowed us to showcase the talents of our students and staff. Special thanks to all of the local businesses who supported the event and to our Parent Council for all their help on the day. The event helped to raise **£2,350** for school funds, which will be used to fund equipment, events and activities for our pupils.



Christmas Ceilidh



Science

Science Club

Our Science Club for S1 and 2 pupils on a Tuesday lunchtime has been popular again this year. S6 pupil Drew Gupwell has helped organise a diverse range of seasonal and fun activities, ranging from rainbow pH patterns, through ghoulish flaming lanterns for Halloween to sparklers for Guy Fawke's Night. The van de Graaff machine proved to be hair-raising experience! Pupils can get their lunch from the canteen and then head to B205 to eat up and practice some fun science and construction activities.



Tomorrow's Engineers

Our S2 classes undertook a challenge day investigating the design and control of cars to travel a set distance as part of the 'Tomorrow's Engineers' activity supported by the Engineering Development Trust and organised by Mrs McLelland. Pupils finished the activity with a clearer idea of the jobs which need engineers and the skills we need to do them!



Science

Oh Chemistree!

It is an annual tradition that Dr Nicol's most senior chemistry class complete the festive decorations for the chemistry classroom in the form of a Chemistree. Pupils construct the tree from clampstands and added 'bobbles' made from flasks of pretty coloured solutions. However, they only got to add their flask if they could correctly identify the chemical inside and label it with the correct formula! This year's chemical tree surgeons did a great job.



Biology 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!



Art & Design



Art & Design



Nicola Lyttle



Megan Frame



Christmas Cabaret



Photographic Success



Congratulations to Joshua Hunter on his recent winning success in the InspireEd Photographic Competition.



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, 14th January, Tuesday, 19th February, Wednesday, 27th March and Monday, 13th May. All meetings start at 7pm.

Mrs Wendy Russell 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.



SALSUS 2018

Lesmahagow High School has agreed to take part in SALSUS 2018, a Scottish Government survey run by Ipsos MORI. Pupils who take part in this survey will be asked to complete a questionnaire during a PSE class.

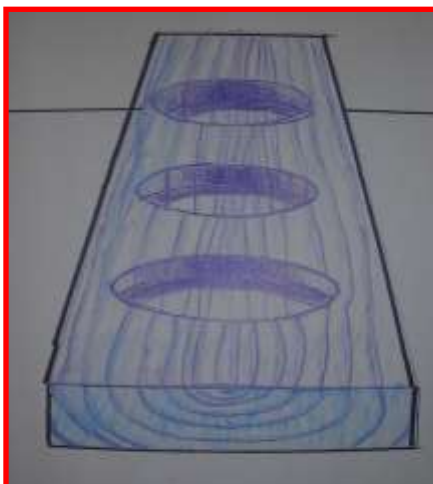
The questions cover health and lifestyle, including attitudes towards smoking, drinking and drug use among young people. The survey has been running since 1982 and the results have helped in the planning and development of services for young people in Scotland aimed at reducing smoking, drinking and drug use. Only some classes in S2 and S4 will be asked to complete the survey.

If your child's class has been invited to participate, they 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. Parental letters will be issued in January 2019.

More information can be found at <https://salsus2018.co.uk/>

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.



School Improvement

Our School Improvement Priorities - Session 2018-19

- ♦ To improve the quality of learning experiences for all young people and ensure consistency across the school.
- ♦ To deliver a learner-centred curriculum, which facilitates tailored learner pathways for all young people, leading to positive and sustained destinations.
- ♦ To secure increased attainment for all young people, which includes the entitlement of literacy and numeracy qualifications.
- ♦ To improve the health and wellbeing of all young people and develop an inclusive approach, where barriers to learning are removed.
- ♦ To ensure all staff engage in the continued process of career long professional learning to improve pedagogy and improve outcomes for all learners by looking inwards, outwards and forwards.

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	33%	55%	5%		7%
The school has high expectations of my child	35%	55%	2%		7%
My child receives the support they need to make good progress	32%	52%	10%		5%
I receive the information I need to judge whether my child is making good progress	23%	62%	10%	3%	2%
My child knows where to go for help and advice whilst at school	47%	47%	5%		2%
My child is happy at school	28%	52%	10%	7%	3%
My child is progressing well in their learning	27%	63%	5%	2%	3%
I am happy with the school	32%	62%	3%		3%
The school keeps me well informed	38%	48%	8%	2%	3%
The school seeks my views	28%	55%	8%	2%	7%
The school takes my views into account	23%	60%	5%	2%	8%

P7 Transition Programme 2019

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. Support for Learning visit primary schools to observe classes.
March	PE Transition events on 15 th and 22 nd March, 9.30am to 11.30am. Catherine Wheels Theatre Company Performance on 18th March. Lesmahagow High School Depute Head Teacher will be available at P7 Consultation Evenings to discuss individual questions and queries.
April	Arrangements are made for P7 Induction days.
April - May	Lesmahagow High Depute Head Teacher will be available at P7 Parents' Evenings to discuss individual questions.
May	PE Transition event at Lesmahagow High School on Monday, 20th May from 9.30am until 11.30am (all schools).
June	P7 induction days are Tuesday, 4th and Wednesday, 5th June 2019. P7 Parent Information Evening Wednesday 5th June in Lesmahagow High School at 6.30pm.
September	P7/S1 Parent Open Afternoon. Support for Learning Open Evening.
October	S1 Interim Reports

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

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; and
- 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

Mr Robson 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 **Mrs Storry/Mrs Laird, Principal Teacher Support for Learning** on 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 is:

- 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 2018/19

Christmas	Close on	Friday	21 December 2018
	Re-open	Monday	7 January 2019
Second Term			
February break	Close on	Friday	8 February 2019
	Closed on	Monday and Tuesday	11 February 2019 12 February 2019
	In-service day	Wednesday	13 February 2019
Spring break/Easter	Close on	Friday	29 March 2019
	Re-open	Monday	15 April 2019
	Close on	Thursday	18 April 2019
	Re-open	Tuesday	23 April 2019
Third Term			
Local Holiday	Closed	Monday	6 May 2019
	In-service day	Tuesday	7 May 2019
Local Holiday	Close on	Thursday	23 May 2019
	Re-open	Tuesday	28 May 2019
Summer break	Closed	Friday	28 June 2019
Proposed in-service days	*Proposed date for teachers return (subject to consultation)		

Notes

Good Friday falls on Friday, 19 April 2019

Lanark schools will close 6 and 7 June 2019

Schools will close at 2.30pm on the last day of terms 1 and 2

(Thursday, 21 December 2018 and Friday 29 March 2019)

Schools will close at 1pm on the last day of term 3 (Friday 28 June 2019)

*Two in-service days proposed for August 2019 to be confirmed.

