



## Welcome Back!

As we come to the end of yet another very challenging term can I, first of all, thank our whole school community for how we have once again come together to cope with the significant challenges of lockdown two, since the beginning of January. It has been so good to welcome pupils back into the school over the last 5 weeks, culminating in all pupils having the opportunity to spend some time in school prior to the Easter break. These sessions have been enjoyed by both staff and pupils alike. Thank you for your understanding in dealing with the various restrictions that we have had to put in place to ensure social distancing can be maintained.

This newsletter serves two purposes: it shares many of our good news stories, even in these difficult times; and it reminds everybody of the various COVID-19 mitigations that will continue to be in place on our return next term on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Throughout next term, as things continue to improve, we will update you when certain restrictions are lifted. Your support throughout the last year has been greatly appreciated but I just ask that, no matter what the reason, you do not come into the school grounds to drop off or collect pupils.

There is no doubt next term will again be a very busy one for all. For our senior students, SQA work is going to continue until the end of May and beyond for some. We are confident that we can support our young people to ensure they achieve the SQA success they deserve but there can be no doubt that they will have a very busy 7 weeks on their return. We will issue a S4/5/6 Tracking Report, week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April, which will give all a comprehensive picture of where each pupil is regarding their own SQA results. It will also give a clear sense of what we are offering as a school to ensure any catch up work required can be achieved.

Finally, can I wish you all a very Happy Easter. Please take care and I look forward to welcoming all our students back to Lochside Academy on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Neil Hendry, Head Teacher



Throughout the month of March, Lochside Academy staff and pupils have been involved in the 'Friends of ANCHOR Going the Distance' challenge with the initial aim of raising £2000 for the charity and covering 2000 miles collectively.

Within one week, the response from staff, pupils and the community was overwhelming and we smashed our targets for money raised and miles covered.

Since then, we have raised over £2602.47 (not including gift aid) and have covered almost 8000 miles with still a week to go. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported this worthy cause.

If you would like to support this and make a donation to our fundraising page, please click on the link below. All contributions are hugely appreciated:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LochsideAcademy>



S3 pupils getting the miles in during their PE class time.

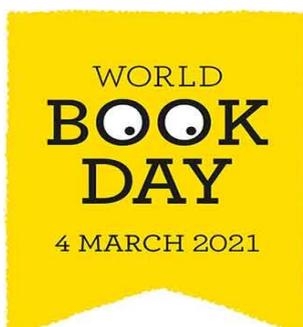
## Literacy Ambassadors

The Lochside Academy Literacy Ambassadors are a large group of seniors who began working together on the 23rd November 2020. Our aim is to raise the profile of the importance of literacy skills for learners and teachers. We also create activities to promote literacy. We are pupil led and we work in collaboration with the teachers' literacy working group.

We had a really successful start in December with our Christmas competition challenging pupils to guess which teacher owned which photographed bookshelf. Then, unfortunately, lockdown happened.

We managed to maintain some presence, despite home learning, by finding and sharing websites with free online books and audiobooks. Then with World Book Day approaching, we saw a real opportunity to get the school involved!

We put together links to many online, fun, literacy based activities, to be shared through Google Classrooms. We also asked staff to dress up as a character and film themselves doing a reading from that character's book. We were delighted that so many great videos were made, so a World Book Day page was added to the school website in order to share them and our other activities. Finally, we held an art competition for pupils to draw their favourite characters. We have been sent many, many pictures of drawings, digital art and even a character in clay! The winner will be announced after the Easter break and it's going to be hard to decide. We hope to add all entrants' art to the school website so that their talent can be enjoyed by all. World Book Day was such a success even though we were not in school and it was great to see how many pupils and members of staff participated.



## Dates for Diary

**Mon 12 April:** Term starts

w/b **Mon 26 April:** S4-6 Tracking Reports issued

**Mon 3 May:** May Day Holiday (School closed)

**Tue 4 May:** In-service Day (School closed to pupils)

**Fri 28 May:** In-service Day (Closed to pupils)

**Mon 31 May:** Senior Phase Induction Day 1 of 2

**Tue 1 June:** Senior Phase Induction Day 2 of 2

**Fri 4 June:** In-service Day (Closed to pupils)

**Mon 7 June:** School timetable changes for all pupils

w/b **Mon 7 June:** P7 Transition programme

**Wed 9 June:** P7 Parents Virtual Meeting (Option 1)

**Thu 10 June:** P7 Parents Virtual Meeting (Option 2)

w/b **Mon 14 June:** Annual Awards Ceremony Week

**Fri 25 June:** Term ends at 2.55pm

## Virtual Library Clubs

Mr Clark, our school librarian, would also like to give a big thanks to everyone who has been taking part in the virtual versions of the Library Clubs over the lockdown period since the start of 2021. There have been some excellent film reviews submitted for Film Club. The 'Choose Your Own Adventure Book Club' participants have managed to get through all of City of Thieves! Dungeons & Dragons has continued virtually every Wednesday after school since the first Lockdown in June and we had our 25<sup>th</sup> session during March.

We have had some excellent pictures of origami sent in for the weekly Thursday Origami Challenges, and thanks to all who took part in the Friday Morning House quizzes on Kahoot and the lunchtime quizzes hosted by Rachel and Cassie on Fridays as well. House points have been gained by all who have participated in the virtual activities, including the winning house from the Morning House quizzes.

Total House points from the participation in the library activities since January will be revealed when we return after the Easter holidays. Watch this space....

## Staffing

Following recent interviews for recruiting new staff in school, congratulations are extended to the following staff who have been offered and accepted permanent posts at Lochside Academy starting in August 2021: Mr Ayman Aldeen (Computing Studies), Mrs Hannah Hall (English), Miss Beth Nicoll (Design and Technology) and Miss Eilidh Simpson (Art and Design). Congratulations to you all and we are delighted you are staying with us.

We are also pleased to report that Mr Jose Raya (Business Studies) has also been appointed to a permanent position recently. Congratulations to Mr Raya!



## CAMHS Grampian

The NHS' CAMHS Grampian service is a mental health service for under 18's based in Aberdeen. The CAMHS Early Intervention team have developed a series of webinars to support parents to support themselves and their children during a time when we know anxiety is likely to be increased.

The webinar topics include:

1. Welcome and meet the team
2. Body tools for anxiety
3. Thinking tools for anxiety
4. Managing anxious behaviours
5. Talking to your child about anxiety
6. Understanding the adolescent brain and impact on teen mental health during the Covid-19 lockdown
7. Looking after your mental health and wellbeing
8. Resources you may find helpful
9. Supporting your child on the return to school following lockdown

The link to access these webinars is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCID3OzHwlngMuHVcoQXZvYQ>

## Health & Wellbeing Faculty Praise Awards



Throughout this term, staff in the Health and Wellbeing faculty have been very impressed with the level of engagement and efforts that many of the pupils have shown during such a difficult time of a second lockdown.

In order to celebrate this and future successes, the Health and Wellbeing faculty have introduced a Praise Award system where pupils will be recognised for the following:

- Consistent good/high standard of work
- An outstanding piece of work
- Work submitted consistently on time
- Excellent effort/attitude to learning

223 pupils in S1 – S3 and 46 pupils in the Senior phase will be receiving their awards from their teachers by email over the next few days for the work they have done throughout this term. Well done to everyone!



## Pupil Entry Point Changes

To facilitate all pupils entering school in a socially distanced manner, we will be continuing to spread the number of young people entering the school building at the start of the school day and after lunch. Pupils must access school via different entry points to reduce large groups of young people from entering the school building via the same entry point.

All pupils must enter the school building at their designated entry point identified in the picture below.

**S1/2 entry point:** Normal pupil entrance leading into the dining area.

**S3 entry point:** Door that leads immediately into the West Wing beside the Design & Technology teaching areas.

**S4 entry point:** Door that leads to the south stairwell, immediately to the left of the library entrance at front of school.

**S5 & S6 entry point:** Door at main entrance to school building, the door that leads immediately to the main office.

All entry points will continue to have hand sanitiser stations available for all pupils and entry points will continue to be supervised by senior staff in school.



## Dropping off and picking up children by car

Please be reminded that parents and carers are not permitted in the school building, school grounds or staff car park without prior agreement. Parents and carers who drop off their child(ren) must avoid driving onto the school estate. As a consequence, children being dropped off or picked up must take place at the roundabout beside Ikea as you approach the school estate (please see photo below). It is disappointing that we have had to continue having school staff standing at the school gate to ensure this happens because of a small minority of drivers who have ignored this rule. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated and ensures that school staff can be assigned to other roles in school instead of monitoring a gate.



## Speaking to a member of school staff

If a parent / carer wishes to talk to a member of school staff, they should telephone the school office in the first instance (01224 241720) and must avoid coming into the school building to request or arrange such a meeting.

## Face Covering Update

As you will be aware, Scottish Government rules have introduced the wearing of face coverings at all times in secondary school buildings by pupils of all ages and school staff. We all have a responsibility to follow the public health measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and the wearing of face coverings is central to the government's strategy to achieve this. With this in mind, it must be stressed that not wearing a face covering in the appropriate places, unless exempt, is absolutely unacceptable and discussing this and impressing this with your child(ren) is greatly appreciated.

As a reminder, face coverings must be worn:

- on all school and public transport to and from school;
- from entering and leaving the school, during classes and moving around in the corridors to get to classes;
- queuing in the canteen area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating.

### HOW TO WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECT:



### INCORRECT:



You may find the following YouTube link about 'How To Wear A Face Covering' useful for your own information and to share this with your child(ren):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMSqc9SpbJc>



## COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme for staff and pupils

As part of the package of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools across Scotland, all Secondary school staff and pupils have now been given the opportunity to participate in the Schools/ELC Asymptomatic Testing Programme.

All parents/carers have been issued information regarding the lateral flow testing along with a link to a google form to give consent for their child to participate in testing.

Identifying asymptomatic individuals at the earliest possible opportunity and asking them and their close contacts to self-isolate will minimise the likelihood of them passing on the virus.

It is important to note that this regular testing is only for individuals without symptoms. Those with symptoms must continue to follow the usual guidance. They must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre or via a home test kit at the earliest opportunity. Pupils with symptoms must not rely on a negative lateral flow test to continue to attend school.

Test kits have been issued to pupils who have agreed to take part. It is recommended that participants test twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday, ideally in the morning or before school). Tests should not be taken during the Easter holidays but should resume/start on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. After the Easter break, test kits will be available for pupils to collect during the second half of lunch break from the external door to the Industry Room (ground floor West Wing). Three packs will be issued to pupils at one time.

Thank you to all pupils who agreed to take part in the programme. Along with the other protective measures we have implemented to keep our school community safe, regular testing of staff and pupils will help to further reduce risks for all.

Pupils may register to take part in the programme at any time by completing the consent form at <https://forms.gle/WZghgUNx4VhEjNVC8>

# Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

# F

Face coverings



# A

Avoid crowded places



# C

Clean your hands regularly



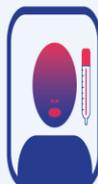
# T

Two metre distance



# S

Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms



[nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](https://nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)  
#WeAreScotland



## What to do if your child is sent home with Covid-19 symptoms

If your child has been identified as displaying Covid-19 symptoms, the following checklist will be helpful to guide you through what you should do as a parent or carer before your child can return to school:

1.  Please book a test for your child as soon as possible by completing the form on the [nhsinform.scot](https://nhsinform.scot) website or by contacting 0800 0028 2816.
2.  It is important that all your household self-isolate immediately and continue to self-isolate whilst waiting for the result of the test.
3.  The school will contact you to check how your child is and to confirm that you have booked a test.
4.  Once you receive the result of the test please forward a copy of the email to [LochsideAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:LochsideAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk)
5.  If your child's COVID test is negative your child(ren) can return to school provided they are feeling better and have not had a high temperature in 48 hours without the need for medication to control fever.
6.  If your child's COVID test is positive, please inform the school immediately. The local contact tracing team will get in touch to identify people who have been in close physical contact with your child. Those identified will be required to self-isolate for 14 days as they may have been infected.

## School Transport Safety

As most of you will be aware, school staff have always ensured that pupils get on the appropriate bus safely at the end of the school day. Since reopening, school staff have been boarding buses to ensure pupils are sitting down and aware of physical distancing messages. Pupils are also asked by school staff to wear face masks before school buses depart from the school estate. Parents and carers should ensure that children carry and use a face mask when travelling to and from school.

## Break and Lunchtimes

We have staggered break and lunchtimes to best manage pupil movement in the canteen area and corridors during breaks and lunchtimes in school.

During morning break, S1-S3 pupils have a 15 minute break from 1010 – 1025 and S4-S6 pupils have their morning break from 1030 – 1045. When pupils have finished eating in the canteen area, they are required to leave the building into the outside open space.

At lunchtimes, the lunchtime for S1-S3 pupils starts 15 minutes earlier than S4-S6 pupils. Like morning break, when pupils have finished eating their lunch, they are required to leave the school building.

As pupils will be outside school buildings for most of their morning break and lunchtime, it is crucial that they bring an outside jacket to wear particularly for when the weather is cold or wet.

At the end of morning breaks or lunchtimes, pupils must re-enter the school building using the appropriate pupil entry point as illustrated on previous page. Staff will be on the doors to monitor use of sanitiser and to control the flow of pupils to ensure physical distancing where possible.

If your child needs an outdoor jacket then please contact your child's Guidance teacher who will be able to provide a jacket for them.

## Physical Education (PE)

Scottish Government and Education Scotland guidance requires schools to eliminate the use of changing rooms and for Physical Education to take place outdoors. From 12 April pupils can resume contact sports outside.

PE staff at Lochside Academy will continue to collect pupil valuables and lock these away during PE teaching time.

As PE must be taught outside, pupils are required to attend school in clothing appropriate for PE and the weather conditions on that day. Should the weather be very bad on any given day, then pupils will be taught PE theory inside.

Changes in incidence of Covid-19 and the impact on the practical, experiential learning in physical education of young people will be kept under review and updated in line with Scottish Government advice.

## Youth Voice regarding lockdown

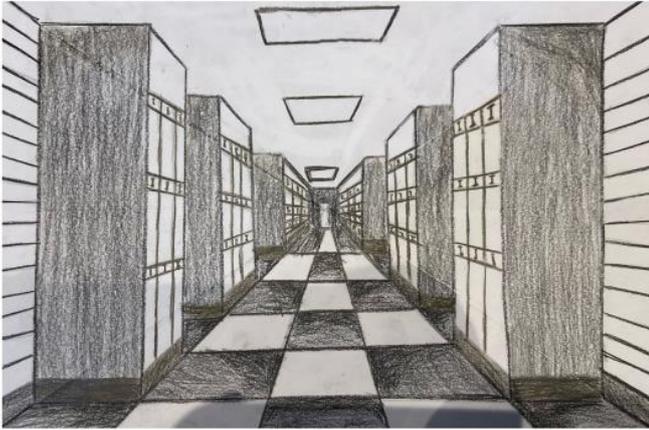
Commissioned by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot, a study of over 6,000 young people was recently released that explores young people's immediate concerns in response to COVID-19. It is a very good insight into hearing the voices of young people and how lockdown has impacted on them. You can access the download link by visiting the Young Scot website:

<https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/lockdowndownload2>

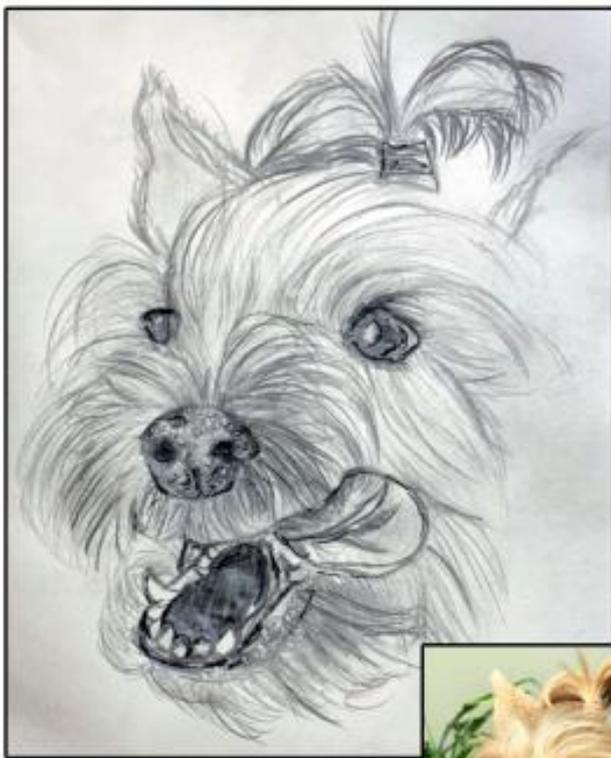


## Artwork Awards

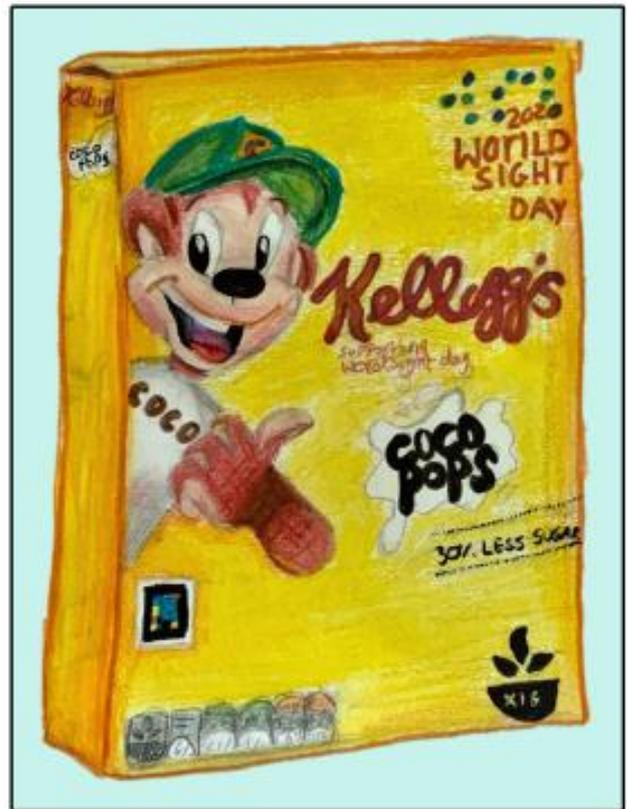
Congratulations to the following pupils for achieving 'Artwork of the Month' awards during this term:



Deniss Romanovs S1 One Point Perspective Charcoal pencil



Nadia Borowicz S2  
A portrait of Phoebe  
Tonal pencil drawing



Vlada Abramova S2 Cereal Box Pastel pencil drawing



Elli Morton S3 "Cakes" Pastel pencil drawing