



Loudoun Academy
Easter
Newsletter 2017



HOLYROOD HERE WE COME !!

Dear Parents/ Carers

It has once again been a very quick term and a very eventful one ! I hope that the newsletter will give you a great sense of the wonderful achievements of our pupils, staff, parents and partners as we hurtle towards our Easter holidays.

You will find some fantastic news about the school's public leaver performance early in the newsletter which we hope will give you even more to celebrate in sending your child to Team Loudoun.

It is , as always, a privilege to work with you and your families towards the very best outcomes for our young people.

Linda McAulay-Griffiths
Head Teacher



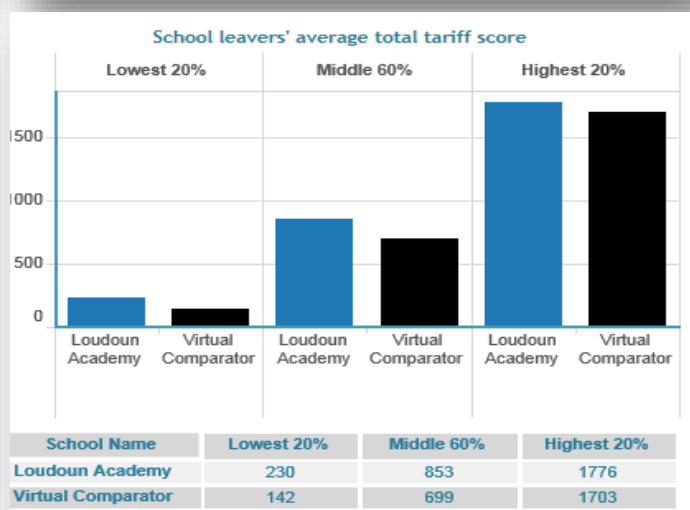
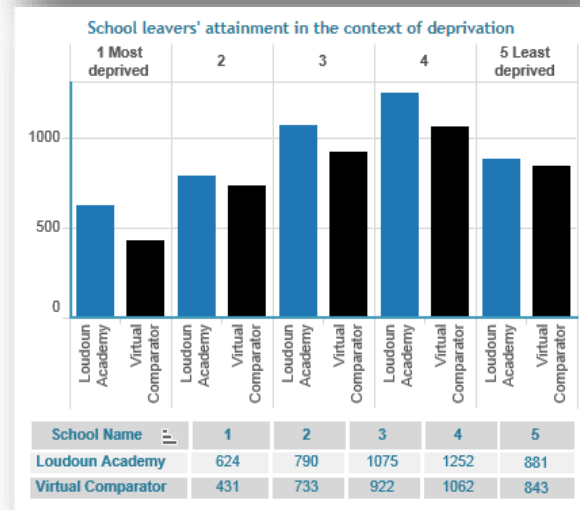
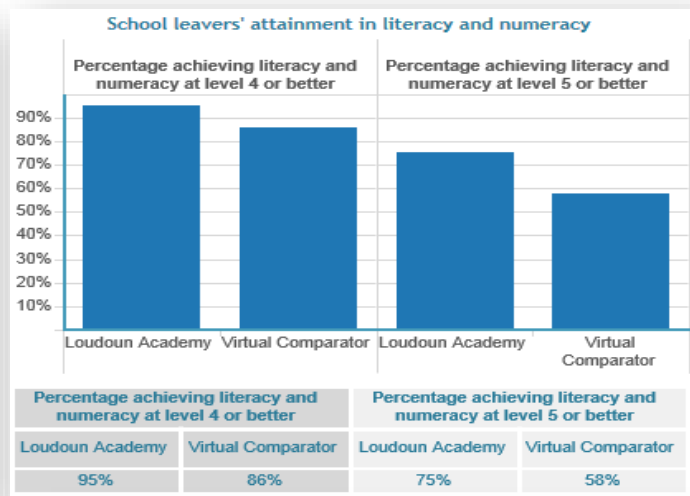
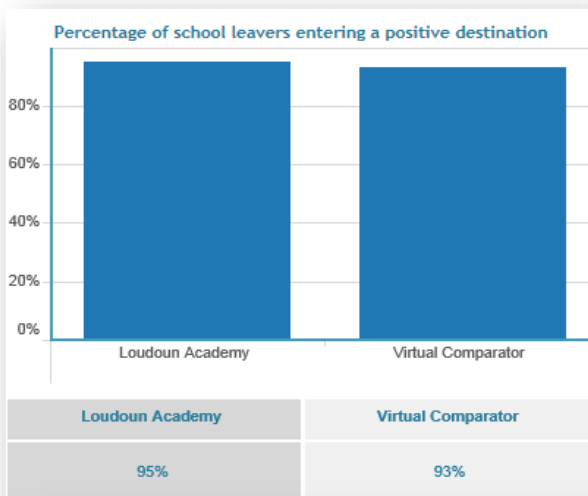
Another historic moment in Loudoun Academy came in March when we awarded our Gold, Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards in advance of our Gold pupils attending the formal royal ceremony at Holyrood Palace. We were honoured to be joined by Kevin Fawcett, Co-ordinator for Duke Of Edinburgh Scotland. We would wish to congratulate ALL award winners but there has to be special mentions for our Gold awardees:-

Cameron Bone	Fiona Cuthbertson	Karen Foster	Catriona Hoy
Ross Keegan	Emma Kerr	Ross Kerr	Rhys Larmour
Alexander MacDonald	Finlay MacDonald	Hannah Messer	Charlotte Winning

Another key element to this success is our huge #teamloudoun support army of parents, EAC staff and school staff. The biggest of thanks to all of you and thank you so much for all that you do to support this amazing venture.

Loudoun Achieves— national leaver data

We are delighted to report further success in addition to the data published in our Christmas newsletter, which pertained to our exam results in August 2016. Each year, data is published in both September and March to reflect the most recent exam results (September) and national leaver data (March). Team Loudoun are DELIGHTED to report a huge success in all national benchmarks to reflect our leavers from Summer 2016. Loudoun pupils are “matched” to 10 identical young people nationally to create a virtual comparator dataset that you will see below, which guides schools as to benchmarks for success. We would encourage all of our readers to take a look at what our amazing Team Loudoun pupils, staff and parents have achieved. Here are some snapshots of our successes from the national data release:-



Further detailed data is publicly available at :-

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/scotxed#!/vizhome/Parentzone2015-16/MainDashboard>

Data for all Scottish schools is available at this site and we are delighted to report that we again secured the TOP slot in EAC for most of the benchmarks analysed. Huge congratulations to all pupils, parents and staff for such a roaring success. We are indeed #teamloudoun.

Loudoun Outward Bound—Loch Eil Trip

OUTWARD BOUND – LOCH EIL TRIP

On the weekend of the 24th-26th February, forty six Loudoun Academy S1 pupils travelled to Loch Eil, Fort William to participate in an Outward Bound outdoors adventure weekend. Pupils participated in a variety of activities, ranging from swimming in the loch (yes in February!), Jacobs ladder climbing, crate climbing, abseiling and gorge scrambling. The pupils had a fantastic weekend, and have developed a huge range of skills to bring back to school and home. Many thanks to the Outward Bound staff for their hard work over the weekend, and our own staff of Mr Hendry, Mrs Dunlop, Mr Hewitson, Mr McQuade and Miss Breen for supporting the pupils over the weekend!



Loudoun Outdoors: Big Woodland Walks

Big Woodland Walks with Newmilns Primary School

Some of our S3 pupils have recently had the opportunity to work with Primary pupils at Newmilns Primary by supporting them as they have undertaken Big Woodland Walks as part of the COACH Project (Curriculum Outdoors Attainment Challenge).

Robert Hendrie, Andrew Hutchison, Alison McCall, Sophie McGeough, Iona Scott and Jennifer Thom all accompanied P4 and P7 pupils from Newmilns Primary as they undertook various tasks outdoors which provided them with meaningful connections between their classroom learning and the community and environment. The group of pupils worked alongside Natalie White (East Ayrshire and Education Scotland Outdoor Learning Development Officer) and Graham Boyd (East Ayrshire Heritage Education Development Officer) over 4 sessions where they undertook task outside in woodland area and in the classroom. Their help has been greatly appreciated and has been valuable to the learning being undertaken by all primary 4 and primary 7 pupils.

All pupils have received a Heritage Hero award for the contributions they made and the learning which they undertook themselves. This was a fantastic leadership opportunity for our pupils and they have all thoroughly enjoyed the experience! We hope this is something that we can run again and provide pupils with further leadership opportunities.



Loudoun Democracy: READY TO VOTE !



We were delighted to be chosen as the national launch school for the “Ready To Vote” campaign which aims to ensure our young voters exercise their democratic rights. We were joined by West Sound, the electoral commission and STV for our event, jointly organised by school and the vibrant communities service.

Pupils of voting age undertook activities to help them understand the importance of engagement in the democratic process and launched their own parties and manifestos. A few pupils (and Mrs Mc Aulay-Griffiths) even got the chance to appear on STV News to express their thoughts on being involved in the voting process .

We now hope that our young voters will transfer this learning to participating in the forthcoming elections.

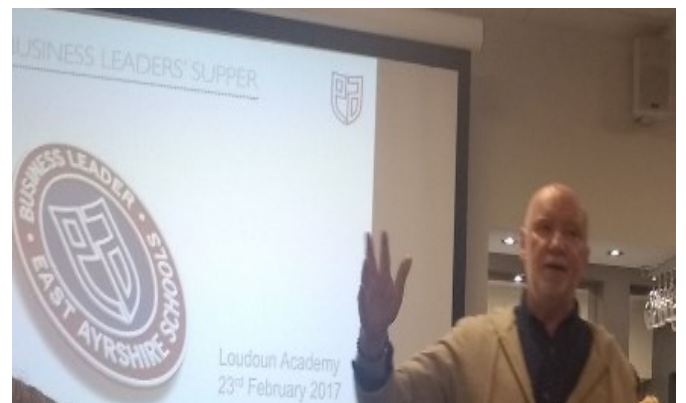


Loudoun Business: Business Leadership Supper



On Feb 24th, we hosted a business leader supper in our new hospitality suite. A range of business leaders from across east Ayrshire were invited to come along and hear about the amazing work going on in our schools. We were thrilled to be joined by Sir Tom Hunter, who gave an inspiring speech to the group of leaders, elected members and head teachers from across the authority. Pupils from our Hospitality and Professional Cookery courses waited tables and prepared barista coffee at the event. Mr Walker was a fabulous compere for the evening.

There were presentations from young people from Kirkstyle Primary School and pupils on the Project Search programme. A wonderful evening in the story of Loudoun Academy.



Loudoun Achieves: SQA EXAM SUPPORT

We have a range of support sessions available to S4-6 pupils in the lead up to final exams. Booklets are available to all pupils and parents/carers. Paper copies are available from Mr Robertson, or you can access details on our school GLOW website.

EASTER SCHOOL

EASTER SCHOOL 3 rd – 4 th – 5 th April						
DATE	SESSION	SUBJECT	LEVEL	TOPIC	TEACHER	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Music	N5/H/ADV	Understanding Music	Miss Bohan/Miss Struthers	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Graphic Communication	H	Exam Questions	Miss Hood	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Mathematics	N5/H	Past Paper Revision	Mr Johnston/Mrs Highet/Mr Carrigan	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	English	N5/H/ADV	Exam Preparation	Ms Johnston/Miss Miller	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Biology	N5	Past Paper Revision & Prob. Solving	Mr McCall	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Chemistry	N5	Past Paper Revision & Prob. Solving	Mrs Gray	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Chemistry	H	Past Paper Revision & Prob. Solving	Mr Casey	
Monday 3 rd April	AM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs Silbrand	
Monday 3 rd April	PM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs Silbrand	
Monday 3 rd April	PM	English	N5/H/ADV	Exam Preparation	Ms Johnston/Miss Miller	
Monday 3 rd April	PM	Business Management	H	Exam Technique & Revision	Mr Morrison	
Monday 3 rd April	PM	Graphic Communication	H	Exam Questions	Miss Hood	
Tuesday 4 th April	AM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs McMahon	
Tuesday 4 th April	AM	Administration	H	Theory Revision & Exam Technique	Mr Morrison	
Tuesday 4 th April	AM	Graphic Communication	N5	Exam Questions	Mr Pauley	
Tuesday 4 th April	AM	Mathematics	H	Past Paper Revision	Mr Johnston/Mrs Highet	
Tuesday 4 th April	AM	Biology	N5	Past Paper Revision & Prob. Solving	Mr McCall	
Tuesday 4 th April	PM	Mathematics	N5	Past Paper Revision	Mr Johnston/Mrs Highet	
Tuesday 4 th April	PM	Graphic Communication	N5	Exam Questions	Mr Pauley	
Tuesday 4 th April	PM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs McMahon	
Tuesday 4 th April	PM	Business Management	N5	Theory Revision & Exam Technique	Mr Morrison	
Wednesday 5 th April	AM	Modern Studies	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs Cornelius	
Wednesday 5 th April	AM	Design & Manufacture	N5	Exam Questions	Mr Henderson	
Wednesday 5 th April	AM	Computing Science	N5/H	Coursework Revision	Mr Beattie	
Wednesday 5 th April	AM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs McMahon	
Wednesday 5 th April	PM	Modern Studies	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs Cornelius	
Wednesday 5 th April	PM	Design & Manufacture	H	Exam Question Techniques	Mr Henderson	
Wednesday 5 th April	PM	Art & Design	N5/H/ADV	Folio Preparation	Mrs McMahon	

MASTERCLASSES

MASTERCLASSES						
DATE/SESSION	TIME	SUBJECT	LEVEL	TOPIC	TEACHER	
Friday 28 th April	08.50-11.20	Design & Manufacture	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Henderson	
	11.35-2.50	Design & Manufacture	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Henderson	
Tuesday 2 nd May	11.35-3.40	Spanish	H	Exam Preparation	Miss O'Rourke	
	08.50-10.30	Music	N5	Exam Preparation	Mrs Flood	
Wednesday 3 rd May	10.30-12.25	Music	H	Exam Preparation	Miss Bohan	
	12.25-3.40	Music	ADV	Exam Preparation	Miss Bohan	
	08.50-11.20	Mathematics	N5	Exam Preparation	Maths Dept.	
Thursday 4 th May	11.35-2.50	Mathematics	H	Exam Preparation	Maths Dept.	
	11.35-2.50	Mathematics	ADV	Exam Preparation	Miss Dempster	
	08.50-10.30	Mathematics	N5	Exam Preparation	Maths Dept.	
Friday 5 th May	08.50-11.20	Chemistry	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Casey	
	11.35-2.50	Chemistry	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs Gray	
	08.50-11.20	History	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Jackson	
Monday 8 th May	11.35-3.40	History	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Jackson	
	11.35-3.40	History	ADV	Exam Preparation	Mrs Murray	
	11.35-1.15	Media Studies	N5	Exam Preparation	Miss Miller	
Tuesday 9 th May	08.50-11.20	English	H	Exam Preparation	English Dept.	
	08.50-11.20	English	ADV	Exam Preparation	Miss Miller	
	08.50-11.20	Graphic Communication	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Henderson	
Wednesday 10 th May	11.35-3.40	Graphic Communication	H	Exam Preparation	Miss Hood	
	10.30-1.15	English	N5	Exam Preparation	English Dept.	
Thursday 11 th May						
Friday 12 th May	08.50-11.20	French	N5	Exam Preparation	Mrs Clunie	
	11.35-2.50	French	H	Exam Preparation	Miss O'Rourke	
Monday 15 th May	08.50-11.20	Business Management	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Morrison	
	11.35-1.15	Business Management	ADV	Exam Preparation	Mr Morrison	
	2.00-3.40	Business Management	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Morrison	
	10.30-1.15	Computing Science	H/ADV	Exam Preparation	Mr Beattie	
Tuesday 16 th May	08.50-11.20	Physics	ADV	Exam Preparation	Mr McQuiston	
	11.35-3.40	Physics	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs MacDonald	
Wednesday 17 th May	12.25-3.40	Physics	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr McQuiston	
	08.50-1.15	Modern Studies	N5	Exam Preparation	Mrs McLaughlin	
Thursday 18 th May	08.50-1.15	Modern Studies	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs Cornelius	
Friday 19 th May	08.50-11.20	RMPS	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Wotherspoon	
	11.35-1.15	RMPS	ADV	Exam Preparation	Mr Wotherspoon	
Monday 22 nd May	08.50-11.20	Biology	H	Exam Preparation	Miss Glass	
	08.50-11.20	Biology	ADV	Exam Preparation	Mr McCall	
	11.35-3.40	Biology	N5	Exam Preparation	Miss Glass	
Tuesday 23 rd May	08.50-11.20	Lifeskills Mathematics	N5	Exam Preparation	Mrs Hamilton	
Wednesday 24 th May	08.50-1.15	Geography	H	Exam Preparation	Mrs Waughman	
Thursday 25 th May	08.50-1.15	Geography	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Cartmill	
Friday 26 th May	08.50-11.20	Admin & IT	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Morrison	
	08.50-11.20	Lifeskills Mathematics	N5	Exam Preparation	Mr Welsh	
Monday 29 th May	08.50-11.20	Art & Design	H	Exam Preparation	Mr Ritchie	
	11.35-3.40	Art & Design	N5	Exam Preparation	Mrs McMahon	
Tuesday 30 th May	08.50-11.20	Physical Education	Higher	Section 1 Support	Mr Lennox	
Wednesday 31 st May	08.50-11.20	Physical Education	Higher	Section 2 (Scenario) Support	Mr Lennox	
Thursday 1 st June						
Friday 2 nd June						

Loudoun Academy—Parent Council



Irish themed quiz night

It was standing room only at our inaugural quiz night and we plan to run another quiz event in June. MASSIVE thanks to Craig Bilham for providing transport for the event. Well done to the winning team - "Linda's little darlings" for their amazing performance !



Pupil Equity Funding Parent Event

The parent council organised an event to focus all parents on how the school may use its' allocation of £80,400 of pupil equity funding. There was a good turn out at the event and excellent ideas were shared with staff of the school for progressing—more detail to come in the new term !!



New intake evening

As always, the parent council played a full and active part in the new intake evening in February and our Chair, Paul White, gave an excellent presentation about the life of the parent council . We look forward to welcoming our new parents once more to the June "Festival of learning" event as part of the transition events.



Loudoun Achieves: Dance Fest



Our brilliant dancers took part in EAC Dance Fest on 15th March, held at the Palace Theatre, we now have dance leaders working with primary schools who are doing an amazing job.

Erin achieves : John Byrne Art Award



A massive congratulations must go to Erin Wilson for this beautiful piece, "Chained" which was initially entered for the John Byrne award. Erin quickly became a finalist and subsequently won runner-up for the Chairman's award.

It is a beautiful and striking piece, which will be exhibited in Edinburgh.

Around Loudoun: Science

Scottish Space School (University of Strathclyde Glasgow)

Congratulations to Kyle Anderson (S5) who has been selected to attend the Scottish Space School (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow). He will be involved in one of the universities most successful outreach programmes. Kyle will attend a week-long residential summer school and experience a mix of lectures, labs and workshops on a space theme. He will also get to meet highly respected academics and researchers from the Faculty, as well as visiting representatives from NASA.

Budding Astronaut – Kyle Anderson

@ScotSpaceSchool @UniStrathclyde



Science Connects with Green Gym

Loudoun pupils from S3 Science and the communication centre have been leading an environmental project as part of the Green Gym development run by The Conservation Volunteers. Pupils have started work on renovating the garden behind the school with a view to growing a variety of fruit and vegetables. The pupils will also be working on improving the biodiversity of the wooded area behind the school by taking part in litter picks, planting wildflowers and creating habitats for wildlife. The project also provides a great opportunity for learners to be active outdoors and try to take notice of the world around them.

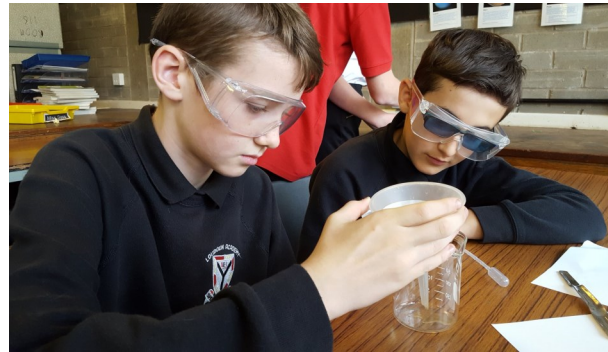


Science - Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning/Practical Investigations across the Faculty

The Science department has been involved in various outdoor learning activities throughout the year. Some of the key aims were to provide opportunities for learners to assess risk and develop creativity and problem-solving skills. The pupils would then take data back to the lab for further analysis.

Testing Soil pH with S2 Science Pupils



Sampling the Environment using Quadrats and Pitfall Traps with S4 Biology



Around Loudoun: Social Subjects

We would like to thank PC Davidson for her valuable work with S3 and S4 Modern studies pupils this term. S4 pupils who chose "Crime and law" as the focus of their SQA assignments interviewed PC Davidson about her experiences in the police and about her opinions about specific laws and current trends in offences and policing. This gave pupils a fantastic opportunity as a great resource.

PC Davidson has also been working with S3 Modern Studies pupils working on their International issues terrorism unit. Her presentation on current counter-terrorism methods was very informative and sparked a lot of thought-provoking debate about how to balance counter-terrorism and public safety with human rights and civil liberties. This is highly relevant to Loudoun's progress towards UN Rights Respecting Schools accreditation.

We have also benefitted from input from our Chinese language assistant, Miss Weay. Every Friday she takes a different group of S2 pupils for a tutorial session. They get the chance to ask questions about life and culture in china as well as learning some basic Mandarin. This helps to bring alive their current study of China.

S3 history pupils got the chance to study the Holocaust. All three classes were extremely interested in this topic and were challenged to think about the impact treating others differently can have. Pupils approached this in different ways. Some researched and made presentations about Holocaust Deniers which they felt strongly about. Others took the opportunity for personal choice to research any aspect of the Holocaust that they wanted to know more about. The pupils all worked very hard to do justice to this harrowing and mature topic and the work they produced was very interesting indeed. Many commented that this was their favourite part of the S3 course!

On January 27th the whole school commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day by watching and discussing an excellent short video (which can be found at <http://hmd.org.uk/>). The theme for this year was 'How can life go on'. This issue was made particularly relevant because of the experience of one of our pupils. Iona Scott discovered that she had a family connection to someone who had been imprisoned in Dachau, the very first concentration camp, near Munich. Iona travelled to Germany and went to Dachau to find out more. What she discovered was terrible but also showed the strength of character that people have when facing discrimination and adversity. All the S3 pupils took on board the message that the Holocaust had to tell but Iona's personal experience took it just one step further. As a result, the presentation that she created was used during our HMD commemoration to highlight that, in fact, 'life can go on' and that our pupils now have a clear understanding of how important it is to stand up to adversity and treat others the way they themselves would like to be treated. Pupils were encouraged to relate this topic to Loudoun's ongoing work as an aspiring UN Rights Respecting School as many children were victims of the Nazis.

In Geography S3 pupils have been working on climate change reports using up to date information and trying to formulate their own opinions. S2 have been making their own maps consolidating the work they have been doing on mapping skills. Travel and tourism are working on customer service and employability skills and recently set up their own travel agency (FLYLA), preparing itineraries and proposing holiday ideas for staff. This has been excellent experiential learning involving the whole school community. They are now all equipped to plan and prepare holidays and excursions for the best prices!

PC Davidson: Positive Choices

Positive Choices linked in with Dumfries House and Army Cadets on Wednesday 15th of March 2017.

Positive choices is about encouraging young people to look at how their attitudes and choices can impact on them and their families. We hope to encourage them to see that they always have a choice and can change their path at any time. This can be a very challenging path which requires continual support.

Throughout the day at Dumfries house our young people learned leadership skills, resilience, communication and how to work as a team.

Each group had the opportunity to try their hand at climbing, archery, the assault course and command tasks set by Army regiments SNIY and 6 SCOTS.

The groups showed confidence, motivation and determination whilst completing all the tasks.

It was a great day and demonstrated the positive choices made by our young people. The day was supported by active Schools coordinator Lynsey Hogg and funded by Vibrant Communities.



PC Davidson: No Knives Better Lives

NKBL – No Knives Better Lives

Young people in East Ayrshire recently took part in a football tournament as part of work to educate them on the dangers of carrying knives and offensive weapons. The No Knives Better Lives Football Tournament took place here at Loudoun Academy on Wednesday 1st March and was organised by pupils in the Positive Choices Group at the school.



No Knives Better Lives (NKBL) is a national initiative which raises awareness of the consequences of carrying knives, offensive weapons and violent crime whilst encouraging young people to make positive lifestyle choices

The tournament took place on Wednesday the 1st of March 2017. This event was a result of the hard work completed by the Positive Choices groups in the school. The groups were tasked with the organising of the event by PC Jemma Davidson, they rose to the challenge and were guided by Lynsey Hogg Active Schools Coordinator and PC Joanne Rae throughout their planning.



All East Ayrshire Academies were invited to participate, it was great to see the schools coming together for a great event.

Two members of the positive choices group had the opportunity to work alongside Tesco's Community Champion Pamela White who very kindly agreed to attend to provide the players with nutritional information and hidden sugar. They provided healthy snacks and water to the teams.



S1 pupils that attended had a great day playing football whilst learning the NKBL



PC Davidson: No Knives Better Lives

The boys all worked extremely hard and overcame many hurdles to have a fantastic event. They refereed the games and ran the NKBL workshop where they presented to their peers.



St Joseph's team were the victors and received the NKBL shield to display at their school.

The positive choices group would like to thank everyone who supported them and Loudoun Academy PE department for the facilities on the day.



No Knives Better Lives Rugby Tournament

Our male and female rugby teams took part in the above tournament on Friday 17th March, organised by East Ayrshire police and Kilmarnock Rugby Football Club. Well done to all pupils who took part.

Primary 7 Rugby Festival

We welcomed our education group p7 schools to our annual rugby festival, organised by our vibrant communities team. Every year our school of rugby grows in numbers and we are current U-16 Ayrshire rugby champions.



LGBT at Loudoun



HARMONY

LGBT

Students at Loudoun Academy made history last month by launching 'Harmony' - the school's first LGBT support group - during LGBT history month.

Area Commander for East Ayrshire, Chief Inspector John Cairns, visited Loudoun Academy on Thursday 23rd February 2017 to meet the students who have set up the group and Depute Head Teacher Lesley Whiteside.

S6 Students Ellie Bryson and Jenna Cotton have worked alongside the East Ayrshire Council Vibrant Communities team and PC Jemma Davidson, to launch the group and develop a peer education LGBT programme. The group are now presenting to classes throughout the school to raise awareness, provide support to their peers and to provide a safe place to discuss any issues or concerns they may have.



Around Loudoun: Pupil Support

This term all pupils, excluding S1 pupils, have had individual options interviews with their Pupil Support teacher, ensuring that specific subjects are studied to increase the chance of entering their preferred industry. All senior pupils who are leaving this year have had individual help and advice from both Pupil Support and the careers advisors. All pupils intending on leaving have now applied for further education, apprenticeships or jobs. Most university applicants have now received all offers and most are working towards conditions set by the Universities. Some college applicants have now been through the interview process and been accepted and given conditions to meet in their final exams to secure their place on the course.

All pupils have received information and presentations from SDS, helping raise awareness of possible career paths and what is required to enter certain professions.

All S2 and S5 pupil were involved in a Business Seminar which resulted in pupils interacting with various companies and agencies to help highlight and raise aware of various career paths and what is involved in working in these industries.

All S6 pupils were given the opportunity to attend a Reckless Driving Wrecks Lives workshop which was very hard hitting and effective in raising awareness of the possible consequences of reckless driving.

All S1 pupils attended a Careers fair which raised awareness of various career options, specifically focusing on modern apprenticeships.

Our S5/6 Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) have been presenting lessons to junior pupils during PSE, with the main focus this term being on social media and positive relationships.

Niki Kidd from STAR has presented to all S1/2/3 and 4 pupils, covering various topics such as gender, relationships, social media and sexual consent and violence. These sessions have been extremely interactive and informative.

George McGinn has presented to all S5/6 pupils regarding interviews skills and money management, specifically focusing on common issues regarding finances when going into further education.

Stewart Ivory foundation are working with our S6 pupils looking at Finance, budgeting, the pupils are undertaking task which we hope will support them when they leave school.

A small number of our S4 pupils worked with Glasgow University on their REACH program, The program gives the pupil an insight into areas of study such as Law, Engineering, Medicine, Accountancy and Vet Medicine



Around Loudoun: Pupil Support

10 S5 pupils had the opportunity earlier in the month to Visit GTG's training facilities in Glasgow and hear about the work the company done and also about their apprenticeship scheme

6 S4 pupils visited the new Ayrshire college campus on 21st march to see the faculties available and learn more about the HIVE and the 247 program

Primary Visits to the primary feeder schools will be starting shortly and for the first time the House Captains will be attending the visits with the Pupil Support staff to speak to the P7 pupils.

Pupil support staff also organised an S3 options afternoon , also attended by parents, to ensure that pupils were aware of subjects for the senior phase. (pics below)



The new House Point system has been working well with all pupils and staff being actively involved. Pupils are rewarded points based on; attendance, effort, behaviour, homework, representing the school, department competitions, competing outside of school and for general acts of kindness. The last monthly points will be calculated at the end of May. The current points are as follows.

Arran – 1973

Barra – 2255

Harris – 1748

Hoy – 1838

Skye – 2004

Who will win the first year and earn the House Award and reward?

Around Loudoun: Communication Centre

Communication Centre

S1 pupils within the Communication Centre received input from PC Davidson in their Social Subjects class where we were looking at types of evidence. We were able to have an excellent time learning how the police classify and deal with evidence. We learned about cross contamination, protection of an incident scene, and had our fingerprints taken.



The P7's who will make up our s1 intake in August have begun their extended transition to Loudoun. The visit every Wednesday morning to complete work in Numeracy and Literacy as well as to visit departments and familiarise themselves with the school. This is proving very successful and the pupils are very positive about their new experiences and the people they have met so far. Their Parents visited the Centre on Thursday 9th of February before attending the P7 Information Evening in the Assembly Hall.



GREEN GYM

Eight pupils from the Centre are taking part in the "Green Gym initiative run by the Conservation Volunteers. They, along with another group from within the school are hoping to revitalise the school garden and to ultimately produce vegetables.

PARENTS

The Communication Centre Parents' forum will meet again on Thursday 30th of March for our Spring meeting. There will be a chance for our parents' to meet each other, and our new member of Teaching staff Mr Barry Caldwell who will join us from 18th of April.

Huge congratulations to Jak Smith S3 who has become a published author. He has a short story published in 'Welcome to Wonderland: Scotland'. We are all very proud of Jak for achieving this.

Around Loudoun: Art and Design

This has been a very busy and exciting term, with a number of extracurricular activities being undertaken across a range of age groups.

For 4 days at the end of March, a group of 16 S3 students were given the opportunity to work with a professional milliner and hat designer. The students used their current design development and research ideas to work with the designer, and create a hat designs relevant to the N4/5 curriculum. The workshops explored hat forms, use of materials, colour combinations, and investigated sewing / embroidery techniques. This was a unique opportunity to work in a sustained learning environment with someone from the real world of design.



During January, S1 Art and Design pupils were lucky to work with wonderful visual artist Gemma Coyle engaging in new techniques and big ideas for the National Galleries of Scotland Tesco Bank competition. Pupils explored a range of art media from printmaking to textiles and it was great to see pupils thinking outside the box and using their imaginations to create exciting images.

S6 pupils Charlotte Bishop, Erin Frater and Emily Frazer were in the Junk Kouture national final at the SECC. They showcased their amazing design Fire and Ice in front of a 1,500 strong audience. The celebrity judging panel including Louis Walsh, the Saturdays' singer Una Healy and top fashion designer Rhys Ellis were impressed by the innovative use of materials including recycled plastic bottles in the girls design. 1000 pupils entered, 80 designs made the grand final and Loudoun Academy finished in the top 10! Proud!



In February, our S6 Photography group spent an afternoon with the senior Sun Newspaper photographer Mark Sweeney. The group were also joined by other students undertaking the media studies course. Mark gave an in depth presentation about photography, including from a business point of view. There was also time to view and give advice on the work currently in progress by the students.

After the practical prelims for S4/5 students, we are now focussing on the completion of final pieces of Art and design work. Much of the work looks promising at this stage with a broad variety of themes being covered in fashion design in particular. A lot of thought is required at this stage in order to make decisions on finishing touches and material details. Staff have been working hard to guide individuals as to what is best based on past experience and knowledge of the student's abilities and interests. Additional time will be offered to all S4/5 to enable them to achieve the best possible finish to their work. This includes Easter school.

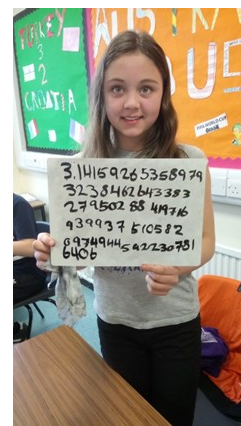
Around Loudoun: Mathematics

Following the prelim exams in January all work in S4, 5 and 6 classes have been geared up towards the completion of unit assessments and preparations for the final exam diet in May. It has been a very busy time and the department staff have been supporting the students through lunchtime sessions, after school sessions and the forthcoming Easter school days. In addition to students' own preparations at home this should ensure that students have a greater amount of confidence going in to the maths exams on 5th May and 29th May (Lifeskills).

World Pi Day

This is an annual event which takes place on the 14th March. This is because the date could be written (in USA) as 3/14 which is, of course, the value of Pi to two decimal places (3.14).

Pi (π) is the Greek letter that is used to symbolise the value for the circumference divided by the diameter in any circle. It is an infinite number and many of its decimal places are being displayed in the pictures below by David Murray and Katie Glover (both 1Ba1). David was also able to recite the digits of Pi to 50 decimal places.



Hannah's Healthy Pi Cheesecake

Prior to Pi Day, Hannah Fallow (1Ar1) made her healthy cheesecake. This was enjoyed by most of Mr Johnston's S1 class. Her recipe is below:

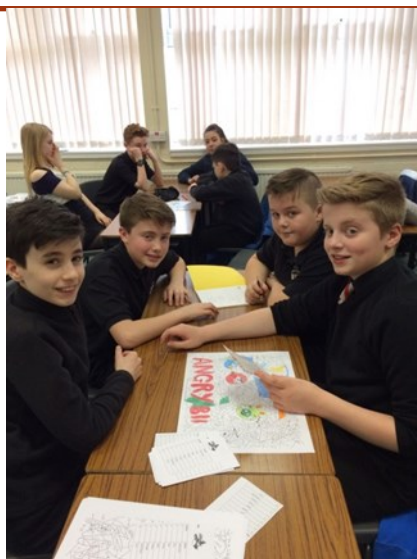
- Crumble digestive biscuits and add to melted butter or margarine
- Spread across a plate or cake tin and allow to cool
- Add a jelly sachet to 200ml jug of hot water
- Add a chocolate orange yoghurt and $\frac{1}{2}$ small tub of cream cheese to the jelly and mix well
- Spoon over the digestive base and allow to set
- Decorate with chocolate fingers to create the Pi (π) symbol



Around Loudoun: Mathematics

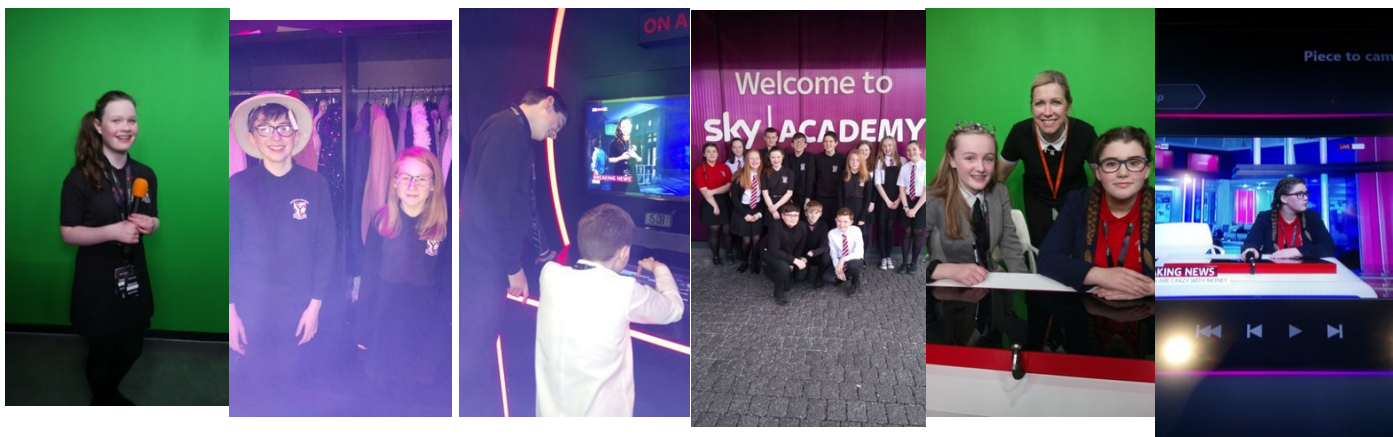
World Number Day

This annual event is in aid of the NSPCC and pupils in S1 and S2 got the chance to take part in a number of different activities relating to numbers. This included Relays, Who wants to be a Mathionaire and Speed Quizzing. Pupils also got the chance to wear a numbered top to mark the day. Well done to all who took part.



Sky Skills Academy

Fourteen S2 pupils were accompanied by Mr Johnston and Mrs Hight to the Sky Skills Studios in Livingston. Pupils got the chance to research The World of Money topic and prepare and film a news bulletin.



Around Loudoun: Rights Respecting Schools

Loudoun Academy is working towards achieving the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Level 1 Award.

27th January - World Holocaust Day

Pupils in History marked World Holocaust Day. We were all moved by Iona Scott's moving account of the Holocaust shared by her teacher Mrs Murray.

Article 6: You have the right to Life

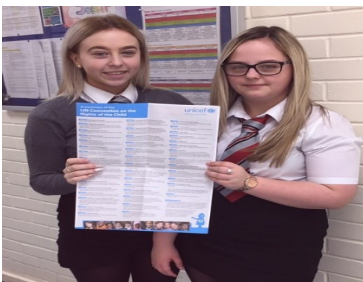
7th February - Internet Safety Day

PC Davidson gave an informative talk on Internet safety. Children and young people have the right to access information (**Article 17**) It is essential that young people are empowered to take advantage of the many benefits the internet has in a safe and informed way, whilst respecting their right to privacy (**Article 16**) and their right to protection (**Article 19**).



Loudoun Academy - Rights Respecting School Video

Mrs Miller's media studies class are working hard to produce Loudoun's RRS video. We look forward to seeing this on our screens after the Easter holiday.



Aisling McGinn and Kelly Clark – RRS video directors

The school will be formally launching our new "Positive Relationships Policy" shortly after our return from the Easter break—watch this space.

Rights Respecting Schools

RRS Posters and logo design

In Art and Design S2 have been busy creating fantastic Rights Respecting School posters illustrating the UNCRC and our school values. Look out for them around the school!

We also look forward to seeing entries for our S1-S3 RRS logo design competition which professional graphic designer Taylor Quate has kindly offered to judge!



Comic Relief

Article 6 (Survival and Development): Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily

As a school, we work hard through our charity events to help children locally and globally. Look out for our red nose photos in the next bulletin!



Around Loudoun: Home Economics

S1/2 pupils are working on aspects of Food & Nutrition. Their practical work reflects the area which they have been studying. Most of our pupils thoroughly enjoy the dishes they make. Our S3 Hospitality pupils made lovely Easter cakes and are studying Food Hygiene. It is hoped that they will sit their REHIS award after the Easter break. S3 Fashion & Textiles course is proving to be a great success. The pupils have just recently designed and made eco bags to a good professional standard. A number of Textiles students visited 2 x 1 day course at Dumfries House. They had the opportunity to use expensive fabrics, learn new techniques and finally produce some unusual cushions. All pupils are keen to have a return visit!

Our S4 Hospitality pupils are working hard for their final exam. The pupils who attend College Hospitality, helped out at the recent Business Dinner which was held at the Barista Suite at Loudoun Academy. They were a credit to themselves and to the school.

S5/6 Higher textiles have completed their practical work for their final project. We have a variety of items such as beautiful princess costumes, dressing up costumes, dresses for wedding guests, Christening robe and up market tweed cushions all made to a very high standard. The students have worked well on this task. They now have to finalise the written section of their project which is sent to SQA for marking.

Around Loudoun: Computing & Business Education

Marty the Robot

The school has recently been selected to participate in a pilot programme which will see Marty the Robot be used to teach BGE pupils the fundamentals of programming, electronics, mechanical design, 3D printing and robotics. This 12 inch high robot can be programmed to walk, turn, dance, kick a ball, and more. He can be built step-by-step and can even have additional features 3D printed to customise his look. His imminent arrival is already creating a buzz amongst some of the younger students.



Gaming club

The club has recently purchased a new PlayStation 4 and games to replace equipment which was damaged in the storm of Feb 2016. The number of youngsters attending continues to grow and we may look into expanding the club next year and possibly offering a coding club to allow them to create their own fantastic games. There are a number of great opportunities for young games designers right now and the department are looking at how we can participate more in local and national competitions.

Ayrshire Young Entrepreneurs Club

A group of 10 third year pupils are participating in the Ayrshire Young Entrepreneur's Club, AYE. There are 4 workshops held at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock and funded by DYW Ayrshire aimed at young people who are interested in setting up their own business. The workshops are one per month from February to May.

AYE gives the pupils the opportunity to hear from local young entrepreneurs who have gone through the Princes Trust process and also to experience workshops related to entrepreneurial thinking.

The group of 10 young people will be encouraged to start thinking of a sustainable business that could be run in Loudoun Academy after the end of the AYE sessions.

So far the first two sessions have focussed on the 10 young people setting up their own business, thinking of a name and their own personal roles within the business, then deciding on a product or service to sell.

Around Loudoun: English

It has been a busy term in the English department!

Senior classes have completed prelims then analysed them; completed internal assessments, more course work for the exam and writing portfolios/assignments which are sent away and marked externally.

Classes S1-3 have been completing creative writing essays; transactional essays; close reading; personal reading; knowledge about language work and critical essay work on a new text.

S2/3 entered a 'Welcome to Wonderland' mini saga competition and 20 pupils were chosen to be published which is a fantastic recognition of their creative talent!

S2 pupil Jenny Bone came first in the Ayrshire Poetry Festival in Irvine, reciting 'The Braw Whooper' by Robert Burns. She received a trophy and medal for this superb achievement and is now through to the national competition in April so we wish her the very best of luck!

S1/2 pupils raised the amazing sum of £190.85 for the Readathon charity, once again demonstrating a commitment to helping sick children while strengthening their skills in personal reading.

S5 Creative Industries pupils have been busy creating a Twitter feed for the Irvine Valley Community Clean Up initiative led by Sally Cogley which is on 9th April. Any school/community involvement would be really appreciated.



Around Loudoun: Library

Barry Hutchison Author Visit

S1 and S2 pupils were invited to East Ayrshire Librarians annual Spring Read held at Kilmarnock Academy in February. Author Barry Hutchison, author of *The Invisible Fiends* and *Beaky Malone* series of books gave a very humorous and inspirational talk about his life, becoming an author and inspirations. Barry read extracts from two books, one from *Mr Mumbles*, part of the *Invisible Fiends* series and *World's Greatest Liar*, his newest book from the *Beaky Malone* series. Pupils were then invited to ask Barry questions about favourite books, authors, inspirations and future projects before he signed copies of his books for them. This was an invaluable experience for pupils, meeting a young successful writer whose books the pupils find very enjoyable.



Scottish Teenage Book Prize

The S3 Book group have recently been taking part in the Scottish Teenage Book Prize. Since January, the group's four pupils, Ailsa Richmond, Gemma Brown, Jayme Pollock and Sophie McGeough, have been reading the three shortlisted novels. Nominated were *Black Cairn Point* by Claire McFall, *The Last Solider* by Keith Gray and *Silver Skin* by Joan Lennon. The Loudoun Academy Library was lucky enough to receive the nominated titles from the Scottish Book Trust. The winner (and our favourite) was *Black Cairn Point*, a teenage thriller set just down the road in Stranraer. The Book Group met to watch the Scottish Book Trusts video announcing the winner.



World Book Day 2017

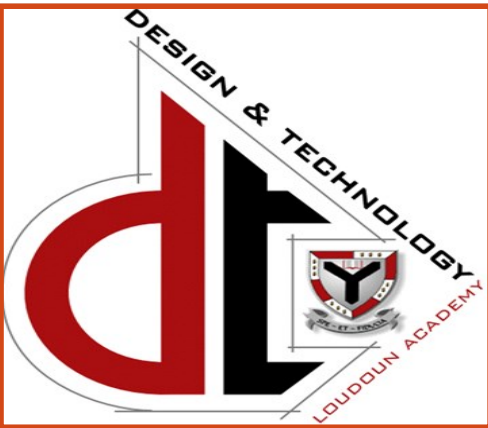
World Book Day 2017 kicked off with a Staff Shelfie Competition. Staff members from #Team Loudoun sent in photos or "Shelfies", of their bookcases at home. Pupils were then to match the correct Shelfie to the correct member of staff. The winners were Ellie Fulton and Jennifer Houston guessing 6 out of ten correctly.

Loudoun Academy Library also ran a bookmark competition. Pupils were asked to design their own bookmarks and the top three were Molly Murray, Keira Connell and Jennifer Murray who all received an Easter Egg for their efforts!

The Library welcomed our Hurlford visitors on World Book day for story telling sessions. Both Hurlford Primary and Loudoun Academy pupils received a voucher they could redeem for a free book from local retailers.



Around Loudoun: Technical Education



The D&T department have been really busy over the last few months with pupils in all subjects working on their Course Assessment Tasks for the SQA, introducing the new Performing Engineering Operations course (PEO) and our departmental staff continuing to develop new and modern course projects for our S1 to S3 pupils.

Passive Speaker project:

Miss Hood has been busy developing a passive speaker design project for S2 pupils. The mixed material project blends traditional wooden manufacturing and modern laser cutting techniques. Look out for these coming home really soon.

Unfortunately Miss Hood has been conducting extensive testing with Ed Sheeran's new album on repeat for the last week.



Metal and Plastic clock for S2 pupils:

Mr Henderson has been busy developing a new metal and plastic clock design project. This new project allows pupils to experience sheet metal manufacturing techniques, design using CAD software and utilises our laser cutter. The project has proved really popular and pupils are eager to get their own personalised clocks home with them.



Around Loudoun: Technical Education

Another logo !

Miss Hood has been working with her 2V, 2Q, 2P and 2N classes on developing a new DFS logo. The results are excellent. Well done guys.



Performing Engineering Operations kit:

It is exciting times for our new PEO course. Each of the 11 pupils who have enrolled in this unique course will be given a personal toolbox with the essential pieces of engineering kit to allow them to progress through the course.

To celebrate the launch of this unique joint partnership course we have a business launch event in March and a course launch event in April / May. Keeping checking the schools website for more information.

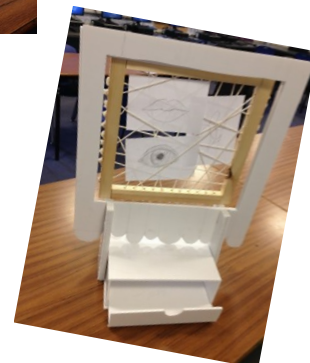


Modelling!

National 5 and Higher Design and Manufacture have been using their modelling skills to help them develop their designs for their course assessment tasks.

The quality of these models have been excellent and should help boost their grades.

Well done guys keep up the good work.



Keep checking our twitter feed for regular updates:

@loudoun_DT

Thanks Mr Henderson

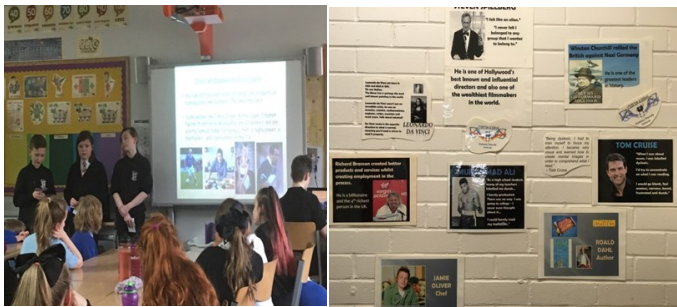
PT Design & Technology

Around Loudoun: Support For Learning

Dyslexia Friendly Schools

We have had a big focus on dyslexia this term as we make our bid towards becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School. In January our DFS group made a visit to Galston Primary School to give a presentation on dyslexia to Primary 7 and to answer any questions the pupils had about transition. The group will make a similar visit to Hurlford Primary P.7 at the end of this month.

Several displays have gone up around the school highlighting dyslexia, including information boards in the entrance foyer and outside the assembly hall to give parents and visitors information. Every department was given a display on famous people with dyslexia based on their subject. If you would like further information the school Dyslexia policy and information on how to help with homework are on the school website.



In March we have had Dyslexia Awareness Week. Pupils across the school have been shown a cartoon on how it feels to have dyslexia, as well as a powerpoint on dyslexia awareness and the powerpoint made by the DFS group for the primary schools. The DFS group distributed a helpbox to every department to help with dyslexia friendly strategies and gave out blue ribbons at break and lunch to raise awareness of dyslexia.

SQA Additional Assessment Arrangements

This year we have approximately 40 pupils receiving Additional Assessment Arrangements for the SQA exams. These arrangements range from pupils receiving extra time, a prompt or separate accommodation to pupils sitting exams using ICT and digital exams which allows a pupil to have the question paper read to them by the computer and they in turn can then type their answers and have the computer read them back to them. Pupils using digital papers have received training in the use of them and can use them in a wide range of subjects including science subjects.

Celebrating Abilities Conference

A group of 12 pupils from the Communication Centre and Support for Learning Department attended the Celebrating Abilities Conference at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock in January. They attended workshops which enabled them to experience the difficulties faced by people with visual impairments, hearing impairment, physical disability and autism. They particularly enjoyed performing tasks using wheelchairs!

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this innovative experience. This was the first conference of this kind in Scotland and was attended by pupils from all over East Ayrshire.



Literacy & Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy

Departments have now all completed mini-audits of their S1-S3 courses using the recently published Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks. The results of these are hugely positive and highlight the fantastic literacy and numeracy provision for pupils across the curriculum. Pupils are clearly given the opportunity to employ and develop these skills across a huge range of learning contexts and activities here at Loudoun. The final version of the Benchmarks is due to be published by Education Scotland in June.

Further up the school, S4 pupils have been busy completing their Literacy and Numeracy assessments at both National 4 and National 5 Levels. It is our aim for ALL of our S4 pupils, including those leaving at the end of the school year, to attain at least a qualification in both Literacy and Numeracy so that they have the skills and qualifications needed to succeed both in education and in the workplace.

Some more details have been revealed, meanwhile, regarding the new standardised tests in Literacy and Numeracy that pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will sit from the beginning of next session. Deputy First Minister John Swinney has announced that the tests will be developed and delivered by ACER International and will be completed online. They will be automatically marked by the online system which will allow teachers to provide immediate feedback to help children progress. We will keep you updated as more details regarding the tests are released. In the meantime, have a look at the Scottish Government information leaflet for parents. This can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework/NatonallImprovementFramework>

D. Ball and K. Dempster

PTs Literacy and Numeracy

Around Loudoun: Modern Languages and RMPS

First year pupils have started working collaboratively to source information and present findings relating to Spring/Summer celebrations in the 6 major world religions. They will develop teamwork skills through participation in Spring/Summer celebrations project. This will also help them develop the skills of expression, interpretation, enquiry and analysis.

Second year pupils have been considering Article 14 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are doing this as part of the whole school focus on China. This will also form part of the focus on Loudoun's status as a Rights Respecting School. They have also been looking at equality as it relates to Sikhism.

Third year pupils have been working on the Youth Philanthropy Initiative. This involves investigating a local charity, making contact with them and putting together a presentation highlighting their work. The group which presents the work of the charity in the most innovative and effective way will gain £3,000 for their chosen charity. This also forms part of the SQA Core Award in Religion, Beliefs and Values.

A number of fourth year pupils have been working towards the SQA Core Award in Religion, Beliefs and Values. They have investigated the issue of marriage and its relevance in today's world. Earlier in the session some of the fourth year pupils also took part in a shoebox appeal sending gifts to disadvantaged people in Eastern Europe.

Senior pupils are preparing for final exams and have just recently completed assignments and dissertations in Higher and Advanced Higher RMPS. More than forty senior pupils have been engaged in this, demonstrating that is a popular subject at Loudoun and gives pupils the opportunity to hone their analytical and evaluative skills.

On Tuesday 10th February, 10 of our S1-S3 pupils took part in a Chinese New Year workshop organised by North Ayrshire council at Saltcoats Town Hall. The pupils learned Chinese dancing and Tai Chi, calligraphy, played Chinese games and honed their paper cutting skills. They also had a Chinese lunch and report that it was delicious!

A group of S3 pupils French went to a "Languages for Business Event" hosted at St. Joseph's Academy. They attended various motivational workshops and spoke to many people who used languages in their jobs. Pupils also spent time at a career fair where they spoke to businesses such as Trump Turnberry. Engaging with so many people enthusing about languages and seeing how they are really valuable in the world of work was a real eye opener for the pupils and they were incredibly positive about the whole experience.

Around Loudoun: Modern Languages and RMPS

Euroscola 2017

Early Tuesday morning I left from Glasgow airport heading to Schipoll Airport, Amsterdam then onwards on another flight to Basel, from there we travelled up to Strasbourg by bus. It was a long day of travelling, but here in Strasbourg, I would spend three full days taking part in activities and the Euroscola 2017 day held in the EU parliament. Our first icebreaker activity began whilst waiting on our connecting flight at Amsterdam airport. To get to know one another we played people lotto, this involved having to ask questions, in French, to one another in order to complete our cards. At the airport we also got into pairs and prepared French sketches based on a scenario that we were all given- "you bump into someone who went on the Euroscola trip with you 30 years later at the airport". Once we arrived at the hostel we were quickly back out and went on a tour of Strasbourg at night. Groups were made in advance so that we could prepare a small presentation on specific landmarks. My group and I gave our presentation on the first night about Hôtel de ville, Place Broglie and Place du Marché. When we got back to the hostel we got some time to finalise our sketches, we then performed these sketches to everyone else followed by an early night in bed.

On Tuesday our morning began with a walk over the bridge- Pont de l'Europe- to Germany. In Germany we got some free time to have a look around and the chance to get some lunch and practice some German phrases taught to us by Thomas. Afterwards we were split into groups and then went into pairs. In these pairs we carried out surveys in busy Strasbourg squares and streets. The questions were Scottish based, for example, what do you associate with Scotland. With these surveys we got the chance to practice of French with native speakers and make use of our listening skills. After we had completed our surveys we got free time to explore Strasbourg and do a little souvenir shopping. Later that evening we made our first trip to the EU parliament, here we got participate in a question and answer session with Catherine Stihler, who is a Labour MEP.



Around Loudoun: Modern Languages and RMPS

On Wednesday morning we learned about the Strasbourg Challenge. This involved us getting back into groups, where we had to prepare and present a short documentary on a given topic- my group and I were very lucky, the topic we got was gastronomie. However, there was a catch, we had to use as many tenses and subjunctives as we could. We then had our tour of La Petite France which is Strasbourg's old town, while at La Petite France we heard other group's presentations on key places we had visited on the first night. We then gathered into our groups and went to cafes to brainstorm ideas on how we would film our documentaries. In our group we decided that we wanted to include traditional, modern and multi-cultural food. So off we went and visited wine, cheese, pastry shops, as well as McDonalds and an ice cream parlour. We also asked people on the street questions about food in Strasbourg. We had to return to the hostel by 4pm where we got some time to edit our documentaries. At night we walked to a cafe that was a couple of minutes from the hostel and watched everyone's documentaries and had a quiz. It was a fun filled night and my team even won the quiz!



Friday morning was an early start with a walk in the rain to the EU parliament. After going through security we got briefed -in French- on how the day was planned out. Then while in our specific discussion groups we went into the lunch halls where we were able to talk to the other students from other EU countries. We then moved to the hemicycle where all EU countries were presented by two or three people- Rosie and Ewan presented for Scotland and the whole of the UK. There was then some time for questions to be asked to Evelyne Gebhardt, who is the vice president of the parliament. It was then lunch time and the start of the Eurogame.



For the Eurogame we had to get into groups of 4, made up of people from different nationalities and then answer a series of questions asked in languages from all over the EU- there were over 17 languages. After lunch we were split into our discussion group- my group's discussion was on human rights and security. In the chambers we selected one person to be the 'rapporteur' and the other to be the chairman of the discussion. Then in the chambers we split into groups of about 8 and discussed hot topics surrounding human rights and security- I got to practice both my French and Spanish here! Then everyone returned to their seats and we had an open discussion, I used this opportunity to put some of my thoughts across. After an hour of debating we returned to the hemicycle. Every discussion groups 'rapporteur' reported back their group's thoughts to the entire hemicycle and even faced some questions from the floor. After more debating we eventually found out who won the Eurogame- my team was not successful. However, a girl from Scotland and her team did make it to the final and successfully answered the tiebreaker question to win the quiz. Even a teacher on the trip with us and her team won the teacher Eurogame. Our Euroscola day ended with the Anthem of Europe being played and all the EU flags being brought out, it had been a long but amazing day.

Around Loudoun: Modern Languages and RMPS

Our Friday night ended with a ceilidh, it was a fantastic way to end an amazing trip. We then watched a collage of our trip photos, making everyone very sad to leave. All that was left was another early morning on Saturday to start our travel home. After an hour bus journey and two delayed flights we made it back to Glasgow airport to say our farewells. The trip was a once in a lifetime experience that allowed me to make new many friends all over Scotland and in other countries of Europe. I was also able to practice my French talking, listening and grammar as well as gaining some practice in Spanish. This trip would not have been able as successful without the help of Kara, she created a fantastic trip and it is a shame that this was one of the last trips that shall take place at the European Union.



Around Loudoun: Modern Languages and RMPS

In March, we welcomed a Belgian student Bénédicte who is at university training to be a teacher in Liege. She was with us for a fortnight and worked with French classes of all levels and stages. She delivered an interesting and insightful presentation to pupils on her life in Belgium and participated in a question and answer session with classes too. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed having Bénédicte in the department and she will be keeping touch with us – merci!

On Wednesday 2nd February our three S6 Chinese ambassadors Kimberly Chow, Martine Forbes and Laura Fulton along with two S5 pupils studying Mandarin this year, Jude Forrest and Shannon Kerr were invited to East Ayrshire HQ in London Road to celebrate Chinese New Year. They saw the lion dance being performed and were even given the task of carrying the dragon during the procession to the Dick Institute and back. Speeches were given by members of EAC and of course the Chinese community and a buffet lunch with some Chinese specialities was enjoyed afterwards.

Keeping with the Chinese theme, our Mandarin teacher Wei has been out visiting our partner primary schools on a weekly basis. Last term she worked with Newmilns and Galston and this term she continues her great work with Galston and is also working with Fenwick and Hurlford. The feedback from the primaries has been very positive and the pupils are really enjoying the Mandarin language and culture!

Some of our primaries and S1 pupils are also going to be involved in a transitional intergenerational project with residents from a local care home. The plan is for our primary and secondary pupils to teach some basics in French to the residents and then involve them in some games and a song. This is an exciting project aimed at bringing together different generations and engaging our pupils in languages. Watch this space for photos!

Finally, Mr Colin Blair, owner of Buzzworks restaurants visited our S3 Languages for Life and Work class to give them an insight in to his business and to engage with the employability aspect of the course. Pupils asked lots of questions and are writing up their findings in a report – did you ask him if he had any jobs going?

Around Loudoun: Music

EAC SPRING SPECTACULAR CONCERT

A number of pupils from Loudoun academy took part in the Spring Spectacular concert in the Grand Hall on 22nd of March. The concert was very successful with all pupils giving excellent performances.

EASTER SCHOOL

The Music Department are running Easter school on 3rd of April in the morning. This is for all levels N5-AH.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE MARCH 2017

SQA PRACTICAL EXAMS

SQA practical exams took place during March all candidates performed excellently and were a credit to the school. Advanced Higher practical exams will take place in May. Understanding music exams for N5-AH are on 4th of May.

LOUDOUN ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

On Tuesday the 21st of March 2017 our annual Young Musician of the year competition took place. This was a fantastic showcase of talent and all performers played excellently. The audience were entertained by the Loudoun Primary Kickstart Band between classes. This group are from all of our feeder primaries and are making very good progress with their instruments under the tuition of Mr Paterson and Miss Craven.

Below are some pictures from the evening.



LOUDOUN ACADEMY KICKSTART BAND

Around Loudoun: Music

Rotary Young Musician Winners



**Intermediate Runner Up
Adam Marshall**



**Senior Runner Up
Aaron Collins**



**Intermediate Winner
Calum Kerr**



**Senior Winner
Finlay MacDonald**



ENSEMBLE WINNERS



ENSEMBLE RUNNERS UP



Around Loudoun: PE

N5 / Higher PE

All National 5 Pupils have completed their Course Assessment which involves both a single performance in one activity and the completion of a portfolio of written work. Higher PE Pupils have also completed their single performance as part of their course assessment and are now busy preparing for the question paper which makes up the remaining 40 marks on the course. The PE Department were pleased to witness pupils taking these course assessments seriously and hope that pupils enjoyed the challenge of performing in their chosen activity.

Sports Leaders

Over the past few months the sports leader pupils have supported many Loudoun Academy and Active Schools Sports events.

Primary 6/7 Netball

On 2nd February, Loudoun Cluster Netball Event took place at Loudoun PE Department with Sports Leaders supporting Hurlford Primary, Fenwick Primary, Newmilns Primary and Darvel Primary Netball Stars. Sports Leaders had many duties on the day from coaching the teams throughout the event, officiating and score keeping.

P7 Transition Rugby Event

On 16th March, Loudoun P7 Transition Rugby Event took place at Loudoun PE Department in partnership with Kilmarnock Rugby Club. This event saw 140 P7 pupils come along and take part in touch rugby. This was a new experience for a lot of pupils and the feedback has been very positive. Sports Leaders supported this event by coordinating fixtures, delivering warm up games / fun drills and refereeing the matches.



P4/P5 Girls Football Event

Girls Football event took place at Loudoun Academy on 30th March and again the Sports Leaders were on hand to support the event. The Sports Leaders were a tremendous help coaching teams and providing advice about the games being played. The Sports Leaders are continuing to inspire primary pupils by being great role models!



Around Loudoun: PE

STA Lifeguard Qualification

Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully completed the STA Lifeguard Qualification. This is a fantastic achievement as it involves passing examinations on pool assessment, CPR, first aid and a multiple choice theory exam as part of a 34 hour course.

Katie Graham
Zaya McMillan-Grant
Johnson Clay
Laura Fulton
Kerr Borland
Cieran Malyan
Junior Gregory
Cameron Wilson
Andrew Bell
James White

Katie Graham, Zaya McMillan-Grant, Ross Morton, Cieran Malyan, and Johnson Clay have also completed their Level 2 Swimming Teachers and 'Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults' course.

Cieran Malyan, Kerr Borland, and Cameron Wilson have also recently been employed as Lifeguards on a casual basis at the Galleon Leisure Centre

Well done also to the following pupils on the successful completion of the Pool Safety Award in Lifesaving. The course took 6 hours to complete over two evenings.

Ross Morton
Jack Johnstone
Lucas Angus
Andrew Hutchison
Tommy Hornsley
Liam Newlands
Josh Smith

Congratulations also to our Rookie Lifeguards who successfully completed an introduction to life-saving course which is a qualification for pupils aged 11 to 14 years old before they start their Pool Safety Award.

Jenna Russell
Sarah Morton
Abi White
Wilona Mubengo
Jessica Baxter
Lorna Johnstone

Huge thanks to Mrs Dunlop for delivering and supporting all of our pupils in the above courses!

Around Loudoun: PE

Extra-Curricular Activities

The PE Department are delighted with the participation levels at Extra Curricular Activities so far this session. Activities on offer include Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Dance, Fitness, Golf, Gymnastics, Football, Netball, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis and Volleyball. Please see updated timetable below for the Summer Term. Newcomers and pupils of all ability levels welcome at all clubs.

LOUDOUN ACADEMY EXTRA-CURRICULAR PE, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORTS TIMETABLE 2017							
	LUNCHTIME				AFTER SCHOOL		
MONDAY	S1-S6 Futsal Lynsey Hogg	S1- S2 Girls Fitness Mr McQuade	S3-S4 Dance Miss Breen	S1-S6 Swimming Mrs Dunlop	S3-S6 Girls Netball Miss Breen	Staff Swimming Mrs Dunlop	
TUESDAY	S1-S6 Gymnastics Floor work Miss Breen	S1- S2 Boys Fitness Mr McQuade	S1-S6 Volleyball Miss Hood Miss Hyslop		S1-S6 Swimming Mrs Dunlop	S1-S6 Basketball Mr McQuade Mr Morrison	
WEDNES- DAY	S1-S6 Badminton Mrs Forsythe	S1-S6 Gymnastics Apparatus Miss Breen	S1-S6 Swimming Mrs Dunlop		S1-S2 Rugby Mr McCall Ali McColl	S3-S6 Fitness Lynsey Hogg	S1-6 Girls Fit for Girls Janice Millar
THURSDAY	S3 Football Mr Lennox	S1-S6 Swimming Mrs Dunlop	S1-S3 Basketball Mr McQuade Mr Morrison	S1-S2 Dance Miss Breen Dance Leaders	S1-2 Girls Netball Miss Breen	Staff Fitness Mr McQuade	
FRIDAY	S1-S6 Girls Netball Miss Breen Netball Leaders	S1-S6 Swimming Mrs Dunlop	S1/2 Football Mr McQuade	S3 Fitness Mr Lennox	Staff Football		

Athletics

Well done to the 14 S1 and S2 pupils who were selected to represent the school at the East Ayrshire Giant Heptathlon on Thursday 26th January at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena. All pupils performed to their best in a series of athletics challenges and enjoyed the experience.

Adam Dowling, Jack Bryson, Matthew Keegan, Josh Smith, Lewis Wardrop, Ryan Littlejohn, Connor Nixon, Sara Barbour, Jennifer Murray, Eilidh Ballantyne, Emily Lightbody, Abby smith, Katie Storrar, Lauren Cromack.



Around Loudoun: PE

Badminton Club

The badminton club has a large group of regular players from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. It is a very sociable group and the club welcome players of any standard.

The Easter badminton competition recently took place during the Wednesday lunchtime session. The 2nd year competition was won by Callum Muir who beat Ross Woodward and Ryan Rowan in the final round robin competition. Ross Woodward claimed second place narrowly defeating Ryan in a closely contested match. The 3rd Year Competition was won by Jamie Muir who defeated Alison McColl in an excellent final with some high quality rallies. Brothers Jamie and Callum played against each other in a champion of champions match and older brother Jamie came out on top. Well done to everyone taking part and to those players who regularly attend the club and contribute to an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere.

Basketball Club

Loudoun basketball club have had a busy term, recruiting new members from S1-6. We have also made a great link with Ayr Storm basketball club with five of our pupils now playing at Under 14 and Under 16 club level. Many more pupils have also been selected to attend the Ayr Storm Easter and Summer camp too.

All the hard work in training is paying off for the S1 team who extended their winning streak to 7 wins in a row and are now sitting nicely at the top of the league table. The squad also have made it through to the Ayrshire Cup final which will take place at the Citadel in Ayr.



All 1st year classes have had a cycling taster session in preparation of this year's cycling trip. The trip is a cycle round Millport with pupils given the option of 1 or 2 circuits of the island. The existing senior cyclists will cycle to and from Millport. Pupils who opt to go on the trip will undergo their bikeability qualification prior to the trip.

Sincere thanks must go to the Parent Council and QTS who are again giving financial support to cycling in and out of school. QTS is also supplying T shirts for the event.

We have decided to make this a sponsored event, supporting Alzheimer's Scotland.

If any parent/guardian would be interested in joining us on the trip please contact Miss Hyslop or Mrs Forsythe in the PE Dept.

Around Loudoun: PE

Dance

Loudoun Academy was represented at EAC's Dance Fest 17 on both the Wednesday and Thursday evenings this year.

The S2 dancers (Jenny Bone, Lauren Callaghan, Olivia Murray, Mady Parker, Mikayla Rodgers, Eilidh Rowe, Amy Morris) who have been working with one of our Dance Leaders, Jessica Wilson, performed a flawless routine on the Wednesday evening. They have been working tirelessly over the last few weeks to perfect the routine and all the hard work most certainly paid off! They shone on the stage and can be extremely proud of themselves! A massive well done to the girls and a huge thank you to Jessica for all her hard work and dedication! A little thank you also to Sophie Boyd who attended on the night in the role of make-up artist – all the girls looked fabulous with their sparkly eye make up!

Loudoun was also represented by more dance leaders on the Thursday evening. Rosie Wilson, Eilidh Rowe and Ryan Littlejohn have been working with Hurlford Primary 6 pupils every Wednesday to choreograph a routine for them to showcase at Dance Fest! It's been a tough task with the class being as big as it is but they have all done fantastically well preparing them and refining the dance to perfection! What a performance they put on! A massive well done to the Dance Leaders and to Hurlford primary who were fantastic on the night!!

Alex Quinn and Jodi Whales have been working with Newmilns Primary School after school dance club and have worked extremely hard in preparing them for Dance Fest! They have worked with pupils to ensure they are happy and confident on the stage and this was visible when they performed on the Thursday night! What a fantastic display of talent!! Well done and thank you to both Jodi and Alex!

Well done to ALL pupils involved!

Netball

Having played 22 games across the season it has been an eventful and busy year for the Loudoun Netballers! We have had a great increase in numbers, especially to the S3/4 squad and are hoping that this continues into next session! Our S5/6 pupils have been helping to develop interest in all the associated primary schools by running 4 week programmes of extra-curricular netball on a Thursday after school. All pupils involved have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to coach and we hope that by providing primary 7 pupils with these taster sessions we will have an increase in numbers in our S1 team in August! For the girls I think the highlight of the year was getting our new team hoodies which have been a major success and has really increased the awareness of Netball in the school!

The girls are also all looking forward to going to a Sirens Netball Game on the 17th April where they will be able to see some exciting Netball in the Netball Premier League!

Around Loudoun: PE

S1/2 Netball Team

There have been massive improvements in the S1/2 Netball Team this year. They have worked hard to develop their skills and there has been a greater uptake with us having a solid squad of 12 all season. The league standings are not yet out but the girls won 4 and lost 4 games with them facing some extremely strong teams. Overall there has been a fantastic improvement in the girls and with most of the squad moving into S3 next year we look to have an extremely strong pool of players in the S3/4 league – making at least 2 teams!

S3/4 Netball Team

The S3/4 team came up against some extremely difficult opposition this season with the majority S3 team coming up against some strong and physical S4 teams. They worked extremely hard in every game and demonstrated some very fluent netball but often lacked in consistency which is something we will work on moving into next year. With one game still to play the S3/4 team are currently sitting having lost the majority of their games but we hope to end the season on a high! We retain most of the squad as S4s and with the current S2s moving into S3 we should have 2 strong squads in the S3/4 team next year!

S5/6 Netball Team

The S5/6 team have come up against some tough opposition who would previously have won by a much larger margin but this year the Loudoun girls demonstrated great determination and great netball! Amongst the losses were plenty of wins with them winning 4 out of 7 games! A great achievement for the girls! Their game play has developed greatly this season and they really came together to work very well as a team. We lose quite a few member of the team this year and will be sad to see them go but with some strong players coming through from S4 and some new players joining we hope to continue and build on the success of this season next year!

Table Tennis

The table tennis has been running on Thursday lunchtimes and is always well attended by 1st and 2nd year boys. This term we have been running a ladder competition and the three top players were Ryan Rowan, Ross Woodward and Nathan Butters. The three boys competed in a very closely contested round robin final. The final winner was Ryan Rowan with Ross as runner up and Nathan in third place. A number of sports leaders have been helping run the club and a huge thanks must go to Ross Morton, Cameron Wilson and Ewan Milligan for giving up there Thursday lunchtimes.

Around Loudoun: PE

Rugby

The S1 Rugby team continued their successful season winning the East Ayrshire No Knives Better Lives tournament. This school was also able to enter the Scottish Power Warriors Rugby Championship for the first time. The competition involves schools competing in a qualifier at Scotstoun Stadium in Glasgow where each school puts forward three teams to compete against 5 different schools to qualify for the next round. The school must enter a squad of no more than 14 at each age-bracket and play 10-a-side games against the other schools in their qualifying round. S1, S2 and an Under-15 girl's side competed against some top teams from Douglas Ewart High School, Arran High School, Grange Academy and St Andrews Academy. The S1 boys finished the day undefeated after wins in all 4 of their games. The S2 boys had a much harder time of it playing against some much larger and physical teams. They stuck in really well and scored some cracking tries. Luke McCoy was throwing himself into tackles whilst Finlay Douglas and Murray McCallister were making some blistering runs through the opposition defence. Many of the under-15 girls were playing in their first competitive game and they showed great courage making tackles on opposition more than twice their size and also scoring a few tries in the competition. Loudoun Academy finished with a respectable 20 points in the competition whilst Douglas Ewart High School progressing to the next round.

In the summer term, the school will be competing in the Kerr & Smith Summer conference where we will compete at Under-13 and Under-15 level against other Schools of Rugby in Ayrshire.



S1 Squad

Charlie Crawford, Jay Trainer, Adam Richmond, Ryan Russell, Mark Russell, Sands Christie, Alexander Hendrie, Jack Provan, Kelvin Kirkland, Finlay Wishart, Cian MacDonald, Jack Bryson, Victor Murray, Brian McLean, Aydin Akar, Lauchlan Bennett, Adam Dowling, Ben Jebb, Caleb Kerr

S2 Squad

Declan Casey, Liam Donnelly, Finlay Douglas, Ewan Finnie, Jon Grant, Bailey Greer, Zane Lotter, Murray McAlister, Cameron McCall, Luke McCoy, Stephen Morgan, Ethan Shaw, Josh Smith, Myles Todd, Nathan Bigham

U15 Girls

Zoe Campbell, Lorna Johnston, Lauren Cromack, Caitlyn Bilham, Keira Connell, Liana McConway, Chelsea Miller, Abbie Kennedy, Brook Adams, Heidi Gilmour

Around Loudoun: PE

Football

The Under 15 Boys Football team have continued their winning streak in 2017 with a further two victories in the Ayrshire league. Goals from Euan Geddes, Hugh Gilbert, Jai Ewing, Ryan Hannah and Andrew McGillivray gave Loudoun a 5-1 win over Greenwood and Scott Sherrie (2), Ryan Hannah and Daniel Wamazuri were on the scoresheet to help Loudoun defeat Stewarton Academy 5-1. The squad now have a top of the table clash against Grange Academy and another win would see them qualify for the semi-finals of the Ayrshire Cup.

Swimming

Well done to all pupils who competed in the Loudoun Academy Swimming Gala. Over 50 pupils participated in a closely contested event with only half a point separating the top 3 houses.

The Final Results were:

1st: Joint Arran and Barra 29.5 points

2nd: Harris 29 points

3rd: Skye 25 points

4th: Hoy 21 points

Walker Trophy Winners

The fastest boy and girls over 100m and winners of the Walker Trophy were:

Jennifer Murray

David Rowan

Record Breakers

The following 2 records were broken at the gala:

S2 girls: Jennifer Murray broke Jodie Davidsons record (29.13) in a time of 29.00

S3 girls: Molly Murray broke Megan Chamberlains record (13.15) in a time of 12.63

Super Sara

Huge congratulations to our star athlete and weightlifter Sara Barbour in S2 on winning a Silver Medal in the Pole Vault at the Scottish Schools Athletics Indoor Championships with a personal best of 2.50m. Sara is also the current Scottish Schools Weightlifting Champion in the Under 48kg category! Well done on two fantastic achievements!

And finally.....

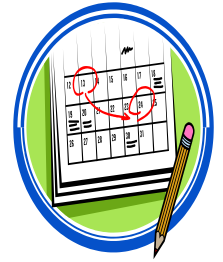
DATES FOR THE DIARY

Return to school : Tuesday 18th April

May Bank Holiday : Monday 1st May

Pupils off school: Thurs 4th May (inservice)

May Bank Holiday : Monday 29th May



SQA exams are available on SQA website and Masterclass timetable will be broadcast on our twitter feed @loudonacademy1

TEAM LOUDOUN BEST WISHES

Congratulations to:-

Mrs Dodds on the birth of a baby girl !

Mrs Berry on the award of PhD

Mrs Whiteside on achieving Scottish Qualification for Headship

Mrs McAulay-Griffiths- seconded part-time to Scottish Government Learning and Improvement Directorate

Mr Robertson - accepted on SCEL Into Headship programme

Mr Mc Quade—appointed permanently to Team Loudoun as teacher of PE

Goodbye and Good Luck to

Mrs Julie Gray who leaves us to join Ayrshire College

Welcome to

A warm Team Loudoun welcome to the following staff who join us after Easter :-

Mr Barry Caldwell (Teacher in Communication Centre)