



## Dates for your Diary!



17 September  
Monday Holiday

18 September  
Holiday for pupils

20 September  
Awards Ceremony

15 October  
Autumn holiday  
starts

23 October  
Pupils return from  
holiday

Rector's Surgery  
David MacKenzie will  
be available every  
Thursday from 5pm-  
7pm for consultation  
on a "first come first  
serve" basis - no  
appointment required  
- just turn up. Starts  
Thursday 27 Sept.

## **Welcome**

Every year schools welcome new staff into their ranks and this year we have had a massive influx of new talent. This change has made many of the "more experienced" amongst us look carefully at our diets, skin-care and life-style in order to attempt to look as young as the newcomers. In most cases this is not working! So who has arrived?

We have 2 new Depute Heads, Graeme Sives and Grant Abbot. Stuart Forrester has joined the Pupil Support team as Principal Teacher. Within what is now called Watt House, Jean Long and Louise Hutchison have joined English while Sarah McKay is a new Geography teacher and Lauren Falconer is new to History. Completing the line up in this House, Robert Simpson is now in RMPS. In Kelvin House, Lindsay Henderson is in Biology and Chris McGrane and Keith Drummond join Mathematics colleagues.

Finally on the teaching front, in Bell House, Paula Gander is in Art, Carla Bell in Home Economics, Craig Sorbie in PE, Celia Wilson in Technical Education and Monica Greer in the Business Education department.

Just as you thought the list was complete we have not mentioned the changes in support staff and here too we have had quite a change. Sandra Stone is our new, permanent, Pupil Support Worker while Susan Robertson and Lorraine McDonald join in a similar capacity but temporarily at present until we advertise the vacancies.

## **Changes**

As well as having lots of new faces, the school has also undergone an organisational change. This focuses much more on devolved decision making at "House" level. Under this re-organisation the new Rector took the opportunity to change the names of the Houses and we now have Watt, Kelvin and Bell.

Mr MacKenzie told LA News "There was a desperate need to modernize our Guidance system where the principle of key work was introduced. I felt it was too important to leave for another year and felt it was good to move when we were creating new jobs in the Guidance area of the school. To allow pupils in the same family to be in the same House, some had to be moved from Register class. This was unfortunate but I felt it was not a major issue. In some cases I was wrong with a few pupils being upset at having to move but the principle of key work is one that is well established in Scottish education and I was surprised to find that it did not exist in Linlithgow Academy".

Within the new structure each of the Deputes head up a House. Graeme Sives carries out this role in Watt House, Grant Abbot is in charge of Kelvin House and Linda Forrest leads Bell House. Each House also has a Pupil support team and they are as follows:

**Watt** – Elaine Kerridge and Jennifer Chumley.  
**Kelvin** – Stuart Forrester and Nicola Neilson.  
**Bell** – Alison Rutherford/Kim Mitchelhill and Grant Armstrong.



All pupils have been given a leaflet explaining the changes and the rationale behind these changes.

### **LAA News**

For those new to the school LAA stands for Linlithgow Academy Association. All parents and staff are automatically members and the group is run by a very hard working committee. They organize social/fund raising events during the year and the money raised goes to support activities in the school. In addition LAA run a "centenary club" which is a monthly draw with income split 50/50 on prizes and school activities.

#### **Forth-coming LAA Events**

##### **AGM**

**Wednesday 26 September, in the staffroom, 7pm – new members particularly welcome.**

##### **Wine Evening**

**Friday 16 November, in the staffroom, 7.30pm. Enjoy a relaxing tasting session, and choose your Christmas wine.**

##### **Prize Bingo Night**

**Wednesday 28 November, Rose Club. Time to be finalised. Great fun night.**

### **Recognition**

Over the recent months the school has been recognised for work in various fields of activity outwith our classrooms. Five certificates are about to be displayed in the school and they are for:  
The £2000 we raised for the charity, Children 1<sup>st</sup>.

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The £3000 we raised for Breast Cancer Care.

The £2000 we sent to Scottish SPCA.

The £2000 that we donated to CHAS.

We have also received our Silver Award for our achievements towards a sustainable lifestyle from the Eco Schools Scheme. These are very strong pieces of evidence of the outstanding ethos that exists in the school, well done to everyone.

### **Congratulations**

A big "Well Done" goes to Niall Stevenson for having some art work nominated for display in the National Gallery of Scotland at the SQA Exhibition 2007.

Rebecca Stephen won the Family Logo competition run by the Royal Hospital for Sick Kids with Emma Logan being highly commended.

David Birse may be the first Linlithgow pupil to take part in a triathlon when he competed in the Scottish Schools Championship in June. (If other pupils have previously taken part please let the Editor know).

and finally

Katherine Orr, Rebecca Vincent Eilidh Moncrieff and Claire McGuire won the Windiets Competition run by the School of Life Sciences of Robert Gordon's University, Aberdeen. The girls compiled a diet for a professional footballer.

### **Behind the Desk**

*Welcome back everyone to a new year. Whichever year you are in, and I'm talking to pupils and staff, it is the most important*

*one of your life and I hope you all have every success.*

*What was the holiday weather like? As my son would say "P Rubbish". I had a wonderful time in Sardinia and remember thinking, after a week of bakir heat, how nice the gentle drizzle was when I arrived back in Glasgow at midnight (without cases). What I didn't realize that that drizzle was going to follow me about for the next 5 weeks! While a holiday is always very welcome I have to admit that I like the routine that work gives you and I was excited about returning particularly because of all the new staff that were arriving. I'm glad to see everyone seems to be settling well and I include the new S1 pupils.*

*I personally feel more at home and part of the school and am starting to make some changes hopefully for the better. One small change but I think it is significant, is the introduction of the Rector's Surgery on a Thursday night. This is for parents to use if they want to bring something that is annoying them and not urgent or critical way to bring something to my attention. Emergencies etc should come through the school as normal. Welcome Back.*

*David A MacKenzie*

**SEPTEMBER 20**