



Pupil Support

This first newsletter of the new academic session has been devoted to Pupil Support within Linlithgow Academy. Changes in the previous academic year to both staffing and structure are beginning to embed and this year will see the promotion of our House structure as an integral part of our school organisation. This newsletter gives you a snapshot about Pupil Support and information/ advice on specific support issues.

Quick Guide to your *child's Pupil Support* teacher:

Kelvin House classes

S. Forrester:
 S1: K1/K2/K3
 S2: K1/K2/K3
 S3: K1/K3
 S4: K1/K3
 S5: K1/K2
 S6: K1/K3/K4

N. Nielson

S1: K4
 S2: K4
 S3: K2
 S4: K2/K4
 S5: K3
 S6: K2

Watt House classes

E. Kerridge
 S1: W1/W2
 S2: W1/W2/W3
 S3: W2/W3
 S4: W1/W2/W3

ISSUE 10

S5: W1/W2/W4
 S6: W1/W2

J. Chumley

S1: W3
 S2: W4
 S3: W1
 S4: W4
 S5: W3/W5
 S6: W3/W4

Bell House classes

A. Rutherford

S1: B3/B4
 S2: B4
 S3: B1/B2
 S4: B1/B2
 S6: B1/B2

K. Mitchelhill

S1: B1
 S2: B1/B3
 S5: B1

G. Armstrong

S1: B2
 S2: B2
 S3: B3/B4
 S4: B3/B4
 S5: B2
 S6: B3

House Structure

All pupils belong to one of three houses: Kelvin, Watt or Bell House. In its first year these Houses were for administrative purposes and for allocating a child's Pupil Support teacher. This year sees the introduction of House Assemblies, House competitions and activities and an increase in the importance of Houses as part of our Support network. An integral part of this is the creation of House Heads who are our Principal Teachers (Curriculum) Pupil Support and will oversee Support provision within each House.

Head of House

The Heads of House are:

Kelvin: S. Forrester
 Watt: E. Kerridge
 Bell: A. Rutherford/ K. Mitchelhill

Heads of House continue to have a pupil caseload and will line manage other Pupil Support teachers. The role of each House team is to meet the personal, social and learning needs of all pupils. House teams will meet weekly to discuss Support issues and take forward recommendations to improve the level of support offered to every pupil.

Pupil Support Manager/ Workers

Scott Brown, our Pupil Support Manager, line manages the Pupil Support Workers who provide additional support in classrooms and man the Pupil Office dealing with attendance related issues. As part of our extended Support team Pupil Support Workers will work closely with Heads of House and other Pupil Support teachers. These Workers will begin to pick up some pastoral duties, as deemed appropriate. Pupil Support Workers may contact you, if necessary, to arrange meetings with Pupil Support teachers.

Additional Support requirements

The Learning Development Department is moving into new accommodation during this

September 2008

SICK LINE NUMBER - 01506 670513



session. This will allow us to integrate our Learning/ Behaviour Support departments under one Principal Teacher Curriculum. This post will be filled soon. This will ensure we can offer greater service flexibility to all pupils. It is great to see Moira Reeder back with us after her absence and can we thank pupils, parents and staff for their understanding about staffing issues before the Summer holidays. As always if you would like to discuss particular aspects of additional support for your child please contact the relevant Pupil Support teacher in the first instance.

Term time

Holidays

We know that because of work commitments some parents may be forced to take family holidays during term time. Missing one or two weeks of school work because of holidays means pupils need to spend a great deal of time catching up. If you decide a term time holiday is the only option, please write to your child's Pupil Support teacher well in advance. In the vast majority of cases this will be marked as unauthorised absence.

Attendance

Matters

Statistics show that when a pupil's attendance drops below 90% it has a direct effect on attainment levels.

All children may be ill from time to time and children should not attend school if they are ill.

However, regular absences for minor reasons can have a serious effect on a child's progress through school. You can support your child by ensuring that any reason for absence is explained on their return with a letter being sent to your child's register teacher. Sometimes pupils go home for lunch and are not well enough to return in the afternoon. We need to know this for health and safety reasons so please telephone and keep us informed!

Parents of S1

pupils

On Wednesday 15th October between 5pm and 7pm Pupil Support teachers and Learning Development staff will be available for an informal chat/discussion about how your child is settling in at Linlithgow Academy. Refreshments will be available and hopefully this informal gathering will allow you to meet other parents of S1 pupils in a relaxed setting. There is no appointment system, so if you have a particular concern or you just wish to put a face to a name why not drop in at some point over the evening.

School Uniform

It is pleasing to see the pupils wearing our new and agreed dress code. The messages of support from the community have been most encouraging. It was unfortunate that our ties are not of the standard we expected. However, there was no dispute with the manufacturer

who accepted total blame within 2 hours of the delivery arriving. We have seen samples of the improved tie this week and the replacements should be with us in a couple of weeks.

Behind the desk

I want to thank everyone for the many "get well" messages I received during my absence. I am feeling much better now and glad to be back behind the desk. It is amazing how much happens in the first two weeks of the new session and as a result the days since my return have flown in.

One of the pleasing things I have been dealing with is studying the SQA examination results in detail. There have been some excellent results and the new S5 did particularly well in the Standard Grades. In the Highers there were pockets of quite outstanding achievement. Examples of this are Alison Thompson's 5 A Grades all at Band 1 and Laura Douglas achieving 100% in her Mathematics. From last year's S6, Alasdair Vickers and David Stark both attained 3 Advanced Highers at A Grade, Band 1.

If results did not work out as you hoped remember don't look back look forward and plan for rectifying the situation this year.

My holiday in Australia was most interesting but it does seem a long time ago!

Best of luck to everyone for the new session.

David A MacKenzie