



Christmas Newsletter

Preston Lodge High School

Volume 1, Issue 6

December 2007

Dear Parents,
As we approach the Christmas holidays, there is much to report.

Staffing:

There have been several changes to our staffing complement since the start of the session:

- Mrs Leslie will leave our Pastoral Team at the end of this term to take up a Depute Head Teacher post in Dalkeith High School. Mrs Leslie's successor as PT will join us in the spring.
- Mr Nelson has moved to a permanent position with Bathgate Academy to teach Modern Studies
- Ms Smith of our Music Department has been appointed Principal Teacher of Music in Drummond Community High School
- Mrs Simpson following some 20 years in Pupil Support in Preston Lodge retired at the end of

November

- Following the retiral of Mrs Macdonald in June, Mrs Hoban was appointed Principal Teacher of Learning Development
- Mr Kidd was appointed to the Chemistry Department, Mrs Binnie to Learning Development and Mr Cruikshank to the CDT Department, Ms Pique to the Physics Department, Ms Webster has joined Computing, Ms Henderson to English, Mrs Hogg to Home Economics
- Our Newly Qualified Staff (NQTs) are spending their probationary year with us include Ms Quilletti in Art, Mr Hughes in RME, Mr Gizatullin in English, Ms McCredie in Modern Languages and Mr Robertson in Chemistry.

We wish all of our staff - new ones, promoted and retired every happiness and success in the future.

Special points of interest:

- *Student gains place at Cambridge University*
- *Sporting Achievements*

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Attainment Progress 2006

Our attainment gains in 2007 were similar to the previous session though our pupils did make some conspicuous improvements:

Our 5-14 Level E % attainments were as follows:

	2005	2006	2007
Reading	61.5	73.4	67.8
Writing	56.4	57.1	58.2
Mathematics	59.5	55.6	61.7

Mathematics and Writing both improved from the previous year but Reading dipped slightly. 5 - 14 Attainment remains above the East Lothian Council average for secondary schools.

Our SQA performance at the SCQF levels indicated were as follows:

S4 Performance

90% of S4 pupils in English and 93% of S4 Pupils in Maths gained SCQF Level 3 (Access 3 or S Grade Foundation) or better. This was similar to the 2006 performance.

87% of S4 pupils gained 5+ awards at SCQF Level 3 (Access 3 or Standard Grade Foundation Level) or better by the end of S4.

English & Maths together contributed to an improved performance with 89% of the cohort attaining level 3 or better: boys and girls performed equally well on this global statistic. 71% of S4 pupils gained 5+ awards at SCQF Level 4 (Intermediate I A-C or Standard Grade General Level) or better by the end of S4. Most subjects at Standard Grade outperformed the MidYIS prediction, though only Administration, Business Management, Drama and German were statistically significant in relative performance.

With 26% of S4 cohort gaining 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 (Intermediate II A-C or Standard Grade Credit Level) or greater, this was our best performance in three years with more middle range pupils doing better. Surprisingly, against national trends, Boys performed better than Girls by 8%.

S5 performance

33% of original S4 cohort gained 1+ awards at SCQF Level 6 (Higher A - C) or better by end of S5. This was an improvement on the previous year.

13% of original S4 cohort gained 3+ awards at SCQF6 or better by end of S5 but only 4% of the original S4 cohort gained 5+ awards level 6 by the end of S5.

S6 Performance

20% of original S4 cohort gained 1+ awards at SCQF Level 6 (Higher) or better by end of S6. 15% of the original S4 cohort gained 5+ awards at level 6 (Higher) by the end of S6. 9% of original S4 cohort gained 1+ awards at SCQF Level 7 (Adv Higher) or better by end of S5.

Subjects in S5/6 that performed particularly well include: Higher Awards in English, German, Biology, Mathematics, Art, RMPS, HE and Computing have all made conspicuous improvement over previous years.

Much of the comparative data on school performance shows that while our most able students perform well within the 'boxplots' of comparator school performance and our least able pupils are increasingly gaining SQA certification with very few pupils leaving school without basic qualifications, the middle ability pupils who made the greater attainment gains by attaining more Level 5 (Credit) and a greater number of Higher Awards. One of the tools to monitor pupils attainment potential is MidYIS, a test given to S1 (and now S2) pupils to identify potential at Standard Grade. Past experience shows that predictions made in S1 are alarmingly accurate in

S4 exams in most subjects! Attainment (with a better understanding of prior attainment) will continue to be on the forefront of our work with target setting and tracking of pupil progress at the centre of this endeavour.



Destinations 2007



Of the 166 leavers:

- 42% went to Further or Higher Education
- 5% took up Training placements
- 34% found Employment
- 19% had other known destinations

Clearly, most leavers have made positive transitions beyond school to appropriate careers, education or training.

My thanks to the hard work of pupils and staff for the attainment gains achieved.

One particular senior student from last session is worthy of special mention. **Martin Dickson**, who excelled in mathematics at school - his Advanced Higher performance in maths was among the very best in Scotland - won a Scottish Mathematics Council prize for his AH Maths performance and gained a place at **Cambridge University** to study mathematics after passing the entrance interview and examination. Well Done Martin!

School Website

The most significant improvement in school communication has been our school website: www.prestonlodge.net. This has been developed by Mr Stewart, Depute Head Teacher, as a tool for gathering and disseminating news and opinion from pupils, departments to the world-wide community. It uses 'blogging' technology by which different contributors - sports, departments, learning support etc - to gather together the good news from the school. In terms of keeping up to date with school news, activities and achievements of pupils and staff, I cannot recommend our website more highly: it is dynamic, attractive, allows pupils to express opinions and changes daily. Photographs from our Christmas Concerts are now on display! The website also records how the site is accessed from all over the world. Commentary from as far away as USA and Australia are logged on the site. Well Done to Mr Stewart who has performed communication miracles in a very short time!



Parent Council

This session saw the launch of the Preston Lodge High School Parent Council. This is the replacement for the School Board. The new Parent Council is a vibrant body consisting of parents, pupils and co-opted members. local elected (East Lothian) Councillors also attend. The Council has focused on setting up working groups to examine school dress, parents evenings, school funding and communication. The Council has begun well. Meetings are well attended and school senior staff have presented information on Curriculum, pupil Support systems and the school website. The partnership between Council and school is excellent. The membership of the Parent Council includes:...

Mrs M Gilroy; Mrs Marshall; Ms Stuart;
Mrs L Morgan; Mr A Berg; Mrs L Robertson;
Mrs L Mitchell; Mr J Tait; Mrs Black; Mrs Coogan;
Ms Burns; Mrs Turner; Councillor McKenzie;
Councillor Libberton; Councillor Innes; Councillor Currie; Mrs Thomson (Co-opted Community Council Representative); Ms Angus and Ms Carson (Teacher Representatives) and Mrs Dunlop (Clerk).

My thanks to Mrs M Gilroy who chairs the Council meetings.



Summary of Term Events

- **Tuesday 2 October: P6/7 Open Evening:**
This was a tremendous success with nearly every department represented and a very healthy turnout of parents from our partner primary schools.
- **Winter Term Charitable Endeavours include:**
£252 for Cystic Fibrosis, £453 for Jeans for Genes Day and a huge £1500 for Children in Need - More photographs on our website.
- **October** saw the re-launch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DoE) as a means of recording pupils' wider achievements. Following a special assembly where Geors Richardson and Linda Storrie presented S3 pupils with the benefits of DoE including the option of a planned expedition to enhance skills of team working and endurance, some 30 pupils volunteered for the opportunity. The group are being mentored by Mr Mrs Proudfoot, Mr Kiernan, Mr Kidd, and Ms Carson.

Sporting Success

Our Rugby, Hockey and Football teams continue to turn out each week with some spectacular results (in our favour!) on many occasions. My thanks to Mrs Christie and Mr Bennion for their continuing hard work in supporting extra-curricular sport. Our school website shows the tremendous progress that our team sports are making with resounding victories in Rugby against previously unassailable teams. The S3 team, following a memorable victory in Aberdeen, is through to the Second round of the Scottish Cup. The S6 Outdoor Challenge, normally dominated by North Berwick HS, was won this year by our S6 students supported by Mr Kidd and Mr Frost.

Sports Summary

Mr Bennion our Sports Co-ordinator has compiled an extensive record of our sporting triumphs this session. Here is a snapshot from our website of our impressive sporting performance this year. For the full reports, go to the website! www.prestonlodge.net

Rugby

Westhill Academy 5-54 Preston Lodge

Tue 11 Dec 2007

This was the best game of the season so far for the U-15 PL boys. The team did everything right and everyone was working hard throughout the game. The game started off great with PL receiving the kick then played a couple of great phases of rugby and were rewarded with a try. After the [...] The Man of the Match was **Raymond Mackie S3**

Boroughmuir 3-3 Preston Lodge S2

11 Dec 2007

PL second year hockey team travelled to Boroughmuir on Saturday in a confident mood. Senior player Leah Scott had to fill in as goalkeeper as the Preston Lodge team struggled for a goalie.

Boroughmuir 1-1 Preston Lodge Seniors

10 Dec 2007

The game on Saturday was a great success for the seniors as a 1-1 draw was their first ever draw. The goal was scored by Nikki Russell in the first half.

Preston Lodge 4-4 Leith

06 Dec 2007

The Preston Lodge team consisted of 7 girls and 1 boy and they were shocked to find out that they were playing a team that consisted of 8 boys who looked a lot older than S2 and a lot stronger than the Preston Lodge team.

S3 Preston Lodge 19-17 Leith

04 Dec 2007

Game Started off great with everyone making tackles and putting lots of pressure on the opposition which lead to them making several mistakes. For most of the first half the game was played in the middle of the pitch with players from both sides making breaks but being knocked back in the tackle. At the [...]



Sporting Success Continued

S3 Queensferry 27-27 Preston Lodge

03 Dec 2007

The Scottish cup was upon the S3 team after a lot of cancellations and changing of dates. The Preston Lodge boys were excited to finally get the game played. The boys pulled out all the stop and produced one of the best performances they have had all season. They played excellent Rugby apart from a [...]

S1 Preston Lodge 14-19 Boroughmuir

03 Dec 2007

Preston Lodge team struggled to gather enough players for the game on Sunday but a lot of the players played football and came along and played rugby as well so well done boys. The away team scored first coming from confusion in the Preston Lodge 22. Preston Lodge team were up against a good side and [...]

S1 Preston Lodge 33-2 Royal High

03 Dec 2007

Preston Lodge were yet again looking forward to the match after an impressive start to the season. Preston Lodge started the game quickly and scored early in a physical and intense match. The try came from a drive of a lineout, with Jamie charging through the defence to score a try.

To compete with schools such as Boroughmuir and Royal High and to record comprehensive wins against neighbouring schools (Knox, Ross!!) is a great triumph! My thanks to Mr Bennion, Mr Thomas, Mr Bishop and to the great support we enjoy from Preston Lodge Rugby Club.

Football

Preston Lodge were looking forward to the game against a side that they beat convincingly last year. The team was hoping to get through to the next round of the Scottish Cup. The game was meant to be played over a month ago and the hype of playing in the game got to the players as [...]

U-13 Preston Lodge 2-2 Musselburgh

08 Nov 2007

The game started off very one sided with Musselburgh continually pushing forward with some nice passing. The pressure from Musselburgh continued but the defence and goalkeeper handled the pressure well. The midfield were not tracking back and protecting the defence during the first 10 minutes. Once the midfield started to play Preston Lodge came back [...]

U-14s Preston Lodge 4-4 Forrester

09 Oct 2007

After Extra-Time 5-5

Penalties 3-1

This was the first S2 game played together and there was a bit of excitement on the bus on the way to the game but there was also a lot of silent anticipation for the game. Forrester had won there previous game 6-1 so we knew we were in for a game. The game [...]

Scotland Representatives

October 30th, 2007

Well done to Sarah Archibald and Kirsty

Hamilton. Both girls recently represented

Scotland U-18s in the Ukraine where the game

ended up 2-2. Preston Lodge are proud of you

and keep your hard work going!!!!

U-13 Preston Lodge 7-1 Lasswade

03 Oct 2007

Preston Lodge had been in good form without winning a game yet but scoring 7 goals. The team had a couple of new faces in the team with Frazer Ewart and Ben Stewart starting for the U-13s for the first time. In usual fashion Preston Lodge started well and dominated possession in the first 5 minutes. [...]



Sporting Success Continued

Ross High 7-5 Preston Lodge

September 25th, 2007

Man of the Match (Chosen by the Captain): Craig McLeod. Man of the Match (Chosen by the Coach): Grant Barber. Scorers: Jack Thomson 3, Craig McLeod 1, and Michael Spence 1

We played very good in the first half and deserved to be in the lead at half time. In the second half the boys thought they had [...]

Preston Lodge 2-5 St David's

September 25th, 2007

Man of the Match: Michael Spence. Man of the match (chosen by captain) Jack Thomson
Scorers: Johnny Edmond and Michael Spence
We played very good in the first half with some great links of play, which lead to Johnny Edmond slotting home the first goal. In the second half the some boys started playing out of [...]

Our Football is thriving! Well done to our pupils and coaches!

Badminton

November 5th, 2007

Preston Lodge's Paul Van Rietvelde helped the Scottish badminton team to 10th place in the World Junior Championships in Auckland, New Zealand. After leading 2-1, the Scots lost a close play off for ninth place (3-2) against England. England and Scotland were the highest finishing European countries in the team event. The top eight countries were all from the Far East. Paul helped. The Scots whitewashed European silver medallists, the Netherlands, 3-0, then thrashed the host nation 3-0.

The Scottish team comprised Glasgow sisters Linda and Gillian Sloan, Kieran Merrilees and our very own Paul Van Rietvelde. (Kieran Merrilees (18), has been the Scottish National Under 19 singles champion for the last two years). His doubles partner is Paul Van Rietvelde (16), with whom he holds the national Under 19 title. Gillian Sloan (16) and Paul Van Rietvelde are the new National Under 19 champions.

WELL DONE Paul everyone in the school is very proud of your achievements

Hockey

Boroughmuir 1-1 Preston Lodge Seniors

10 Dec 2007

The game on Saturday was a great success for the seniors as a 1-1 draw was their first ever draw. The goal was scored by Nikki Russell in the first half

Preston Lodge 4-4 Leith

06 Dec 2007

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S2 Dunbar 0-1 Preston Lodge

27 Nov 2007

The second year hockey girls travelled to Dunbar in good spirits after they beat Dunbar in a tense penalty shoot-out in the S2 tournament final. PL took an early lead in the game when Louise Scott scored a well taken goal. The girls then applied a lot of pressure onto a good Dunbar side, but they could [...]

S1 Dunbar Grammar 0-9 Preston Lodge

27 Nov 2007

The S1 Preston Lodge team has been doing extremely well this season. They have not lost a game so far this season and came second in the S1 tournament, which was their second ever game together. On Saturday the girls played well with Emma Shepard being voted player of the match. Hopefully the good run [...]

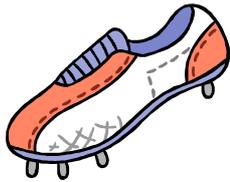


Sporting Success Continued

S1 Girls Hockey Tournament

02 Oct 2007

The S1 girls represented Preston Lodge High School at the East Lothian Core Programme on Friday 28th September. This was the girls first game together and they did not disgrace themselves or the school.



There was an excitement between the girls who had waited 5 weeks to get their first game together underway. Their first game [...]

S2 Hockey East Lothian Champions

September 25th, 2007

Preston Lodge S2 girls attended a girls core programme hockey tournament at Meadowmill on Friday 21st September. This was a tournament attended by East Lothian Schools with the exception of Knox Academy and Musselburgh Grammar School.

The teams were split into 2 group with Preston Lodge being drawn against North Berwick 1 and North Berwick [...]

My word, this is an impressive performance. Well done to Mrs Christie and our Hockey Players.

S6 Outdoor Challenge Winners

05 Dec 2007

Preston Lodge S6 entered two teams into this years East Lothian Outdoor Challenge, which took place at Yellowcraigs, near North Berwick.

More Term Events



Benmore Trip

Mr Kidd also organised and accompanied a number of our S6 to a weekend of Outward Bound at Benmore Lodge. Mr Kidd is full of praise for the commitment and maturity shown by our seniors.

Friday 9 November: Remembrance Service

Our traditional Remembrance Service conducted by our S6 students supported by Mrs Christie took place.

Sunday 11 November: The Royal British Legion Remembrance Service in Prestonpans

The school was represented by our Head Girl, Mhairi Libberton, Head Boy, Lee Marshall and myself at this moving event.

School Concerts 11/12 December

Our Christmas concerts this year were nothing short of outstanding. Our Big Band now has competition from our school orchestra, violin group and guitar group. Our Pipes and Drums under the tuition of Colin Pryde and supported by Angus Tulloch are going from strength to strength. Our aim is to grow our own Preston Lodge Pipe Band. The quality of singing, musical

performance and dancing was the excellent.

The two performances were a sell-out.

Our assembly hall each year is decorated to a very high standard using designs selected by our seniors and, with the help of Mr Cramb of our Art Department, these artistic works of art are displayed with great pride.

The Senior Citizens' concert on Wednesday of last week captured many of the features of our Christmas Concert. Our senior guests from local residential homes enjoyed the entertainment for the afternoon. I managed to acquire an 84 year old dancing partner who, despite advancing years, showed how dancing should really be done. It was a great afternoon complete with music, Santa himself and a splendid lunch. My thanks to colleagues in the Music and Home Economics departments for their sustained efforts through the festive season.



S2 Construction Challenge

Ten S2 pupils took part in the Construction Challenge at Napier University. This competition organised by Careers Scotland is open to schools from across Lothians and Borders. Over the afternoon the pupils performed really well in a number of challenges related to the construction and engineering industry.

The Preston Lodge Team included:

Jack Longmuir 2Se2
Shaun Gaffney 2Se2
Samantha Cunningham 2Se2
Rachel Murdoch 2Gr1
Valerie Quinn 2Gr2
Charlie Laiesk 2Gr2
Maia Aitken 2Gr3
Murray McKirdy 2Go1
Scott Robertson 2Go2
Mark Singer 2Gr2

Well done to all our participants.

Urgent!

Diary Dates

Monday 17 December 2007
Thursday 20 December 2007
Friday 21 December 2007
Friday 21 December 2007

Monday 7 January 2008

Tuesday 29 January 2008

S1 Christmas Party pm
Senior Dance Evening
PL Talent Show am
School Closes at 12.00

School re-opens for pupils
and staff at 8.39

S4 Parents Evening

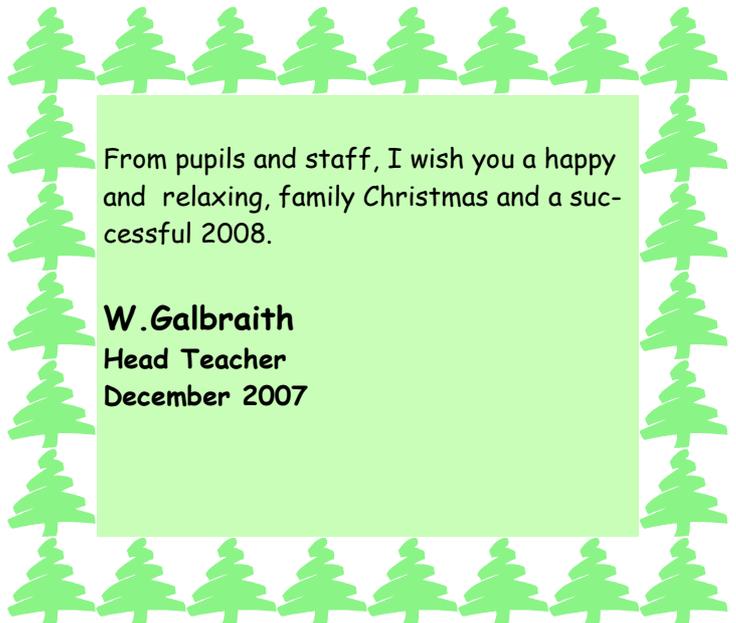


Alan Blackie
Director of Education &
Children's Services

Rotary Club Young Chef Competition

The school final of the Rotary Young Chef competition took place on 18 December in the Home Economics department. The three pupils who made the final were

William Lawson S3
Anna Wright S1
Lorna Nicoll S5



From pupils and staff, I wish you a happy and relaxing, family Christmas and a successful 2008.

W. Galbraith
Head Teacher
December 2007

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