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- Budget and Efficiency Savings (front page)
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**Dear Parents**

The Easter Holiday - much earlier this year - is almost upon us. Once again, there is much to report on the life and work of our pupils and staff:

**Staffing**

Ms Zoe Monaco has left to take up a new RME teaching appointment in Craigmount High School, Edinburgh. Mrs Clare Blakey has joined us, this week, from The Berwickshire High School to take up the post of Principal Teacher of Pastoral Development and leader of our pastoral team, replacing

Mrs Lyn Leslie who moved at Christmas to Dalkieth High School as Depute Head. We wish them both success and happiness in their new posts.



**Budget and Efficiency Savings 2008-2009**

As you are probably aware, all Local Councils are required to make 2% efficiency saving in each of the next three financial years as part of the concordat between the Scottish Government and COSLA to secure the savings for local authority priorities while ensuring a freeze on Council Tax. East Lothian Council sought a 3% efficiency saving from each council department as part of a raft of efficiency saving proposals for the financial year 2008-2009. Following an inflation uplift of 2.57% on global budget, the savings element that the 6 secondary schools require make has now been mitigated to 1.5% of the staffing budget while the supplies budget has been reduced by 1.5%. The net effect of these savings is a 1.91% reduction in global school budget. The anticipated savings for Preston Lodge

amount to £71,720. The implications of savings of this magnitude, while considerably better than the 3% originally anticipated, present the school with serious challenges in terms of staffing for next session and the courses and levels of presentation possible. The picture becomes much more complicated by the number of Probationer Teaching Staff (NQTs) the school will employ - 4 of whom will be fully funded by the school - to fill identified vacancies. The picture will only become clearer towards the end of this session when the number of NQTs allocated to the school and the subjects they teach become clear. In the meantime, our usual process regarding configuration of classes and pupil options is being undertaken with the full knowledge that some classes or levels of provision

## Budget and Efficiency Savings 2008-2009 continued

are likely to be reduced in order to meet the required 1.91% savings within the roll-related budget allocated to the school. The school Parent Council has been actively consulted on the

budget implications for pupils: Parent Council members have expressed their concern for course provision for next session.

## Preston Lodge Parent Council



Our Parent Council has now become firmly established. This is a very active body keen to represent the Parent Forum (all parents and carers of pupils in Preston Lodge) and actively supports the work of the school. The current Parent Council membership include:

Mrs M Gilroy, Parent Representative and Chair

Mrs M Stuart, Parent Representative

Mr J Berg, Parent Representative

Mrs L Morgan, Parent Representative

Mrs L Marshall, Parent Representative

Mrs A Black, Parent Representative

Mrs C Turner, Parent Representative

Mrs L Robertson, Parent Representative

Mr J Tait, Parent Representative

Mrs H Coogan, Parent Representative

Mr A Spence, Parent Representative

Mrs L Mitchell, Parent Representative

Mr A Gibson, Pupil Representative,

Ms V. Burns, Pupil Representative

Ms M Angus, Co-Opted Teacher Representative

Ms K Carson, Co-opted Teacher Representative

East Lothian Councillors Mackenzie, Libberton, Innes and Currie

are regular attenders at our Parent Council Meetings. Recent PC main agenda items include:

- Functions of the Parent Council
- Efficiency Savings and School Budget 2008-2009
- Health Promoting Schools
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Pupil Code of Conduct
- Columba 1400 Leadership Programme
- School Website
- Working Group Endeavours - School Dress, Communication, Fund Raising

The Parent Council is a forward-looking body that supports the school to improve the quality of what is provided for young people in Preston Lodge. I express my thanks to its members for their hard work and good sense when looking to the future.

## Burns Supper

On 7 February 2008, the school hosted its second - in recent years - Burns Supper. This was a tremendously well-supported event by our senior pupil, staff and parents. The vocal and literary talents of Ms McClean and Mr Kidd were well matched by the addresses made by our Head Boy, Lee Marshall and Head Girl, Mhairi



Libberton. The preparation for the event made by our HE department and Parent Council members contributed to the huge success of the evening. Our pipers and drummers excelled by 'piping in the haggis'. Another Preston Lodge success!



## Website

Have you visited our website

**[www.prestonlodge.net](http://www.prestonlodge.net)**?

This is where you can find all the news, views and achievements of the school. As well as textual information, there is a large variety of digital photographs and video illustrating the life and work of the school. The site is expanding daily: it is receiving more 'hits' than

the (Acting) Director's - Don's Blog!

The website almost renders the Heedie's Newsletter redundant as a means of communication! The success of the website is down to the enthusiasm and skill of Calum Stewart, Depute Head Teacher and to all of the contributors he has inspired to make the website a product of active learning.

## Health Promoting Schools - An Update

Having achieved Level 1 status of the Health Promoting Schools initiative, our task this year is to be the first secondary school in East Lothian to achieve Level 2. This has involved an online survey with staff, pupils and parents to gather as many views as possible and help us to form our School Health Action Plan. If you have not had the chance to give us your views please do so via the school website [www.prestonlodge.net](http://www.prestonlodge.net)

Some of the areas we are working on include:

- Launch of the new school website
- Launch of the Parent Council
- Working with partner agencies
- Staff/pupil events, eg Burns Supper
- Litter and recycling to achieve Eco School status
- S1/2 cross-curricular project - On our Doorstep
- Strengthening links with Cluster primaries.



We have a Health Promoting Schools Group which meets once a term. Membership includes staff, pupils, parents, representatives from Elite Catering and other specialists as required. We would welcome additional parental membership of this group. Please contact our Health Promoting Schools Co-ordinator, Mrs Nicoll, at the school for more information.

As a part of this year's cross-curricular project, 'On our Doorstep', we are organising an Open Day on 22 May from 2 pm (more details will be given next term). On Friday 23 May we are holding our 5km walk for all S1-S3 pupils. We would welcome any offers of help to assist with this event. Please contact the school if you are able to help.

## Ready, Steady, Cookery Programme



Sixty pupils from our partnership primary schools have taken part in a 3 week after school cookery programme at Preston Lodge. The programme aims to ease the transition to secondary school by allowing pupils to make new friends and familiarise them with the secondary school as well as promoting healthy living. This programme will continue after the Easter break.

## On Our Doorstep Cookclub

As part of the school's cross-curricular project, the Home Economics Department ran a cook club for S2 and S3 pupils after school on a Wednesday. This regularly saw about 25 budding Jamie Olivers creating culinary delights using locally sourced produce. Local suppliers embraced this initiative with generous contributions of exceptionally high quality food items.

This culminated in a grand finale where pupils created their own recipes to show the level of skill and expertise achieved over the 10-week course. Local suppliers acted as judges at this event and were hugely impressed by the very high standard.

The winners were:

1st Dean Martin 2Se2

2nd Sean Gaffney 2Se2

Gordon Fleming 2Gr3

Well done to everyone who took part.

"Local suppliers were hugely impressed by the very high standard"

## Sports Presentation Awards 2008

On 13 March we hosted another very successful Sports Presentation Awards. This was a ceremony of Oscar proportions. The development and success of team and club sport across the year has been spectacular. We celebrated the success both of teams and individual players in a wide range of sports including Badminton, Girls & Boys Basketball, Girls & Boys Football, Rugby and Girls & Boys Hockey. Guest of honour was Jackie McNamarra. He was much impressed by the enthusiasm of our pupils and spoke very eloquently of the secrets of his success in football-determination, hard work, enthusiasm and lots of training! In answer to the question of who was the better footballer - his son (also a professional footballer) or himself - he immediately confirmed that he was proud that his son had greater skill than he. This sentiment was echoed by all the proud parents who had come to see the talents of their children celebrated in the same way. This was a magnificent event that was warmly applauded by



# Sports Personality Awards 2008 continued

pupils and parents. My thanks to Mrs Christie, all of our PE staff and Graeme Bennion, our Sports Co-ordinator who worked so hard to ensure that the ceremony was a huge success. Well Done, Preston Lodge.



## Badminton

Our U-14's and U-19's sides attended the Scottish Schools final representing East Lothian. Both sides qualified for the semi-final, but were defeated by the eventual winners. The U-14's got beat in the 3rd/4th place playoff and finished 4th. The U-19's beat George Watsons to claim 3rd place.

## Basketball

The S1 boys and S1 girls qualified for the finals. The girls went to Ross High in their final tournament and gave a good account of themselves. The S1 boys travelled to Dunbar. They beat Knox Academy to make a final showdown with Dunbar in which they won 36-12.

## Hockey

The S1 girls attended George Watson's annual tournament. The tournament was played on grass and the girls had never played on grass before. They gave a good account of themselves missing out on the final by 1 goal. They enjoyed themselves and made a lot of friends.

## Football

The S1, S2 and girls attended a regional tournament at Pinkie. The S1 and S2 boys beat Musselburgh 1-0 in the first game for both teams. The two teams went onto play Ross High in the final match needing a point to qualify. Both teams went onto win 2-0. The girls won 1 game and got beat in another.

## U15 Rugby Final: The Scottish Bowl

Our S3 Rugby team, following their dramatic success in the semi-final against Kinross High School, met Dunbar Grammar School in the final of the competition at Haddington on Monday 17 March. The teams were very well matched for most of the game and our boys gave every ounce of strength against a very good Dunbar side, with Dunbar winning by 22 points to PL's 12. The boys should not be too disappointed: they fought well throughout the match and are a credit to the school. Despite the plunging temperatures, a large number of pupils and staff came along to support our team, My thanks goes to the hard work of the coaches and players for a great season of successful Rugby.

"My thanks goes to the hard work of the coaches and players for a great season of successful Rugby".

# Study Support Programme

## Easter Revision Programme

Preston Lodge High School will again be offering a wide range of subject-based revision classes for pupils in S4-S6. All senior pupils should have received a copy of the extensive programme. A copy is also available on the Preston Lodge website.

Please encourage your child to boost their attainment in their SQA exams by attending these classes. The Library will also be open to senior students.

## S1 and S2 Digital Photography Programme

A group of S1 and S2 students have taken part in an after-school programme developing their photography skills and raising their self esteem. The topic for the programme was the cross-curricular project "On our doorstep". As part of the project, pupils have visited local attractions including the Power Station, swimming pool, and train station. The photographs will be displayed in the school after the Easter holidays. A new project will start after the Easter break for our budding photographers.



## Out of School Hours Activities

Staff at Preston Lodge offer a wide range of out-of-school-hours activities including musical activities, sporting activities, special interest and subject/revision/homework clubs. A list of all activities which are available are posted on the Preston Lodge website. Please encourage your child to make the most of these opportunities.



## COMING SOON —S6 Residential—June

All S6 returnees will take part in an overnight residential at Loaningdale beside Biggar to prepare them for the responsibilities of S6. Students will take part in tasks to develop their skills in problem solving and decision-making.

# Summer Holiday Events

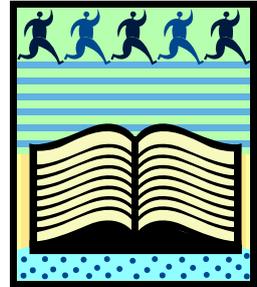
## Primary 7 into S1 Summer Programme

### One Week Programme

A group of 30 invited pupils from the feeder primaries will take part in the one-week programme, which aims to ease the transition to secondary school. The programme will be offered from 4-7 August 2008.

### One Day Programme

All pupils starting at Preston Lodge in August 2008 will be invited to take part in a one-day programme led by staff and senior pupils. The date for your diary for all primary 7 parents is **Friday 8 August**. The Programme will take place at Preston Lodge from 1000-1500 hours. Please encourage your child to come along and have fun! Look forward to seeing them on the 8<sup>th</sup>!



## S5 into S6 Summer Programmes

Staff and students of Napier University, Queen Margaret University College, the Scottish Agricultural College and the University of Edinburgh deliver Kickstart Summer Programmes from 14-18 July. They offer programmes on Humanities and Social Sciences and on Health, Science & Technology. Further information is available from <http://www.sra.ed.ac.uk/kickstart/>

Heriot Watt University also offers a summer programme from 28 July - 1 August based on Science, Engineering and technology. Further information is available from [www.royalsoced.org.uk/schools/scsummercamp](http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/schools/scsummercamp)

The aim is to make new friends during the week, find out more about the subject that students are interested in studying at University. Evaluations from previous years showed that participants were more likely to apply to University as a result of the programme. A representative from the Universities will talk to all S5 students in April.

The programmes are free; transport and meals are also free. Spaces available - please encourage your child to take part.

"My thanks go to Mrs Scott who annually compiles this extensive range of study and transition opportunities for pupils".

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these summer programmes, please contact Mrs D Scott, Out-of-school-hours Co-ordinator Preston Lodge High School.

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# East Lothian Council

## Don Ledingham

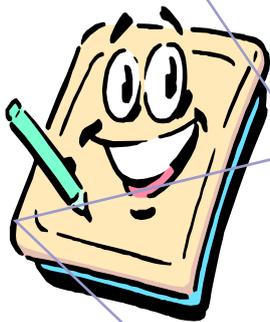
Acting Director of Education &  
Children's Services  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
HADDINGTON  
EH41 3HA

*I wish pupils, parents and staff of Preston Lodge High School a relaxing and peaceful Easter.*

**W Galbraith**  
**Head Teacher**  
**March 2008**



## Diary Dates



*Dates for Your  
Diary!*

Thursday 20 March:	School closes at 3.45 pm for pupils and staff for Easter
Tuesday 8 April:	School re-opens for pupils and staff for the Summer term
Monday 21 April:	Edinburgh Holiday for pupils and staff
Wednesday 30 April:	S4 Study Leave commences
Thursday 1 May:	Start of 2008 diet of SQA Examinations
Monday 5 May:	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 6 May:	In Service Day 5 for Staff, Holiday for pupils
Tuesday 13 May:	S5/6 Study Leave starts
Wednesday 14 May:	S5/6 SQA Exams start
Thursday 22 May:	'On our Doorstep' cross-curricular event
Friday 23 May:	5K Walk
Monday 2 June:	Start of New Timetable
Thursday 5 June:	SQA Examinations End
Wednesday 11 June:	P7 Visits
Thursday 12 June:	P7 Visits
Friday 13 June:	P7 Visits
Tuesday 17 June:	Prizegiving Ceremony
Thursday 19 June:	Love Music Hate Racism Concert
Monday 23 June:	Activities
Tuesday 24 June:	Activities
Friday 27 June:	End of Session School closes for pupils and staff at 12.00 noon