



Largs Academy Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

Youth Philanthropy Initiative



Our S2 pupils enjoyed a fantastic day representing their chosen charities as part of our annual Youth Philanthropy Initiative finals. Led brilliantly by Mrs Tait, they demonstrated outstanding effort in researching and presenting the work of their charities to an audience of S1 pupils, parents, carers, and invited guests.

Congratulations to our winning team— Eva, Caylin, Matilda, and Hollie— who secured the £3,000 prize for the Crosshouse Children's Fund. Well done to everyone involved!

Young Musician of the Year

Congratulations to all of the finalists in our Young Musician of the Year competition. In our school heats, Lucy and Claire were named runners-up, with Martha taking first place and going on to represent our school at the North Ayrshire Finals. Competing against outstanding musicians from across the authority, Martha achieved an excellent top 2 runner-up placing at the finals, held later that month at Saltcoats Town Hall. We are incredibly proud of all of our pupils who represented the school and took part once again this year.



Sporty Adventures



Our pupils have been busy enjoying a range of sports-related trips over the past two months. In February, 79 Senior Phase pupils had a fabulous week on the slopes of Bardonecchia, Italy, making excellent progress in skiing and snowboarding. This was followed a few weeks later by a trip for 39 S1–S3 pupils, many of whom experienced the snow for the very first time.

Also in February, a mixed-age group of pupils enjoyed a fantastic weekend which included a trip to Manchester. Highlights included a visit to the National Football Museum and the opportunity to watch Manchester City take on Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium.



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Duke of Edinburgh Award



Each year, a large group of our S4 pupils sign up for and take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Earlier this month, those who successfully completed their award were celebrated at a special ceremony held at St Matthew's Academy.

Congratulations to all of our pupils who achieved the full award by completing their Physical, Volunteering, Skills, and Expedition sections. We look forward to supporting our current groups in their upcoming expeditions and to launching the programme with our new S4 cohort in the coming months.

Powering Futures

Powering Futures is a new S6 course introduced to our curriculum for the first time this year. This Level 6 course focuses on pupils working with local and national businesses to solve real-world challenges linked to sustainability.

With a strong emphasis on developing meta-skills and collaborative working, this year's pupils delivered outstanding presentations at a showcase event held at Ayr Racecourse earlier this month.

Many thanks to Mr Atkinson and Miss Beaton for their work in delivering this innovative course.



Ayrshire Music Festival



Largs Academy enjoyed a fantastic weekend of musical success at the Ayrshire Music Festival this month. Highlights included Leah achieving 3rd place in Solo Violin, an outstanding performance from our S1 String Trio (Leah, Alexander and Ruby), and Calum securing 1st prize for his 6/8 March on the bagpipes. Largs Academy Strings were also awarded the prestigious Bank of Scotland Trophy for School Strings.

In addition, at the Scottish Concert Band Festival, our wind band achieved an excellent Gold Plus Award—an outstanding accomplishment.

Spotlight on... Activities Days in June



This year's Activities Day, taking place on Monday 29 June, is an exciting opportunity for all pupils to enjoy a well-earned day of fun, friendship and new experiences as we approach the end of term. First introduced last year by our Pupil Leadership Team, these days were designed to ensure a wide range of accessible, lower-cost—and in some cases free—activities for everyone.

This year's programme offers something for all interests. Pupils can enjoy theme park thrills, take in the arts with a theatre trip, or get active through a variety of sporting opportunities including sailing, Bouncestation, Top Golf and visits to Inverclyde. For those seeking adventure, options such as escape rooms, go-karting and our own Largs Academy Fun Day promise excitement and teamwork. Links have been sent to parents to sign up and this will close on 27th April when places will be confirmed.

The purpose of Activities Day is to strengthen our school ethos, giving young people the chance to build relationships, create lasting memories and celebrate the end of the school year in a positive, inclusive way. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil can take part. If cost is a barrier, families are encouraged to contact Mr Doherty in confidence to arrange support. We look forward to a fantastic day for all!

Key Dates – April 2026

April 2nd:

Last Day of Term 3 / School closes at 2:30pm / start of S4-S6 study leave

April 20th:

First Day of Term 4 – school reopens at 9am

April 21st:

Smiths of Greenock Uniform Shop in school from 5pm

P7 Pupil and Parent Open Evening from 6pm

April 22nd:

Qualifications Scotland (formerly SQA) exams begin. Masterclasses run throughout exam period.

April 24th:

Fundraising Friday (non-uniform) collecting items for our Malawi visit in June

