

# Linlithgow Academy



# PROGRESS REPORT FOR SESSION 2023/24

(Standards & Quality Report)

Braehead Road

Linlithgow



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Linlithgow Academy is a six-year comprehensive school offering over 1300 students in the Linlithgow, Winchburgh and Bridgend communities a progressive, relevant, challenging and enjoyable curriculum with opportunities for personalisation and choice.

Our vision statement "Together We Thrive" means we place an emphasis on collaboration and unity. It indicates we want our young people, our staff, and our parents/carers to work together as a community to create an environment where everyone can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

The value of kindness demonstrates our school values empathy, compassion, and respect towards others. It promotes a positive and supportive atmosphere where young people are encouraged to treat each other with understanding and consideration. The value of curiosity points to a school that fosters a love for learning and encourages our young people to be inquisitive, open-minded, and eager to explore new ideas. We want to cultivate critical thinking skills and a lifelong passion for knowledge. The value of perseverance signifies our belief in the importance of resilience and determination. Our young people are encouraged to overcome challenges, develop grit, and persist in their pursuit of personal and academic goals. Finally, the value of fairness highlights the importance of equity and justice within our school. Everyone is treated fairly and equally, regardless of their background, abilities, or circumstances. We believe this value fosters an inclusive and supportive environment where diversity is celebrated.

By embracing our vision statement "Together We Thrive" and embodying our values of kindness, curiosity, perseverance, and fairness, we are committed to creating a nurturing and inspiring educational environment that prepares our young people to become compassionate, critical thinkers who positively contribute to society.

The infographic is titled "TOGETHER WE THRIVE" and is flanked by the Linlithgow Academy logo. It is divided into three main sections: "OUR CORE VALUES", "OUR CORE PURPOSE", and "OUR CORE EXPECTATIONS".

- OUR CORE VALUES:** "We encourage..." includes Kindness (heart icon), Curiosity (magnifying glass icon), Perseverance (climbing person icon), and Fairness (scales icon).
- OUR CORE PURPOSE:** "Our learning..." includes Connects us (handshake icon), Sustains us (plant icon), Empowers us (punching fist icon), and Inspires us (lightbulb icon).
- OUR CORE EXPECTATIONS:** "We are..." includes Ready (checklist icon), Responsible (globe icon), Respectful (hand holding heart icon), and Safe (shield icon).

## IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Our improvement priorities are always based on the national priorities in the National Improvement Framework (NIF). Below we have indicated what progress we made with these priorities in Session 2019/20, what the impact has been and what our next steps will be to continue to address these priorities in session 2020/21.

We have also shown which NIF driver for improvement we used – you can find out more about the National Improvement Framework and drivers at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/achieving-excellence-equity-2022-national-improvement-framework-improvement-plan/documents/>

We have also evaluated our overall provision using quality indicators (QIs) in How Good is our School 4 (HGIOS4) and How Good is Our Early learning and Childcare? (HGIOELC) which is a key aspect of the Scottish approach to self-evaluation and school improvement.

PRIORITY	HOW DID WE DO?
<p>1.</p> <p>To raise attainment, especially in literacy and numeracy</p> <p><b>Our measurable outcome for session 2023/24 was to ....</b></p> <p><b>Enhance the culture of learning and teaching by improving the quality and consistency of pedagogical approaches that promote learner engagement and agency, digital literacy and improved relevance to the world of work.</b></p> <p><b>NIF Driver(s):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>School and ELC Improvement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>School and ELC Leadership</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Teacher and Practitioner Professionalism</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Parental Engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Curriculum and Assessment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Performance Information</p>	<p>We have made good progress.</p> <p>What did we do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School Self-Evaluation in the areas of Learning, Teaching and Assessment (HGIOS 2.3) and Attainment (HGIOS 3.2) has been validated by WLC VSE team and confirmed by WLC Education Quality Assurance Committee.</li> <li>2. CLPL for all staff on use of digital technology to support pupils AAA needs</li> <li>3. Majority of AAA was supported within our classrooms during formal assessment window</li> <li>4. Faculty BGE Moderation taken place with a focus on a shared understanding and consistent use of progress within a level</li> <li>5. Staff at all levels are involved in quality improvement activity focused on learning and teaching, including learning rounds (lesson observations carried out by senior and middle leaders) and peer observations and collaborative reflection activities.</li> <li>6. In most lessons, pupils are engaged in their learning and play an active role in the classroom. This is leading to deeper engagement in learning and enhanced skills development.</li> <li>7. Inclusive approaches are now used more widely across the school to support pupil participation in learning, such as writable walls and write-on desks and scaffolding frameworks to facilitate self and peer assessment and promote reflection on learning.</li> <li>8. Introduced a new mobile phone in classroom policy to encourage stronger engagement as and dialogue amongst pupils and teachers.</li> </ol> <p>Our next steps will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate BGE curriculum models in other schools where a blocked model is used.</li> <li>2. Continue to provide opportunities for all staff to undertake professional learning with a focus on improving their pedagogy.</li> <li>3. Continue to challenge all pupils and, in particular, ensure that there is enough challenge within mixed ability groupings in the broad general education phase. To this end, continue to promote skilful use of questioning to develop higher order thinking in pupils and promote richer classroom dialogue.</li> <li>4. Continue to focus on the effective use of the school 'learner engagement framework' and associated tools for change to enhance the quality of pupils' learning experiences. Ensure these are embedded consistently across all classes.</li> </ol>

<p>2.</p> <p>To close the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children</p> <p><b>Our measurable outcome for session 2023/24 was to ...</b></p> <p><b>Our Pupil Equity Funding is being used to provide a range of universal and targeted approaches to tackle our poverty related attainment gap.</b></p> <p><b>Our learner centred curriculum will offer learner pathways that build on challenge and improved attainment opportunities to meet the needs of all learners</b></p> <p><b>NIF Driver(s):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Improvement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Leadership</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher and Practitioner Professionalism</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parental Engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and Assessment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Information</p>	<p>We have made good progress.</p> <p>What did we do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved understanding of Didbook public groups and Infographics to support teachers to identify our least advantaged pupils</li> <li>2. Improved focus on ensuring that numeracy and literacy levels are maximised in Maths, English and support "Stations"</li> <li>3. Introduction of participation tracking to analyse pupil involvement in school enrichment activities</li> <li>4. Introduction of additional curriculum offers to broaden N5 opportunities</li> <li>5. Most young people left school achieving SCQF Level 5 and this is above the virtual comparator.</li> <li>6. Most young people are achieving at SCQF level 5 or better, through either course awards or an alternative route.</li> <li>7. In S4 the percentage of students achieving 5 or more qualifications at both SQA and SCQF is above both the National and VC percentages.</li> <li>8. The percentages of S5 students achieving 1+, 3+ and 5+ SQA and SCQF at Level 6 are significantly above the VC and National.</li> </ol> <p>Our next steps will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SCQF Ambassador school status to be achieved</li> <li>2. Further opportunities provided for learners to maximise Literacy and Numeracy levels, even for those learners not sitting a full qualification</li> <li>3. Better monitor how tracking data is being used to support interventions to ensure that learners are achieving in line with expectations in the BGE.</li> <li>4. Whilst there are already robust systems in place to allow staff at all levels to easily identify specific groups of learners and a clear understanding of the barriers that these learners face, there now needs to be a clear strategy for how to continue to support these learners, within mainstream classes in addition to current interventions.</li> </ol>
---	---

<p>3.</p> <p>To improve children and young people’s health &amp; wellbeing</p> <p><b>Our measurable outcome for session 2023/24 was to ensure</b></p> <p><b>Everyone in our learning community shares the responsibility for creating a positive ethos and a climate of respect, and trust – one in which we will place the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education</b></p> <p><b>NIF Driver(s):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Improvement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Leadership</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher and Practitioner Professionalism</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parental Engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and Assessment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Information</p>	<p>We have made good progress.</p> <p>What did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our new school vision and core values are articulated by all members of our school community and explicitly supports the embedding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in our policy, practice, and culture, working towards our Gold Award Status action plan.</li> <li>• The Pupil Parliament Committees have been developed to include protected characteristics groups as part of our new Equality and Diversity Strategy (M. Leishman).</li> <li>• We have strengthened support, challenge, and empowerment for young people, maximising their potential by expanding the leadership opportunities available to them (I. MacDonald).</li> <li>• Our school assembly programme is led by Pupil Parliament Committees and influenced by UNCRC key themes.</li> <li>• Student successes (wider achievement) are celebrated as part of the House Assembly programme.</li> <li>• Our Inclusive Classrooms Charter is used by nearly all teachers, ensuring an equitable and inclusive experience exists (PTCs).</li> <li>• All staff have completed Classroom Culture training/mandatory e-modules.</li> <li>• ‘Meeting Needs’ Workshops have increased the profile, independence, and supports required to best meet the needs of our ASN learners (S. Dyer).</li> <li>• Enhanced Support Provisions share learner successes widely and support positive relationships.</li> <li>• Our refreshed Mental Health Strategy includes community links and the L5 Mental Health and Wellbeing Award.</li> <li>• Our Wellbeing Hub is established as an Enhanced Support Provision.</li> <li>• Effective tracking and monitoring of Health and Wellbeing and consequent interventions have had a positive impact on all learners.</li> <li>• An effective system for reporting Wellbeing Concerns is established, influencing appropriate actions and interventions.</li> <li>• More staff and students are confident in reporting bullying incidents, and our Anti-bullying procedures are followed consistently. We continue to work with parents/carers regarding bullying perceptions.</li> <li>• Attendance has improved in line with WL priorities, and the role of FLW with regards to a targeted cohort is established.</li> </ul> <p>Our next steps will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Captains to investigate ways to capture student successes and celebrate at House Assemblies</li> <li>• Our refreshed Positive Relationships Policy to be linked to school VVA and staff to take part in Classroom Culture training</li> <li>• Refreshed Mental Health Strategy to be finalised and shared with school community</li> </ul>
--	--

<p>4.</p> <p>To improve employability skills, and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people</p> <p><b>Our measurable outcome for session 2023/24 was to ....</b></p> <p><b>Our partnership working is effectively improving outcomes for our learners including Positive Destination figures</b></p> <p><b>NIF Driver(s):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Improvement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School and ELC Leadership</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher and Practitioner Professionalism</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parental Engagement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and Assessment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Information</p>	<p>We have made good progress. What did we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our 16+ Strategy has been updated with 96.65% of leavers achieving a positive destination</li> <li>• Our Work Placement Strategy has been updated with an increased number of young people accessing work experience during their school leaving year</li> <li>• Our Winter Leaver Programme is fully implemented with the majority of young people securing a positive destination</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 16+ Strategy has been updated to ensure robust tracking and monitoring of positive destinations in line with virtual comparator</li> <li>2. Initial positive destinations figures are strong</li> <li>3. Work Experience Strategy has been updated to ensure all pupils offered work experience placement within school leaving year</li> <li>4. Winter Leavers programme implemented to support winter leavers into positive destinations</li> <li>5. The majority of young people (72%) go on to Higher or Further education, with 22% going on to employment</li> <li>6. Successful introduction of 'pathways with purpose' weekly employer sessions.</li> </ol> <p>Our next steps will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advertise for Acting PT 'Pathways Co-ordinator' role to coordinate aspects of our integrated curriculum pathways and DYW/SCQF priorities.</li> </ol>
---	--

Our overall attendance percentage for this academic year sits at 92%. Authorised and unauthorised absences are at 0.96% and 0.3% respectively. Exclusions are at 0.03%. Almost all of these exclusions can be attributed to difficulties in reconnecting with peers and physical response to relationship difficulties.

Our parent body is actively engaged within our SIP priorities through questionnaire and survey responses. More detail can be viewed here: <https://linlithgowacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/70860/Parental-Surveys>

## **Our Wider Achievements**

U16 Rugby team: East Scotland Cup runners up

Mitsubishi 'Pump It Up' West Lothian Champions

Alasdair Cameron- Best Floor Speaker at the Donald Dewar Debating Tournament Fettes Academy 2023.

Silver Award at West Lothian School's Debating Competition

Runners Up U16 West Lothian Football Cup Final

S3/S4 Netball West Lothian Winners

Scottish Cycling Championships: Scottish Mountain Bike Mixed Team Event: Daisy Wilkinson & Ewen Sexton

Re-Engage YPI School winners now at Scottish finals

Nevis Racing (F1 in schools) National Finals: Project management Award

Guitar Ensemble 1<sup>st</sup> in West Lothian Young Musician Awards

West Lothian Runner Up: West Lothian Musician Final

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Congratulations to the following pupils who have successfully completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, Ishani Vinayki, Ginny Fryer and Leo Byrne.

### **Canoe Slalom**

Congratulations to Sophie Cameron in S4 who won her race in Canoe Slalom making her the British U16 C1 Women's Champion. Well done Sophie, a great achievement you should be proud of.

### **Rugby**

U18 rugby team got to the final of the East youth Cup Final and played against Currie

Angus Matthews is in the U16 Edinburgh rugby team and captained them at the Hive Stadium against Glasgow

### **Football**

Congratulations to Ella Stewart in S5 who was awarded "Womens Breakthrough Player of the Year" for Falkirk Women FC. Ella has worked her way up from U15s level at Falkirk, playing a key part in the first team squad this season helping secure promotion to the Championship. Well done Ella!

### **Senior Boys Team**

*Our Senior Boys team entered the SSFA Senior Shield for season 2023/24 and were drawn against Firhill HS in round 2 after receiving a bye for round 1. We progressed into round 3 with a 4-3 win.*



*Into round 3 against a strong James Gillespie's HS seen the boys defeated 3-0.*

#### **S4 Football Team**

*After reaching the final of the under 15 final in June 2023, Our under 16 (S4) Boys team entered the SSFA Under 16 shield for season 2023/24 and were drawn against Preston Lodge HS in round 2 after receiving a bye for round 1. We progressed into round 3 with a 2-0 home win.*

*Into round 3 against Denny HS seen the boys continue to progress with a 4-0 home win. Round 4, the team were drawn against Ross HS in Tranent and again were convincing winners 4-0.*

*A last 16 tie against Williamwood HS saw the campaign come to an end narrowly being defeated 2-1.*

*The team did reach the final of the West Lothian Schools' 16's Cup where we unfortunately were defeated 3-2 by Inveralmond CHS.*

*This team will become the Senior Team next season where we hope to win the penultimate prize of winning the Scottish Senior shield.*

#### **S1 Boys Football**

The boys started off the year with a trip away to Ross High in the Scottish Cup. In a 10 goal thriller, the game went to penalties after Ross High equalised in the final minute of the game. Despite some good saves, Ross High went on to win the game and progress to the next round.

The boys bounced back in their first league game against Winchburgh. They showed great determination and attacking play resulting in a 9-0 win to give us our first points on the board.

Away to Bathgate against a strong opposition, despite best efforts unfortunately the boys took a 2-0 loss.

They then faced Sinclair away, where we controlled the first half of the game. Despite a late goal from Sinclair, the boys came out on top with a 2-1 win.

The boys final game was against St Kents. Unfortunately it wasn't meant to be for the boys as St Kents came away convincing winners, meaning the boys missed out on the chance to play in a semi-final on goal difference.

#### **West Lothian Dance Showcase**

Congratulations to the Junior Dance Team for performing a very graceful and elegant performance at this years West Lothian Dance Showcase. The girls have been working very hard every Tuesday lunch to perfect the routine. They did themselves and the Academy proud.

#### **West Lothian Gymnastics School Competition**

Congratulations to all our pupils who performed amazingly at the recent West Lothian Gymnastics Competition. They attend gymnastics club every lunch over a number of

months, during this time they refined their skills and choreographed well executed routines.  
On the day they excelled with the level 4 team taking 2nd place.

### **West Lothian Wolves - Performance Development Squad**

Congratulations to Finlay Hogg who has been selected to be part of the U16 West Lothian Wolves - Performance Development Squad.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>My child's achievement was..</b>
<b>Zara Cox</b>	S1	Won trophy for Linlithgow Sports Club Youth of the Year
<b>Rachel Macdonald</b>	S1	Grade 3 ABRSM piano
<b>Charlie Anderson</b>	S1	Chosen to represent Coerver Scotland at National level in football, taking part in the Nordic Cup in Sweden
<b>Erin White</b>	S1	Achieved team bronze in National (Scotland) Cross Country championships
<b>Eilidh Lamb</b>	S1	Won the team spirit trophy for her football team (the Blues) at the Linlithgow Rose Girls awards in November
<b>Safal Chandak</b>	S1	Won Singles Tournament for West Lothian Secondary School Tournament in Badminton and Runner up In Doubles Tournament
<b>Leena Chisholm</b>	S1	Swimming Trophy's from Bo'ness ASC's for Fastest 11 year old girl for IM (individual medley) and 50M Front crawl
<b>Daisy Sinclair</b>	S1	Daisy has had numerous win's show jumping with her Ponies including being in the winning Scotland Academy Team in England last year. Daisy has also qualified to Showjump at this years Highland show and received a medal for being the top 138 pony and rider combination in Scotland.
<b>Ruby Pitman Ross</b>	S2	Grade 4 Piano Exam
<b>Isla Meikle</b>	S2	100% Distinction in Modern Ballet (Gold Bar Two), 98% Distinction in Ballet (Gold Star One), 2 Distinctions in Highland dancing
<b>Nina Gribben</b>	S2	Rode for the Scotland u21 Dressage team at Youth Inter Regionals in Vale View, finished 2nd with a silver medal
<b>Hannah Macdonald</b>	S3	Level 4 ice skating
<b>Oskar de Joode</b>	S3	Completed all elements to sit his UK Snowsports Level 1 Foundation Ski Instructor Training Assessment, with the International SnowSport School (Scotland)
<b>Lewis O'Sullivan</b>	S3	Grade 4 piano
<b>Julia Lacka</b>	S3	Winner of Linlithgow open tennis girls under 14 doubles
<b>Sriharsha Bhattam</b>	S3	Cansat
<b>Arlo Topping</b>	S3	Learning skiing and is now level 3-5
<b>Mya Norton</b>	S3	2nd/silver medal awarded, placed in her category in the Scottish championships equestrian vaulting
<b>Dhyanesh Raghavan VR</b>	S3	Three golds in the blue belt section for Forms, Technique, and Sparring at the Kuk School Won Scottish Championships held at Bathgate on Saturday 25th June
<b>Ava Hassall</b>	S3	Selected for Central District netball team
<b>Poppy Mason</b>	S3	Awarded Youth Skater of the Year by her Team Starlight Syncro Skating Club.
<b>Imogen Casely</b>	S4	Represented Scotland for the Pony Club at Royal Windsor Horse Show and won

		the Open Dressage. Represented Scotland at the British Dressage Youth Home International and came 5th individually in her section. Attended the British Dressage National Championships and was 3rd in the Novice Freestyle (Dressage to Music)
<b>ISHANI Vinayak</b>	S4	DoFe Bronze level
<b>Samantha White</b>	S4	Started Ice skating lessons and completed 8 levels over the academic session
<b>Ewan Sexton</b>	S4	Selected to represent Scotland at Youth Tour of Scotland series of road races in April 2024. U16 Scottish Schools Mountain Bike Individual winner. Mixed team winner Scottish Schools Mountain Bike Champs
<b>Sophie Cameron</b>	S4	British U16 C1 Canoe Slalom Champion
<b>Daniel Kitaev</b>	S4	Representing Scotland in World Youth Chess Championship in Italy in November 2023
<b>Tensho Hosokawa-Mercer</b>	S4	Completed 9 years mandatory Japanese Language study for Japanese native speakers at the Scotland Japanese School from Apr 2015 to Mar 2024
<b>Rory Tait</b>	S4	Finished 22nd in The Cadet Inter-Services Skill at Arms Meeting (CISSAM) is a national competition for units of the Sea Cadet Corps, Volunteer Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and RAF Air Cadets. Rory was awarded a top 50 badge to wear on his RAF air cadet uniform, one of only 3 awarded in Scotland.
<b>Maya Boa</b>	S4	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards; Chief Scout Platinum Award
<b>Jameil Scarlett</b>	S5	His football team Salvesen CFC won the Tom Wilson cup
<b>Joseph Donlevy</b>	S5	Grade 5 piano, Grade 7 trumpet
<b>Rory Donald</b>	S5	In the Edinburgh u16 rugby squad until injury cut short his participation. Represented Edinburgh in inter-district matches against Glasgow & West, Borders and East Lothian, and Caledonian regions
<b>Georgia Gribben</b>	S5	Rode for the Scotland u18 Eventing Team at Bishop Burton finishing 4th across all UK Regions

How good is our school? The quality indicators\* evidence that:

1.3 Leadership of Change	Very Good
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Very Good

\*(Indicators used in How good is our School? 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Education Scotland 2015 and How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016)