

Newsletter



'Tommy' Sculpture Arrives

Fundraising within the Strathaven community brings sculpture to mark 100 years since the end of WW1

January saw the arrival of the World War I 'Tommy' Silhouette (funded by Friends of Strathaven Scouts). It was assembled by three S3 students, with a little help from staff in Technical, and is now on show at the World War I display in the library. It will feature as part of the memorial garden in the school courtyard once current grounds improvement and upgrades are complete. The 'Tommy' is made from aluminium and has been coated with exterior paint to make it more weather-resistant. The pieces are made and packaged entirely by veterans from recent conflicts, who are getting back their lives after trauma or loss of limb. The school wanted to find a way of remembering the 35 students of the Academy who fought in World War I. We are continuing with more fund-raising for two metal benches to sit alongside 'Tommy' – each representing World War I and World War II soldiers and civilians. Our PTA has also supported the project, funding nameplates for each of the 35 students, which will be put into the memorial garden in the near future. 'Help for Heroes', 'Invictus Games', 'There but not there' and the Imperial War Graves Commission will benefit from the money raised



from the sale of these 'Tommy' silhouettes. Each one costs £750 and provides work for soldiers recovering from physical and mental trauma whilst in active service. We are indebted to Friends of Strathaven Scouts for their support in this project.

SCHOOL DIARY

19 Feb	S2 Choices Evening
20 Feb	S6 Burns Supper
21 Feb	S2 Reports to Parents
26 Feb	S2 Consultation Evening
4 Mar	Rotary Concert
8 Mar	S5/6 Reports to Parents
19 Mar	Rotary Speechmaking
1-12 Apr	Holiday
15-24 Apr	S3 Exams
18 Apr	S6 Leavers' Assembly
19-22 Apr	Holiday
25 Apr	SQA Exams Start
1 May	S1 Camp Meeting
7 May	Inset Day
8 May	New Timetable Starts
	P7 Information Evening
14 May	PTA AGM
17 May	Festival of Sport
20-23 May	S1 Camp
23 May	Activity Day

Christmas Concert

The annual Strathaven Academy Christmas Concert took place on 12 December. Rehearsals and preparations had been taking place all week and the various groups, bands, soloists and performers had the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of a live audience. The show featured fantastic performances from the concert band, the staff/pupil choir and, for the first time, the drama club led by Miss Muir. Other pieces were performed by the guitar group, string ensemble, junior choir, ceilidh band, S2 singers, ukulele group, a flute and Christmas vocal duo, soul band and S3 stars. Ben F performed a saxophone solo. The festive spirit was echoed in all of the performances throughout the evening. Well done to all involved! See photos on P3.



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the winter edition of our excellent newsletter. Recent months have been particularly poignant as we marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. School and local events have enabled our school community to learn and understand more about the war and how it shaped the world in which we live today. Engaging young people in meaningful ways ensures that the war will continue to be remembered by future generations. I would like to express my thanks to pupils, parents, colleagues and partners for coming together and commemorating this significant anniversary in our local and national history. Once again, our newsletter celebrates the many events, successes and achievements that have taken place over the winter period. Our young people continue to impress, demonstrating leadership skills and being positive ambassadors for our school. Our S6 Pupil Leadership Team has contributed to the work across our learning community. The S6 Ambassadors in Health, Language, Music, Sport and STEM have been kept busy throughout the session, leading many initiatives and events. Senior pupils are working

hard in preparation for upcoming examinations. Teachers are also going the extra mile to support pupils and continue to deliver high-quality learning and teaching. There is an extensive programme of supported study on offer, online revision materials and the upcoming Easter School to ensure young people are on track to succeed. I wish you all the best of luck! Much as we are focussing on the preparations for the forthcoming exams, we are also heavily involved in planning for next session. Our current staffing situation is fairly healthy and we look forward to welcoming two new permanent members of teaching staff in English and PE. Families and young people in S2-5 are currently in the midst of completing option choices and planning their future learning pathways. We will continue to develop curriculum and learner pathways which best meet the needs of all young people. As a school community we continue to look forward, with the confidence that we can continue to improve, working collaboratively, in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for all young people.



MR BOYD
HEAD TEACHER

- 1** COVER STORY - 'TOMMY SCULPTURE' Community Project
- 2** HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE Mr Boyd's introduction
- 3** CHRISTMAS CONCERT (CONTINUED) Photos from the evening
- 4** WIZARDING WORLD TRIP Pupil visit to studio tour
- 5** BRITISH CITIZENSHIP Pupils witness ceremony
- 6** BURNS CELEBRATION Photos from Collisdene event
- 7** STEM PRIMARY VISIT P7 Pupils take on challenge
- 8** EXCELLENCE IN SPORT Back page sporting achievements

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If you have any achievements to report, please send an email to newsletter@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk providing the name and class of your son(s)/daughter(s) with their achievement/success and a photograph if possible.

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SUPPORT STRATHAVEN ACADEMY'S BAND... AT THE GRAND FINAL AT HAMILTON TOWN HOUSE

6 FEBRUARY 2019

battle OF THE bands
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE SCHOOLS

PHOTO BY NPA PHOTOGRAPHY

HAMILTON TOWN HOUSE FOR TICKETS CALL BOX OFFICE ON (01698) 452299



Battle of the Bands Success

Congratulations to Summer Influence, who competed in South Lanarkshire Schools' Battle of the Bands final, which took place at the Town House in Hamilton on 6 February. The band played their best gig and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They may have missed out on the trophy on the night but Strathaven Academy is very proud of their performance. As a school

we won 'Most Supported Band' for the amount of pupils who came out on the night to show their support. We wish Summer Influence all the best in their future music career. We were busy in school preparing for the event. Thanks to the pupils of Mr Wellcoat's NPA Photography class for their very professional photos and posters to advertise and create branding for the band.

Gentle reminder.

We have a number of pupils with a nut allergy. Please help us to support them by not providing snacks with nuts in them for your children.



PHOTOS BY BETHAN M, KATRINA M AND DALE K (S5/6)



Wider Achievement

Don't forget to tell us about your achievements within and outside of school by completing the Google form on the school website. Go to the section on the website - 'Supporting our Pupils' and then from there click on 'Wider Achievement'. House points are rewarded for every genuine submission. If you are viewing a digital copy follow this link -

<https://goo.gl/forms/kQM1OsFj1bhpcW2U2>

Wizarding World of Harry Potter

In December, pupils from S2 and S3 visited Warner Bros Studios in London for a tour based on the Harry Potter movies. The pupils got the chance to learn about the different jobs involved in taking Harry Potter from page to screen. During the trip, the pupils also visited the London Eye and the London Dungeon, had an evening meal at Bubba Gump's, and saw the West End musical 'Aladdin'. The trip was an adventure from start to finish, with many pupils commenting on how much they enjoyed it. Mr Connor, Mrs Neil, Mr Campbell and Miss McCabe would like to

thanks all the pupils who took part for their enthusiasm and behaviour, which contributed to making this a very successful trip.



The Great Strathaven Bake-Off

House captains staged an incredibly exciting Strathaven Academy Bake-Off on 29 November. Pupil Support teachers joined forces with S2 pupils and went head-to-head in the fight to be crowned the winners of the Strathaven Academy Bake-Off Championships!

Congratulations to the winners - Mr Dunn and Shuaib A - who won with a cheesecake, beating four other Pupil Support teachers to win house points. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the house captains for organising the event and to the PE department for the facilities.



Music Department Royal Residential



The Music department had their first ever band residential visit in November. Pupils from the various bands in the school got a chance to visit Dumfries House, where they enjoyed outdoor and indoor activities as well as daily rehearsals to practise and develop their instrumental skills. Dumfries House is an estate developed by the Prince of Wales and located in New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. Schools across the country can book the venue as an outdoor centre and a rehearsal space. Activities included climbing and archery and a team-building obstacle course. Evenings were spent roasting marshmallows and singing around the campfire. Pupils had an incredible few days and we hope that this can become an annual event. It also brought band members closer together and gave them the chance to strengthen the band through extended rehearsals in a new setting. Thank you to staff and pupils for making it such an incredible experience.



Fabulous Festive Events

In the run-up to the Christmas holidays, Strathaven Academy had lots of events. Every year, the Art and Design department runs a competition to choose a pupil's artwork for the Strathaven Academy Christmas card. The winner also gets their artwork featured on the Christmas Concert poster. The winning entry was created by Arwen S (S3). Second and third prizes were awarded to Owen C (S1) and Lana C (S2). Christmas Jumper Day took place on Friday, 14 December, and raised over £800 for charity. We also held our annual PTA raffle. On Monday 17 December, Strathaven Academy hosted its annual Christmas lunch for the elderly members of our community. Nearly 80 guests

attended the event, which was managed and organised by Ms Barr and the Captain and Prefect teams. Two delicious courses were served by the S5/6 Hospitality class, followed by some amazing entertainment put on by our staff and pupils. It was a fantastic day overall for both the guests and hosts! On 18 December, S1 pupils visited the King's Theatre for the annual panto. Pupils enjoyed a hilarious performance of Aladdin and had a great day out. Throughout December, year groups took part in 'The Daily Mile'. Pupils braved the cold and completed a brisk walk through Strathaven Park. Many more events were organised throughout December, including year group festive quizzes, netball matches, football competitions and a

ceilidh in the PE department. We also held our annual St Andrew's Hospice 'On Yer Bike' challenge. Pupils from all years, along with staff, participated by cycling for half an hour. The event was a success again this year, raising over £800. Thanks to our ambassadors for organising the event. Thanks to all the pupils and staff for supporting the festive activities.



British Citizenship

On Thursday, 15 November, a group of S3 pupils attended a South Lanarkshire ceremony accompanied by Mr McGarrie and Mr Boyd. The school was selected as an 'Honour School' and had the opportunity to witness people becoming British citizens. One family of eight, who came to this country to escape violence in Zimbabwe, was granted citizenship after many

years of waiting. It was a unique opportunity for the pupils to witness an event that is part of British democracy but is rarely seen by young people. Overall, it was a very memorable and thought-provoking experience.



Saxophone Success

Ben F in S4 has successfully auditioned for the West of Scotland Concert Band on alto saxophone. This is a considerable achievement as the standard is extremely high. He is one of only four saxophonists to be successful from the West of Scotland.



Camera Obscura

The Art and Design department ran a very successful Higher Photography trip to Edinburgh in December. The two Higher Photography classes, which consist of more than 30 pupils, joined Mr Collins, Mr Holmes and Mr Simpson on a visit to the Camera Obscura attraction in the heart of Edinburgh. The clear day in Edinburgh meant that the Pinhole

Camera effect was demonstrated to its full potential. The other attractions at the site were enjoyed by pupils and added many new dimensions to their photos. After lunch in the city centre, the group moved to the Scottish Parliament building, where an SQA exhibition featuring Higher Photography folios from across the country was on show. Pupils found the experience very beneficial and inspirational for their studies



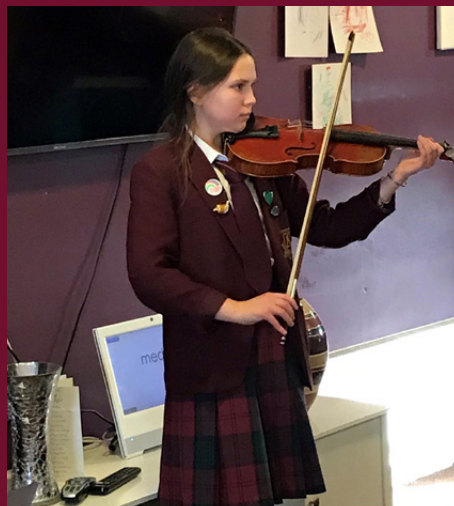
Photography Prize

We are very proud of our former pupil Hannah J. Throughout the years, Hannah has shown a real talent for photography and studied Higher Photography in the Art and Design department. As a Strathaven Academy pupil, she won 'Landscape Photographer of the Year' on two occasions. She was previously awarded prizes in two out of the four categories in the youth section. She attended prestigious award ceremonies in London and had her work on display across the country. Hannah has been in touch with Mr Collins and Mr Simpson to share the amazing news that she has once again won in the youth category, with an incredible shot called 'Band on the Run'. Hannah is now studying Photography full-time in Carlisle. 'I'm enjoying university, even though it's far away,' said Hannah. 'I'm learning new stuff and increasing my work flow tenfold. I've had a busy few weeks shooting, printing and presenting my work.' Well done, Hannah, and we look forward to seeing how your professional photography career develops.



Visit to Collisdenne for Burns Celebration

Music and Drama pupils of Strathaven Academy visited the residents at Collisdenne Care Centre last week for Burns' Night. Pupils performed songs and treated residents to musical solos in celebration of Robert Burns. Lara D played 'Morrison's Jig' on the fiddle and Rosie P played whistle as the haggis was paraded around the room. Arwen S, Erica H, Skarlett B and Millie M performed the 'Address to a Haggis'. Everyone enjoyed Romano M's version of 'Wild Mountain Thyme' on acoustic guitar. The ceilidh band then performed a few tunes for the residents. The afternoon was very successful and it was great for pupils to be involved in a special event within the local community.



Loaves and Fishes

S1 pupils are, once again, working to raise awareness of Loaves and Fishes – a Glasgow-based charity that supports people in many ways, including providing food parcels. This service is used by a variety of people – from the homeless to working families who are struggling to make ends meet. We have collected goods for food parcels containing the following: tinned goods, sugar, coffee, dried food, toiletries nappies and baby wipes. Thank you for your support!

Mindfulness Classes

In September last year, pupils from all year groups were given the opportunity to join a mindfulness class in the school. The young people involved worked with professionals to investigate what 'mindfulness' means and the potential benefits to them. Research has shown that practising mindfulness can reduce stress and increase wellbeing, and help pupils to develop a better mindset to assist in exams, sports and music. It can also help with sleep, depression and anxiety. It aims to strengthen focus and concentration.

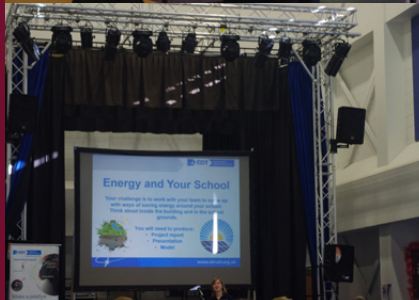


Period of Reflection

On Thursday, 31 January and Friday, 1 February, all S1 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a period of reflection. This was developed and presented by our school chaplains – Reverend Paterson and Reverend Telfer. Many stations were set up in the school library to record thoughts, feelings and consider who/what is important in young students' lives. Pupils enjoyed the interactive activities and used the time to reflect on issues and discuss their feelings.

STEM Primary Visit

On the 4 February, Primary 7 pupils from across Strathaven and the surrounding areas spent the morning competing in teams to build a rollercoaster using their STEM knowledge. This was followed by a short assembly presented by representatives from EDF Energy. The pupils also began a project, which they will be carrying out at their own schools over the coming weeks. The project is based on energy and we can't wait to see the results!



Remembrance

In November, Strathaven Academy's S1 pupils gathered to mark the 100-year anniversary of the end of the First World War. The service, led by Mr McGarrie and Miss Clark, included singing from Emily H (S6) and Maura H (S5), accompanied by Mr Sinclair on the piano. S1 also honoured the many Strathaven Academy pupils who lost their lives 100 years ago.

On the Sunday, the community came out in force to commemorate the people of Avondale. The parade began on Station Road and supported the poppy appeal for those who gave their lives for us. The parade continued to the Strathaven Monument, where wreaths were laid for the fallen. The Trinity Church then hosted a service, where people could pay their respects and give thanks for the past 100 years.

London Orbit Meeting

In December, we were selected to be a part of the Orbit team. Orbit is a council of young people who represent small communities across Scotland. This led to our first trip to London. Several trains later and after a hectic walk to our hostel (a former prison), we went to the centre of the city at Trafalgar Square. In under two days, we explored three amazing galleries. At the National Gallery, we participated in workshops, attended a live interview and then met renowned Scottish artist Rachel Maclean. In the Victoria Miro, we saw the work of Yayoi Kusama, including her prized large-scale brass pumpkins, as well her infamously mind-bending infinity room! Our trip concluded at the Zabłudowicz Collection, where we saw Maclean's eye-opening feature-length work 'Make Me Up' (produced by the BBC). We were also lucky enough to experience her shocking yet poignant VR work. All her pieces focus on a political and cultural narrative. It was a jam-packed two days and an unforgettable opportunity to immerse ourselves in the world of art. (Emily Q and Hermione K - S6)



(BELOW) PHOTO BY KELSEY S (S5 NPA)



Excellence in Sport

Netball Success

In December, the Strathaven seniors' netball team beat Portlethen Academy in the Open B Scottish Championship, with Robyn M being voted player of the match by the opposition. As well as this, netball was successfully introduced as a Tuesday lunchtime activity in the new term, and this has been very successful, with many players of all ages and skill levels turning up.

Scottish Schools' Rowing

Our rowing pupils were in action in November, with Strathaven Academy entering two teams from S1 and seniors to the Scottish schools event. The all-girls teams put in a massive effort and a great day was had by all involved. Well done!

Badminton Trophies

Congratulations to Ella H (S3), who was named champion in U15 mixed doubles in badminton on the 15th of December. As well as this, she was also a runner-up in the U15 singles. News just in - Ella won the U17, Section B doubles competition at the Highland Badminton Group in Inverness this week. Well done Ella!



UCI World Cycling

Last week, Finn J had a fantastic opportunity to be part of the awarding event for the inaugural 2023 UCI World Cycling Championships. What an amazing experience. Hope to see Finn compete there. Keep an eye on our rising star!

National Centre for Excellence

In early February, Higher PE students took part in a trip to Inverclyde, at the National Centre for Excellence. The students enjoyed a variety of activities at the fantastic facility such as football, archery and gymnastics as well as a variety of team-building exercises. A badminton doubles tournament was also lots of fun with Miss Hamilton and Miss Law winning. They also took advantage of the use of the conference room in order to do theory revision. It was a fantastic educational day for all involved.



Scott's Swimming Success

Well done to Scott F (S1) on his recent success at the Scottish Schools' swimming event. He came 2nd in the 200m butterfly.

Shinty Leadership

In early January, our National 5 Leadership group was given an introduction to shinty by current Scotland and Newtonmore player Paul MacArthur. This was a fantastic opportunity for a talented group of pupils to learn a new sport.



Football Focus

Throughout the last three months, many football teams representing Strathaven Academy have played matches. Congratulations to our S1-S4 girls' football team, who are currently six points clear at the top of their league and have 20 players taking part each week. Before the Christmas break, there was an S3 boys' football tournament, in which

players were split into four teams, with the blue team eventually triumphing in the final! Aidan O was named player of the tournament. S1 pupils enjoyed a similar tournament where (once again!) the blue team came out on top. Ben M was named player of the tournament. Our senior boys were involved a 7-7 draw against Trinity High School on 18 December. Our U15s had two tough games, losing to St Andrew's then to Stewart Melville College.



Gymnastics Qualifier

In December, Strathaven Academy took part in a gymnastics competition at the John Wright SportS Centre. All level 1-3 gymnasts took part and performed their floor and vault routines. In addition, three of our pupils took part in a level 4 qualifier in Musselburgh. The team finished in fifth place and therefore qualified for the Scottish Schools final in March. Well done to everyone involved!

