

Newsletter



Vision, Values and Aims

Together with our associated primary schools we are preparing to launch our vision statement and new school website

Over the past year, we have been working with our associated primaries to develop a common set of values reflecting the Strathaven community. Pupils, staff, parents/carers and partners from nursery, primary and secondary have considered and contributed to the discussion. After much debate and deliberation the result of this initiative is as follows :

'TOGETHER WE THRIVE'

Respectful Responsible Resilient

Pupils in the Art and Design department are designing a logo, poster and website banner for all schools to display a visual representation of our shared vision, values and aims. This will be unveiled in the coming weeks in conjunction with our new look school website.



SCHOOL DIARY

24-27 May	Holiday
28 May	S3 Reports to Parents
28-31 May	Reading Week
29,30 May	P7 Visits
29 May	P7 School Tour
30 May	School Sports Championships/ Festival of Sport
31 May	SQA Exams Finish
3 June	New S5/6 Return
4 June	Parent Council AGM
6 June	S6 Prom
10 June	Uniform Evening
12 June	S1 Reports
18 June	Awards Ceremonies
28 June	Close at 1.00pm

S6 Leavers' Assembly

We said a fond farewell on the 18th of April to our S6. Parents, pupils and staff attended a special assembly, where memories of their time at Strathaven Academy were shared. We wish them well for the future and look forward to the annual Prom at Strathaven Hotel on Thursday 6 June.



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of our superb newsletter. This is the final issue produced by our current S6 communications team, supported by Mr Wellcoat. Once again, this edition captures the incredible achievements and successes of our school community. There have been many memorable events in recent months, with highlights that include the 'MACvolley NetSetGo' volleyball event, S1 camp and the S3 excursion to France, to name but a few. We are in the middle of a very busy time, school improvement-wise. Our focus includes evaluating our current School Improvement Plan (leading to writing our Standards and Quality Report), consulting with all stakeholders and deciding on next year's priorities. We are keen to work closely with and engage all stakeholders, and we will continue to find new ways of doing so. Strathaven Academy has many strengths; however, we have a collective responsibility to continue along our improvement journey to ensure positive outcomes for

all young people. The SQA examinations have just finished and I pass on our best wishes to all of our senior pupils. We also say farewell to all of our leavers, including our S6 students. As I mentioned at the leavers' ceremony, I would like to thank our S6 students for the fantastic contribution they have made to our school community, and wish all of our leavers every success and happiness in the limitless opportunities that lie ahead. As we approach the end of this session, we welcome our P7 pupils, in the final part of their transition from primary to the Academy. The P7 pupils, along with many other members of the Strathaven community, have contributed to the development of our shared vision and values for our learning community. We look forward with confidence, based on knowledge of what we have already achieved in the past.

TOGETHER WE THRIVE
RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT



Message from the Editors

The school newsletter continues to be produced by a pupil committee. We have had the opportunity to build on the improvements our predecessors made to the newsletter and produce a quality product. In addition to developing our teamwork and time management skills, some of us enjoyed investigating and writing articles, whilst others experienced

professional magazine-editing software used in the media industry. Several of us had our first experience of web design and others developed their photography skills. We wish Mr Wellcoat and the next S6 communications team all the best and hope that they continue to showcase the incredible events and pupil stories that represent life at Strathaven Academy.

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.

MR BOYD,
HEAD TEACHER



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If you have any achievements to report, please send an email to gw18strathavenoffice@glow.sch.uk providing the name and class of your son(s)/daughter(s) with their achievement/success and a photograph if possible.

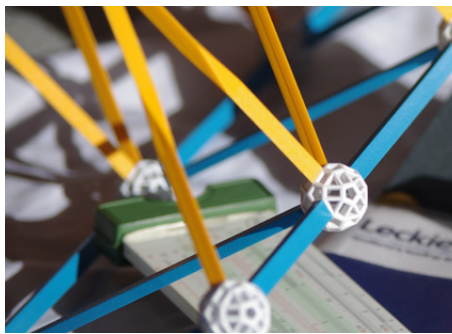
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New website coming soon but in the meantime, visit our current website at www.strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk



Mathématiques sans Frontières

Congratulations to our S4 and S5 classes for reaching the top ten schools in the country in 'Mathématiques sans Frontières'. The top three schools will be announced at the prize-giving ceremony at UWS on the 21st of June.



PTA AGM Farewell

At the PTA AGM on the 14th of May, we said goodbye to three amazing parents who have worked tirelessly with the PTA for many years. They are Julie McAuley, Julie Bell and Tracey Martin. We can't thank them enough for all their hard work and dedication. This session, the PTA has raised £7900 for the school, and this has been used to fund buses for S1 camp, the prom band, and a host of bids from departments which have been used to improve the experiences for our young people in classes. Any parents wishing to join will be made very welcome and will be guaranteed much laughter and new friendships. Please contact the school office for more information.

India is new MSYP

Young people in Scotland are represented by a Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP), which democratically elects its members, aged between 14 and 25. Elections are held every two years in all 32 local authorities. India B has recently been elected to serve as the representative for the Clydesdale constituency. She will attend a training event later this month, but her key priorities are to highlight transport problems and vandalism in her constituency. India will be happy to meet with other young people in her community and represent their views in parliament.

Rotary Events



Over the last few months, Strathaven Rotary Club members have taken the time to organise several events which have allowed pupils to share their creative skills with members of the Strathaven community. The Rotary Concert, which featured soloists from the Academy performing alongside pupils from our associated primaries, took place on the 27th of March. A fantastic event, and one which, we hope, encouraged Academy pupils to continue with their musical endeavours in the future. Congratulations to S4 pupil Ben F, who has won the 'Rotary International Region 1: Scotland and N.E. England Young Instrumentalist of the Year'. He competed in the grand final in

May, against all regions of Great Britain. He did a brilliant job and we're so very proud of Ben and his Scotland and N.E. England title. Thanks to Mrs Blades for her musical accompaniment and Miss Whitefield for her support. Our links to the Strathaven Rotary Club are highly important. The constant support they give the pupils and staff is greatly appreciated and we are very proud of this community link. They have provided many opportunities for pupils, pushing them beyond their comfort zones to showcase their skills in a variety of different areas. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Strathaven for everything they do in the community and in particular for their work with our pupils.

Business Visit to Hotel

The Higher Business Management pupils had a great question-and-answer session at Strathaven Hotel on the 12th of March. Pupils enjoyed meeting with the operations manager and getting a real insight into the workings of a major business. We also promoted links between the Academy and local businesses, and we're grateful to the Strathaven Hotel for taking the time to work with and inspire our pupils.

European Parliament

On the 15th of March, Anna W visited the European Parliament to attend the Euroscola event. Anna was part of a group of about 600 students comprising groups from each of the EU countries, and she spent the day in Strasbourg discussing the effects that European integration will have on the future. Anna received a certificate of attendance signed by the President of the European Parliament. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Strathaven for their support.

Visit to Rolls Royce Plant

Pupils from our S3 cohort recently visited the Rolls Royce Aero Engine manufacturing and servicing plant at Inchinnan, Glasgow. The pupils were given a tour of this state-of-the-art facility and saw first-hand the engineering that goes on behind the scenes of aero engine design and manufacture. The pupils witnessed skilled engineers manufacturing parts for engines that cost hundreds

of thousands of pounds. Pupils were then given presentations by current Rolls Royce apprentices, who explained their roles and how they got a job within the company. The apprentices then set our pupils an engineering task, which challenged them on design, communication, manufacturing and testing. The pupils had a fantastic day and found the visit very informative.



IMS Showcase

The IMS Showcase took place on the 7th of March, with our Soul Band performing at Hamilton Town House. Strathaven Academy's Soul Band is made up of Emily H, Kyle R, Ewan M, Chloe F, Sean C, Jamie T, Leah T and Ben F. The band performed 'Proud Mary' and we were very pleased to see them take the stage at this enjoyable South Lanarkshire event.



S1 Camp at Broomlee, West Linton

In May, S1 pupils enjoyed their residential stay at Broomlee Camp, West Linton, near Biggar. They took part in a great range of exciting activities including tug of war, archery, evening quizzes and wide games. Pupils enjoyed team-building exercises with plenty of mud, sweat and tears to create a sense of achievement. This also gave them a chance to get to know their fellow classmates in a totally different outdoor setting. Thanks to the staff at Broomlee and all the volunteer school staff who gave up their time to make this an enjoyable week.



S3 Paris and Rouen Trip

On the 19th of May, 42 of our new S3s and five teachers headed to France for the Paris/Rouen excursion. We departed by bus to Hull, and from there we caught the overnight ferry to Zeebrugge. Everyone certainly enjoyed the all-you-can eat buffet dinner and breakfast on board! When we arrived in France, pupils got the chance to take in some of the sights that Paris has to offer, as they ascended the Eiffel Tower, sailed on the River Seine and enjoyed a day at Disneyland. Not only did pupils discover French culture first-hand,

they have also had plenty of opportunities to practise their French as they attended a French class in Rouen to learn from native French speakers. We returned to Strathaven on the 24th of May with lots of memories that will last forever!



DYW News

Developing Our Young Workforce is going from strength and strength at Strathaven Academy. DYW helps to prepare our young people for the world of work in a variety of ways. To support our pupils, they are given the opportunity to take part in a range of activities which explore and enhance their understanding of the world of work. They are supported in research, interview skills, creating CVs, work placements and also visits to different places such as Rolls Royce, QTS, Robertson Housing and many more. A number of our senior

pupils are participating in the GradU8 programme, which enables them to attend college one day a week, and we also have a small number of S5 pupils who are the first to go through the new Foundation Apprenticeship programme, which is a blend of school- and work-based learning. For more information, please see the DYW newsletter, which will be available on the school website from June.



Performances for Community Lunch

Strathaven Academy continues to perform fantastic shows for dementia patients at the Rankin Church. Our pupils perform each week as part of an initiative which provides lunch for the community. The audience is treated to live music and encouraged to sing along. Thanks to Rankin Church and our talented pupils for creating this very important community event for dementia patients and their carers.

Drama Workshop in Edinburgh

Pupils who went to see 'Matilda the Musical' at the Edinburgh Playhouse had a fantastic time. Participation in the theatre

workshop enhanced their drama and music skills, and then they watched a performance of the highly-acclaimed show.



Schools Art Award

Rowen M (S4) and Arwen S (S3) have been awarded prizes in the Royal Scottish Academy's Schools Art Award 2019. Rowen won third prize in the main category for her age group with an incredibly detailed hummingbird drawing. Arwen S received a highly commended award for a portrait she created of her brother. Both girls did extremely well to be recognised in this prestigious, national competition.



Abbeyfield Art Prize

On Thursday, 9th May, pupils from S1 to S3 were shortlisted for the annual Abbeyfield Art Competition. A selection of drawings, paintings, prints and sculptures were chosen to be presented in front of the judges at Abbeyfield House, Strathaven. This year's winner, Josh I (S2), produced an ink drawing of still life objects. Congratulations to Josh and thanks to Abbeyfield for their hospitality and for giving pupils the opportunity to share the results of their hard work with the local community.



S3 Design Research

S3 pupils and staff travelled to Edinburgh on the 15th of March for their annual museum trip. Art and Design pupils and staff enjoyed their day at the National Museum of Scotland. They explored the vast collection, which includes prehistoric dinosaur bones and exhibits on space exploration and ancient Egypt. This experience forms the research part of their design projects and pupils took plenty of photos to kick-start their studies.



OUR ART AND DESIGN PUPILS ENJOYING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

Pupils Enjoy Manchester Football Trip

On Saturday, the 9th of March, 30 pupils from S1-S5 and three staff members departed Strathaven Academy to head south for an overnight school football trip. Our pupils arrived at Ewood Park for the first of two matches. This was Blackburn's home league fixture against Preston North End. Before the match, our pupils were able to visit the club shop, meet the mascots of each team and enjoy the game room experience provided by Blackburn. Preston scored the only goal of the game very early on, directly in front of our visiting pupils! The group then visited Etihad Stadium, home of Manchester City and the Academy Experience. They participated in activities such as bubble football, beat the goalie and obstacle courses. Pupils had their photo taken with Manchester City's current trophies. Manchester City were playing Watford in a Premier League clash. The next morning, we returned to Etihad Stadium, this time for the stadium tour. After a meal and some free time, we set course for home, and arrived back at Strathaven Academy not long after 6pm. Our pupils and staff would like to thank Mr Fleming for organising and overseeing the trip. Everyone involved had an amazing weekend.



FunSTEM Event

On the 8th of March, our STEM ambassadors coordinated a #funSTEM celebration and assessment day. We loved hosting pupils from our associated primary schools for the day challenge. Well done to all groups involved.

Obstacle Course

S1 pupils completed the inflatable obstacle course at Strathaven Leisure Centre over two sessions. Over £1000 was raised.



Naomi Coordinates Charity Day

S4 pupil Naomi M organised events for 'Odds Socks Day', which raised awareness of Down's Syndrome. She planned this day in support of her friend Matilda, who has Down's Syndrome. The day began with an assembly, where a representative from Down's

Syndrome Scotland spoke to S1 pupils. This was followed by a bake sale in the street area at interval where tea, coffee and cake were sold. Pupils wore odd socks to support the cause and a huge £468 was raised. Well done, Naomi, for your leadership and dedication – you are amazing.

SPOTLIGHT Anti-bullying

At Strathaven Academy, we continue to stage events and raise awareness of bullying. We worked with pupils in a series of assemblies earlier this year to increase pupils' knowledge and awareness of this issue. We have produced an anti-bullying badge designed by Ryan J (S1). Ryan produced a striking image which dealt with the themes using the slogan 'Use a hand, not a fist'. Thanks to Ryan for his terrific design. As part of anti-bullying week, we announced a competition to design a poster to be displayed in every classroom throughout the school. The very talented winner was Honor T (S2). Honor produced a very eye-catching design with the slogan 'Don't be afraid to choose respect'. Congratulations to both of our winners. In March, 8 of our pupils attended the Diana Award Ambassador Training. It was a very productive day and we'll be hearing a lot more from our anti-bullying ambassadors. Awareness is the key to helping our fellow pupils and spotting someone who may be suffering in this way. Class teachers and pupil support staff are here to help in any way they can, and we continue to promote the idea that being respectful to each other is fundamental to our school lives.



S1-3 Tinto Climb

Around 60 pupils from S1-S3 participated in our annual Tinto Hill climb on Wednesday, the 22nd of May. This event is organised to support St Andrew's Hospice and our pupils made a great effort again this year to raise money. Our next event is on Saturday, the 1st of June, when around 20 senior pupils and staff will take on the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis to raise more funds for this charity.



Excellence in Sport

Martial Arts Training

A huge thank you to Elite Martial Arts for putting some of our S1-S3 pupils through a six-week block of self-defence. Our pupils loved every minute of it.



Belgium Volleyball

On the 20th of March, Strathaven Academy pupils had the pleasure of hosting several members of 'Volleyball Belgium' for a day-long introduction to volleyball, courtesy of CEV and 'Sport Scotland'. It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by 186 pupils. Well done to all involved!



Danish Gymnastics

Our gymnastics club pupils took part in an event at Calderglen High School on the 14th of March. This event was run by a Danish gymnastics club. Our pupils were put through their paces, with lots of fun warm-up games and team-building exercises. They then worked with team members to improve their gymnastics skills. All pupils learned new skills from the Danish gymnasts and enjoyed watching these athletes perform. All pupils had a good day and enjoyed learning from experts.



Sports Personality of the Year Achievements

Congratulations to three of our particularly talented pupils for their incredible achievements in sport. Our students were given extremely high accolades for their dedication to their specialism in a South Lanarkshire ceremony on the 28th of April. Zoe C was awarded the title of Active Schools Volunteer of the Year. Zoe has given up a massive 501 hours to help with her football team, active schools clubs and the school football team.

Finn J was awarded the title of Under 12s Sports Personality of the Year. He was recognised as he is Mountain Bike Champion and made the GB and European selections. Ross M was awarded the title of Under 18s Male Sports Personality of the Year. Ross is Pentathlon Champion and a Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics double medallist.

Well done to all three sporting champions, we are very proud of you!

Girls Football

On Saturday, the 18th of May, both our girls' football teams competed in the final round of league fixtures. Our older team, which was formed last year, bettered last year's excellent league position and lifted the league title! Our new team for this year has also got off to an excellent start, managing to finish fourth in the league. Well done to all the girls involved!



Cross Country Event

A huge well done to all of the pupils who represented Strathaven Academy in the South Lanarkshire Cross Country event. The senior boys took home a bronze medal. Congratulations also go to Finlay T (S2) and Daisy T (S1) who achieved first and second place in their races.

