

Newsletter



Celebrations for S6 Prom

Pupils have terrific evening at Strathaven Hotel to celebrate completing six years at Strathaven Academy

On 28 March, S6 pupils dressed up in gorgeous dresses, suits and kilts and arrived at the Strathaven Hotel for a night of celebration. Greeted by an adoring crowd of friends and family, pupils arrived in a variety of fancy cars and limousines. After what seemed like an impossible number of photos, and with their faces aching from smiling, the year group was welcomed into the hotel for a delicious meal of soup, steak pie and a trio of desserts. The awards followed - 'couple that never was' and 'biggest lad' being just a few - along with the speeches from the Head Boy and Girl. The band soon started up and the evening ended with dancing by both staff and pupils. A huge thank you to Mrs Barran, the prom committee and all the staff at the Strathaven Hotel for the amount of hard work they all put in to make prom such a wonderful event! (See photos on page 3)



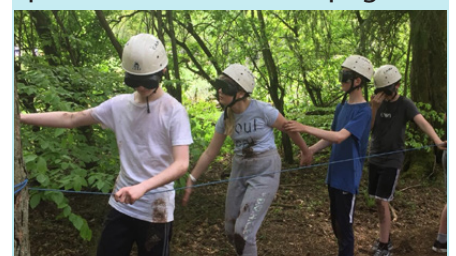
SCHOOL DIARY

25-28 May	Holiday
29 May	Reading Week
-1 June	
30 May	P7 Visit P7 School Tour
31 May	P7 Visit
1 June	SQA Exams Finish
4 June	New S5/6 Return
5 June	Parent Council AGM
12 June	S1 Reports
11-15	New S2 Numeracy Week
19 June	Awards Ceremonies
28 June	Church Service/ Close at 1.00pm



Activities Week

From 21 - 24 May Strathaven Academy provided pupils with a very enjoyable activities week. As well as Tinto, S1 Camp and Blackpool, pupils enjoyed many school events. These included photography, art, cookery, foot golf, table tennis, a scavenger hunt, body combat, marbling, board games, orienteering and a bake off. The young people had a great week enjoying new activities and learning new skills and thought it was a very worth-while change from timetabled classes. Many thanks to everyone who gave up their time to offer such a variety of activities. (See more photos and stories on page 4)



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of our excellent newsletter. This is the final issue produced by our current S6 communications team, supported by Mr Wellcoat. Once again our newsletter captures the incredible achievements and successes of our school community. There have been many memorable events in recent months, with highlights that include our fantastic S6 Prom, S1 Camp, Activities Week and the Strathaven Festival of Sport to name but a few. We are currently in the process of reviewing our progress and achievements this session and agreeing our improvement priorities for the future. Pupils, staff, parents and partners will all have the opportunity to contribute, setting our priorities as we move forward. I recognise and acknowledge that we have many strengths, however we have the ambition, capacity and determination to improve further, ensuring that every young person experiences the very best

quality of education possible. 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. We welcome you all to our positive and purposeful community and ask that you embrace the wide variety of opportunities on offer during your time with us. The SQA examinations are coming to an end and I pass on our best wishes to all of our senior pupils. We also say farewell to all of our leavers. I would like to thank our S6 students for the incredible contribution they have made to our school community and wish our leavers every success and happiness for the future.



MR BOYD,
HEAD TEACHER



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 maintain a quality product. In addition to developing our teamwork and time management skills, some of us enjoyed fact-finding and writing articles, whilst others worked with 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. As this is our final edition we've included a deliberate mistake in one of the photos. See if you can spot it and it will be revealed in the next issue. We wish the next S6 communications team all the best as they continue to showcase the incredible events and pupil stories that represent the life of Strathaven Academy.



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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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Activities Week Fun

From 21 - 24 of May, S1 pupils enjoyed their residential stay at Broomlees Camp, West Linton, near Biggar. Strathaven Academy staff as well as the centre's instructors offered a great range of exciting activities creating new memories for pupils. With tug of war, archery, evening quizzes and discos, there was lots of fresh air and challenges to keep everyone active. 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 Broomlees and all the volunteer school staff who gave up their time and their comfortable homes to create a very successful stay.



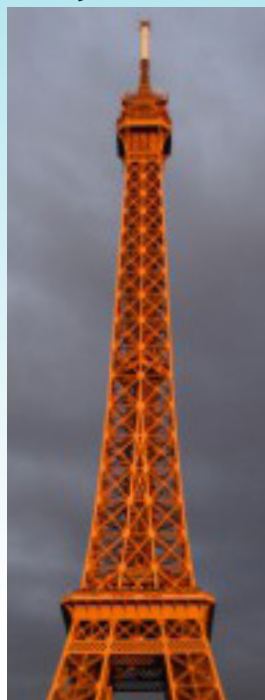
Tinto Climb for Hospice

Staff and pupils completed the climb to the summit of Tinto Hill on Monday 21 May and Wednesday 23 May. This annual expedition tests the fitness and determination of the participants as well as raising money for St Andrew's Hospice. Pupils enjoyed the experience and admitted it was harder than they imagined. The weather was fair and everyone involved had a great day. Academy staff members Kath Reid and Lee Dykes also climbed Tinto on Sunday 13 May with volunteers to raise money for Kath's daughter's continuing Cancer treatment. They thank staff, pupils and the Strathaven community for their support.



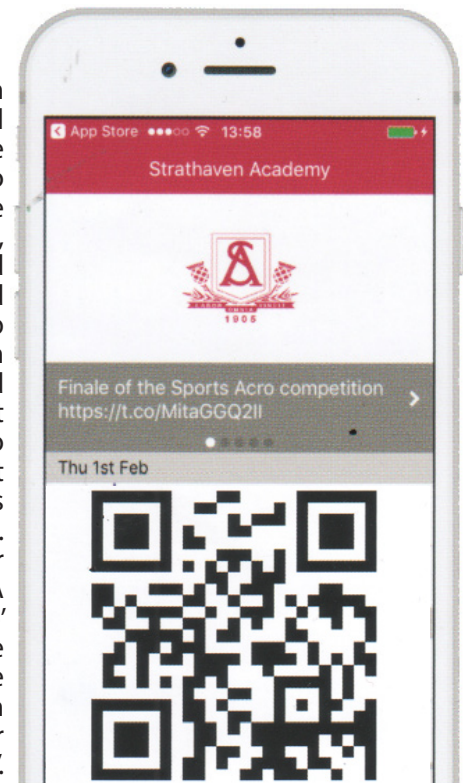
Blackpool Day Trip

As part of Strathaven Academy activities week, pupils and staff travelled to Blackpool on Thursday 24 May. The Pleasure Beach has 5 water rides as well as 10 rollercoasters. This includes, 'Infusion', 'Avalanche', 'Ice Blast: The Ride' and 'Valhala' as well as the traditional favourites like 'Revolution' and the 'Big One'. The visit wasn't complete without a visit to the world famous Blackpool Tower with lots of candy floss and Blackpool Rock to eat on the long bus journey back to Strathaven. Pupils had a terrific day.



New App

The Strathaven Academy School App is now live and available to download. We encourage all pupils, parents/carers and staff to download the app to keep you up to date with events, news and information about the school. It will also be used to send out important messages and reminders. Scan the QR code or search 'SSA' or 'SSA secondaryschoolapp' in the Apple or Google Play app stores. Once downloaded, open the app and search for 'Strathaven Academy'.



DofE Ceremony Reading Week

Strathaven Academy pupils attended the annual Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony at the Banqueting Hall in Council Headquarters. This year, fifty-three pupils completed their Award – thirty-seven Bronze Awards, ten Silver Awards and six Gold Awards. Once again, Strathaven Academy had the highest number of Award completions in South Lanarkshire – very well done to all involved. Thank you to Mr Dunn and Hazel Morrison from HIPY (our DofE partner) for supporting the DofE Award. The new expedition season began on Friday, 30 March. This year, there will be eight Bronze, four Silver and two Gold expeditions. Strathaven Academy would also like to welcome two new members of staff to the DofE team – Mr McGibbon and Ms McGinley. Here's to another successful DofE season.



From 29 May to 1 June, we are celebrating reading at Strathaven Academy in our second Reading Week of the year. There are lots of events going on all around the school, culminating in The Big Read on Thursday, 1 June, with pupils and staff downing tools to read. Here's some of what is on: Reading Registrations Tuesday to Friday for all year groups. Book Swap all week in the library. Mr Doig's Read Alouds – lunchtimes in the library. Mr McGarrie's mythical creatures – every lunchtime. Design Reading Challenge Cover - Art and Design. The Big Read and Readathon.

Gala Queen and Queen's Champion

Congratulations and welcome to your 2018 Strathaven Gala Queen, Heather W. Queen-elect Heather will be crowned on Gala Day: Saturday, 9 June. Heather is in sixth year at Strathaven Academy. Accompanying Heather is our very own Oliver F, as 2018 Strathaven Gala Queen's Champion. We wish Heather and Oliver all the best in their official roles on this historic day.

In addition, there are lots of activities planned in lessons across the curriculum. We are also launching a summer photo competition with the winner to be announced in the Reading Week in September – prizes for pictures of those reading in the most unusual locations! Entries welcome from staff, current pupils at Strathaven Academy and the new S1.



Maths News

The Maths department found itself in the spotlight during the last few weeks before Easter. S1 and S2 pupils gathered together to tackle many puzzling questions on pi day, followed by a more focused look at the constant and its uses, in the real world, during class. Not long after came International Maths Day, where both S1 and S2 pupils took to the internet to compete against people all over the globe to test their mathematical knowledge. Another, more serious, competition took place when Mr Seils' S4 class participated in Mathématiques sans Frontières, a national competition in which they placed somewhere in the top ten in Scotland. The top

three and overall winners will be announced at the award ceremony at Heriot Watt University on Monday, 11 June. Alongside this, S4/5/6 pupils were given the chance to participate in the Junior and Senior UK Mathematical Challenge. Someone worthy of a special mention is Angus B, S4, who was awarded a gold award.



Texas Hoedown

On 20 March, 2018, a Texas Hoedown Lunch was hosted by our very own cafeteria. This included many classic Texan meals, fancy dress by our dinner ladies and house competitions including can and pin-knocking. The day was a huge success: many students said they thoroughly enjoyed the change to the menu and the activities on offer. We hope future cafeteria-themed days are just as successful in the future.



BOB WELLCOAT (LEFT) FROM THE TRUST AND MR WELLCOAT (RIGHT)



THE JOHN HASTIE MUSEUM JOHN Hastie Museum Trust

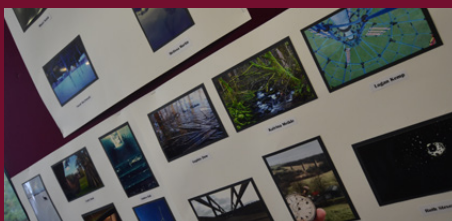
The museum, formerly situated by the John Hastie Park in Strathaven, contained a collection of thousands of items telling the story of the town, its history and the people of Avondale. It became a prominent feature of the park and it operated until 2011, when the building was closed. The John Hastie Museum Trust was started by a group of volunteers, who shared the vision that a new community museum, fit for the 21st century, could tell

the ongoing story of Strathaven and its beautiful valley. The artefacts in the John Hastie and Strathaven Collections have made appearances over the years in summer exhibitions held at the Town Mill, with various themes showcasing the history of life in the area. This year's exhibition, 'Educating Avondale', aims to look at formal and informal education provided in the area. Workshops will be run for school pupils to investigate how education in our past compares to their own experiences. Memorabilia and historical artefacts will be on show at the

exhibition, which opens with a preview on the evening of Friday, 8 June. The public can view the collection from Saturday, 9 June (Gala Day) from 10am. The show will be held in the Granary building of Strathaven Town Mill until 23 June, and will be open at weekends thereafter until 13 August. Strathaven Academy has provided many items from the archives and pupils from Mr Wellcoat's Art and Design class have produced colourful drawings and paintings. These will form the letters for a special banner at the exhibition about education.

Photo Competition

Ruth S (S6) and the Art and Design department recently ran a school photography competition. Entitled 'A New Perspective', this competition involved entrants from across all year groups, who produced a wide range of exciting photography. Congratulations to all who entered: the quality of the photographs was very high. Special congratulations go to our winner, Mhairi W; our runner-up, Robert B; and, in joint third place, Sarah M and Melissa M. Congratulations also to those awarded Highly Commended: Lewis F, Carly R, James K, Sophie D, Katrina M, Logan K, Megan M, Luke S, Emily M, Amber P, Amy N and Ruth S. The photographs from these entrants are on display in the library.



Museum Trip

53 pupils and staff travelled to Edinburgh on 23 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.



Abbeyfield Art Competition

Every year, Abbeyfield's residents host an art competition which aims to showcase the artwork of S1-S3 pupils at the Academy. A selection of drawings, paintings, prints and sculptures were chosen to be presented in front of the judges at Abbeyfield House in Strathaven on 10 May. This year's winner, Lucas P, produced a framed series of artworks, including drawings and a block print. Congratulations to Lucas, and thank you to Abbeyfield for their wonderful hospitality and for giving pupils the opportunity to share the results of their hard work.



Strathaven in Bloom

Strathaven in Bloom is launching a photography competition. Winning entries will be included in the colourful 2019 calendar, which will be on sale in the Strathaven community. Please send your landscape photos of the town and the surrounding area to Linda Cameron by 31 August. cameron.muirbank@gmail.com

Conservation Trip for Sri Lanka Wildlife

This summer, I hope to travel to Sri Lanka to aid the conservation effort to protect and preserve several sea turtle species. I will travel with a small group of people from across the UK and the world to stay in-country for four weeks. My conservation duties will include rescuing injured turtles that have come ashore or have been discovered on field expeditions, rehabilitating turtles that have already come into the rescue centre for release back into the wild, beach clean-up operations, data collection and educating children in schools within the local communities. As a result, I must raise money in order to travel to Sri Lanka and stay for the four weeks. Any additional money raised will go directly to the Marine Conservation Society, of which I am a member, to aid their conservation work.

I hope that with my work in Sri Lanka, I may be able to make a difference not only to the different sea turtle species, but also to our oceans. It is a matter I hold very close to my heart, and even if I may be contributing to change in only a small way, it is these small efforts that help change the world for the better. If you are able to sponsor me in this venture, and so help me make a change, I will be forever grateful, as it is something about which I am incredibly passionate. Many thanks for any and all support you can give , Caitlin T (S6) <https://www.gofundme.com/sri-lanka-sea-turtle-conservation>

S1 STEM Day

S1 STEM day took place on Friday, 4 May, and was a great success. Pupils enjoyed many activities, including building a radar tower out of straws in Maths and making 'o-wings' in Science! Pupils in Technical built a car: the criteria stated that it must carry six ping-pong balls. S1 had a fun and informative day, experiencing the many aspects that STEM incorporates and have great memories to recall in the future.



Word Wizard

Word Wizard is a multilingual spelling competition open to S1-S3 pupils learning French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin or Spanish. It is a perfect opportunity for beginners or learners at intermediate level, to develop their skills in acquisition of vocabulary,

pronunciation, spelling, recall and public-speaking. Gregg C in S3 (3LE) and French/Spanish teacher Ms Browning represented Strathaven Academy in the semi-final. Well done, Gregg! Our Modern Languages department has recently launched a Twitter page. Please follow @StrathavenML.



Spotlight Eco Schools

The school Eco Committee

The group, comprising a team of pupils ranging from S1 to S6, as well as several teachers, is now up and running. Their overall goal is to achieve a Green Flag Award for the school over the coming years by carrying out various projects and engaging the school community in ecological conservation. Their most recent project was promoting the WWF's Earth Hour on Saturday, 24 March, when people across the world turned their lights off to raise awareness of ecological issues. All S1s also attended an assembly, during which teacher and Eco Committee member Mr McGarrie talked to students about the issue of plastic pollution in the oceans. S6 pupil Caitlin T also gave a short talk about her upcoming trip to Sri Lanka, in which she will join efforts to preserve and protect sea turtles. **We are very proud to sponsor an Asian elephant named Kiriba. See photo of our mascot below.** Our team have also been busy making eco bricks out of waste paper to potentially sell to the public for their log fires. The Eco Committee is off to a great start and we wish them success in achieving the Green Flag Award.



Excellence in Sport

S1 health day fun

On Friday, 11 May, 290 pupils participated in the annual Strathaven Festival of Sport. Many coaches and volunteers gave up their time to show local school pupils different activities in a variety of sports. There were 13 different sports on show, ranging from normal football and rounders to the extravagant FootGolf and handball. The festival was enjoyed by many and we are looking forward to next year's event already!

American football

Lewis S has just been selected to play American football for the Great Britain under 19 team. This is a huge achievement for Lewis. He has played in the last two British finals. We wish Lewis well in his future career.

Sports day fundraiser

On Friday, 16 March, Strathaven Academy took part in a sport-themed dress-down day to raise money for a defibrillator. Many activities took place throughout the day, including a mile-walk around the park, races in the Games Hall, staff vs pupil football and throwing wet sponges at our Head Teacher as well as the Head Boy and Girl. We successfully raised over £800 to purchase the defibrillator.

Gymnastics Club

Strathaven Academy Gymnastics Club has competed in the local South Lanarkshire Schools competition at levels 1, 2 and 3 at Blantyre Leisure Centre. All teams did really well. We had success at level 1 with the team winning bronze. The winning team was Lucy K, Olivia D and Nicole S. Level 4 gymnasts competed in Perth against pupils from all over Scotland in floor and vault. All pupils performed very well. Thanks to Amy D, Victoria B and Lana M for coaching the team.



A Star in the Making

Niamh joins Team Scotland at Commonwealth Games

Strathaven Academy has a vast range of sporting talent. We have a sensational netball team, as well as individuals performing to the highest standard in swimming, karate and even go-karting. From 4th April to 15th April, sixth year

pupil Niamh M took part in the adventure of a lifetime in the land down under. Niamh M was one of the youngest players to play for the Scottish netball team in the Commonwealth Games. Scotland played against countries such as England, Wales and Malawi. In the future, we can expect to hear the name Niamh M more often!



Alex Sneddon Trophy

Strathaven Academy has won the Alex Sneddon Trophy for Sporting Secondary School of the Year. Thank you to the EK Sports Council, the PE department, Active Schools and all of our talented pupils.

