

# Newsletter

**SCHOOL DIARY**



30 Oct	S1/3/5 Photographs
2 Nov	S1 Reports to Parents
16 Nov	S5/6 Reports to Parents
20 Nov	S5/6 Consultation Evening
20-30 Nov	N4/5 Assessments
3 Dec	S3 Consultation Evening
6-7 Dec	S2/3 Harry Potter Trip
12 Dec	Christmas Concert
13 Dec	Senior Citizens' Lunch
14 Dec	S4 STEM Careers
18 Dec	S1 Pantomime
19 Dec	On Yer Bike
20 Dec	S5/6 Quiz/ PE Party
21 Dec	Christmas Service
	Close 2.30pm
7 Jan	Start of New Term
14 Jan	S1 Consultation Evening
15 Jan	S4 Reports to Parents
17 Jan	S2 Careers Morning
18 Jan	S3 Electives Rotate
23 Jan	S4 Careers Consultancy
23 Jan	
- 1 Feb	N6/7 Assessments
4 Feb	S4 Consultation Evening

## Young Musician of the Year

The Creative and Aesthetic Showcase on Wednesday 10 October was a brilliant success. The Young Musician of the Year 2018 performances formed the main part of the night, with various performers competing for the winning titles. School captains Zoë W and Adam M hosted the event, and led us through an exciting evening featuring vocalists and instrumentalists. The Art and Design Department staged an exhibition of photography, which displayed work from the S3 Elective, National Progression Award and Higher courses. This gave the audience a chance to see the incredible variety and quality of work our Photography students have produced in recent years. Our visitors also enjoyed a Hospitality showcase run by the Home Economics Department. This provided information on the amazing work our National 5 pupils are producing in the school. Guests were also treated to home baking and refreshments courtesy of the PTA. For more photos and a list of the winners, go to page 6.

## Nepal Expedition

In June of 2018, 18 pupils and two teachers visited Nepal with World Challenge leader Lee Lewis. During this expedition, the team undertook a variety of challenges. After a night in Kathmandu, the team took a bus through the city to a local school. They took part in strenuous tasks, such as levelling a playground using spades and pitchforks and priming concrete walls. This was then followed by a long trek through the Annapurna mountain range. To recover from this, the team then enjoyed white water rafting and a little bit of local shopping. The whole team was amazed at the beauty of Nepal – it is a trip everyone involved will remember for the rest of their lives. See photos from this incredible expedition on page 3.



# Head Teacher's Message

We have had a very difficult start to the session following the tragic loss of one of our pupils. I would like to thank everyone who has supported our school community during this time and we continue to keep Abbie and her family in our thoughts.

Last session saw changes to assessment procedures for National 5, with new arrangements for Higher being implemented this session and Advanced Higher next year. We continue to manage these changes effectively and I'm delighted to report that our young people achieved excellent SQA exam results again this year. In almost all measures of exam performance, our pupils consistently achieve results well in excess of the national average. In S5, 36% of students gained five or more Higher passes, maintaining the incredibly high level achieved last year. 62% achieved three or more Higher passes and 77% achieved one or more Higher passes. These figures also highlight that more young people are achieving one or more Highers at Strathaven Academy than ever before. In S4, 63% of pupils achieved five or more National 5 qualifications and National 4 awards remain strong. In S6, 37% of students achieved one or more Advanced Highers, again the highest level ever gained in the Academy. I am really impressed with what

our young people have achieved again this year. Congratulations to each and every one of them! This tremendous success is only possible with the fantastic support provided from parents/carers and the dedication, strong leadership and professionalism of all staff within our learning community. These superb results are extremely important but should be considered in the wider context of the development of a range of skills, knowledge, competencies and positive attributes which prepare our young people for the world of work, training, or as they move on to higher or further education. Our shared ambition is that all young people who leave Strathaven Academy do so with a sense of confidence, purpose and optimism, and with qualifications and accreditation that reflect their attainment and other achievements. This newsletter illustrates some of the many achievements by our young people in school, locally and nationally. I'm excited to see what lies ahead for them and to note the positive contribution they make to our society as a whole. The Strathaven Academy community has a strong sense that we are 'all in it together' to do the very best that we can for our pupils. We are very proud of what we've already achieved and plan to build on our significant strengths as we continue on our improvement journey this session.



**MR BOYD**  
Head Teacher

- 1 COVER STORY - YOUNG MUSICIAN  
Creative and Aesthetic Showcase
- 2 HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE  
Mr Boyd's introduction
- 3 NEPAL TRIP (CONTINUED)  
Photos from the expedition
- 4 INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES DAY  
Inspiring whole-school activities
- 5 S1 GROWTH MINDSET  
Pupils engage with learning styles
- 6 CREATIVE AND AESTHETIC EVENING  
Photos and winners
- 7 STEM FAMILY CHALLENGE  
Pupils and parents take on challenge
- 8 EXCELLENCE IN SPORT  
Back page sporting achievements

## PUPIL EDITORIAL STAFF

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If you have any achievements to report, please send an email to [newsletter@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto: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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# Cosplay for Reading Week



SEE FULL STORY ON READING WEEK ON PAGE 5

**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.



**Values Initiative** meaningful. Below is a link to a Google form, and we would appreciate everyone picking the five values which you consider best reflect our community. It will only take a couple of minutes of your time. All results will be collated by the middle of November.

<https://goo.gl/forms/SiQTORsXHng11nOq1>

# International Day of Languages

International Language Day was celebrated on Monday, 1 October, by pupils of all year groups. This year's theme was Italy. The day began with an assembly for S1 presented by Mr Norrie, and featured talks from the S6 language ambassadors. They each gave a small presentation throughout the assembly, focusing on why languages are important for future careers as well as travel and tourism. Mr Sinclair performed 'O del mio dolce ardour (Aria)' which was followed by a guest speaker Linda Fabiani MSP who spoke to the audience about the importance of languages and Italian influences in Scotland. In addition to this, some of our senior pupils and staff displayed their ability to speak another language, and celebrated literacy and languages by reading sections from a book in a foreign language. Mrs Blades and pupils also performed the Italian version of 'Break Free' from High School Musical in Italian to close the assembly. Throughout the rest of the day, pupils took part in many language-orientated lessons, including researching Italian artists and learning Italian numbers in Maths. Overall, the day was a great success and was a fantastic way to celebrate languages here at Strathaven Academy.



# Pupils Visit Scottish Parliament

On Tuesday 25 September, S3 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Scottish Parliament. They had a tour of the building, including the debating chamber, members' lobby and the committee rooms. Pupils learned about the devolved powers of the Scottish Parliament and participated in a question-and-answer session. They also met Scottish MSPs Brian Whittle and Linda Fabiani. The pupils had a great day and learned a lot from the experience.



# Introducing our New Leadership Teams



(Above) Our new S6 captains, Zoë W and Adam M, who, along with our prefects, have been selected for roles of responsibility within the school. We also have our ambassadors who promote health, music, languages, sports and STEM. Students will collaborate on projects throughout the year.

## Ambassador Honour

Jamie T (S6) has been successful in his application to be a Young Ambassador for the RSNO (Royal Scottish National Orchestra). Ambassadors attend concerts for free, meet the musicians and conductors and operate as a youth advisory board for the RSNO, feeding into the main RSNO Board. Young Ambassadors will be expected to highlight opportunities for young people in their local area through their school, college or university and within their community. In return, Young Ambassadors will receive free tickets for RSNO concerts, have work experience opportunities and play a part in influencing the RSNO's wider engagement strategy. Forums are held in Glasgow throughout the season, and all ambassadors will get together to share their recent experiences, work alongside the RSNO team and debate the direction of youth engagement within classical music. All forums will be followed by Young Ambassadors attending an RSNO season performance. Well done, Jamie!



## Macmillan Charity

On 28 September, pupils and members of staff enjoyed a cake and a cup of tea or coffee in the library to raise money for Macmillan Cancer. Pupils and staff donated very generously, and pupil volunteers (led by Arabella S) ran a raffle, which encouraged many more pupils to take part. It was a very good morning - we raised money for a very worthwhile cause, and the final total was over £300!

## Reading Week

Congratulations to all who contributed to the first IDL week of the year. The week kicked off with S1 and S2 assemblies when this year's Reading Challenge was launched. Prizes were also distributed for the Front Cover competition run by the Art and Design Department, won by Honor T, the Summer Selfie competition and to those who met the Reading Challenge last year. Pupils in S1 to S3 had reading registration every day and there

were lots of activities in class for all year groups throughout the week. Outside of class, there was a spelling bee, a book-themed Drama Club and riddles in the street. Reading Hour was on Thursday period 4, and pupils were encouraged to DEAR (drop everything and read) for the period. Reading Week culminated in Cosplay Day when staff and pupils were encouraged to dress as a book, TV or film character. Prizes and house points were awarded for effort. Well done all!

## S1 Growth Mindset

On Wednesday, 3 October, all S1 pupils took part in a special morning of activities related to a growth mind-set. An assembly was run by Mrs Wellcoat and Miss Hare. This aimed to inform pupils of what a growth mind-set is. Pupils completed five activities to promote the idea of working hard to achieve and improve on things some pupils can find initially difficult. The idea is to teach pupils to be more resilient and learn from mistakes rather than giving up. The school welcomed a very successful gymnast, Commonwealth Bronze medallist Kelvin Cham. He spoke and interacted with pupils to convey his own story. Kelvin

described his own mind-set, how he overcomes obstacles and how this has contributed to his great success in competitive sport. We were very lucky to get advice from a famous athlete, and pupils enjoyed the experience and will try hard to apply a positive mind-set to their school and home lives.



## Caricature Competition

Pupils from the Art and Design department have won the East Kilbride Caricature competition. 'Heatwave 2018', a cartoon and caricature festival, ran at East Kilbride Arts Centre in June and July. Pupils were asked to enter the competition with their cartoon drawings and four of our pupils were chosen by the judges for outstanding entries. Our winners - Samuel B, Kirsty H, Niamh G and Emma R - attended a weekend workshop to create a large-scale banner/mural to celebrate the festival. The show ran from the 15th of June until the 22nd of July in the East Kilbride Arts Centre, where 46 artworks from Strathaven Academy were on display. Congratulations to everyone involved and thanks to Miss McCulloch for coordinating the project. The winning banners are now displayed in the Street in the school, so make sure you take a look!

## S6 Team-Building Fun

S6 students organised a fun day on Thursday, 4 October. It was an opportunity to do some team-building. Students took part in many activities, including bubble football, obstacle courses, ping pong, tug of war, twister and many more. Pizza, snacks and drinks were provided. It was a fantastic day and students thoroughly enjoyed it.



# Scottish Gallery of Modern Art

On Tuesday 11 September, the Art and Design department led a very successful trip to Edinburgh. Pupils visited the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and enjoyed a special exhibition by renowned British artist Jenny Saville. Senior pupils consisting of National 5, Higher

and Advanced Higher students soaked up the atmosphere of the spaces and took inspiration from the artist's work. Jenny Saville's paintings sparked much debate, as the artwork was distorted and sometimes peculiar-looking. The general agreement was that the scale of the pieces made a great impact, and being able to study the portraits up close provided not only a different perspective, but also an insight into the artist's working methods.

S5/6 PICTURED ON THE GALLERY STEPS ACCOMPANIED BY MR SIMPSON, MR COLLINS AND MR WELLCOAT



## Creative and Aesthetic Showcase

(Continued from page 1) Congratulations to everyone who took part in our very successful evening. Our Junior Instrumentalist winner was Emily M on piano, and our Junior Vocalist winner was Millie M. Well done to Ben F, who won the Senior Instrumentalist category playing alto sax, and Roisin B, our Senior Vocalist winner. Well done to all our talented performers, photographers and chefs, and to everyone who contributed to this very successful event.



## Photography Trip

On Friday 22 June, S5 and S6 students enjoyed a very successful location shoot in Glasgow. Photo Session 1 got underway at the Clyde River, where pupils snapped the impressive views across the bridges, the Finnieston Crane, the Hydro, the Armadillo and the SEC. After a stop for lunch in Finnieston, pupils were ready for Photo Session 2 at Kelvingrove Park, the museum and surrounding area. Students in the Higher Photography and NPA classes had an excellent day, and the weather was perfect for the shoot!

## S1 Project Winners

The Art and Design department is very impressed by the talent and variety of projects submitted by last year's S1. There was a huge mix of both design and expressive work, and each pupil that participated received a certificate marking their achievement. Due to the high level of talent and effort put into the final pieces, the winning projects were incredibly difficult to choose. We chose four pieces of artwork from pupils who demonstrated an array of skills and techniques. Luke S produced a very impressive booklet of caricatures, and shared first prize with Finlay T, who created an incredible sculpture of a tree. They were closely followed by Honor T in second place with her amazing 'Steam Punk' - inspired piece and Alison B in third place with a very original project using different levels of water to make sounds and play a tune. Well done to our four winners and all S1 pupils for taking part!



## St Andrew's 6K Run

On Sunday 16 September, 65 pupils and staff from Strathaven Academy took part in a 6K around Strathclyde Park in aid of St Andrew's Hospice. Many walked, some jogged and some ran. The day was a great success, mainly because it managed to stay dry! There was a medal position for Hannah A (S6), who won the fastest female category with a very impressive time of 24 minutes and 19 seconds. Special mention should also go to Hamish A (S6), who was Strathaven Academy's fastest pupil in 23 minutes and 4 seconds, and to Mr Boyd, our fastest member of staff, who did it in 30 minutes exactly. Thanks to all who participated and sponsored - We raised an excellent amount of money for the hospice!



## Mindfulness Classes

Sessions are running on Tuesdays from 4pm to 5pm in the school. There are many potential benefits to mindfulness. Research has shown that mindfulness in practice can reduce stress and increase well-being, help you to perform better in exams, sports and music, help you sleep better, help with depression and anxiety, improve relationships and improve focus and concentration. The classes are delivered by a trained professional. It is running for ten weeks and is free of charge. Anyone who would still like to join the class should give their name to Mrs Wellcoat or their guidance teacher.



## BBC Orchestra Workshop

Strathaven Academy Concert Band had an incredible opportunity to spend the day working with members of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra through the BBC's ten-piece coaching scheme recently. The Concert Band started the day by performing three pieces of music that they had prepared. These were 'Arabian Dances', 'The Final Countdown' and 'The Hall of the Mountain King', which was conducted by the school percussion tutor Derek Love. After this, the Concert Band broke off into the sectionals, where they were taught by the members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. School Vice-Captain Chloe, who was playing piano and tuned percussion, said, "I really valued the time and experience of the BBC orchestra representatives. They allowed all band members to practise musical techniques and improve our approach to playing music." All members of the Concert Band enjoyed their experience and greatly developed their musical abilities. They finished the day off by giving a performance, in which they were able to demonstrate the new skills they had learned from the BBC musicians. The performance was attended by pupils and teachers. Head Teacher Mr Boyd commented on the outstanding experience. He said, "We were delighted to welcome members of the BBC ten-piece coaching scheme. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their skills, teamwork and performance techniques. Thanks to the Music teaching staff and instructors for organising and supporting this fantastic experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the Concert Band's performance and look forward to many more in the future."

## STEM Family Challenge

Our STEM Ambassadors (shown right), along with Mr Brown, hosted a Family Challenge evening for second year pupils and their parents. The evening of Monday 10 September, saw our S2s enjoy a number of challenges, including engineering and bridge-building, as well as an appearance by former Strathaven Academy pupil Caitlin T. Caitlin spoke about her recent trip to Sri Lanka and her efforts to save the world's oceans and the marine life which inhabits them. This tied in well with the STEM theme of the evening and the pupils and their families enjoyed the night.



## Loaves and Fishes Donations Appeal

S1 pupils are currently 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 will be looking to collect goods for food parcels containing the following: tinned goods, sugar, coffee, dried food, toiletries nappies and baby wipes. Thank you for your support!



# Excellence in Sport

## Molly's BMX Success

Congratulations to Molly S, who set herself the goal of winning British and National Champion on both BMX and Cruiser in the 17+ age group, and achieved this and more. Things didn't go well at the beginning of the season - Molly missed the first four rounds due to illness and injury, making the last few rounds very stressful for her. However, she won the National series in both categories, and was also first placed British champion on both bikes. Molly achieved the title of world number 6 in the cruiser category as well. Well done, Molly!

## Australian Open Karate

Calum M has achieved silver in the Australian Open in the under-18 section for karate, as well as winning gold in the Scottish International Open senior section and bronze in the British International Open. Well done, Calum!

## Judo Medal Win

Oliver W (S5) won a bronze medal in the Heart of England Championship in Birmingham in early September, and a gold medal in the Inverness Grand Prix event, making him Grand Prix champion in his category. Oliver has more events coming up this year, including the Welsh championships and the Scottish championships in November, before the British championships in early December. Oliver at the moment is only 30 points away from obtaining his black belt, and we wish him the best of luck in his next event!



## Academy Pupils Chosen for Rugby Tour

In July, three S5 Strathaven Academy boys (Sandy L, Peter M and Matthew D) were selected to go on the Glasgow Thistles

Annual Perpignan Tour for a training camp. The boys said that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done!



## More Netball Success

On Wednesday, 3 October, three of Strathaven Academy's netball teams started their season with games against St Margaret's, which ended in a resounding

win for Strathaven! The senior team was back in action on Thursday 4 October taking on Duncanrig and scoring an impressive 43-3 win in the opening round of the Open A Scottish cup. Well done, girls!



## Active Girls

On Friday 5 October, all S1, S2 and S3 girls took part in Active Girls' Day, which encourages pupils to exercise and have fun. The event raised awareness

of the importance of regular physical activity and the benefits it has to your lifestyle. The girls took part in Zumba, dance, yoga and netball, all led by professional instructors. The day was a great success and was enjoyed by all.



## Gymnastics Medals

Freya W won a bronze medal in her Acro Trio at the West of Scotland Gymnastics competition. She is competing in Saltney, Wales, in the near future. If you are interested in joining the gymnastics club, which takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes, please see Amy D or Victoria B.

