



Strathaven Academy



Christmas Edition
December 2019

Newsletter



Together We Thrive

The Strathaven Learning Community attended the official launch on 28th October of our shared vision and values. Over the past year, we have been working across the community to develop a shared vision and common set of values. Pupils, staff, parents/carers and partners from nursery, primary and secondary have contributed to this process. We started by looking at our common values and as we reported in our last newsletter issue, our top three are RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL and RESILIENT. A significant number of people from across our community then discussed, created and suggested vision statements that best describe what makes our learning community unique. Over 1000 people voted on which one they preferred. As reported in our previous newsletter, our aspirational vision statement is 'TOGETHER WE THRIVE'. Around the festive period last year, children from all of our associated primary schools were involved in drawing their thoughts about Strathaven and they illustrated – 'What does Strathaven mean to me?' The most common themes were Strathaven Castle, the Balloon Festival and Gala Day. The ideas and concepts from primary pupils were developed further by Ellie and Emma in S2. Art and Design teacher, Mr Wellcoat, then supported the digital refinement producing our Strathaven Learning Community logo and designs. Posters, banners and window stickers are displayed in each of our schools and across the learning community to promote our vision and values. At the launch event, pupil members of our joint Strathaven Learning Community Pupil Council shared and presented what our shared vision and set of common values means to them. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project. Mr Boyd and the Primary School Head Teachers recognise and appreciate the tremendous support provided by staff, parents/carers, partners and friends of the Strathaven Community. A particular thanks to our Parent Council and PTA representatives for their support and encouragement with this piece of work. To all of the young people in the joint Pupil Council, and those who spoke at the launch, thanks for being Ambassadors of Strathaven Learning Community and demonstrating our vision and values for all to see.



SCHOOL DIARY

11 Dec	Christmas Concert
16 Dec	Senior Citizens' Lunch
17-20 Dec	Senior Phase Assessments
17 Dec	S1 Pantomime
18 Dec	On Yer Bike
	Santa Dash
	S1/2 Christmas Café
20 Dec	Christmas Service
	School Closes 2.30pm
6 Jan	School re-opens
6-17 Jan	Senior Phase Assessments
10 Jan	S2 Reports
17 Jan	S3 Electives Rotate
20 Jan	S1 Consultation Evening
3 Feb	S3 Assessment Begins
	P7 Transition FunSTEM
	S4 Consultation Evening



RESPONSIBLE RESPECTFUL RESILIENT
STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY
CHAPELTOWN GILMOURTOWN GLASSFORD KIRKLANDPARK SANDFORD WESTER OVERTON STRATHAVEN ACADEMY

Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our excellent newsletter. This illustrates the incredible breadth of activities and range of opportunities available to our young people. Thanks to the S6 Communications Elective for their hard work, supported by Mr Wellcoat, in creating this professional and informative newsletter for the school community. Amongst the many activities and events mentioned, I am going to highlight a couple of these. On the 28th October we successfully launched the Strathaven Learning Community shared vision and values as detailed on the front cover. Our common values give us a basis for the conversations and discussions we all have on a daily basis, and our vision helps to support and inform our decisions as we move forward together. We will continue to build on the work already done and capitalise on the many opportunities this presents across our community. On the 14th of November we welcomed the BBC Radio Scotland Sportsound show to the Academy (page 4). This fantastic event enabled us to showcase to the wider community how

incredibly talented our young people are. It also demonstrated the huge potential of partnership working and the Strathaven community coming together as one. A special thanks to Miss Hamilton and the PE team for making this such a memorable day for our young people. These are just two examples of the many successes and achievements that occur on a daily basis across our Learning Community. We can be just as confident looking ahead to the future as we can be rightly proud of what we have already achieved. As the festive period approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our young people, parents/carers, staff and partners for making this another special year for the Academy. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**MR BOYD,
HEAD TEACHER**



The school newsletter continues to be produced by a pupil committee. In addition to developing our teamwork and time management skills, some of us enjoy fact-finding and writing articles, whilst others work with professional magazine-editing software used

in the media industry. Several of us have had our first experience of web design and others are developing their photography skills. We hope you enjoy this festive edition showcasing events and achievements representing the life of 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.

December Issue TOGETHER WE THRIVE

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If you have something to report in our newsletter, email gw18strathavenoffice@glow.sch.uk providing the name and class of the person(s) involved with their achievement/success and a photograph if possible.

You can also report achievements to our **google form** on the **school website** under 'News' and 'Wider Achievement'.

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Say Hello to Your Leadership Team

Sammy and Peter are your school captains. As S6 pupils, we know this school very well, and it is our intention to make the most of our final year at school. It is important to acknowledge the hard work our fellow pupils have put in and the incredible results our year group has achieved so far academically. S6 is also about the extra events and projects we organise. The electives we choose in S6 are very important, as we gain knowledge and acquire new skills to use after school. Many of these demonstrate how important pupil voice is in taking responsibility, working in a group and carrying out projects. Our

captains aim to continue the amazing work completed by previous senior pupils. It is our responsibility to inspire and mentor the whole school community and continue to provide an ethos of pride in Strathaven Academy.

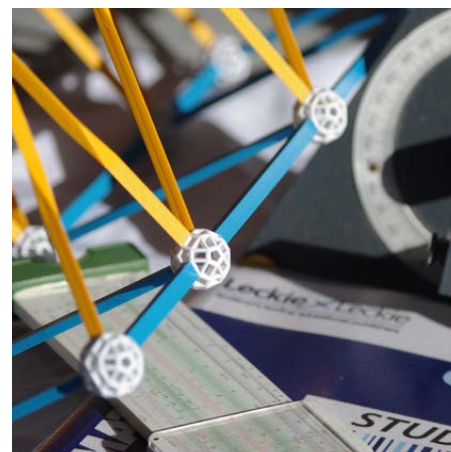


Weir-Wise Honour

Bethany P from S2 has been accepted onto the Strathclyde University Weir-Wise Programme. This is designed to promote engineering for girls. Bethany will take part in a two day visit with 49 other aspiring engineers from across the country. Well done Bethany for being selected.

STEM Army Visit

On November 14th, pupils from Mathematics took part in a very inspiring activity with representatives from the army. As part of our ongoing STEM programme, pupils built robots. Pupils were very thankful to the representatives who visited Strathaven Academy as they got to experience the extent to which technology can affect many aspects of our modern world.



Numeracy Week

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed Maths Week on the 9th to the 13th of September. The week kicked off with our S3 pupils tackling the 'Maths Wae Nae Borders' challenge, while S2 pupils worked through cross-number puzzles. S1 pupils finished the first day with a Maths roadshow. Well done to our two groups of winners! On the last day of Maths Week, S1 and S2 pupils took part in a treasure hunt. It was a very successful week, filled with fun Maths challenges, and it raised the profile of numeracy in Strathaven Academy!



6K Run for St Andrew's Hospice

The Lanarkshire Schools 6K fun run took place on the 15th of September with pupils from over 30 schools in attendance at Strathclyde Park. The event is open to students from S4 to S6, teachers and other school staff. Participants run, jog or walk around the park to

raise money for St Andrew's Hospice. Attendees enjoyed the music, warm-up dances and the brilliant atmosphere before the race. Well done to all Strathaven Academy pupils and staff who participated in the annual event in aid of St Andrew's Hospice.



Halloween Fun

The S6 Halloween disco took place on Thursday the 7th of November. Pupils and teachers wore various costumes with prizes given to the best. There was a DJ, a buffet and many games with prizes. Everyone had a great night.

Sportsound Comes to Strathaven

Strathaven Academy was delighted to welcome the BBC Radio Scotland Show, 'Sportsound' to our school on the 14th of November. The sports ambassadors helped to organise this event, which included many workshops throughout the day. 'BBC LAB' worked with pupils to create a professional audio report, which became part of the broadcast in the evening featuring Shaun and Dylan from S2. This also included coaching sessions from our professional visitors and our sports ambassadors took over BBC Radio Scotland's Instagram page for the day. Sports Scotland worked with our S6 Communications Team, sharing their experience of working in media and PR. Our S5/6 NPA photography class worked with a BBC photographer and got to ask questions about his career. BBC Producer/Director and former Strathaven Academy pupil, Colin Wallace also took a workshop for our drama pupils with opportunities for questions about his role in many broadcast events. The evening BBC Scotland

programme, broadcasted live from Strathaven Academy welcomed a full audience of pupils, staff and members the Strathaven community. The panel discussed many aspects of Scottish football and featured some well-known guests and a chance for the audience to ask questions live on air. The panel included Tam Cowan, Kenny Miller (Rangers/Celtic), Leanne Crichton (Hibs) and Steven Thompson (St Mirren/Rangers). Many thanks to the PE department for making this event happen and to Sports Scotland and BBC Radio Scotland for a very enjoyable and memorable day for the Academy.



Netball Success

Amazing results for our S1, S2 and S3 girls in their Scottish Cup games against Dumfries Academy. Congratulations also to our amazing S2 and S3 netball girls, who were selected for the South Lanarkshire district squad: Mariana P, Niamh G, Emma L, Darcy F, Beth M, Abby A, Holly R, Zoe B, Talia W and Alexa H. An amazing achievement!



Getting Fit for Active Girls' Day

Fun, motivational, amazing, different - just some of the words used to describe our outstanding Active Girls' Day on October 4th! Thank you to all our Sports Development pupils, our brilliant PE team and Emma, our Active Schools Coordinator. S1 - S4 pupils took part in a number of fun sport-related activities including rowing, bowls, tennis and sports acrobatics! All the girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and now feel encouraged to take part in sport more frequently. They cannot wait until next year!

Gold DofE Expedition

Eleven of our S6 students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition during the September Weekend. They all found the four days challenging but very rewarding! Well done to you all! This is a fantastic achievement, which required a lot of physical activity.



American Football

Well done to Callum W on his performance at Britbowl in London. He made it to the final - a fantastic achievement! Congratulations to Callum!

Cycling Champion

Congratulations to Morven Y, part of the winning Scotland team at the British Cycling Inter Regional Championships. We are very proud of you!

Life-Saving Medal

Congratulations to Duncan K, gold medal winner in the Senior (15-17years) category, Scottish Life Saving Championships. Well done Duncan!

Successful Reading Week

All pupils of Strathaven Academy took part in Reading Week in September. Pupils read for ten minutes each day in registration. On the Thursday, there was a dedicated reading period for all year groups. Some pupils took part in Cosplay Day on the Friday by dressing up as their favourite book/movie character or wearing a band T-shirt in exchange for a donation of £1 or an old book. Prizes were given for best costume. Everyone had a great day!

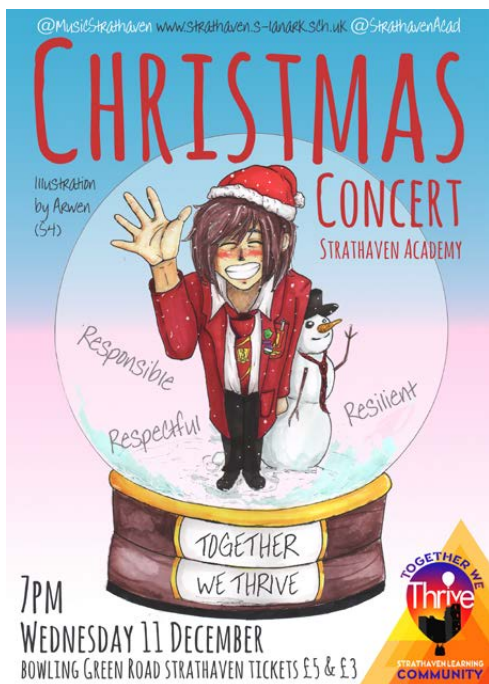


Strathaven Academy is Getting into the Christmas Spirit

In the run-up to the Christmas holidays, Strathaven Academy has many events planned. Every year, the Art and Design department chooses a pupil's artwork for the Strathaven Academy Christmas card. This year, Arwen (S4) and Arabella (S6) have been asked to complete designs for the card and the Christmas Concert Poster. The sisters have contributed so much to the Art and Design department over the years and have created some outstanding artwork. This opportunity is a fitting reward for their hard work (see page 7). The annual Strathaven Academy Christmas Concert will take place on the 11th of December. Rehearsals and preparations have been taking for a while now and the various groups, bands, soloists and performers will have the opportunity to show off their talents in front of a live audience. The PTA will also draw their annual raffle. The show will feature fantastic performances from the concert band, the staff/pupil choirs, ukulele, soul and guitar groups. Pupils will also perform a segment from this year's school show 'Legally Blonde'. Well done to all involved and we look forward to a very festive evening. On the 16th of December, Strathaven Academy will host its annual Christmas lunch for the elderly members of our community. We expect around 80 guests to attend the event, managed and organised by Ms Huq and the Captain and Prefect teams. Our S5/6 Practical Cookery students are preparing two delicious courses and our pupils will provide some amazing entertainment. Also on the 16th of December, S1 pupils will visit the King's Theatre for the annual panto. Pupils anticipate a hilarious performance of 'Jack and the

Beanstalk' and are looking forward to a great day out. The PE department is planning new activities for this year with a Santa Dash for S1 and S2 on the 18th of December. Pupils will be asked to donate non-perishable food items for hampers to benefit local foodbanks. Pupils will also be encouraged to accessorise their uniform with a Christmas theme. We will also hold our annual St Andrew's Hospice 'On Yer Bike' challenge. Pupils from all years, along with staff, will cycle for half an hour on the day to raise money for the charity. The event is a success every year, and last year we raised over £800 for this worthwhile charity. Thanks in advance to all the pupils and staff for supporting our upcoming festive activities.





Pupils Make a Stand for Climate Change

In September and November 2019, pupils from Strathaven Academy joined the Strathaven community to protest about climate change. They took part in peaceful protests across from Strathaven Castle. Accompanied by local MSP Lisa Cameron, pupils handed out leaflets and held up signs. This event shows the pupils' dedication to raising awareness about issues surrounding climate change.



Bubbles and Bites

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA, who raised an incredible £3902 at this year's Bubbles and Bites event. Many thanks to everyone who attended, bought raffle tickets or donated prizes.



Pupils Attend Annual Pride Prom

On the 7th of September, pupils from across the school and South Lanarkshire who are part of the LGBT+ community and their friends attended the annual Pride Prom event in Glasgow. This event was originally created by the Pride Prom Project LTD. This was a successful

evening, in which many pupils from different schools came together to celebrate in a safe environment and forge new friendships. This project brings young people together for a fun-filled evening, where they can relax and enjoy being in the company of others from their community.



OUR PUPILS SHOWING THEIR PRIDE



S5/S6 Careers Day

All S5 and S6 students were involved in careers talks delivered by outside partners recently. Thanks to all who delivered the sessions – your support is greatly appreciated. Students found the day very helpful and the support given by the speakers was extremely useful!



Young Musician of the Year

Congratulations to all of our performers at the Young Musician of the Year competition. All our pupils entertained the audience and our invited judges: Linda Ormiston OBE, Ian Thompson and Rebecca Smith. The results were as follows - Junior Vocalist - Winner - Skarlett B, Runner-up - Ellis H Junior Instrumentalist - Winner - Kyle K, Runner-up - Luke S Senior Vocalist - Winner - Gregg C, Runner-up - Lucy W Senior Instrumentalist - Winner - Niamh M, Runner-up - Emma C As part of the Creative and Aesthetic Showcase, the Art and Design department staged an exhibition called 'Show of Excellence', which included former pupils' incredible achievements in many forms of art,

design and photography. Our Health and Food pupils prepared amazing creations to showcase their skills. This included very popular profiteroles with salted caramel topping and Italian oregano meatballs in a tomato dip. Our audience, staff and pupils enjoyed these delicious additions to the evening's showcase.



Presenting Legally Blonde

Strathaven Academy is producing and performing a new school show for 2020 called 'Legally Blonde'. Starting as a book by Amanda Brown, it became a comedy movie in 2001 starring Reese Witherspoon. The musical adaptation on Broadway and London's West End has been very successful over the years and the high school version will be performed by the students at Strathaven Academy on the 10th and 11th of June 2020. The Rehearsals have been taking place since October and the cast are planning to have all of act one complete for January.

The cast consists of Ellis as the main character of 'Elle', with the sorority girls of 'Delta Nu' played by Emily, Eva, Milly and Grace. 'Warner', the male lead, is played by Kieran with Ewan as 'Emmett' and 'Professor Callahan' is played by Zack. The show is directed by Mrs Breddy and produced by Mr Sinclair. Musical Director is Mrs Blades and the choreographer is Miss Whitefield. We wish the cast and crew every success in their continuing rehearsals and look forward to a sneak peek featuring the opening number from the show at our Christmas Concert on the 11th of December.



Photographers Hit the Town

In June, both our NPA and Higher Photography students had the opportunity to take a trip to Glasgow and experiment with different types of photography. Our students first set off to the SSE Hydro to study some modern architecture. They captured some great photos of the buildings they felt were the most interesting. They were then let loose in Kelvingrove Museum and Kelvingrove Park! This year, as usual, we have some very talented students and we look forward to seeing what they produce within this coming year.



OUR STUDENTS AT KELVINGROVE

Music Residential

The Music department had their second, annual 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 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, archery, and a team-building obstacle course. Pupils enjoyed roasting marshmallows and singing around the campfire in the evenings. Pupils had an

incredible few days. It brought band members closer together and gave them the chance to strengthen their performances through extended rehearsals in a new setting. Thank you to staff and pupils for making it such an incredible experience.



A Midsummers Night's Dream

S2 English classes and the Advanced Higher English class took a trip to the Odeon cinema to see the live screening from London of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. It was a very enjoyable day for all the pupils.

Rotary Design Award

Congratulations to all S4 pupils who took part in the Rotary Design Awards for Art and Design on Friday, 14th June. The young people worked hard to prepare their design ideas and discussed them with the judges. Rotary member Mr E Rice and architect Mr W Cooper took time to discuss the design process with pupils and choose a winner and two runners-up. First prize was awarded to Arwen S. Well done to our very talented winner! The runners-up were Áine H and Lara D. We are grateful to the Strathaven Rotary for supporting this annual event and encouraging our future designers.



EXCELLENT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE



S2 Pupils are off to Hogwarts

This month saw S2 pupils visit the Making of Harry Potter exhibition at Warner Bros Studios in London. Pupils learned about the various departments that enable production staff to take the book to screen. The studio tour allowed the pupils to interact with all aspects of the movie-making process, from artists' drawings through model-making to set design and manufacture. Part of the trip gave the pupils the chance to visit London attractions too. The trip was a huge success and enjoyed by all pupils. The trip organiser Mr Connor would like to thank colleagues who accompanied him on the trip and ensured all the pupils had a great experience. The feedback from pupils, staff and parents has been extremely positive and the pupils have some amazing memories from their trip.



European Day of Languages

On Tuesday, 1st October, pupils and staff at Strathaven Academy took part in a celebration of languages during an assembly for S1. The theme this year was the importance of languages to your health. After an introduction from Mrs Kane, the S6 Language Ambassadors talked about some general benefits of learning a language. They explored topics such as careers in languages, tips on improving your language skills, and culture and festivals in other countries. They then addressed this year's main theme, with information on how learning languages has been proven to reduce the risk of dementia later in life. We then had a presentation from Mr Sinclair, who explored healthy food and diets from around the world. We were then joined by two of our very talented junior pupils - Sylwia B and Sophia G - who recited some beautiful Russian and Spanish poetry. Our guest speaker, Louise Lenhan from KidsLingo, then talked about her organisation and her own experience of learning languages. Finally, our junior choir was joined by Ewan L, and they performed the song 'Lay Your Head On Me' in both English and Spanish.





Pupils Excel During Zanzibar Expedition

In July 2019, several S5 and S6 pupils set off on the trip of a lifetime to Zanzibar. Zanzibar is an island off the coast of Tanzania in East Africa. During their stay, they participated in a wide range of activities such as teaching the children in their assigned school of Kijito Upele. Pupils got involved in many different subjects such as PE, English and IT. They also helped with the construction of different school buildings and had the opportunity to explore and immerse themselves in the culture of Zanzibar through

trips to the local towns and villages. Everyone who took part in the expedition had an amazing experience and one they will never forget. The pupils of Strathaven Academy felt very proud of the assistance they gave to constructing the schools, teaching, interacting with the pupils and meeting members of the communities. Well done to everyone involved and a special thanks to Mr Greenberg and Miss McCabe for giving up part of their summer break to accompany the team.



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