

**Education Resources  
Executive Director Tony McDaid  
Head Teacher Waheeda Huq  
Strathaven Academy**

**Our ref:** WH/CD  
**Your ref:**  
**If calling ask for:** Ms Huq  
**Phone:** 01357 524040  
**Date:** 17 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Head Teacher Update – 19 May 2022**

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family safe and well. It has been another very busy month, with SQA examinations well under way and, as we plan for session 2022-23, I would like to update you on a number of important items.

**Promoting Positive Behaviour (PPB)**

Last week we launched our Promoting Positive Behaviour initiative, which focuses on recognising the excellent behaviour of our pupils and ensuring consistent standards and expectations across the school. The PPB initiative focuses on our three school values of being responsible, resilient and respectful.

**BGE (S1-S3) House Assemblies**

This year we will be hosting House Assemblies for all BGE pupils in place of the traditional Awards Ceremony. House Assemblies will allow pupils to come together as a group, celebrate achievements, engage in a team-building exercise and have fun with their peers – especially important after such a challenging period during the pandemic!

In the coming months we will be consulting with staff, pupils and parents/carers on how best to recognise pupil achievement in future sessions.

**Senior Phase Awards Ceremony**

We have taken the decision to postpone the Senior Phase Awards Ceremony, traditionally held in June, to the start of the new session. This will allow us to organise a celebration for pupils and parents/carers in which we recognise pupil performance in SQA examinations as well as capturing wider achievements within and out with school.

Once the school calendar for session 2022-23 is finalised, we will communicate the date through our school website, Twitter feed and School App.

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### Parent Council

Parents/carers are invited to join our Parent Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the school library on Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at 7pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing the school office - [office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk) no later than Monday, 6 June 2022.

### Community Links

There are a number of community links which we would like to bring to your attention:

#### **\*\*Bigger Picture\*\***

Strathaven Academy pupils are invited to drop in on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime to Trinity Church Hall to enjoy a free hot chocolate and biscuits (and a toastie for 75p, if they wish), while eating their lunch or watching cartoons on the big screen.

#### **\*\* Sandford Giving Tree 'sponsor a backpack' appeal \*\***

Working with our local schools, nurseries and other partner agencies, we feel this is a small way to give something back and ensure every child starts school with the supplies they need to thrive.

We will be taking donations from now until 15 June 2022. These can be dropped off at The Crib - Community Coffee House and Strathaven Rugby Club.

Drop-off times:

The Crib: 9.30am – 3pm Wednesdays to Saturdays.

Strathaven Rugby Club: 7pm – 8pm on Tuesdays.

Suggested donations include reusable water bottles, pencil cases filled with pencils, pens, a rubber, a sharpener and a ruler, calculators, sanitary products, deodorants, hairbrushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

All backpacks will then be passed on to our local schools, nurseries and partner agencies, who are taking part in this year's appeal. If you would like further information, please contact [sandford\\_givingtree@yahoo.com](mailto:sandford_givingtree@yahoo.com)

### Key Dates

P7 information evening	Wednesday, 18 May 2022
Reading Week	Monday, 23 May 2022 – Thursday, 26 May 2022
Tinto Hill climb	Tuesday, 24 May 2022
Holiday	Friday, 27 May 2022
SQA exams finish	Wednesday, 1 June 2022
Public holiday	Thursday, 2 June 2022
Queen's Jubilee holiday	Friday, 3 June 2022
Return of new S5/6	Monday, 6 June 2022
Uniform sale	Monday, 6 June 2022 & Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
P7 visits	Wednesday, 8 June 2022 & Thursday, 9 June 2022
S6 prom	Thursday, 9 June 2022
School closes 1pm	Friday, 24 June 2022

I will continue to update you at regular intervals but in the meantime I hope our School App, Twitter feed and website will continue to be useful platforms for sharing information. If you have any queries, please contact the school office or your child's Pupil Support teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Waheeda Huq', with a stylized flourish at the end.

WAHEEDA HUQ  
Head Teacher