

**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:** 12 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this communication finds you and your family safe and well.

Since our return in August, pupils in Strathaven Academy have been working extremely hard. I hope you have been able to keep up with communications via our social media channels (School App and Twitter). Our school is a busy, vibrant learning environment where staff ensure our young people are receiving the highest quality experiences in their classrooms and encouraging involvement in the wider life of the school.

Over the past eight weeks, we have had a number of events, including the Senior Phase Awards Ceremony, MacMillan Afternoon Tea, PTA Bubbles and Bites, COSPlay, Mini COP26 - COS1 (Conference of Schools 1), filming in school to celebrate achievement of Gold Level in Enterprising School Certification, STEM Family Challenge delivered by S6 ambassadors, Creative & Aesthetic Showcase, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, a trip to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Maths Week, and European Day of Languages. We also enjoy a vast array of lunchtime and after-school extracurricular clubs and appreciate the work of the S6 Leadership team.

As a school, we respect the views of all stakeholders, and we use the Parent Council as a means to further dialogue on how we can improve our school. As a senior team, we have identified the following areas:

### **School Uniform**

We have been delighted with the standard of school uniform since our return in August, and we appreciate the support of parents/carers as we continue to encourage all young people to take pride in their Strathaven Academy identity, uphold our school values, and respect our 'dressed for work' culture.

As we move into autumn, we ask that pupils come to school with appropriate outdoor jackets and footwear to ensure they remain dry and comfortable.

We appreciate the cost of uniform items is on the rise and we ask you to contact your child's Pupil Support teacher should you have any further questions.

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### **Toilets**

There are a number of reasons we ask pupils to use toilet facilities before registration, during interval, at lunchtime and after school. Much learning and teaching time is lost as a consequence of young people leaving class to go to the toilet and, at times, this can also disrupt the running of the school.

I would like to assure parents/carers that our toilets are always open for use at the times indicated above. Where pupils require the use of facilities outwith the recommended times, staff will allow pupils to leave classes in instances where:

- pupils do not often ask out to the toilet and genuinely appear to need to use the facilities
- a pupil has a medical need/toilet pass
- a female pupil requires urgent use of toilets

You are encouraged to contact your child's Pupil Support teacher should you require to discuss your child's individual needs.

I would also like to draw your attention to the following:

### **Wrap Up Lanarkshire**

Throughout the month of October, we are encouraging all pupils and staff to donate a preloved winter jacket to *Wrap Up Lanarkshire*. The *Wrap Up* campaign delivers the jackets we donate to homeless shelters, refugee centres and organisations supporting vulnerable people across Scotland. Jackets can be deposited in boxes located in the school reception area.

Thanks for donating your preloved, warm jacket!

### **Participatory Budgeting 2022 – Winning Option**

We are delighted to announce that Option 1: School Radio Station is our winner! We received more than 1,200 responses from parents, pupils and staff, and this option received 46% of the vote. In second place was Option 3: Pizza Oven with 42%.

Thank you all for voting, and we look forward to seeing how this initiative will enhance our curriculum and offer exciting new opportunities for our young people in the future.

### **Games Club**

In conjunction with local business partners *Say It Gifts* and the Parent Council, Strathaven Academy Games Club will take place every Friday lunchtime in the school library. The club will begin after the October break for an eight-week trial.

Finally, on behalf of the senior team, I would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support, and we would like to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable October break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday, 24 October 2022.

Yours faithfully



W HUQ  
Head Teacher