

**Education Resources
Executive Director Carol McKenzie
Head Teacher Waheeda Huq
Strathaven Academy**

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Date: June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this correspondence finds you and your families safe and well. As we approach the end of term, I would like to highlight some of our successes over the last few weeks.

Europe's Top Entrepreneurial Schools

We are delighted to announce that Strathaven Academy is one of twenty-seven schools that have been honoured with The Entrepreneurial School (TES) Award this year.

TES Awards identify schools that excel in various criteria, including active involvement of teachers and students, dedicated resources, community engagement, professional development, and integration of a European dimension. These schools have truly embraced the spirit of entrepreneurship, empowering young minds to think innovatively and embrace their potential as future leaders.

Details of all the winners can be found by following the link below:

<https://gen-e.eu/the-entrepreneurial-school-tes-awards/>

Reading School – Gold Status

Building on our Reading School Silver status from last year, we have been awarded Reading School Gold status. A huge thank you to the English/Drama department, all staff, pupils, parents/carers and local partners who have worked hard across the school to support and promote reading.

SQA

The SQA's online gallery, Flair, is now live. Flair highlights some of the most creative work submitted by learners across Scotland for Art and Design, Fashion and Textile Technology, and Photography courses during session 2021/22. We are delighted to share the link below, which features the work of two of our pupils, Adam and Gracie:

<https://www.flair.sqa.org.uk/>

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SLC Awards Winners

Aimee (S2) and Caitlin (S2) joined their peers across SLC to receive an award for their work within the school. Both girls are effective contributors and confident citizens, which they have displayed through the initiative they have shown this session. Aimee and Caitlin set up a British Sign Language club as a tribute to Mr McGarrie, who sadly passed away in August.

Both girls have successfully established and managed the club on a weekly basis and enjoyed fantastic attendance by pupils and staff. The girls plan and deliver a different lesson every week at beginners' level and have shown incredible skill in leading learning. They are also promoting an incredibly important skill across the school. It has been a pleasure to watch the girls grow in confidence delivering these lessons and enabling pupils and staff to develop their sign language skills.

End-of-year Trips

End-of-year trips to Blackpool and Alton Towers have been a great success. Pupils and staff were looking forward to the opportunity and planning is well underway for next year.

School Show

Strathaven Academy's version of the smash hit musical *Grease* was simply fabulous! It was our first school show since 2008. A huge thank you to Mrs Bradshaw and Mrs Blades for leading and managing the show from beginning to end. Our cast was full of energy and definitely electrifying!

BGE Celebrating Success House Assemblies

All new S2, S3 and S4 pupils took part in house assemblies to celebrate their success this session. Over 500 certificates were issued to pupils for a range of successes, including achievement in subjects, attendance and timekeeping. It was a great opportunity to say 'well done' to all of our pupils and share some of our ideas for next session to capture and celebrate their achievements and successes.

Sporting Success

Abbie in S5 has been selected as part of her gymnastics display team Lunar Titans to represent Great Britain at the World Gymnaestrada in Amsterdam from the 29th July to 6th August 2023.

Clubs & Excursions

We have a range of curricular excursions led by staff and the Equity Team. All our clubs, along with the growing offer of supported study, are only possible thanks to the commitment of our staff.

Virtual School

We are delighted to be piloting the first offer of subjects via the SLC Virtual Academy for session 2023/24. Strathaven Academy is offering Advanced Higher Physical Education and we value the great partnership between schools. We are confident it will further strengthen the quality of learning experiences for young people in our authority.

Eco Schools

The Eco Committee, led by Mrs Greenan, has completed its first litter pick - 185 pieces of litter collected from the park. The eco-elective is working on its first learning block – biodiversity - and focusing on communication, research and numeracy skills. Pupils have undertaken their initial biodiversity survey of the school grounds and have identified key areas for improvement. We are looking to plant some wildflowers and install bug hotels and hedgehog houses in the near future.

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Contact has been made with a local gardener who is keen to help. We also intend to help with an up-and-coming community garden initiative within Strathaven.

Our planters are in position and, once the soil is delivered, we are looking to start planting our wildflowers.

Mrs Greenan has also made contact with South Lanarkshire's waste management department, who will send a representative to talk to us about waste management issues. This will also link in with DYW.

The committee is keen to move towards their green flag and hopes to send the draft plan for approval in due course.

Mrs Greenan is looking for "garden nannies" - community volunteers to help tend our planters over the summer, and we welcome volunteers.

Partnerships

Senior Metalwork pupils have worked in partnership with Martec to produce benches for Kilbryde Hospice and St Andrew's Hospice. A school bench has also been installed outside the main entrance to the school.

Staffing Update

Mrs Ferguson has left us on a temporary basis to take up post as Acting Principal Teacher of Mathematics (Stonelaw High School).

Mrs Cyran, our lower strings teacher, will be leaving us at the end of this term as she and her family move back to Poland after being in Scotland for 17 years.

Six Newly Qualified Teachers are allocated to Strathaven Academy for session 2023/24 (Art & Design, History, History/Modern Studies, Music, PE & Spanish).

We would like to thank all our temporary staff for their support during session 2022/23.

Our Newly Qualified Teachers and Miss Kirkwood (Support for Learning) are moving on to pastures new and we wish them all the very best.

We welcome back from maternity leave Mrs McDonald (English) and Mrs Breddy (Drama).

On behalf of the senior team, I would like to thank all parents/carers and our young people for their tremendous support this session. We wish you and your family an enjoyable summer holiday when it comes. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Wednesday, 16 August 2023.

Yours sincerely



WAHEEDA HUQ
Head Teacher