

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

**Our ref:** JK/CD  
**If calling ask for:** Mrs Kane  
**Phone:** 01357 524040  
**Date:** September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Welcome**

I have been delighted to welcome our S2 pupils back after the summer break and I am impressed by how quickly they have settled back into their routines. In a change to our normal structure, where possible Year Heads will move with their allocated year group and join them on their journey through Strathaven Academy. This means that I will remain the Year Head for your young person and be able to provide continuity. Having worked with them since they started the P7 transition programme, it is lovely to see how much they have already grown up and learn about their skills and interests.

As a school we encourage our learners to take pride in being part of Strathaven Academy and to ensure their conduct within the school and local community is both responsible and respectful. Our school vision 'Together We Thrive', along with our values of 'Responsible, Respectful and Resilient', give our pupils a sense of belonging to a community where each learner is valued for the contributions they make. We make every effort to support, challenge and nurture our young people to ensure they develop key skills which will lead to success both in school and beyond.

### **Attendance and Timekeeping**

In order to achieve qualifications and success in school, we expect all pupils to attend regularly and arrive promptly.

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please contact the school office to inform them prior to the appointment. Pupils should be collected by the parent/carer and are reminded to sign-out before they leave. Where possible, we expect pupils to return to school after an appointment, to ensure valuable learning and teaching time is not lost. Pupils are reminded to sign-in on return to school.

### **School Dress**

We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to attend school wearing full school uniform which includes white shirt/blouse, school tie, blazer, black trousers/tailored black shorts/black skirt/school tartan skirt and plain black footwear.

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## **Online Platforms**

Google Classroom is the platform we use to share information and resources, many subjects have already established Google Classrooms and the codes to access these classrooms have been shared. All S2 pupils should also be a member of the year group information Google Classroom. We share important information and opportunities on this page throughout the year and therefore pupils should check regularly for updates. The code for this year group Google classroom is 5dybs22.

If your child is having difficulty accessing Google Classroom, please ask them to speak to their Pupil Support teacher.

We are currently working on the launch of a homework tracking app for all parents/carers and pupils to use as an online homework tool. Further information will be shared over the coming weeks.

Parentsportal.scot is a new digital service to help replace the traditional 'school bag run' by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services. I would encourage all parents/carers to access this service to help us improve our communication with home.

To access parentsportal.scot go to <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>. If you have a mygovscot account, click the link to Sign In or if you don't have a mygovscot account, click the link to register. Once registered you will be prompted to link your child.

## **S3 Subject Choices**

This is an important year for S2 pupils because in January they will begin the process of choosing the 8 subjects they would like to study in S3. Pupil Support and Skills Development Scotland staff will work with young people to help them think about future pathways. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend our careers and option choice event on Tuesday, 30 January 2024. There will also be information available on the school website.

## **Key Dates**

Please find below key dates in relation to reporting and events for S1.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Friday 13, October 2023	S2 tracking report issued
Wednesday, 20 December 2023	S2 full report issued
Monday, 15 January 2024	S2 Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday, 30 January 2024	Careers / Option Choice Event
Friday, 10 May 2024	S2 tracking report issued

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## **Parental Engagement**

Parents, carers and families are the most important influences in a child's life. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of their child's education.

We aim to help parents be involved with their children's education and learning, feel welcomed in our school and feel encouraged to express their views. In addition, we aim to encourage family members to learn together and learn how to support their children's learning.

This session we have a number of activities planned to help you feel more involved in our school including:

- Reading café
- Numeracy workshops
- Creative & Aesthetics showcase
- Christmas Concert
- Barista café
- STEM Family Challenge evening
- Mental Health Awareness workshop
- Sports Awards

In addition, you will have the opportunity to take part in activities to plan and support school improvement.

Further details will be shared in due course. If you are keen to play an active role in our school community, please consider joining the Parent Council or PTA.

## **Questionnaire**

This session we are looking to examine the systems and processes that we use to ensure that young people feel both safe and included within our learning community. We would be grateful if you took the time to share your views on how well we accomplish this at Strathaven Academy. Scanning the QR code below will take you to a questionnaire that will allow you to give us feedback and, if you would like to do so, volunteer to become part of a range of focus groups. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask for Mr Brown or Mr Dunn.



## **Standards & Quality Report**

Our Standards and Quality Report for session 2023-2024 has been published on our school website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

## **School Community**

My aim for this year is to continue to maintain the strong ethos that we have established over the last few years. I am confident that we can work together, staff, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that all pupils in S2 achieve their potential and have a successful year.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I would like to wish your child every success in the coming session.

Warmest regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jillian Kane".

J KANE  
Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support)