

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

Our ref: RJ/CD
If calling ask for: Mrs James
Phone: 01357 524040
Date: September 2023

Dear Parent/carer

Welcome

As we near the end of the third full week of the school term, I would like to take this opportunity to not only share key information but to set the expectations for all pupils in S3, as they embark on their final year of the Broad General Education.

I have been delighted to welcome our pupils back after the summer break and I am impressed by how quickly they are settling into S3. 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/black skirt/school tartan skirt and plain black footwear.

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Email: office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk



Online Platforms

Pupils should ensure that they have joined any new S3 Google Classroom pages, if required. Every S3 pupil 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.

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.

Key Dates

Please find below key dates in relation to reporting and consultation evenings for S3 pupils.

Date	Event
Friday, 13 October 2023	S3 Full Report issued to Parents/Carers
Wednesday, 20 December 2023	S3 Tracking Report issued to Parents/Carers
Monday, 19 February 2024	S3 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday, 10 May 2024	S3 Tracking Report issued to Parents/Carers

A full school calendar detailing school holidays is available on the school App.

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.

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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. The first meeting is on Tuesday, 19 September 7pm for both Parent Council and 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](#).

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School Community

My aim for this year is to continue to build on the strong relationship that I have established with your child in S2 and support them as they complete their final year of the Broad General Education. I will endeavour to ensure that their wellbeing remains a key priority and support them through their S3 experience. I am confident that we can work together, staff, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that all pupils in S3 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.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. James".

MRS R JAMES
Depute Head Teacher