

AVONMAIL

EDITION 2

STRATHAVEN ACADEMY
ENTERPRISING SCHOOLS

OSCAR PIASTRI'S
SPINT RUN VICTORY

WIND, WIND, WIND
THE RENEWABLE RESOLUTION

MARTEC BENCH
SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

BAND CAMP
2023



WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to our second edition of the Strathaven

Academy magazine *Avonmail*, celebrating session 2023/2024.

Throughout this session, members of our S6 Communications elective, supported by Mr Holmes, have been gathering information, photographs and stories to highlight the biggest events of the school year so far. Continuing from the success of last year's brand new relaunch of *Avonmail*, we have focused on a variety of stories from across all walks of school life that showcase the hard work and dedication shown by pupils and teachers as we progress into the holidays. We hope that this edition allows you to reflect upon what the school community has achieved and enjoy the stories and features that have been carefully put together and showcased in a refreshed new style.

Enjoy!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We are really excited to launch the second edition of *Avonmail* magazine. It has been a fantastic experience, working together to research and write up our articles and news stories. Everyone in the group has contributed and brought their own interests and talents to create a diverse range of articles and stories. I'm so grateful to Lucia for everything she's done for the paper; with the new look she's given it, the magazine has really come to life. I have really enjoyed the collaborative process and found it a very rewarding experience. As well as the team, I would like to thank Mr Holmes for his persistence in keeping us on track - without him, we wouldn't have accomplished anything! As the editor, I felt it was important to put our own stamp on the magazine whilst still representing all the different faculties and amazing achievements in the school.

Editor: K Taylor



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of our online school magazine, which gives our pupils and community members an insight into the wonderful work that goes on in Strathaven Academy.

Throughout the session, members of our S6 elective will be bringing to your attention good news stories from Strathaven Academy and the local community.

I am sure our magazine will bring our readers much enjoyment, as well as showcasing the remarkable talents of our pupils. It will include thought-provoking articles with something for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors, writers, artists and photographers who have given up so much time to create this magazine.

We couldn't have achieved this without your dedication and talent.

Ms Huq





CONTENTS

STRATHAVEN EVENTS:



- Balloon Festival 2023** (Page 5)
(Assadi L.)
- Martec Bench** (Page 6)
(Craig D.)

SCHOOL LIFE:



- Awards Night** (Page 8)
(Kate T.)
- Band Camp** (Page 9)
(Kaylay L.)
- Coffee Morning** (Page 10)
(Paul T.)
- Literacy Week** (Page 11)
(Ahrianna B.)
- Maths Week** (Page 13)
(David N.)
- Enterprising School** (Page 13)
(Kate T.)
- History Club** (Page 14)
(Assadi L.)
- Rising Stars (PE)** (Page 15)
(Natalie M.)
- Photo Competition** (Page 17)
(Kate T.)
- Languages department** (Page 18)
(Grace A.)

CULTURE:



- Formula One Qatar Sprint Race** (Page 20)
(Ahrianna B.)
- Wind, Wind, Wind.**
- The Renewable Energy Revolution is Here!** (Page 21)
(L. Assadi)
- Christmas Concert Photos** (Page 24)

STRATHAVEN EVENTS!



*Balloon
Festival
2023*

Martec Bench

by **L. Assadi**

With busy crowds, mud galore, and the sun (graciously) deciding to provide us with some sunshine - Strathaven Balloon Festival 2023 really did come back full blast this year! This year, as crowds numbered over 30,000, Strathaven Park hosted many acts, activities and action for people of all ages, from the balloon launches in the early morning and evening, through parachute demonstrations from the Sky Masters from Skydive Strathallan to the main stage entertainment of our talented Strathaven Academy bands, community spirit persisted, resulting in a weekend of pure fun for our local community!

Some of you may be wondering: why was the Balloon Festival actually created? How has it changed over the years and is it really that special? As Scotland's only balloon festival, the event - held in the last weekend of every August - has truly transformed over the course of its 20-year history, from its initial goal to encourage visitors to the town to help boost local businesses in the face of tough competition from out-of-town shopping developments.

The original founders were seeking to hold an event that would catch people's attention and help support the community, but they faced quite a challenge. However, with the help of Don Cameron, the cousin of one of the organisers and founder of Cameron Balloons (the world's largest hot air balloon manufacturer!) providing valuable information, guidance and the latest balloon technology, this little festival attracted thousands of visitors from around the world (from even as far as Australia!) and became one of the top three balloon festivals in the UK.

This year, Strathaven Academy showcased all the musical talent they have to offer, from the electric, ground-pounding set from the now-defunct Fluoxetine, the mind-bending, passionate Del Rosario, and classy, smooth range of the jazz band Sax-plosion.

BALLOON FESTIVAL 2023



MARTEC BENCH

by **Craig D**

Senior Metalworking students and the engineering firm Martec have been collaborating on a project to create benches for the school and two nearby hospices. The benches are evidence of the students' attention to detail and skill. They will provide a calm area for pupils to unwind and mingle during breaks because of their attractive and practical design. These students' efforts serve as a reminder that even seemingly insignificant deeds of kindness can have a significant impact. The seats stand as testament to the strength of compassion, unity and the enduring significance of community projects that cross generational barriers as they find their place in the schoolyard and hospice grounds.



SCHOOL LIFE!

- Awards Night*
- Band Camp*
- Coffee Morning*
- Literacy Week*
- Maths Week*
- Enterprising*
- School*
- History Club*
- Rising Stars*
- (PE)*
- Photography*
- Competition*
- Langauges Day*





AWARDS NIGHT

Our thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make this special night happen.

Thank you to:

- **Ms Huq** (Head Teacher)
- the **Jazz Trio**: Nicholas S (saxophone), Sam M (drums), Callum B (guitar)
- **Sean M** for the keynote address/presenting S4-S6 prizes
- **Mr Fleming** for announcing S4-S6 certificates
- **Eva B-G** (soloist)
- **Ms Barr** for announcing S5/S6 subject awards and prizes
- **Emily M** for the reflections speech
- **Ellie C** for the vote of thanks
- **Sam G** for playing *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes whilst the stage party was exiting

A special thanks to the pupils of Strathaven Academy for being a part of this night – **we couldn't have done it without you!** The awards were all thoroughly deserved. S4 pupils received awards for attainment and achievement. S5 and S6 pupils also received awards for attainment, achievement and citizenship.

BAND CAMP 2023

by *Kayley L.*

From the 1st to the 3rd of November, Strathaven Academy's Concert Band participated in their annual residential trip to Dumfries House. The band took part in a number of team-building activities, including wall-climbing, mud runs and archery. The band was also hard at work preparing for this year's **Christmas concert!** This took place on **Wednesday, the 13th of December.**



COFFEE MORNING

by **Paul T**

On the 4th of October, S3 pupils and teacher Miss Allison held a successful coffee morning to which parents and members of the wider community were invited. They used their barista machine and hospitality skills to serve delicious hot coffee and cakes to everyone, just in time for winter! Pupils created a comforting and inviting atmosphere. The coffee morning was beneficial to everyone as the school raised money, pupils learnt customer service and barista skills and, most importantly, it made the day of everyone involved!



STRATHAVEN LITERACY EXTRAVAGANZA!

● by **Ahrianna B**

● September was an exhilarating month for the English department at Strathaven Academy, thanks to the much-anticipated **Reading Week!** This year, Reading Week began with a bang, starting with an exciting assembly for our S1 and S2 pupils, where they were honoured with Reading Challenge certificates and exciting prizes.

● The Science department got in on the Reading Week action by hosting a series of enchanting Harry Potter-themed workshops for our S1 pupils. The young wizards tried their hand at writing with fire and wizard ink, recreating the magic of Professor Umbridge's infamous quill used to write 'I must not tell lies' in *The Order of the Phoenix*. The results were nothing short of magical!

● Of course, we couldn't miss the 'Drop Everything and Read' period during Reading Week. When the bell rang for period six on the Thursday, everyone did just that - dropped everything and immersed themselves in their chosen novels. It was amazing to see so many pupils embrace the joy of reading!

● The grand finale of Reading Week was, without a doubt, **Cosplay Day**. Students and teachers alike donned costumes inspired by their favourite books, TV shows, or movies. The creativity was on full display as the Advanced Higher Music class and Music staff transformed into Mario characters, the Social Subjects department embraced their inner Disney villain, and the Modern Languages staff channelled their inner 'Derry Girl'. The Technical department even became living Crayola crayons, while the English department stepped into the world of Roald Dahl. And let us not forget the Pupil Support staff, who whisked us away to Neverland as characters from Peter Pan!

● Reading Week remains the highlight of our school year, offering pupils the chance to explore new literary worlds and texts while having a blast. Reading Week unites learning with fun, and pupils could not love it more.



MATHS WEEK

by **David N**

Maths Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the subject and demonstrate to pupils how much fun and how rewarding it can be to use maths in everyday life. By doing more immersive activities, pupils can use their mathematical abilities without even realising, as the tasks to which they commit themselves are not as menial as textbook work! Pupils engaged in a **variety of maths-related games**, which enabled them to learn in a variety of diverse ways. Pupils also explored maths concepts in depth – they also carried out mathematical investigations, which included investigating mathematical relationships.

By captivating pupils with these activities, maths week allowed them to continue to develop their skills and problem-solving abilities, whilst appreciating the innate beauty and power found in mathematics.



ENTERPRISING SCHOOL

by **Kate T**

As a school, we have achieved a lot, and we are proud to say that we have been named the **UK's Most Enterprising School!** We couldn't have done this without our business and management teams. Our pupils and staff collaborated with the Strathaven Rotary club and Strathaven residents to unveil plaques, design new garden space in the Allison Green, and bring the community together. Thank you!



HISTORY CLUB

The History Club is run by Mr McNulty and his S1 and S2 historians. Members have been working hard to create a small series of fun and interactive activities and information for this issue of *Avonmail*. Inspired by Black History Month and general world history, they wished to share some important historical moments and recommendations for a variety of media, including books, movies and places to visit! The History Club wishes to attract anyone who is interested in learning about history - pop along to our club every Friday lunchtime, and we hope you enjoy this short but sweet collection of activities. Enjoy!

The Historical Word Search

O	P	W	R	A	A	I	A	E	A	A	L	V	S
A	T	A	T	C	A	A	A	S	E	P	V	I	E
Z	N	R	N	R	H	T	P	L	I	A	E	C	K
T	A	S	E	C	O	U	P	P	S	R	R	T	C
E	P	H	D	I	E	Y	R	V	L	T	S	O	R
C	O	A	I	N	G	W	R	C	E	H	A	R	U
K	L	K	S	A	Y	H	F	A	H	E	I	I	S
I	E	E	E	T	P	I	H	D	U	I	L	A	A
N	O	S	R	I	T	T	A	P	R	D	L	L	D
G	N	P	P	T	I	L	C	I	I	H	E	L	E
D	T	E	R	P	A	E	D	N	H	N	S	E	S
C	L	A	A	E	N	R	P	H	A	R	A	O	H
I	I	R	E	N	S	L	A	V	E	D	A	L	H
T	H	E	V	E	C	A	W	A	L	L	A	C	E

ENSLAVED
VERSAILLES
EGYPTIAN
CHURCHILL
SHAKESPEARE
TITANIC
PHARAOH
APARTHEID
FOR
VICTORIA
WAR
NAPOLEON
KING
WALLACE
CRUSADES
PRESIDENT
AZTEC
HITLER

QUIZ: (answers in the back)

1. In what year did World War One start?
2. What were the most famous words from Martin Luther King Junior's most famous speech?
3. In what year did Scotland and England officially unite?
4. How many wives did King Henry VIII have?
5. Francisco Franco ruled which country from 1939 to 1975?
6. What was the main language used by the Romans?
7. Who is credited with creating the telephone?
8. What was the name given to women who campaigned for women's right to vote?
9. What was the name for the stretch of land between allied and enemy trenches in World War One?

History Club Recommendations

Our book recommendation is **Black and British** by **David Olusoga**.

Our graphic novel recommendation is **Maus** by **Art Spiegelman**.

Our movie recommendation is **Jojo Rabbit**.

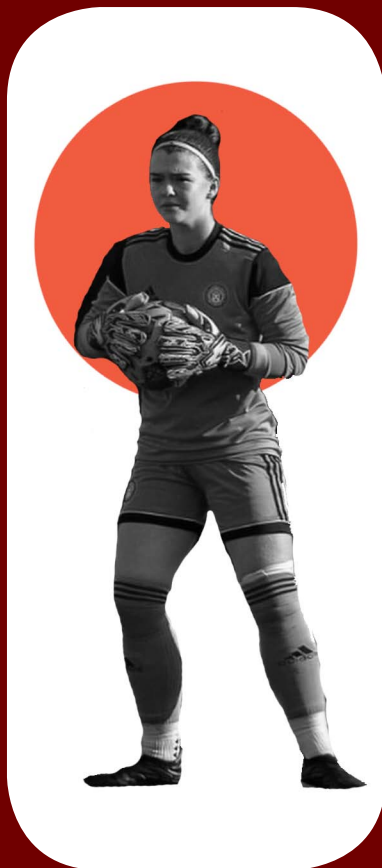
Our TV series recommendation is **Horrible Histories**.

Our historical place to visit recommendation is **Stirling Castle**.

RISING STARS OPEN

by **Natalie M**

Emma is not only a first team goalkeeper for Hamilton Academical Women's team, but also a Scotland internationalist. Less than five years ago, Emma joined the team with little footballing experience and struggled to get into the starting eleven. In her first season, she didn't play. Emma made it her mission in life to play for the team. She decided that she wasn't going to leave for a team in a lower league in which she could already be first choice, she wasn't going to complain or give up on her dream, she was going to get so good that she would play constantly. That resilience proves that where she is today is no accident. It's easy to feel motivated when things are going well, but can you maintain this when faced with adversity?



When did you start playing football?

“When I was 11 for my primary school team, Stonehouse Primary. I think my brother Shaun being obsessed with football is what caused me to get involved.”

And within two years, you joined Hamilton Accies U13s. What were the main differences you noticed upon joining a performance environment?

“The quality of football was so high. I also noticed the differences in the facilities and coaching staff. I think the environment helped me to improve a lot.”

You’ve already achieved so much but what are your goals for the future?

“My dream is to play for Scotland Women’s First Team and one day play in the WSL.”

Who are your role models?

“My main role models are Lee Gibson, Mackenzie Arnold and Daphne Van Domslear.”

PHOTO COMPETITION

by **Kate T**

£250 has been won in this year's (Strathaven Academy) photography competition. Supported by 'Strathaven CARS' (Conservation and Regeneration Scheme), we were able to hand out first, second and third prizes. There were more than 200 entries – how could we possibly pick a winner? However, there could only be one winner – and that was Brooke A with her wonderful picture of Strathaven streets. Congratulations to all three winners:

Brooke A (first prize - £250),
Adam S (second prize - £150) and
Jennifer C (third prize - £100).

Check out the winning entries below:



As well as our three top winners, we have five highly-praised contestants who each walked away with a £20 Amazon gift voucher (don't spend it all at once!):

Aimee H (S3) (two photos), **Emma S** (S4), **Thomas W** (S5), and **Ewan B** (S6).

Congratulations to everyone who took part for submitting excellent photographs.

(As well as this feature in the magazine, there is also more information on the Academy's web-site.)

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

by **Grace A**

Here at Strathaven Academy we have a diverse range of ways that students can get involved in learning a language. Our Language ambassadors host a weekly Languages club every Thursday. Here at Strathaven Academy, we have a diverse range of ways that students can get involved in learning a language. Our Language Ambassadors hold a languages club every Thursday lunchtime, when many of our students attend.

Our Modern Languages teachers take a proactive approach to teaching by encouraging students to learn in an engaging way, whether it be through playing games, working in teams or even writing foreign poetry.

The Modern Languages department has also recently received an International Award for language-learning, thanks to their excellent work and the variety of languages that our students speak. For example, we have native French, Spanish and Ukrainian speakers. The list goes on!

Our Modern Languages department took part in our annual Cosplay Day this year. Some of the teachers wore outfits from the Netflix TV show Derry Girls. Even though the department didn't win the prize for best costumes, they still looked amazing as they put so much effort into their costumes!

Well done to our S2 pupils (Violet C, Sienna H, Charlie M, Olivia J and Katie J), who recently completed the 'Foot et la Francophonie' project alongside other South Lanarkshire schools. The team prepared French footballer interviews, as well as videos performing football drills in French, as part of the project, and we were invited to the finale in Biggar High School on Thursday, 30th November. Although not crowned overall winners, the team was applauded on their French conversational skills, confidence and teamwork by a panel of judges from SCILT and South Lanarkshire Council. Bravo l'équipe !

For Languages Week, the department held an assembly for S3 students. At the assembly, we heard some songs in Spanish as well as some speakers such as Sean MacDonald and Cameron F, and our Language Ambassadors Willow M, Fraser L and Beth C.



CULTURE!



*Formula One:
Oscar Piastri's
Spectacular
Sprint Race
Victory in Qatar*

*Wind, wind,
wind. The Renew-
able Energy
Revolution is
here!*



FORMULA 1

OSCAR PIASTRI'S SPECTACULAR SPRINT RACE VICTORY IN QATAR

by **Ahrianna B**

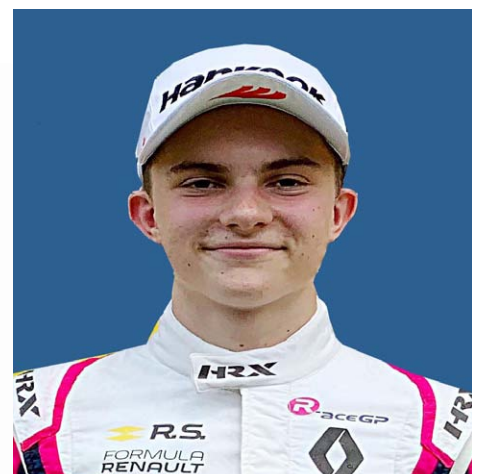
The top story dominating Formula One news after today's Sprint Race is, of course Max Verstappen claiming his third championship title. However, another story also emerged from the Qatar Sprint Race – a story that has captured the attention of many fans: Oscar Piastri claiming his first Formula One win in a sprint race. His race to victory was nothing short of spectacular.

Let's rewind to the beginning of the 2023 season, when the chance of a rookie winning any race seemed slim to none. Oscar Piastri faced a challenging start to the season in Bahrain, where the young Australian was forced to retire at Lap 15 due to a mechanical failure. Many questioned the rookie's talent; however, Piastri silenced the critics throughout this season. Just two races after his turbulent start in Bahrain, Piastri scored points at his home race in Australia. Piastri had to fight off and defend against seasoned pros of the sport, such as seven-time championship winner Sir Lewis Hamilton and current championship winner Max Verstappen at the British Grand Prix, where he impressively secured P4.

Piastri is no stranger to showcasing his skills at a sprint, and he proved once again at the Belgian Grand Prix this year that he is a major force. The Australian secured P2 while defending against the Ferraris of Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc, and all the while fighting against Max Verstappen. Piastri's resilience and determination prove that, although this is his first season in Formula One, it would only be a matter of time before he claimed his maiden title in One.

In today's sprint, Piastri faced competition from George Russell, Carlos Sainz, and Max Verstappen. Oscar Piastri lined up on pole position after a phenomenal qualifying round. As the lights went out, Piastri immediately had to fight off George Russell until an incident caused a race restart. At Lap 3 Piastri lost his lead, but it wasn't over for the Australian. By Lap 11, Piastri managed to reclaim P1. Piastri was not the only driver in a papaya-coloured car to overtake Russell; his teammate Lando Norris was able to take P3 from the Mercedes driver. Piastri was able to finish P1, with the championship winner Max Verstappen. Piastri was able to finish P1, with the championship winner Max Verstappen in his rear-view mirror. In the post-race team radio broadcast, Piastri expressed his gratitude to his team and acknowledged a well-managed race.

Piastri's outstanding performance, along with that of his teammate Lando Norris, secured a double podium for McLaren, leaving the papaya-clad fans in the grandstands in sheer delight. It was a spectacular performance from the rookie driver, and we are sure to witness him atop the podium many more times in the future.



WIND, WIND, WIND

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY REVOLUTION IS HERE!

An opinion article by **L Assadi**

Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution circa 1760, civilisation has witnessed rapid, transformative changes and advancements that have marked how society is run and powered. The discovery of fossil fuels found deep within the ground proved to be the quintessential moment humanity could harness the power of the planet's resources to create and prosper, from its factories, agriculture, homes and transportation, seen as a driving force for technological, economic and human innovation and what it means to run an advanced civilisation. Only time has proven that fossil fuels would lead to such catastrophic consequences: dramatic rises in global temperatures, vast air and water pollution, extreme weather events, massive and widening inequities, and the destabilisation of our ecosystems and climate zones from the extinction threats facing biodiversity to the destruction of habitats. Whilst still being seen as synonymous with innovation and prosperity, the Industrial Revolution has truly been marked by the endless exploitation of our climate and the never-ending pursuit of profit and power.

From the onset of the Industrial Revolution, industrialisation signalled the emergence of heavy industrial machinery and manufacturing that allowed for the mass production of products, with steam power allowing for the creation of the semi-automated factory system. Higher production yields, the widespread mechanisation spurred on by the mining of fossil fuels (predominantly coal), and the mass export of "industrial crops" (ie cotton and wool) caused rapid urbanisation, where expanding industries and factories offered new opportunities for people to work and live in growing cities,

but involved long hours, low wages and severe working conditions. But while industries continued to grow and grow, the environmental impact showed. Air pollution drastically increased in urban areas, where smokestacks and emissions from factories released damaging toxins and pollutants. Industrial processes discharged various chemicals that polluted water sources alongside the discharge of sewage, debris and other forms of waste, harming aquatic species and ecosystems. The burning of fossil fuels became the main driver for the massive rise in global greenhouse gas emissions that has set the precedent for climate destabilisation and injustice across the globe, with the Earth's average surface temperature rising approximately 1.18 celsius from the late 1800s to 2020 (a rise of 40% in terms of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations from 280 parts per million in the 18th century to 418 in 2020). It is clear that the foundations of our modern infrastructure, economy and society were built upon this radical period of change. But the problems we now face were instigated because of these foundations. Now is the time to knock them down.



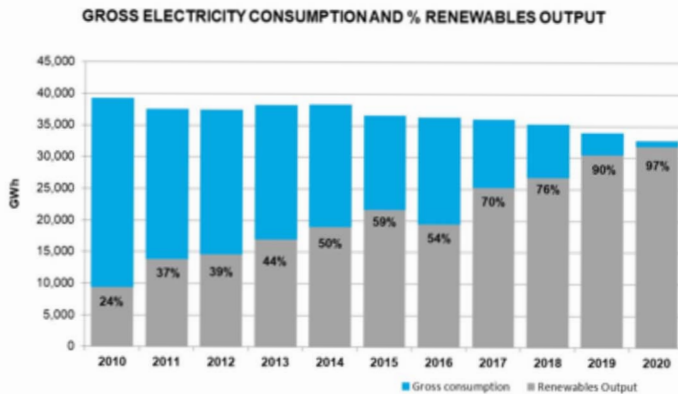
The change has been slow-moving, but it is here. The development and implementation of renewable technologies over the past half-century has proven to be the key to reaching our goals of net zero and achieving truly sustainable and secure energy sources that benefit people, not massive corporations accountable for the climate destruction seen before our very eyes. This is our revolution, but how do we best ensure it?

Renewables offer an alternative path towards achieving true carbon neutrality (when an equal amount of CO₂ is emitted into the atmosphere as is removed by other means, predominantly nature-based). Renewable energy is energy that is derived from natural sources that are constantly replenished and leave no carbon footprint behind, with wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal energy being primary sources. These can be used to counteract the detrimental effects of climate change, and offer a revolutionary chance in deconstructing the power structures that exist due to and within oil and gas corporations that dominate the energy grid and enrich top shareholders from the exploitation of natural resources that harm the health and well-being of marginalised communities through air pollution (the respiratory impacts from chemicals and pollutants), the exacerbation of wealth inequalities, and vulnerabilities from natural disasters. People-powered and people-served energy can exist, all you have to do is look back through history and look at where the future is heading. The history of renewables can actually be traced back thousands of years to ancient civilisations as a means of agriculture, when ancient Greeks and Romans used wind-powered water pumps as a method of irrigation for crops and the ancient Persians developed windmills to grind grain as early as 9000 BC.

Whilst the swift transition and use of fossil fuels in the 18th century resulted in a decline in the use of renewables, the scale of progression rapidly increased over the coming centuries through this mass-scale industrialisation, and the innovation of renewables proved just as revolutionary. The first observation of the photovoltaic effect in 1839 by French physicist Edmond Becquerel, and Albert Einstein's photoelectric theory in 1905 laid the groundwork for modern-day solar technology through the creation of the modern solar photovoltaic (PV) panel that culminated in the first large-scale solar farm built in California in 1982 (only capable of heating up a generator) to solar PV now poised to become the largest installed power capacity in the world by 2027, surpassing coal. Additionally, wind power has shown to be radical in its technologies and capabilities throughout the course of modern history - and it's homegrown, too. In 1887, Scottish electrical engineer and academic professor James Blyth of Anderson's College (now known as Strathclyde University) created the world's first known wind turbine for electricity generation to power, of all things, the lighting in his holiday cottage. Through many more developments in the United States and Denmark with the aim of providing electricity to rural communities, the true shift in the paradigm was on the growing focus of increasing energy security as a result of the oil crisis in the 1970s, to the now impending climate crisis facing humanity.



Scotland has proven to be a global leader in this expanding field; being called a “powerhouse” in renewables by breaking previous records and achieving significant milestones in renewable energy production through its total installed capacity and a quadrupled increase in electricity output from 8003GWh in 2007 to 32063GWh in 2020, meaning that Scotland was able to generate renewable energy equivalent to around 97% of Scotland’s gross electricity consumption (total electricity generation minus net exports).



This vast expansion of Scotland’s renewable energy capacity and generation has triggered a dramatic emission reduction in the energy sector, with emissions from the energy sector reducing by 89% since 2011, renewable technologies have proven themselves to show immense potential in the ambition to decarbonise and transition towards net zero emissions and witnessing this journey of renewables in Scotland is a testament to this ambition. With energy prices rising, fears of looming energy insecurity and an impending climate breakdown facing the UK, renewable energy offers a resolution to all three of these issues that can protect citizens in the face of major prices and climate collapse. However, there are present issues facing the renewables sector that are a lingering barrier for future development, especially regarding offshore wind. Due to inflationary pressures, the overall cost of offshore wind has increased by approximately 40%, with both steel and copper materials increasing by both 50% and 60% respectively. Additionally, new renewable energy projects in the UK’s latest energy auction have slumped considerably, with only a third of last year’s total energy capacity in 2022 being secured, and no new offshore wind projects attained. Whilst these cost difficulties and poor auction results from continuing inflation and economic pressures have been negatively impacting the renewables sector, there is still substantial evidence to prove that renewables continue to be the UK’s cheapest method of sourcing and providing new electricity (while wholesale gas prices remain staggeringly high by more than 10 times compared to offshore wind!)

and would help cut people’s household bills, where consumers could save £2bn a year and power around 8m homes a year for every 5GW of offshore wind that was secured at this year’s auction. There is already clear evidence from global organisations such as the IEA (International Energy Agency) that claim from their geospatial analysis focused on the technical potential of offshore wind found that a potential 420000TWh of electricity could be generated every year, capable of powering the Earth’s energy demands 11 times over in 2040.

These findings simply cannot be understated. To claim that renewables would create no conceivable difference to the everyday lives and conditions of people, not only in the UK but across the globe, in meeting the necessary energy demands, climate targets, reduction in extortionate prices and prevention of social, environmental and economic injustices imposed onto people, is a gross misstatement. Renewables have proven themselves in offering a breakthrough in dismantling the inequitable and powerful systemic structures that have been fostered by multinational oil and gas companies which continue to fund climate denialism through their relentless political lobbying and practice of “greenwashing” (the act of making false or misleading statements regarding an organisation’s environmental impact to persuade the public that their policies adhere to environmental standards)

Climate breakdown is wholly inevitable, and radical action is needed if we have a chance of securing a future of low-carbon, sustainable energy sources that can drastically, and quickly, reduce the emissions produced at home and across the world and delay the detrimental effects of climate change already being experienced and witnessed across every corner of the globe, whether that’s preventing any further warming of the atmosphere, safeguarding the health and well-being of the most marginalised communities and population, protecting the quality of our air, soil and water, conserving biodiversity and ecosystems and preventing the suffering and loss of human life inflicted upon us by intensified natural disasters and extreme climatic conditions. Renewables offer a glimmer of hope in our fight against climate change, and a revolution is needed if we want to achieve this victory.

by **L Assadi**
Photos by **C Paterson**

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 13th December: Strathaven Academy held their annual Christmas Concert which featured an array of talent from across all year groups showcasing their skill in singing and instrumental performance. From choirs to the jazz band, it was a truly fantastic night that we hope spread festive joy for all attending as we now steadily approach the holiday. Here are some of the best photos from the concert.



photos by **L Assadi**



photos by **T. Wardhaugh**



**AWARD
WARRANT
EDITION**

20