

UPCOMING KEY DATES

06/01/2026

Curricular &
Careers event
4:30-6:30pm

12/01/2026

S3 parents'
consultation
evening

12/01/2026

S5/6 winter
assessment diet
begins

20/01/2026

Parent Council
meeting
6:30pm

26/01/2026

S5/6 pupils
return to school
(assessment diet
ends)

16/02/2026 -

17/02/2026

holiday

18/02/2026

in-service day

19/02/2026

pupils return to
school

11/03/2026

Sports Awards
6:30pm

16/03/2026

S1 parents'
consultation
evening

Strathaven Academy Newsletter

Issue 3

December 2025



As we reach the end of a busy and productive term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful sense of community we have shared over the past few months. A particular highlight for all of us was our Christmas concert. It was truly heartening to see the children perform with such confidence, and a wonderful way to celebrate the season together. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event.

As we prepare to break up for the holidays, I want to thank you for your continued support and engagement with the school. Whether you are travelling or staying close to home, I hope the festive period brings you time for rest and relaxation with your loved ones.

We look forward to welcoming our young people back on Monday, 5th January 2026 for what we hope will be another wonderful year. On behalf of all the staff at Strathaven Academy, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and successful 2026.



Our Mural Experience

By Robbie & Euan S2

Our experience was amazing! We were so excited to explore the world of art movements which began in New York. In conjunction with two artists working with Strathaven Fairtrade Group, we plan to make a colourful and exotic mural. This mural will be situated in the Common Green to commemorate 20 years of Strathaven being a Fairtrade Town.

Mural Information

The mural we were helping design was a mural depicting Strathaven being the first town to fairtrade with Aberfeldy (Perthshire, Scotland), next to the River Tay. We teamed up with pro muralists Anton (he is French), who works in letter-designing (in a very funky way!), and Luke, a great sketching designer. We worked on designing the mural for three hours every week on a Wednesday for four weeks, putting in lots of effort over 12 hours to contribute to the mural. Members from Climate Action Strathaven were there to support our hard work, along with Mylo, Eric, Layton, Eilidh, Amelia, Renny, Arlo, Harlow, Bella and Alexander.

Murals Release Date

We were told that the mural is to be unveiled some time in the spring of 2026 - pictures to follow!

We are excited to see our design become a reality and we are looking forward to its completion.



The Strathaven Academy ceilidh band, Blazin' Heather, delighted a welcoming audience at Chapelton Church Hall on Saturday evening, by performing for the Silver Circle group. The hour-long programme was warmly received and featured a lively Highland dance from Lily, a duet from sisters Ellen and Amy, a vocal performance by Natasha (accompanied by Yang Yang), and a fiddle duet by Zoe and Amy. The band also led several rousing singalongs, creating a festive and thoroughly enjoyable evening for all in attendance.

A recent trip, organised by the Faculty of Technologies, gave pupils the opportunity to take part in two engaging and curriculum-linked learning experiences in Edinburgh.

S5/6 Business Management pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Chocolatarium, where they explored how a successful business operates and markets its products. Pupils followed the chocolate-making process from bean to bar, created their own chocolate, and took part in a Q&A with company management, helping to bring key business concepts to life.



S6 Psychology pupils enjoyed their visit to Camera Obscura and the World of Illusions, engaging with interactive exhibits linked to perception, cognition, and attention. The hands-on experience helped pupils visualise and better understand psychological theories through optical illusions and sensory challenges.

The day concluded with lunch and time to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Edinburgh Christmas markets.



A hugely successful and busy period for the PE department. All S1&2 pupils took part in a block of social dance which ended with an amazing ceilidh during the last week of term.

Our Sports Leaders were busy organising and delivering a basketball festival for our primaries and received positive feedback from pupils and staff.

Miss Scott organised a visit to the Emirates Arena to watch the Celtic Cup, with several of our young people meeting their netball idols. Our S1 netball team qualified for the next round of the Scottish Plate, and our S2s, the Scottish Cup.

Our S1&2 rugby teams competed well recently in two tournaments at Biggar and Cambuslang.

The S4 football team defeated Stuart Melville College on penalties with Matthew, our stand-in keeper, saving the day.

Finally, several of our young people have achieved success outside of school. Please keep us informed of any good news stories outside of school, we love hearing about them!



Le Foot et la Francophonie

Well done to our pupils from S2 French who recently completed our *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 final in Uddingston Grammar School on Wednesday, 26th 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, Education Scotland and South Lanarkshire council. Bravo!



Careers Evening 2026



Strathaven Academy is hosting a careers evening for all S2-S6 pupils, parents, and carers on **Tuesday, 6th January 2026 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.** This event will provide a valuable opportunity to explore various pathways and career options available for our students. There will be representatives on hand to discuss options such as universities, colleges, apprenticeships, and careers in the armed forces.

In addition to these career opportunities, attendees will also gain insights into skills development, subject choices, volunteering, and the application process for further education and training.

Year Heads will also deliver informative talks about the option choice process for S2, S3, and S4/5 pupils. This evening is designed to help both pupils and their families make informed decisions about future educational and career opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Door Competition

Staff at Strathaven Academy have been getting into the festive spirit by taking part in our Christmas Door Challenge. Classrooms across the school have been transformed with creative, colourful, and Christmas-themed door designs, bringing plenty of cheer to our corridors. We have our Travel & Tourism class to thank for this initiative, which has showcased the imagination and teamwork of our staff, helping to create a warm, festive atmosphere for pupils and visitors alike as we head towards the holiday season. 🎄

Well done to all of those who competed, and a special congratulations to Mrs McDivitt in the Technical Department, whose fantastic Christmas door design was voted first place!



Coffee and Co

The Coffee and Co barista team will be serving hot drinks at lunchtimes on Thursdays in the Library.

This is open to all pupils and staff.

Coffee & Hot Chocolate	£2
Tea	£1.50
Milkshakes	£1.50
All syrups	30p

Remember to pick up a loyalty card!

See you soon,
Coffee and Co Team

Feeling Festive

Our S1 students swapped the classroom for the glitz and glamour of Glasgow earlier this week as they headed to the Pavilion Theatre for a healthy dose of festive fun!

The group joined the legendary Widow Cranky and a cast of hilarious characters for this year's smash hit panto, *Jock in Boots*. From the moment the curtain went up, the atmosphere was electric! There was plenty of cheering (and even more booing!), classic slapstick comedy, and some seriously catchy musical numbers that had everyone tapping their toes.

It was the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season. Our S1s were fantastic ambassadors for the school—though we're pretty sure their voices are still recovering from all that shouting. "He's behind you!"

