



LATHALLAN SCHOOL

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Headmaster: Richard Toley BA (Hons), MPhil, PGCE, FRSA

15th December 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, I am drawn to reflect on the wide-ranging achievements of our pupils and the role my colleagues have played in this over the last few months.

Our Christmas Service is not a bad place to start, with every pupil in the Junior School performing, a senior choir of over 50, and the brilliance of the Lathallan School Pipe Band (*QR code below to watch it again*). The tingles down the back of the neck are still there! Many of you will have also seen, in person or on social media, the first Lathallan Young Musician of the Year competition. An outstanding group of 50 pupils were whittled down to 25 for the final, with Ella (S6) winning the inaugural crown. What a Music Department!

The endeavours of our Junior School and some senior YPI stalls were on display at the Christmas Fayre, with every sort of decoration and festive treat available for purchase. I was particularly pleased with my Gin Hamper victory...

Sporting successes continue across ages and disciplines - I will go into more detail at the rescheduled Sports Dinner on the 16th of January, but hill running, cross country, biathlon, rugby, netball, football, skiing, and swimming have all witnessed significant individual and team success. Our Open Netballers are still in the mix in the Scottish Cup, and the U16 XV reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Schools Shield for the first time.

Our wider curriculum is a significant strength of the school and one that pupils consistently engage with positively. This strength has again been recognised by Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC), where our Gold Standard has been renewed. This is something we need to track and present evidence for to the awarding body every two years. It's a valuable reflective process. This achievement is important as sustaining this level of excellence reflects well on the whole of our community. Some examples of what we have done outside of the school grounds include: a cross-curricular residential in Edinburgh, J7 and S6 residentials with outdoor education, environmental, and leadership themes, various junior school curricular trips including Montrose, Dundee, and Aberdeen, running a Senior School photography exhibition, S4 volunteering every Friday at the House of Dun or Benholm Mill, Autumn Rugby Internationals, PDA activities every Friday... These only happen through staff and parent support, so another big thank you.

Over the holidays, we have two groups of rugby enthusiasts heading off to watch the Glasgow / Edinburgh fixtures, although I am not sure which side they will be supporting...

I would like to wish you all a restful and joyous festive season and look forward to seeing you on the first day back for coffee in the Ballroom and pupils in formal wear.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Toley
Headmaster

