



ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



WEEKLY NEWS

1st to 5th September 2025

Buddy Breakfast

Mrs Goodwin



On Friday 22nd August, our new I Seniors launched into their first full timetabled day of school. Although the youngest members of our Senior School will gain more independence as they get to know the ins and outs of St Margaret's, they will never truly be alone. Our VI Senior girls were delighted to begin their special role in looking out for the ISs.



That Friday morning, every IS girl was placed into a buddy group with two of their IS classmates and at least three VIS buddies. St Margaret's has a longstanding tradition of partnering up our newest members of the community with the oldest pupils. However, this year is our first year implementing buddy groups rather than specific buddy partners. Our aim for this change is to ensure there is always an older girl looking out for their IS buddies, even if another VI Senior in the buddy group is absent or unavailable.

So far, the buddy groups have led to the development of wonderful friendships between the two year groups. During the buddies' first meeting, buddy groups engaged in enthusiastic conversation in the hall; and competitive games of "splat" and "hot potato" outside. Laughs could be heard across the playground that morning.

Buddy Breakfast

Mrs Goodwin



In between meet-ups the VISs keep in contact with their buddies in various ways. Emails, form class drop-ins, and impromptu conversations in the corridors have brightened up the days of both the I Seniors and VI Seniors alike.

Just before school on Wednesday 9th September, the much-anticipated Buddy Breakfast took place. This event provided girls with an opportunity to sit down and talk with their buddies over tasty breakfast treats - as well as have conversations outside their buddy groups amongst larger tables.

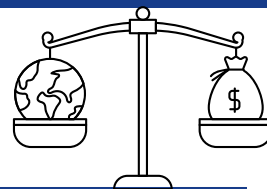
The overwhelming response from our I Seniors is that they feel constantly supported by their VIS buddies. VIS are ecstatic to have the opportunity to give back to our school community and are ready to support our buddies as they move through I Senior.

Abigail Onyeakazi, VIS



Advanced Higher Economics

Mr G. Cunningham



This week, the Advanced Higher Economics class attended an economics breakfast at the Royal Bank of Scotland's Corporate Division at Marischal Square.



The bank's senior economist, Philip Bartlett, gave us an insight into the current topical economic issues being debated in the media; namely, inflation, government spending and taxation levels, real wages, low productivity, the Bank of England base rate, the possible consequences of an ageing population, and the divergent views on the future economic implications of AI on the labour market and wider economy.

Information surrounding these topics was given to us in a series of thought-provoking slides based on current economic data, and our students were also informed about the work of an economist and given advice on studying economics at university. A lively, and extensive, question and answer session brought the event to a close and we were very grateful for the time that Phil gave to our girls at the end of the presentation to discuss specific questions that they put forth to him regarding the future direction of the economy.





Skiing

Last weekend Maisie Arnott participated in the Scottish Dry Slope Championship at Hillend Ski Centre, Edinburgh.



On Saturday it was a slalom where she came 4th in the U10 girls category and then on Sunday it was the giant slalom. Maisie skied really well and was awarded the bronze medal in the U10 girls category.



Hockey

We started the hockey season off with a friendly festival at Summerhill with pupils attending from 5J up to VIS. It was a lovely morning where the pupils enjoyed the run around and were delighted to have some tasty snacks provided by our hockey captain Shannon and vice captain Romy. We wish all the teams success this season.

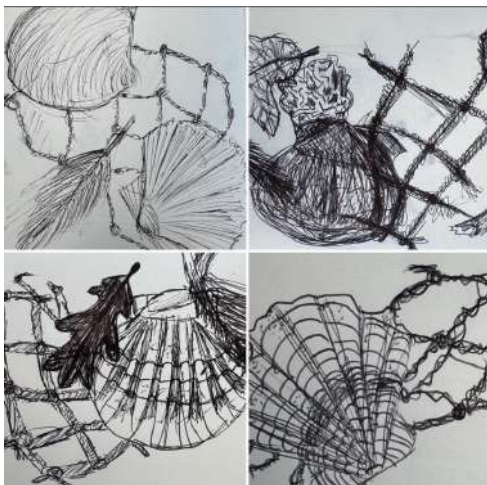
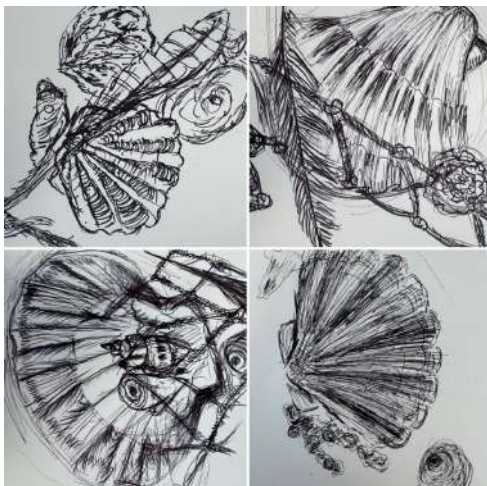
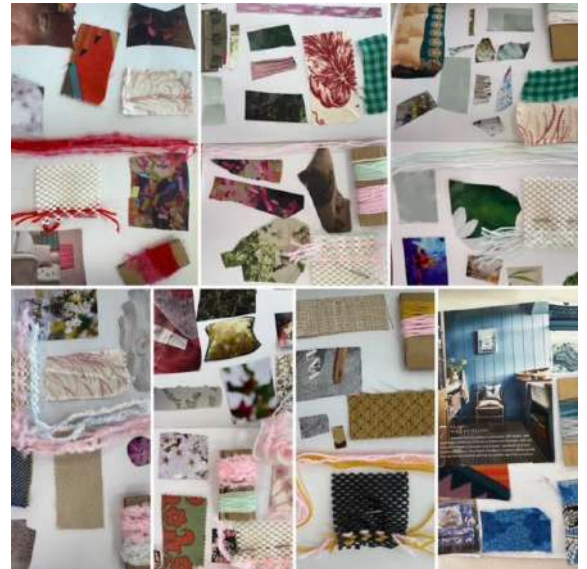
Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



4 & 5 Junior Design & Make Project

The girls began their Thursday morning with a visit to the senior school artroom for their first specialist art lesson. They learned about textile design and how products that we use are made from different types of fabric. They also looked at how designers find their inspiration and use this to develop design ideas. They created a moodboard and selected yarn colours for a fabric that they will make.



I Senior - Introduction to the Visual Elements

The girls are building on their skill and knowledge of the Visual Elements - colour, tone, line, texture, shape and pattern. They began by experimenting with different mark-making techniques and varied these to achieve different tones and textures. The girls were given sea shore themed objects to draw under timed conditions and they gradually built up a composition by layering them. They had the additional challenge of using a fine liner or a biro pen so that they couldn't rub out, encouraging them to build shapes gradually and purposefully whilst observing their subject.

Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



II Senior - Still life

II Senior have started this year's art lessons with a still life project and began by using a scumble technique to draw a pear and achieve an implied line. They started with basic shapes to build up form and used scumbled pencil marks to add tone for their drawing of a pear with some very effective results.



Junior Art Club

Mrs Teglas

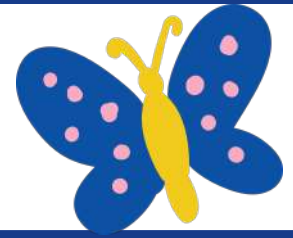


Junior Art Club

This week in art club the girls created infinity cards. They constructed the card out of paper in a way that it can flip and reveal a different image. With the images folding into one another they used dry media, such as pencil and pens, so that the images do not smudge together.

Nursery

Mrs Simpson



It's been great being back at nursery. The children have had a wonderful start to the term with lots going on.



In music with Mrs Magill they were learning about rhythm and using claves to copy rhythms and patterns.

In gym with Mrs Fogiel and Miss Miller, the children are exploring space and using their bodies.



With careful listening the children were developing their skills at balancing a ball on cones. Well done everyone!



In the nursery the children have been developing their imagination and coordination in the construction area.

Our children are engaged in a wide variety of learning opportunities and are able to make choices about which areas they spend time in.




OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB


St Margaret's will run a Holiday Club from Monday 13 – Friday 17 October 2025, open to pupils and family members aged 3–12 years.

The club will run daily from 8.00am–5.30pm with a wide range of fun activities including baking, crafts, sports, games, and trips to local parks and amenities.


Children will also help shape the programme, ensuring a balance of creative, energetic, and relaxing activities.

 **Dates:** 13–17 October 2025

 **Times:** 8.00am–5.30pm (late pick-up after 4.15pm available for £5)

 **Ages:** 3–12 years (St Margaret's pupils and family members)

 **Cost:** £45 per day (+£8 for some trips)

 **Food:** Bring a morning snack & packed lunch; afternoon snack provided

 **Booking deadline:** Friday 26 September 2025

 **CLICK
HERE!**



The **Young STEM Club** is run by our senior girls and involves 73 pupils, working together on hands-on projects that link science, technology, engineering, and maths. With a focus on Smart City challenges this year, they will design creative solutions for areas such as transport, cafe, healthcare, school, and sustainability. The club encourages teamwork, innovation, and practical skills while showing how STEM can shape smarter, greener communities.

Mrs Arthur, Mrs Hendry

“This year we have been given the opportunity to participate in the Young Stem Leaders award. This award aims to encourage young people to work together to lead learning in the field of STEM alongside being able to gain the SCQF recognised qualification based on the level you participate in.

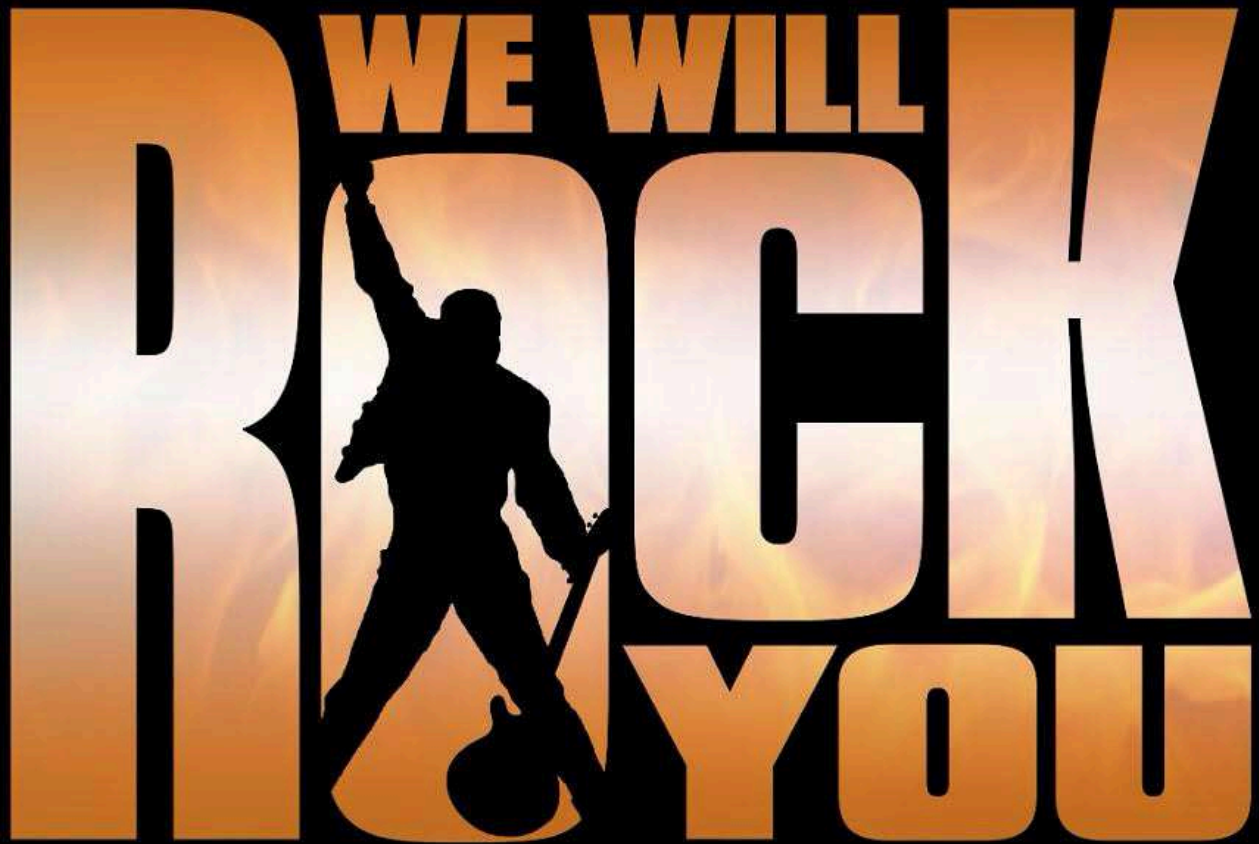
Last week we had our kick-off meeting, introductions, and allocated groups. Each group was tasked with developing ideas for a different sector of a smart city (Aberdeen) with the four areas being a smart cafe, smart hospital, smart school and smart home. Last week we met in our groups together to brainstorm problems and solutions for each of our assigned topic areas.

This week we continued on our research to organise findings, create shared document repositories and identify factors such as the design and costing stages. By the end of this project we hope to develop a full prototype/model that solves current issues and is ‘smart!’”

Aisha VA



**AEA Productions final audition call
for our 2026 production of:**



**Open to male and female performers age 13 - 20
who have not already auditioned for us this
season**

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No experience necessary!

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Email shanna@academyofexpressivearts.com



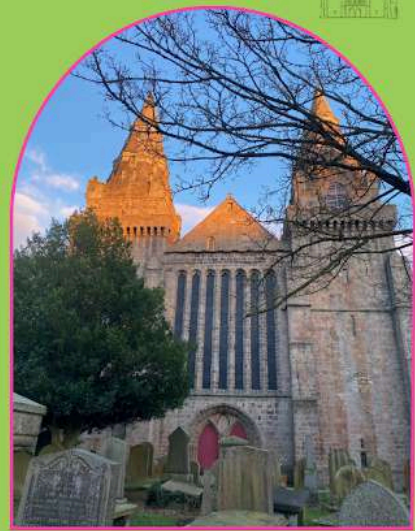
St Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen

DISCOVER YOUR LOCAL HERITAGE FREE GROUP TOURS/WORKSHOPS

We welcome group tours to the Cathedral from schools, community groups, youth groups, homeschoolers and tertiary education.



interactive
fun



This Autumn, bring your group to explore this magnificent building in the heart of Old Aberdeen.

Self-directed trails for all ages, interactive puzzles and an Animal Hunt available everyday.

Book a guided tour of 'Stories from the Cathedral' with costumes and props that take you on a journey from the legend of St Machar, through Robert the Bruce, the builder bishops, stained glass artists to World Wars.

Themed workshops on Christian Festivals, Signs and Symbols, Biodiversity, Travel and Tourism and Sacred Art available. Craft activities. Other themes can be accommodated - please enquire.

See our
website for
more info
stmachar.com



WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOUR GROUP
BOOK NOW
EDUCATION@STMACHAR.COM

HELP WITH TRANSPORT COSTS
ON REQUEST
HALL AVAILABLE TO BOOK
OPEN EVERYDAY

The Cathedral Church of St Machar Scottish Registered Charity SC008157