



ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

WEEKLY NEWS

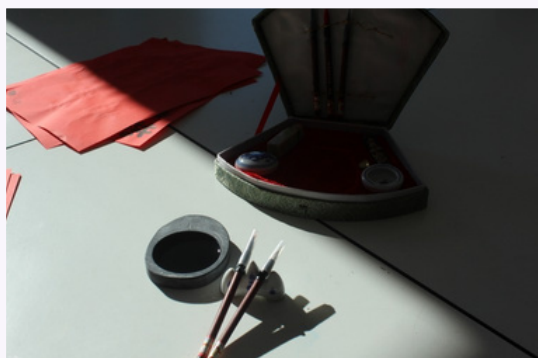
6th to 10th October 2025

Culture Week

Culture Week has once again been a huge success! This pupil-led celebration of our school community has brought together creativity, collaboration and an appreciation of the many cultures within our school.

Throughout the week, pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities and events – with plenty still happening even as this newsletter goes to print! From performances and creative arts to shared experiences, it's been a wonderful showcase of pupil initiative and school spirit.

To give the week's events the recognition they deserve, we'll be sharing a full round-up and photo highlights in the next newsletter.



Les Misérables School Edition

Costumes are being prepared as our senior pupils rehearse for the senior school production of Les Misérables School Edition, performed by an all female cast.

Tickets are selling quickly for the two evening performances and Saturday matinee, running from 6–8 November at Aberdeen Arts Centre. Secure your seats today and experience this school edition of the iconic musical celebrating 40 years since its London premiere in October 1985:

<https://www.aberdeenartscentre.com/.../les-mis%C3...>

Les Misérables SCHOOL EDITION



Get Creative Parents' Information Evening

Aurelie Irving (IVS Parent)

I always try to attend curricular evenings; as a teacher, the opportunity to see how others keep learning fresh and discover new resources is worth the time, and the hands-on offering at St Margaret's is always brilliant.

Following events that focused on science, languages and revision (hoping I haven't missed one), this latest episode offered insights into creative learning with workshops in art, drama and music - definitely outside my comfort zone!

Following an ice-breaker cup of tea in the library, we split into two groups and were led to our stations by impeccably polite and chatty pupils. I started in art, where Miss Wood explained the importance of mark-making as a progression towards finer art, and how taking inspiration from famous artists guided learners in their discovery of art techniques to shape their own work. Each one of us then had fifteen minutes (and the pressure was on!) to design and colour a small piece to contribute to a collaborative work created that evening.

We moved swiftly on to drama, where Mrs McGovern welcomed us in the fantastic purpose-built studio, easing us into a subject that is many people's nemesis. We learned about filling stage space and to consider the visual impact that adopting different levels in our scenes might have on an audience - a useful skill that transfers neatly to giving presentations and displaying information. After a close "moo-off", a technique for solving disputes unknown to many but that promises hilarious conflict resolution, we crossed the playground to our final destination...music!

Now, it's a long time since I'd used a glockenspiel, and despite many years at the conservatoire making me comfortable reading music, this was a lot trickier than I'd expected! Under the expert tuition of the very patient [insert name] we tackled rhythm (was it a samba?) on various shakers (not their technical names, I'm clearly no percussionist and there were at least a dozen different instruments to choose from) before moving on to adding in notes and, within a short half-hour, were producing something that sounded not entirely bad! I was astounded to hear that the girls not only learn to play, but also compose their own tunes, which is quite a skill to have!

All in all, a delightful and very educational 90 minutes in pleasant company. I'll be taking back a good few ideas for my own practice, look forward to the next one, and left feeling better equipped to discuss my children's learning with them, something research shows has a very strong positive impact on their attainment. Win, win, win





Running in Memory of Loved Ones

Congratulations to senior pupils Mia and Jess who successfully completed a half marathon in support of Friends of ANCHOR, a charity providing vital care and services to cancer patients and their families across the North East. Mia ran in memory of her papa and Jess ran in memory of her grandad. Their run celebrated the lives of their loved ones and the incredible impact they had on those around them.

Together they have raised £3,000 for Friends of Anchor through their Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/miaandjess>

The Big Give Women and Girls Match Fund

Women
& Girls
Match
Fund

BigGive

By 10pm on Wednesday, we had reached our £10,000 match funding target to support girls at St Margaret's through the Big Give Women and Girls Match Fund. But the good news doesn't stop there...

Another generous match funder from within our school community has stepped forward to offer an additional £1,000 in matched funding. This extra matched funding will be given directly to the school, rather than through **The Big Give platform**, but your donations made via The Big Give will still be doubled until the additional £1,000 is reached.



One Week.
Double the Donation
Double the Difference
8 - 15 October 2025

Women
& Girls
Match
Fund

BigGive

PE - Swimming Gala

Mrs Reid

On Monday afternoon, an enthusiastic group of senior pupils headed to the Aquatics Centre to participate in the annual senior swimming gala. The poolside was filled with lots of cheering, with girls supporting one another across year groups and their Houses.

All pupils demonstrated a high level of swimming and determination in the water, with some impressive 25m, 50m and 100m swims from girls in all year groups.

Results are as follows:

I Senior

1st place - Abigail McKilligan

2nd place - Danielle McAdam

3rd place - Sasha Fox

II Senior

1st place - Jessica King

2nd place - Jessica Jaffrey

3rd place - Alice Matthews

III Senior

1st place - Keira Jackson

2nd place - Sophie Howell

3rd place - Rose Downey

IV - VI Senior

1st place - Chloe Cherrie

2nd place - Lucy Cherrie

3rd place - Libby Butler

House Points

1st - Dunnottar - 251 points

2nd - Crathes - 219 points

3rd - Kildrummy - 117 points



PE - Netball

Mrs Reid

On Tuesday our Senior B netball team played Lochside Academy in another Aberdeen League match. Our team of IV Senior pupils displayed accuracy in passing, agility and speed when moving the ball down the court. With excellent teamwork and impressive shooting skills, **our team won the match 24-0**. Well done to our netballers.



PE - Hockey

Mrs Norval

Redemption on the Field: Juniors Secure First Round Victory

What a difference a week makes! After experiencing a tough loss last Saturday, the Junior II-IIIS squad returned to the pitch with a clear mission: improve and win. They did exactly that. In the first round of the Junior Scottish Hockey Challenge Cup against Aberdeen Grammar School, the players put in a magnificent, determined performance, turning previous disappointment into celebration. This win is a testament to their resilience and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of the hard work and spirit they showed. Congratulations to the team on such excellent play.

National Emerging Squad Selection for Arabella Winn!

We are absolutely delighted and incredibly proud to announce that Arabella Winn (IIIS) has been selected to train with the National Emerging Squad!

Arabella, who is part of the rigorous Brave Programme, attended a demanding trial on the last Sunday of September. After an anxious wait, she was over the moon to receive the news of her selection to the national training group. This is a magnificent achievement that recognizes her talent, dedication, and hard work on the pitch.

Congratulations, Arabella! We wish you all the very best as you pursue your dream of playing for Scotland—you have our full support!



Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



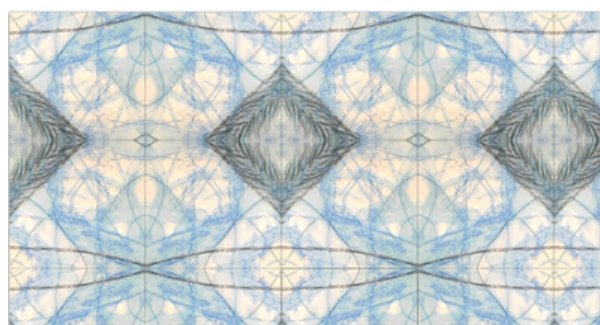
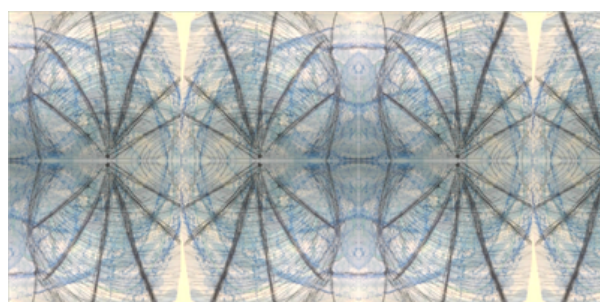
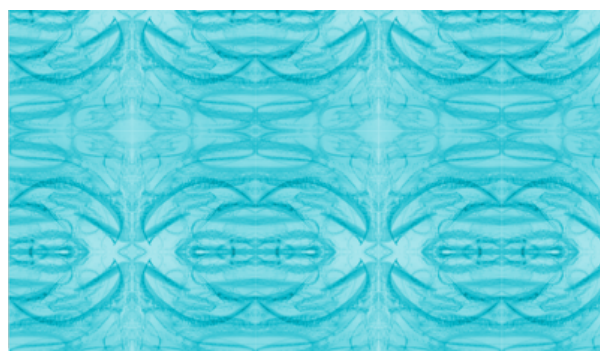
4 & 5 Junior Design & Make Project

This week we had the first of the group completing their fabric length made with their own stitches and pattern. Several girls stitched their sides together to form their cushion shape and they made choices about fringes inside or outside and cut foam to make the stuffing. They were very proud of their finished cushions



IS Digital Designs

This week the girls used their layered abstract outcomes from last lesson as a starting point for some digital designing. They took a further crop as a photograph and learned about repeating patterns with mirror, flip and rotations to create their own designs. As you can see, there were some fabulous results.



Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



IIIS Expressive Project

The girls have been working from their own photographs to develop their ideas towards a final outcome for their expressive project based on the theme of urban and rural. These are just a few examples from those in progress and most have used a mix of media including such things as watercolour, acrylics, fine liner, biro, oil pastels and pencil.



IVS Expressive Project

The IVS group have also been working hard on developing their outcomes towards their final piece. This year the girls have chosen a range of themes for their still life project including hobbies, food and drink, childhood and teen culture.



Junior Art Club

Mrs Teglas



This week in art club, the girls looked at landscape paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe. They learnt how to layer and blend colour with oil pastels to create their own imaginary landscapes.



Young STEM Leaders

Mrs Arthur, Mrs Hendry & Mrs O'Neill



Smart Transport: Daisy - Freya - Eileen

Our group is working on sustainable transport and have decided to focus on trains in particular as public transport is much more sustainable than travelling privately by car.

As a group we have finalised our design of the train incorporating the 7Js original drawings and completed a 3D model on sketchup which allows us to better visualise our ideas. This week we have focused on sustainability learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources, carbon footprint and energy storage. We decided to approach this topic using open group discussions where the 7Js were free to add in their own ideas and ask questions. To consolidate what the 7Js have learnt, we decided to have weekly quizzes, in which the girls have consistently scored impressively in. After increasing our knowledge of sustainability, we were able to come up with more ideas to make our train more sustainable. These included serving food and drinks with reusable cutlery and dishes rather than single use options to limit our carbon footprint. From our learning about renewable energy we confirmed that we definitely wanted to use solar power as our main energy source as we could place them on the roof of the train. We also wanted to incorporate separate bins for different types of rubbish so that any waste created on the train is disposed of correctly and is recycled where possible. Over the next few weeks we are hoping to finalise our learning about sustainability.

Smart Schools: Clarissa - Dami - Micheala

This week our young stem leaders continued to explore the intrinsic aspects of designing a sustainable school. In our first session this week, we posed the question "How much energy do you think it takes to run a school?" – After hearing the annual energy consumption of an average school, the girls were actually quite surprised but were determined to think of sustainable aspects they could add to their smart school to optimise its energy consumption and increase its sustainability. They enthusiastically shared the idea of making all rooms in the school equipped with automatic light sensors, so that the lights are only turned on when someone is in the room, which would help reduce energy waste in our school. The conversation quickly shifted into how we can make our school an environment of learning but also one that focused on our ecological responsibilities that also aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The girls continued to offer practical solutions like making the plates and utensils in the lunch room recyclable/able to decompose and massively increasing the use of technological appliances in our school to reduce wasted paper. After the discussion we were more than certain the 7J's had a true grasp of what it meant to be sustainable, due to their clear and thoughtful ideas they were able to bring to the discussion. On Wednesday, the girls spent time explaining their presentations - which they worked on the weeks prior - on different renewable energy and sustainability.

Young STEM Leaders

Mrs Arthur, Mrs Hendry & Mrs O'Neil



Smart Schools: Clarissa - Dami - Micheala, Continued

This, we found was an incredibly crucial task, as it helped the the 7J's to see the definitive link between the two topics and observe how an increase in the use of renewables was essential in making a sustainable future and school - which is why we hope to equip our smart school with solar panels and wind turbines in the near future. Finally the girls started working through a sustainability practice set on how to minimise overconsumption and waste in school to help consolidate their learning on this topic. After the holidays we hope to continue the project with a bang and explore new ideas to make our school a place that embodies the sustainable development goals as we work towards designing and building our final model.

SMART HOSPITAL: Jodie - Olivia - Aishah - Stephanie

This week for the smart hospital, we continued to focus on renewable energy and sustainability. Firstly, we collected all of the background knowledge that our group had about the different types of energy, specifically renewable ones such as solar power, wind power and hydro power, and the importance of using renewable energy instead of non-renewable sources. These benefits included improved health which we concluded was very important to achieve within our hospital. Following this, we discussed ways to reduce our energy consumption and technology we could use to do so within our hospital, such as light sensors. Then, to ensure we had an in-depth knowledge of how different renewable energy sources worked, we delivered presentations to the 7Js explaining the mechanics and energy transfers involved alongside the conditions required for the renewable energy sources to work efficiently and produce the most energy. It was also important that we focused on the value of 'Reduce, Renew, Recycle' and how our group would apply this initiative within our smart hospital. After we had covered these topics, the 7Js completed a quiz about energy sources in which they had to identify the features of different energy sources. Currently, the 7Js are beginning the process of creating posters on Canva focusing on the creative, sustainable features - such as biodiverse 'The Green Roof' - within our hospital that the 7Js had created in depth with diagrams using plentiful research.

Smart Cafe: - Lena - Libby - Sophie - Yashila

This Monday and Wednesday our group has met up to continue the work on our smart cafe project. Our current aim is to really delve into sustainability and investigate less common methods of being sustainable, such as using a rainwater harvesting system or encouraging people to cycle or walk instead of driving. We have been focusing on more hands-on approaches to learning, such as playing Blookets or other fun games and quizzes to make sustainability approachable and interesting. Alongside this, we have started individual research projects for each of the juniors where they are investigating a sustainable solution of their choosing and planning how we can incorporate it into our design innovation. Lastly, our online 3D model has been completed and we shared it with the juniors to much excitement, achieving the seal of approval from them!

After School Care

Mrs Stirling

Maddy and Xi-Yu were doing fantastic work in the playground with our new litter pickers.

The girls named themselves "Environmental Wizards" - and we were so impressed with their kindness in making our playground even nicer.

The girls have also been busy creating hama beads and the most amazing dens!



Article of the Week

Nandi Dasar, IVS



The main difference between a woman and a girl is age. A girl is a female child or adolescent, while a woman is an adult female - doesn't really get less complicated than that. Only, it does. Because from the earliest of ages, society stresses the differences between girls and their gender counterparts, moulding them through social constructs and societal expectations to fit what civilization deems acceptable. In theory, a girl should become a woman when she turns 18, however pervasive gender stereotypes and unchecked discrimination are forcing girls out of their childhood and too early into a world that refuses to acknowledge them. Women are often underlined as the centre of the struggle, but many forget that girls have it just as bad, some might even say worse. Both women and girls are facing mass adversity globally - living in a time where economic disparities are shaping their future, unrealistic beauty standards plague their self-perception and their value is so often established by a random array of individuals behind a screen who don't even know them. This is the unfortunate reality of too many girls today.

This Saturday marks International Day of The Girl Child - a day where we not only recognize girls around the world, but the modern struggles they face and the hurdles they strive to overcome daily. It was December 19th 2011 when the United Nations General Assembly decided to assign October 11th as International Day of The Girl Child, aiming to force attention on the challenges they face and to promote girls empowerment and fulfilment of their human rights. Many girls from marginalized communities are still battling major social and economic barriers that are limiting their potential and hindering personal development. There are only 5 years left of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and no country has met even half of the Sustainable Development Goals targets crucial to a young girl's wellbeing - a primary indicator of why this day is so fundamental.

As girls are still legally considered children, ALL articles of the UNCRC apply to them and their circumstances, no matter how unique or complex. Article 2: Non - Discrimination ensures all rights are and can be applied to every child without discrimination of any kind, including gender. This is vital for addressing the biases and neglect girls face in certain regions simply because they are girls.



Article of the Week

Nandi Dasar, IVS



The unbelievable truth is that millions of girls are seen as nothing more than economic projects and so many are denied their rights, even though one of the most fundamental principles of the UNCRC is that your rights can never be taken away. Gaps in education, child marriage and harassment negate a lot of which the UNCRC stands for and showcase why it's important for young females to know their rights. This way, they can defend themselves against said injustices and fight for the life and respect they know they deserve.

Girls of today are actively pursuing STEM careers which have too long remained male-dominated. Initiatives like Toyota's "[Girls STEM the future](#)" connect schoolgirls with female role models, inspiring them to explore opportunities and take subjects like maths and engineering further. Research shows, when young girls have a relatable role model their interest in STEM nearly doubles. This is only one of the many ways girls are challenging these outdated norms, building a future they can be proud of. In countries where girls participation in sport is not encouraged, many are pushing back against the narrative that "they are just not good enough". From competitive swimming in India to skateboarding in the UK, girls are defying expectations everywhere, breaking records and proving their athletic competence.

In short, the world needs to wake up. The fight for girls' rights is a dynamic and evolving process. Too many girls today are navigating too complex a landscape, where decade-persistent gender based struggles clash with their growing determination to forge a better world. They continue to face systematic battles, but instead of simply accepting this mistreatment, girls choose to be active, resilient and vocal agents of change. Through activism and legal advocacy, girls are no longer waiting for change, but drive it forward. This is a reclamation of their agency and in turn is building a better future for both themselves and for women everywhere. This female revolution is actively tackling what we thought could never change and is proving, through positive results and response, girls have both the intellect and insight to reshape the narrative of who matters in society.

Nandi Dasar (IVS)



She Plays To Win Programme

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Programme for the 2025/26 academic year will run from September 2025 to August 2026.

You can find all the details and registration information by clicking the button below. She Plays To Win is dedicated to supporting girls in chess across the UK.

