



ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

WEEKLY NEWS

8th to 12th September 2025



The Big Give

We are delighted to share that St Margaret's has been selected to take part in The Big Give's Women & Girls Match Fund 2025, running from 8–15 October.

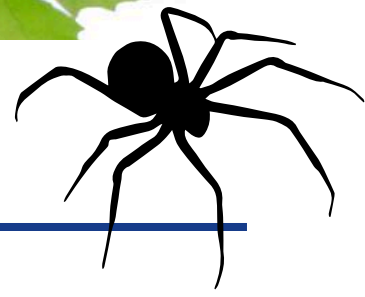
For one week only, every £1 given to participating charities will be doubled at no extra cost, instantly increasing the impact of support.

This national recognition celebrates the difference our school makes in the lives of girls and shines a light on the funding inequity in this area, with only 1.8% of UK grants reaching charities that support women and girls. For St Margaret's, this campaign represents an important opportunity to secure vital bursary funding.

We look forward to sharing more about the campaign in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we hope our community will feel proud that the work of St Margaret's in empowering girls has been recognised nationally, and that together we continue to build a legacy of opportunity for future generations.

I Senior Team-Building Day

Hazlehead Park



Mrs Nehring



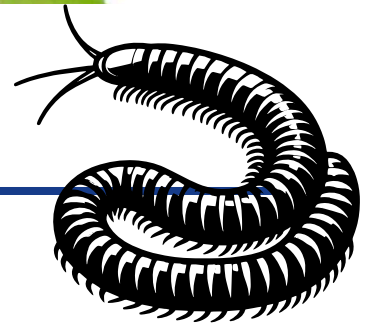
Last Friday, I Senior girls enjoyed a relaxing end to their second full week at St Margaret's, with a team-building day at Hazlehead Park.

Led by Aberdeen City Council Ranger, Jack Elphinstone, the girls enjoyed strolling through the park and learning about their surroundings. Jack talked to them about the red and grey squirrel populations, about bird calls and birds which will soon migrate. He spoke about native trees growing in the park, as opposed to those brought into the country. The girls cleared a section of forest floor of sitka spruce plants before taking part in a min-beast hunt. Jack shared his passion for insects, delicately handling each one and imparting his knowledge about them. To reinforce his message about how important insects are, he quoted the venerated David Attenborough, who once said, "If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world's ecosystems would collapse."

I Senior Team-Building Day

Hazlehead Park

Mrs Nehring



After a leisurely lunch al fresco, the girls again worked in teams to construct a den using branches and foliage. To leave nature the way they found it, the dens were deconstructed again before we left. This is a move we are sure our insect friends appreciated!



History

Mr Cunnningham



Last week the Advanced Higher History class attended a dissertation workshop, run by Aberdeen University History Department. Students were shown the university library resources available to them, and were given general advice on studying history at university. The class also attended a lecture on the importance of visual culture and art history in historical research, before receiving specific advice on their own subject area by a specialist in that field of history.



Art & Design

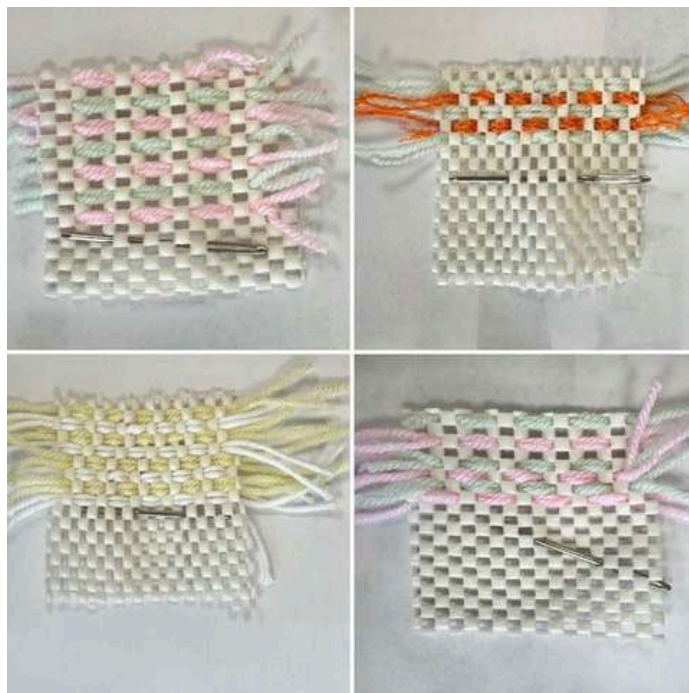
Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



4 & 5 Junior Design & Make Project

Building on their skills from last lesson the girls used stitches with yarns of two colours to create patterns in their fabric swatch.

They were asked to consider whether they needed to make any changes to their design before they move on to making their larger piece.



I Senior - Introduction to the Visual Elements

This week the girls began by attempting different techniques for oil pastels. They observed images of crabs for their study drawings and used oil pastels with oils to blend opposite colours to achieve a range of tones.

Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



II Senior - Still Life

This week the girls studied plant forms and used opposite colours to represent tones and textures.

They used a variety of mark making techniques from hatching to scumbling and stippling with some very impressive results.



III Senior Expressive Project

For their urban and rural themed project the girls have been responding in different styles to their photographs. Whilst working in the style of Jim Dine they put their work onto an easel to allow for free movement of the paint for some less controlled results.

Junior Art Club

Mrs Teglas



This week in art club, the girls looked at cubism to produce autumnal tree pieces. They used a variety of dry media on a watercolour paint base. One of their aims was to use a limited autumn colour palette to create a seasonal feel to their pictures.

6 Junior

Mrs Munro

History Trail at Duthie Park



As part of our Victorian studies, 6 Junior visited Duthie Park to take part in the History Trail. We were welcomed by the park rangers, who guided us around the park and highlighted a variety of fascinating historical features. Our final challenge was to perform in the bandstand!



"We learnt how to measure the height of a monument from the ground." Megan

We learnt that Duthie Park was the first green open space in Aberdeen. It was gifted to the city by Mrs Elizabeth Mary Crombie Duthie hence it is called Duthie Park."



Nursery

Mrs Simpson



As part of learning 'All About Me', the children have been making their own self portraits using a variety of materials.

They have also been making models of their house and designing hotels and buildings.



Nursery

Mrs Simpson



A group of children enjoyed Paired Reading with the 3J girls. This is a wonderful opportunity for the 3J girls to develop their reading skills and for our children to listen and join in activities in the Junior School.



Article of the Week

Mrs Reid

Senior Rights Respecting Ambassadors



I am delighted to introduce our Senior Rights Respecting Ambassadors for session 2025 - 2026.

The girls had their first group meeting this week where they discussed opportunities to manage, plan and lead specific activities across the year, linked to working towards the Gold level Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Every ambassador will play a crucial role within our school community, helping to promote and uphold children's rights on both a local and global scale.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Ambassadors the best of luck as they embark on the journey to Gold.

Mrs Reid


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:**

WE WILL ROCK YOU

**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!

-

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 SC008137