

Weekly news

19 - 23 January 2026



At assembly on Monday 19th January, we were delighted to welcome back Celine, class of 2025, who spoke to our senior pupils about her journey from St Margaret's to **Harvard University**.

Celine shared invaluable insights into studying in the US and life at an Ivy League university sharing: "The tight-knit community and friends I have made at Harvard remind me very much of the warm atmosphere I experienced as a pupil at St Margaret's."

Thank you, Celine, for returning to St Margaret's and for being such a fantastic role model to the next generation of students!



WEEKLY NEWS

12th - 16th January 2026



PTA Family Suppertime Ceilidh



Friday 30th January
5pm - 6.30pm



Join us for a family-friendly suppertime ceilidh on **Friday 30th January**. DJ Neil Mellis from Big Day Entertainment will be calling dances so expect a few classics and perhaps some new ones! This will take place in the school hall from 5pm - 6.30pm with hot food included in your ticket price.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children.

Book online: <https://stmargaretsevents.com/>

Junior pupil publishes second book!



Isabelle Ogosi is a 7 Junior pupil who has recently published the second book in her *Mysteries of the Woods* series. She has been interested in creative writing since she joined St Margaret's in 1 Junior.

"If they can do it, why can't I?" is the question that started it all. Her Guinness World Records book boasted of the world's youngest author, published at four years old. Isabelle took this as a challenge. After earning the top prize for Aberdeen authors in the Rotary Young Writers Competition, and joint third nationally, Isabelle talked to her mother about publishing a novel. Her mother responded with enthusiastic support. Isabelle joined a young writers group to connect with industry mentors as she began her publishing journey. She reworked and finetuned her stories for months before publishing *Mysteries of the Woods: the Enchanted Cave* at age nine.

With her new experience and helpful feedback from professionals, her second book was quicker to write and longer in length. *Mysteries of the Woods: the Haunted Mansion* was published this last December. We follow our familiar protagonist Scarlett and her magical companions as they dive into a thrilling adventure of haunted houses, mad scientists and time travel.

Isabelle has always been a big fan of Rick Riordan, admiring how he skillfully weaves Greek, Roman and Egyptian mythology together to craft tales of the past and present. For the next and final book in the *Mystery of the Woods* series, Isabelle wishes to emulate this genre-bending writing style by leaning into the mystery elements of the plot. Isabelle would like to try her hand at a completely different genre if she writes a fourth book.

Before we parted, Isabelle shared advice for aspiring writers, unsure about their success. "Keep writing. There will be hard parts, but keep doing what you love." Isabelle hopes that she can be an inspiration for others - proving their dreams are always possible, no matter their age.

Interview conducted by and written up by Abigail Onyeakazi, VI Senior.



iTAG Barley Project

Mrs Miller



iTAG Barley



The James
Hutton
Institute

Inheritance of Traits and Genes using Oregon Wolfe Barley

Our iTAG Barley Project got off to a tremendous start last Friday, with 16 keen biologists willing to give up their Friday night to extract barley leaf DNA. The Biology Lab was literally and metaphorically buzzing with grinding, micropipetting and centrifuging aplenty until after 6:00pm. We completed the protocol, and have frozen our samples.

We will use DNA electrophoresis next week to see how successful our extractions were, and choose the cleanest samples for our next steps. We have four varieties of Oregon Wolfe Barley which we are using, which were carefully sown from seed by the IS biology classes in December. We will be comparing their seed head phenotypes (appearance) with the results from experiments based on two genes which control seed head appearance.





During netball club at RGU Sport on Tuesday, our I Senior netball team played in their first match of the year in a friendly game against Aberdeen Grammar School. The girls played with determination, grabbing any loose balls and trying their best to defend the ball. They demonstrated accurate passing, quick movement down the court and some great attempts at goal. The game finished 4-4 with both teams delighted to have experienced a competitive match against another school. Well done to our I Senior netball team!

Maths

Mrs Bryce



University of
Strathclyde
Engineering

Engineering the Future for Girls

26 - 29 May 2026

Engineering the Future for Girls is designed to engage girls in a range of engineering challenges that will inspire them to become the next generation of engineers.

This four-day, non-residential programme will run on the University of Strathclyde campus from the 26 - 29 May 2026.

There are 100 places available in total, all of which are fully funded by the industry partners. As a non-residential programme, participants will need to be able to travel to and from the University of Strathclyde campus (Glasgow City Centre) on all four days. A contribution towards travel costs will be provided and lunch will also be provided each day.

Scan the **QR code** or visit for information on the programme, including details on the application process and deadline for applications.

For further information, please contact **engineeringthefutureforgirls@strath.ac.uk**



Find out more



Engineering the Future for Girls is a four-day, non-residential programme running 26–29 May 2026 at the University of Strathclyde. Designed to inspire girls through hands-on engineering challenges, it aims to encourage the next generation of engineers.

- Places: 100, fully funded by industry partners
- Travel & Lunch: Participants travel daily; a travel contribution and lunch provided
- Location: University of Strathclyde, Glasgow City Centre

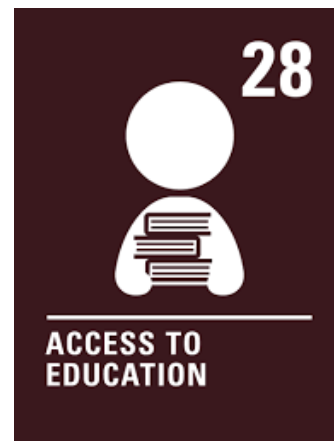
Applications: Scan the QR code or visit the programme website for details and deadlines.

The Maths department can provide references for any interested pupils.

Contact: engineeringthefutureforgirls@strath.ac.uk

Rights Respecting Schools - Article of the week

Mrs Reid



According to UNESCO, 250 million children and young people are out of school, and 763 million adults are illiterate. Children who are not getting an education are more vulnerable to exploitation, child marriage, and lower earning potential. There are millions of boys and girls who are in school, but they are facing other issues like having poorly trained teachers and a lack of school resources.

First observed in 2019 and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, International Education Day falls on 24 January annually. The International Education Day helps to shine a light on children who are missing out on receiving the education they deserve, as well as celebrating the role of education and its importance worldwide. Education is a human right; the United Nations recognises that improving access to education is essential for reaching the global Sustainable Development Goals.

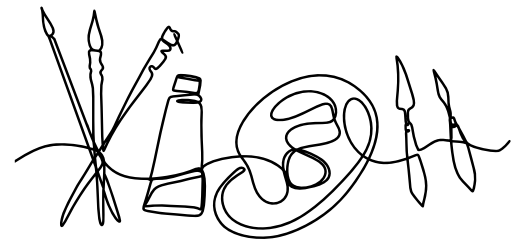
Facts about children's education:

300 million children will lack basic numeracy and literacy skills by 2030.
5 million Ukrainian children have had their education disrupted by conflict.
129 million girls are out of education worldwide.

The International Day of Education reminds us that school is a superpower for girls, helping them dream big and reach for the stars. When girls get the chance to learn, they grow up to change the world and make life better for everyone.

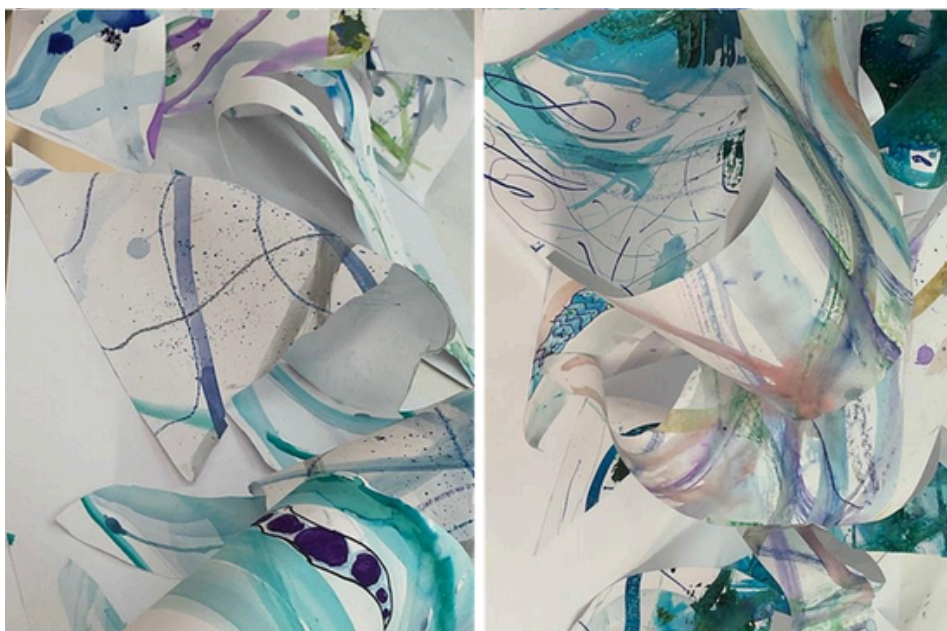
Art & Design

Miss Wood & Mrs Bedford



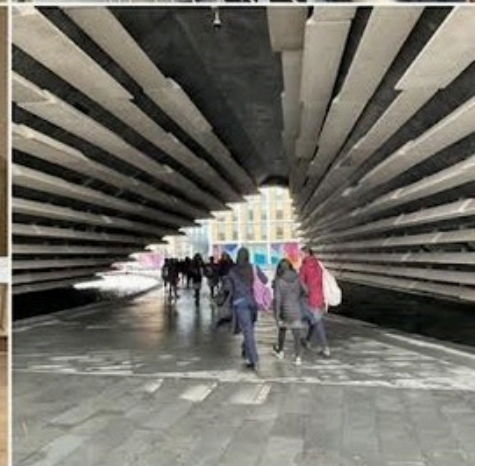
4 & 5 Junior Expressive Installation

Before the Christmas break the 4 & 5 Juniors created expressive paintings responding to waves and the sea. This week they further developed those paintings by cutting and shaping them into wave inspired forms to create a striking collaborative installation.



IIIS Design Trip

On Wednesday the IIIS Art & Design students travelled to Dundee to visit two exhibitions at the V&A. They visited the Future Gardens and Thread Memories exhibitions in order to gain inspiration and ideas for their design projec



Junior Art Club

Mrs Teglas



This week in art club the girls looked at the artist Karla Gerard. Gerard combines folk art with the abstract and creates colourful pattern filled imaginary worlds. Like Gerard, the girls created their pieces by taking inspiration from nature and dreams.

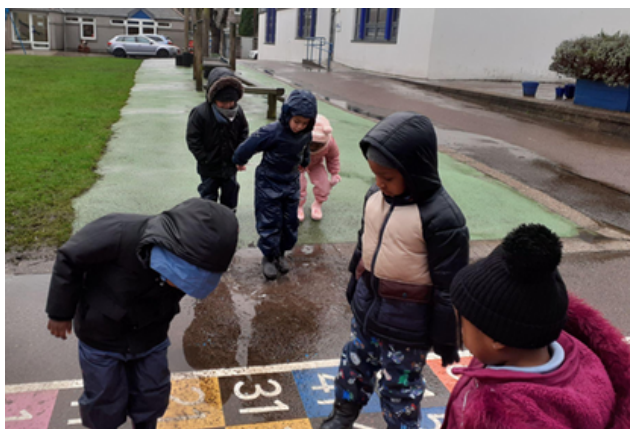


Nursery News

This week, the children have enjoyed learning about Robbie Burns. They have used tartan to inspire their creativity using paint and playdough.



A group of children donned their waterproofs and had great fun playing in the rain. This type of play is great for developing gross motor skills and investigating cause and effect - mainly by jumping in puddles. We encourage the children to be as independent as possible and everyone had a good go at putting on and taking off their own waterproofs and wellies. Amazing!





MINI TENNIS

FEBRUARY - APRIL PROGRAMME

WEEKDAY SESSIONS

DAY	SESSION	TIME
MON	RED	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	ORANGE	4:15pm - 5:15pm
	GREEN/YELLOW	4:15pm - 5:15pm
	YELLOW	3:30pm - 4:45pm
	YELLOW	4:45pm - 5:45pm
TUE	RED	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	GREEN/YELLOW	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	GREEN/YELLOW	4:15pm - 5:15pm
WED	GREEN/YELLOW	3:30pm - 4:15pm
THU	RED	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	ORANGE	3:30pm - 4:15pm
FRI	GREEN/YELLOW	4:15pm - 5:15pm
	TOTS	9:30am - 10:15am
	TOTS	2:00pm - 2:45pm
	RED	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	RED	5:00pm - 5:45pm
	ORANGE	3:30pm - 4:15pm
	ORANGE	5:15pm - 6:00pm
	GREEN/YELLOW	5:45pm - 6:30pm

WEEKEND SESSIONS

DAY	SESSION	TIME
SATURDAY	RED	9:00am - 9:45am
	RED	9:45am - 10:30am
	ORANGE	9:15am - 10:30am
SUNDAY	RED	8:30am - 9:15am
	YELLOW	8:30am - 9:30am

PRICES FOR 6 WEEK BLOCK

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
45 MIN CLASS	£42	£52
60 MIN CLASS	£54	£64
75 MIN CLASS	£69	£79

All sessions are lead by LTA qualified coaches
Darren Nicol • Fraser Bruce • Grace Richardson

CLASSES START WEEK BEGINNING 9TH FEBRUARY

- Individual lessons are also available in 30/45/60 minute slots.
- Mini matchplay events will be running on selected weekends.

Bank Transfer Details:
DN Sports Coaching Ltd, Starling Bank, 608371, 63609673

Register Now

☎ 07801734314

✉ darrennicol@hotmail.co.uk

👤 Darren Nicol Tennis Coaching

📍 16 Cromwell Gardens, IF

Please inform Darren of any medical conditions or if you do not consent to your child being in group photos.
For all club policies including safeguarding - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RubislawTennisClub/Policies>

RUBISLAW TENNIS CLUB

FEBRUARY FUN DAYS

9:15am - 11:15am

Dates

- > Monday 9th February
- > Tuesday 10th February
- > Wednesday 11th February



Ages 8 - 16

Camps will involve coaching, fun games and matches, and are open to kids of all standards. All camps will be led by LTA qualified coaches Darren Nicol, Joe Miller and Grace Richardson.

Prices Per Day

Members	Non-Members
£12	£15

Register Now

☎ 07801734314

✉ darrennicol@hotmail.co.uk

👤 Darren Nicol Tennis Coaching

📍 16 Cromwell Gardens, AB154UF

Bank Transfer Details:
DN Tennis Camps Ltd, Starling Bank, 608371, 71041754
Camp fees to be paid in advance to secure place.

Please inform Darren of any medical conditions or if you do not consent to your child being in group photos.
For all club policies including safeguarding - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RubislawTennisClub/Policies>