



ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



WEEKLY NEWS
17th - 21st November 2025

St Margaret's Day 2025

On Friday 14th November, the St Margaret's community gathered at St Machar's Cathedral to celebrate our annual St Margaret's Day.

Pupils, staff, and families came together in the magnificent setting of St Machar's, beneath the crest of St Margaret, which is displayed alongside many others on the cathedral ceiling. The service featured thoughtful readings from the Head Girl Team and Senior Prefects, and the congregation enjoyed a series of moving musical performances from our choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists.

St Margaret's Day is a special tradition in our school calendar; a time for reflection, gratitude, and giving. It offers our pupils an opportunity to appreciate the value of their education and the importance of using it to make a positive difference. Inspired by the compassion and generosity of St Margaret, our pupils once again demonstrated their commitment to helping others through their support of Somebody Cares. A collection of the many donations was blessed during the service before being passed on to the charity.



Senior School Dance

Photo Gallery

Last Friday night our S5 & S6 pupils had a truly unforgettable night at our school dance at the Copthorne Hotel. After a lovely service paying tribute to St Margaret's Day at St Machar's Cathedral, it was no time at all before everyone was eager to get ready for the evening festivities. The time had come for everyone to arrive and make their entrance looking beautiful in an amazing array of fabulous dresses making sure to capture the moment with some photos together. We enjoyed a delicious dinner together not long after the DJ began his set and everyone got up on the dance floor and never left. Before we knew it the night had come to an end, after non stop dancing, plenty of singing and maybe even an impromptu acapella performance of the school song! I think we can all agree that it was a night to remember.







Ms Huldal's Inspiring Visit

Dara (IVS)

Last week Ms Huldal came into school to talk to IVS about her career as an engineer and how she continuously works to overcome gender stereotypes in the workplace. She inspired us as a year group to not limit ourselves, but to reach higher and aim to achieve our goals even if others try to bring you down.

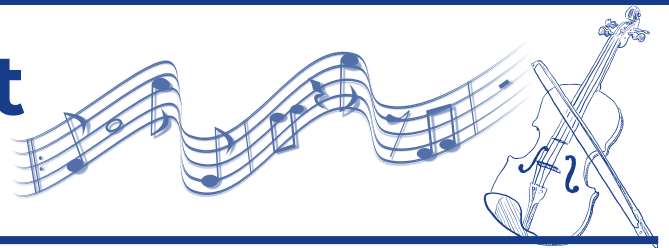
Mrs Huldal started off as a field engineer and later moved into corporate leadership roles. Over the course of her career she has lived in six countries around the world ranging from Australia, the United States (Texas), and Africa and has travelled to over fifty! She shared stories and lessons that she has learned throughout her career, experiencing different cultures and lifestyles. During her time away she learned how to maintain a healthy work life balance especially when being away from home for long periods of time while still focusing on her career.

She advised us to never be afraid to achieve higher positions in jobs despite ongoing gender inequality and the pay gap in businesses. Her talk has taught our year group that even when discouraged by others we should keep striving for our goals and that there isn't always just one path to success.



Informal Concert

Shirley Magill



On Tuesday, before a full and supportive audience, girls from 2J–VS presented a most enjoyable afternoon of music. The concert opened with the Purcell Players, our beginner string ensemble, comprising pupils from 2–3J, whose enthusiastic singing and playing set an excellent tone for the event.

The programme continued with a varied selection of solos and duets, showcasing pieces the girls have been working on in their lessons. For several performers, this was their first experience of presenting a solo in public, and they rose to the occasion with commendable confidence. The concert concluded with a spirited performance of Czardas, an exuberant Hungarian dance that gathered pace and energy, played to great effect on the xylophone.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Our sincere thanks go to all the girls for their hard work and participation and to all who attended and offered their support.



Netball

Mrs Reid



The senior A netball team had a closely contested match against RGC on Monday night. With only 7 players and no fresh legs to relieve the pressure, the team created many scoring opportunities in attack and collected lots of interceptions in defence. There was some very nice netball on display by both teams. The game ended 16-13 to RGC.



Complementing the senior A performance, also on Monday night, our junior team played extremely well against Harlaw Academy. It was a very tight, exciting match, with end to end play. Our team showed determination and excellent teamwork to end the game 15-15. Following this, the junior team then played RGC on Tuesday night. Once again, the girls showed great enthusiasm and excellent attacking play to win the match 15-5. A special mention goes to one of our newest team members, Emily Ritchie, who was nominated players' player of the match for both fixtures.

St Margaret's netballers from 6 and 7 Junior played their first match against Kingswells primary school earlier this month. Having never played a proper 7 aside match before the girls did so well at moving into spaces, getting interceptions and scoring goals in a full sized net. The girls played with great spirit and determination and all enjoyed the experience.



Hockey

Dunnottar Triumphs at House Festival!

Last Saturday, we were delighted to see over 30 pupils attend a vibrant House Hockey Festival at Cults Academy.

- **Participation:** Pupils from all year groups—from J4 to S6—showed fantastic commitment, especially impressive as many of the senior pupils attended after their Senior Dance the previous night!
- **Team Spirit:** It was wonderful to see the older pupils inspire and help the younger players, fostering a great community spirit.
- **Tournament Winners:** Dunnottar House were the stars of the show! They won all their matches to secure the tournament victory.



Volleyball

First-Ever Match a Great Success!

It's always exciting when something different happens! This week marked a historic moment with our first-ever volleyball match (in 20 years!) against St Machar.

- **The Match:** we fielded two teams against several of St Machar's sides. Despite some initial stage fright, the team quickly settled down and played some fantastic volleyball.
- **Learning & Collaboration:** to maximize learning, teams were mixed with some of St Machar's older, more experienced players. This provided a great opportunity for our players to pick up new tactics and ideas.
- **Masterclass:** the St Machar coach concluded the session with a valuable masterclass of drills that we will integrate into our club sessions on Monday nights.
- **Next Steps:** it was an enjoyable session, and we are looking forward to playing St Machar again after Christmas!



Smart Cafe - Yashila, Libby, Lena, Sophie

In young stem leaders we have been continuing to develop our ideas on our smart cafe project. This week we managed to complete our first design model for our smart cafe. We have encouraged the juniors to think about more sustainable methods which we can incorporate. So far we have included renewable energy such as solar energy and using hydroelectric power for ground heating. In addition we have been focusing on more hands-on approaches to learning, such as playing booklets and quizzes to make sustainability approachable and interesting.

Also, the juniors have been interested in the quizzes and booklets that we have made which are based on renewable energy allowing the children to grasp an idea on the importance of conservation. Next week we look forward to continuing the design for our model and thinking about sustainable and recycled materials to include in our smart cafe.



Smart Transport - Daisy - Freya - Eileen

The Smart Transport group for the past few weeks have been consolidating the juniors' knowledge on water consumption as well as learning new things about forest management and deforestation. We have been introducing activities such as matching the type of tree to a picture of the tree - by pointing out distinct features. We also have been playing booklets that contain questions like, 'Why is it important to fell some trees in a well-managed forest?' and 'What process do trees use to take carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their wood, leaves and roots', plus many more. To add, we also included a running theme of Scotland and the environmental impact of forests in Scotland. This was to educate the juniors on wider sustainability and to enhance specific topics based on where they live! Last week, we also arranged a friendly debate between the seniors and juniors based on the importance of trees and why planting native trees is preferable to planting foreign trees. In this instance, the juniors argued that trees are less needed nowadays and can be replaced by computers, however, the seniors retaliated with the matter that not everyone can afford computers and paper is much more accessible and affordable, also introducing carbon dioxide absorption to the juniors.

Overall, the juniors have developed an excellent amount of knowledge of sustainability and the environment over a short period of time and have shown clear understanding and initiative when it comes to these topics. Over the next few weeks, we will be adding to our online diagrams and working towards a final model for our smart, sustainable train.

Smart School - Michaela - Dami - Clarissa

Our team, Smart School, has been focusing on broadening the juniors' knowledge on different types of energies and how to apply them to our school. Last week, we started off the session by giving the girls a test on the experiment we did the week prior. This included presenting a google slides to the juniors which [you can find here](#). It detailed batteries and how they contribute to different renewable energies. This also included briefly quizzing the juniors to find out their level of knowledge on this topic and together conducting a practical using a battery cell, crocodile clips and an LED to conduct electricity and power the LED lights.

After finishing the experiment, we brainstormed different ways we could add the use of batteries and LED's in our school model. A few of the junior's ideas included fans, smart board remotes, and electric white board pens. For the test, the juniors collaborated together to create answers for the questions which demonstrated their level of understanding of energy and how to apply it. We then gave them two informative videos on solar and wind energy to finish off.



Smart Hospital - Olivia - Aisha - Stephanie

Last week our group presented our final core ideas for the floor plan for our smart hospital. We presented the hospital model floorplan to the junior team and took notes on any missing details based on their initial hand drawn ideas. Based on their feedback, we made improvements to align the overall design.

This week, we focused on finalising several room layouts, designing the main hospital building, and creating assets for the digital model. Our key priorities for the smart hospital are improving both time and energy efficiency while ensuring the design aligns with the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals. We often as a group discuss these goals and how the hospital can align itself with them. We encourage the juniors to first think for themselves, asking them questions, such as what would make a hospital more sustainable? Then the seniors of our group will conduct deeper research to supplement their knowledge and present short and informative seven minute slideshows to the junior pupils about the sustainable topics.

Debating

Mrs Jennings



In the first round of the Law Society debating competition, Clarissa and Sylvie debated the motion 'This house believes that high school students be required to work either a paid job or volunteer hours during the summer break.'

The girls did extremely well and are through to the next round. Thanks also to our timekeepers Timi and Samaira, and Betsy, Barbara, Emily D, Lana, Tenaiyo, Ugo and Olivia M who came along to support and participate in the floor debate!



Cafe Philosophie: You Can!

with Nara Morrison

Nara is a psychotherapist, trainer and speaker who is passionate about mental health related issues and helps people overcome anxiety, understand themselves and build confidence. With experience working with communities, Nara talked about what it means to belong and shared practical ideas about feeling accepted, valued and connected.

Grace (VIS) shared: “On Wednesday lunchtime we had the privilege of meeting Nara Morrison at our Café Philosophie event. She spoke to us and led discussions about belonging and what this means. It was very inspiring to hear her perspective. Her words of advice encouraged us to embrace our individuality and accept others for who they are. This experience has inspired us to become more confident and inclusive individuals within our school community.”



Art & Design

I Senior - Painting & Drawing



This week the girls worked on their seashore themed compositions. They used mixed media, selecting from ink, watercolours, ink bars, watercolour pencils, biro and fineliner to create their outcomes. They used mark making to create textural effects and tonal qualities.



Art & Design

IIS - Abstract Mark Making



Experimentation with brush mark, alternative tools for paint application and a limited colour palette were the challenges faced by the IIS art classes this week. Working in a purely abstract manner influenced by artists' examples from Cy Twombly and Patrick Heron the girls created four connected compositions.





Art & Design

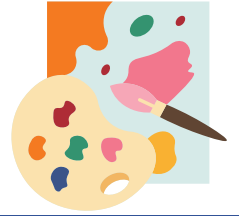
4 & 5 Junior

To begin their new theme of weather and waves, we looked this week at techniques to create marks using unusual tools and equipment with an autumnal colour scheme. The girls created a library of samples choosing from cardboard, straws, cotton buds, plastic bags, ink droppers and brushes to apply media.

They were also really excited to take home the cushions that they made last term.



Junior Art Club



To commemorate Remembrance Day, the girls in art club created poppies out of tissue paper.

They used their creative thinking by making some of the poppies wearable either in the form of a pin, headband or ring.



Picture of the Month



The picture of the month this month is by Grace Kozak and Stephanie Heiton in 5J. The title is, 'Pin Puppets Inspired by William Morris'.

THE NURSERY a ST MARGARET'S Nursery Newsletter

Role play is such an important part of learning. It provides opportunities to learn about the world around us and to act out real life situations.

With all the cold weather this week, the children have been crafting some fabulous winter clothing.

These activities have provoked discussions about shape, patterns and colour and have developed mathematical skills as well as creativity.

Mathematical concepts were used with the worm sorting game too. You can see these worms have been sorted by size and colour.



Article of the Week

World Children's Day

World Children's Day falls on the 20th of November every year to promote and celebrate children's rights. World Children's day was first established in 1954, however it was only in 1959 that the UN General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#) as well as the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) in 1989. Countries from Greece to India, Kenya to Italy, countries from all around the world mark World Children's Day. On this day UNICEF advocates and raises awareness to protect and meet the rights of every child. World Children's Day is celebrated in many ways, through many countries, with around 190 countries taking part in activities related to this important day. The activities include events and activities tailored to try and encourage children to speak up and express themselves. Countries all around the world also paint or light up schools and landmarks blue to show support for children's rights. Listening to children is so important in ensuring that they can fulfil their right to self-expression, understand their ideas for a better world and include their priorities in the actions that contribute to the future.

Every child is born with the right to a healthy start in life, an education, and a safe, secure childhood. All of these basic opportunities contribute to a productive and successful adulthood. But around the world, millions of children are denied their rights and deprived of everything they need to grow up healthy and strong. They are denied these rights because of their place of birth or their family of origin. They are denied these rights because of their race, ethnicity, or gender. They are denied these rights because they live in poverty or with a disability. How can children be denied basic rights because of these factors? Imagine if this was you? How would you feel if you were denied your rights? Children's rights are human rights. They are mandatory. In too many places today children's rights are being misunderstood, disregarded, and even fully denied. So it is up to us to raise awareness of this big issue to help those who don't have what we are so lucky to have access to. It is something we don't think much of but if our rights were denied we would not all be equal, we would have no dignity and we would not live in peace.

World Children's Day is so important because all children deserve to be valued and listened to. Children are bright and intelligent, and can play a vital role in furthering the future. This day reminds us of the importance of safeguarding children's rights and involving them in creating a harmonious future. By supporting and engaging children, we lay the foundation for a world where peace and understanding soar. World Children's Day is linked to all of the articles in the UNCRC from Article 12 which is the right to be heard to Article 36 which is the right to protection from exploitation. Children should have full access to their rights because we should all be seen and treated with dignity.



Festive Events

Get into the festive spirit and join us for our second annual Christmas Carol Singalong. Enjoy your favourite carols, with our Director of Music on piano and Miss Tomlinson and senior pupils leading the singing. Friends and family are warmly invited. [RSVP for this event.](#)



St Margaret's PTA invites you to get into the Christmas spirit at our Festive Family Disco on Tuesday 16 December, from 6.15pm to 7.45pm in the school hall. Enjoy an evening of music, dancing and festive fun for pupils and their families. We'll have glitter tattoos, Christmas crafts, fun stalls and refreshments. [Buy Tickets here.](#)

