



ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



WEEKLY NEWS
2nd - 6th February 2026

Social Studies (3J)

Mrs Dressel



This term 3 Junior are learning about the Vikings. To bring the topic to life the girls they have built a 6 metre long Viking ship in the classroom and sit in it, at their desks to do their class work.

Preparations began by painting flat packing boxes, oars, a sail and designing shields. Construction took place in phases and soon the boat began taking shape. The final construction came once the girls had left on Tuesday after school. The ladder was needed to make sure that the mast was secured and the sail was attached. Finally the rope was added to make the rigging.

The girls were excited to reveal their 'surprise' on Well Done Wednesday to their parents. The ship has been named Pearl of the North, which links to her name's meaning and her status in Scotland.





During my trip to Strathclyde I met some lovely people and did some exciting activities. Everyone there was so helpful and nice. The mentors were all students at Strathclyde university studying a form of engineering.



Talking to the mentors really opened my eyes to all the possibilities of engineering. During the two days, we did four courses: Architectural, mechanical and aerospace, electrical and chemical engineering and they all included a practical. These practicals really helped me connect with my group especially the architecture course as we used matchboxes to create buildings but you had to work with the person opposite you and then join with the partner next to you to create a building. There were many opportunities to meet new people in your group and in other groups. - Emilie (IIS)



Squatting for a Cause

Supporting Mrs. Duncan!



Our PE department is proud to stand (and squat!) behind our junior classroom assistant, Mrs. Duncan, as she takes on the "100 Squats a Day" challenge for Cancer Research UK.

Since her diagnosis in September 2021, Mrs. Duncan has navigated a difficult journey involving surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. She knows better than anyone that every pound raised fuels the breakthroughs needed to beat cancer.

- **What we're doing:** every PE class is starting their lesson with 20 squats to help reach the goal.
- **The Progress:** Mrs. Duncan hasn't missed a single day yet!
- **How you can help:** join us from home! Whether it's 5 squats or 50, every movement counts.



If you wish to donate
to Mrs Duncan's
fundraising page,
[click this link.](#)

Junior Swimming Gala

Mrs Reid



On Tuesday afternoon our 4 - 7 Junior pupils participated in the annual Junior Swimming Gala. The Aquatics Centre was filled with cheering, smiles and most importantly, amazing swimming performances. All of our girls must be congratulated for the hard work they have put into their swimming over the last 12 weeks.

The individual class swimming and diving championship results are as follows:

4/5J Swimming

1st place = Lucy Smith and Maisie Arnott

3rd place - Emily Robinson

6J Swimming

1st place - Megan Dale

2nd place - Stephanie Heiton

3rd place - Marie Bent

6J Diving

1st place - Abigail Grant

2nd place - Stephanie Heiton

3rd place - Arianna Guli

7J Swimming

1st place - Julia Bamford

2nd place - Isla Jaffrey

3rd place - Faye Jaffrey

7J Diving

1st place - Julia Bamford

2nd place - Elodie Ayres

3rd place - Ella Galbraith



House Points

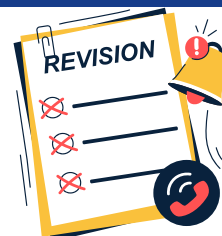
1st - Kildrummy - 233 points

2nd - Crathes - 209 points

3rd - Dunnottar - 165 points

Revision Classes

National 5, Higher & Advanced Higher



Over the Easter break the school will be running a programme of small-group revision classes, designed to support pupils as they prepare for their forthcoming National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations. These classes are open to all pupils from schools in the city. Delivered by St Margaret's experienced teaching staff, these focused sessions aim to strengthen subject knowledge, develop effective study and exam techniques, and build pupil confidence. Class sizes are limited to a maximum of 12 pupils, ensuring individual support in a structured and academically supportive environment. All learning materials are provided.

Current pupils will, of course, be fully supported with their own revision programmes during term time and they do not need to sign up for these courses. However they are welcome to do so if they wish [via this link](#).

A decorative border at the top of the central text area featuring various school-related icons: a pencil, a ruler, a star, a calculator, a book, a paper airplane, and several small stars.

REVISION CLASSES

Aiming high in your summer exams?

Join our small group revision classes to
help prepare for National 5, Higher
and Advanced Higher assessments



Sporting Success



Skiing

Congratulations to Maisie who was skiing in very tough wintry conditions at Glenshee on Thursday. She was delighted to come first in the Scottish Schools Snowsports Association P1-4 category.

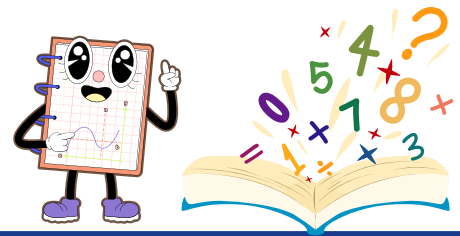
Netball



Congratulations to our IIS-IIIS netball team who played Hazlehead Academy in a league match last night. Just before the last quarter the match was tied at 12-12. With determination and teamwork they managed to win 17-15! Amazing.

Maths Challenge

Mrs Simpson



IS pupils have been using some of their time in the first month of 2026 to investigate the combinations of the numbers 2, 0, 2 and 6. "Using the digits in 2026 (2, 0, 2, 6) exactly one time each along with any mathematical symbol or operation of your choosing to create expressions equivalent to the numbers between 1 and 100".

Pranavi, Michelle A, Bonnie, Areena and Eshaal took the challenge head on and worked on it at home too, investigating new mathematical operators (including double and trigonometric functions) to be able to fill in some of the trickier numbers!

A collage of various mathematical posters and challenge sheets. At the top, a row of posters shows different mathematical symbols: a circle with an arrow, a horizontal line with arrows, the Greek letter alpha, a right angle symbol, another right angle symbol, the Greek letter sigma, a triangle with arrows, a circle with an arrow, and another sigma. Below this, the year '2026' is written in large, pink, stylized numbers. To the left of '2026' is a green speech bubble that says 'IS pupils have been working on the 2026 challenge'. To the right is a green speech bubble that says 'Using the digits in 2026 (2, 0, 2, 6) exactly one time each along with any mathematical symbol or operation of your choosing to create expressions equivalent to the numbers between 1 and 100'. Below the '2026' are several '2026 CHALLENGE' sheets, each containing a grid of numbers. To the left of the challenge sheets is a large green poster titled 'THE GEOMETRY OF PLANTS' with various mathematical concepts and diagrams. To the right of the challenge sheets are several green circular icons with mathematical symbols: a plus sign, a division sign, a circle, a minus sign, a square root symbol, an exclamation mark, and a square. Below these icons are more '2026 CHALLENGE' sheets. To the right of the challenge sheets is a green poster titled 'cos^-1' and 'tan^-1'. Below these is an orange poster titled 'FACTORIAL n!' with a list of factorials: 0! = 1, 1! = 1, 2! = 2, 3! = 6, 4! = 24, 5! = 120, 6! = 720, 7! = 5,040, 8! = 40,320, 9! = 362,880, 10! = 3,628,800.

From Classroom to Concert Hall

Joanna (6J) Performs in London

Last Friday, Joanna (6J) travelled to London after being invited to perform a piano solo at the prestigious New Year Music Exchange concert. Taking to the stage with confidence and poise, Joanna showcased her musical talent. This week, Joanna delighted the Junior School by sharing her performance at assembly, where she played her beautiful rendition of *'Someone You Loved'*.

We are incredibly proud of Joanna's achievement and look forward to seeing where her musical journey takes her next.

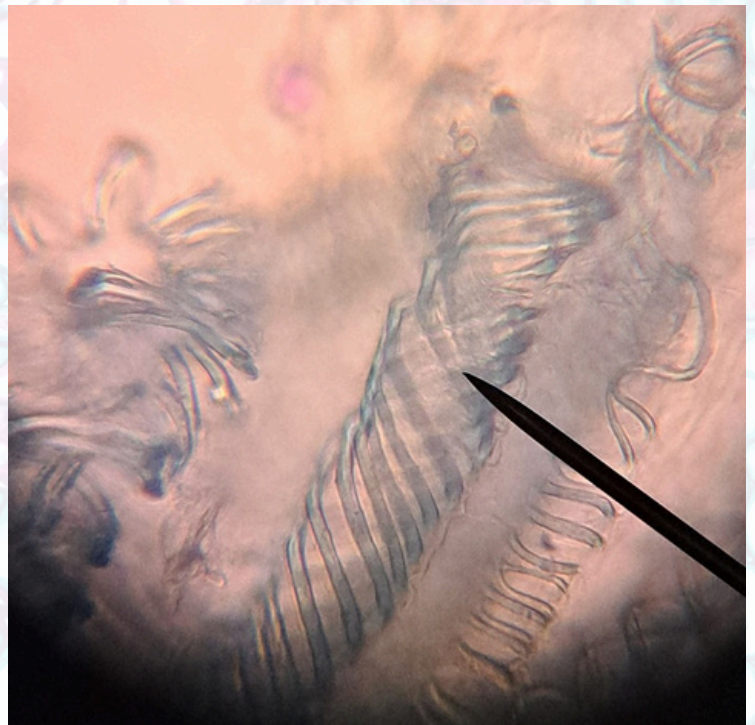


Biology (VS)

Mrs Miller



IVS Biology were looking at xylem today - the water pipes which run through plants from roots to leaves to supply green cells with water for photosynthesis. We used food dye to stain lettuce xylem, practised our dissection skills with a scalpel and looked at it's beautiful spiral structure under the microscope. It's amazing to think that this is what 'wood' is! Every year a tree lays down another layer of xylem under its bark to supply extra water to all of its new leaves.

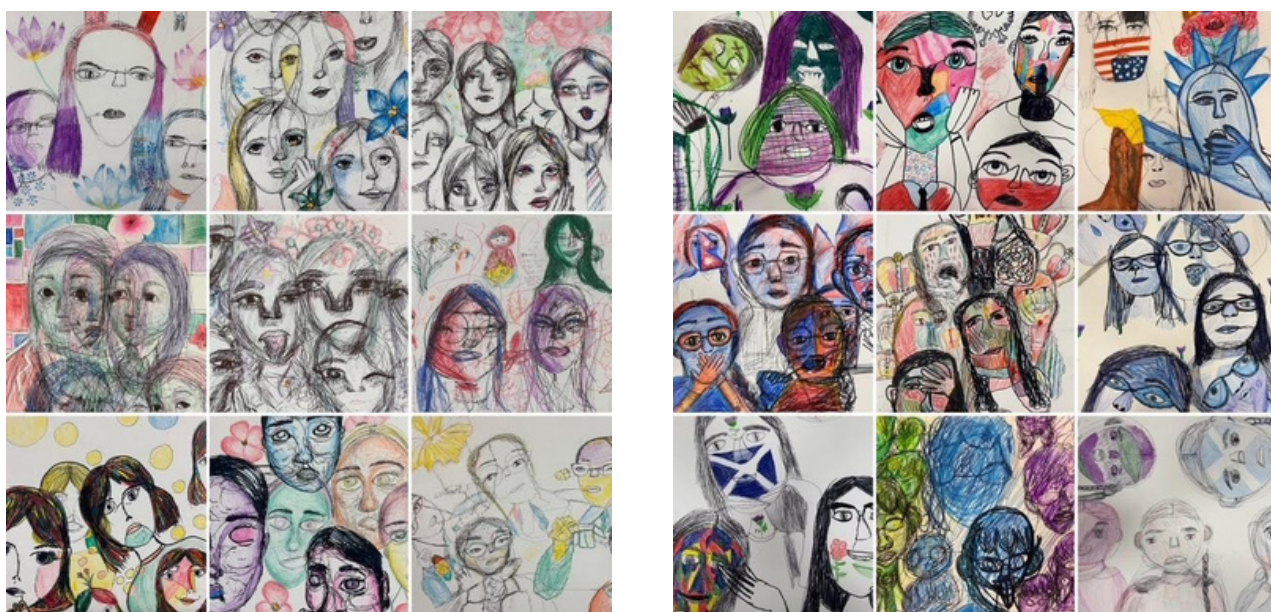


Art & Design

IS Portrait Project



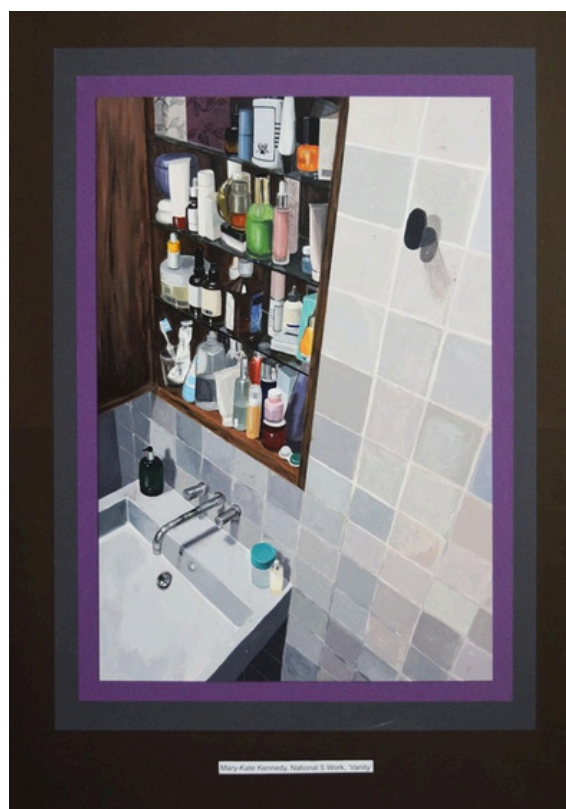
The multi-layered portraits were further developed this week as the girls incorporated more symbolic imagery linked to their personal heritage and cultural connections. It was fabulous to see how each of them created their own response to this theme using colour and patterns in an imaginative way.



Picture of the Month ✨

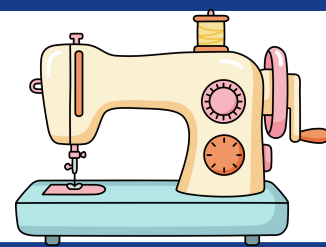
This month's Picture of the Month is by Mary-Kate Kennedy in VS.

It is her final piece of her Nation 5 expressive portfolio titled, 'Vanity'.



Art & Design

IIS Textiles



The girls have been very busy designing their own patterns, applying fabric paint to their fabric and using the sewing machine to join the sides to form their bag or cushion. To complete their outcomes the girls have added straps, embroidery and fastenings. Here are just a few of their marvellous finished products.



Art & Design

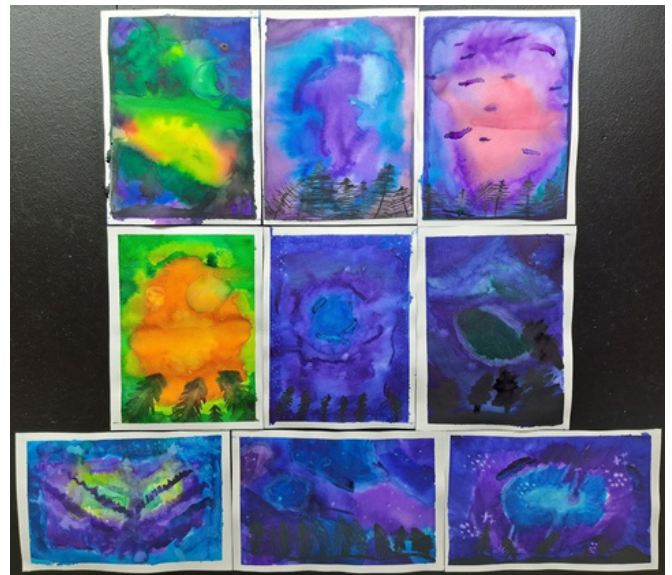
4 & 5 Junior



Ionic columns from Ancient Greece were the inspiration for this week's task. The girls practised their drawing skills and used chalk and charcoal to represent the dark and light tonal qualities of their chosen column. They represented details such as scrolls and tried to make their outcome look 3D.

Junior Art Club

Last week in art club the girls created watercolour galaxies. They learnt about the wet on wet painting technique and how to layer the paint to create the wispy galaxy effect.

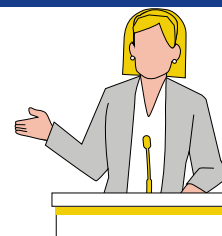


This week in art club the girls made pop-up Valentine's Day cards. They had to use skills such as measuring, folding and constructing.



University Admissions

Top Tips



Our IV Senior girls welcomed Carol Baverstock, retired Head of Admissions at the University of Aberdeen, who shared valuable insight into what universities look for in applicants and what employers later value in graduates. She encouraged pupils to consider all post-school pathways, including apprenticeships, college and university, and emphasised that success is about more than simply gaining an offer.

She explained how university applications are assessed, and highlighted that as recruitment becomes more data-driven, tariff points are increasingly important—particularly as Scottish pupils often compete with students studying A Levels or the International Baccalaureate. Carol emphasised that staying on for S6 and completing additional Highers and Advanced Highers can significantly strengthen tariff points, giving pupils a real advantage in a competitive admissions landscape.

Looking beyond entry, Carol highlighted that academic performance is tracked throughout university, with transcripts recording all courses studied and a Grade Point Average (GPA) calculated each year—information increasingly requested by employers when graduates apply for their first job.

She also stressed the wider value of the full fifth and sixth year experience, explaining that Advanced Highers provide a strong academic foundation and help pupils make a smoother transition into first-year university study. Beyond academic work, VI Senior offers the chance to develop transferable skills, take on positions of responsibility, and grow as individuals, which together build confidence, resilience, and independence, giving pupils a clear advantage as they move into higher education or employment.



Article of the Week

Karma (IVM)



This year's Children's Mental Health Week takes place from the 9th to the 15th of February. Children's Mental Health Week was a campaign which was set up by Place2Be, aiming to raise awareness about how children think and feel as well as to empower their voice. This year's theme is 'This is My Place'. It focuses on changing your environment's attitude towards difference instead of changing yourself to fit in.

In St Margaret's, the 7 Junior girls made a wonderful assembly on the topic of Children's Mental Health Week. They spoke passionately of all the ways we can feel more confident in ourselves and as well as in our surroundings - no matter how 'out of place' we may think we are. One of my favourite parts was when they spoke about treating yourself and others with compassion. We may be overly harsh on ourselves if we are feeling lonely or embarrassed and in turn we may project our negativity on others. It teaches us that it is important to treat yourself with kindness as the way we treat others starts from the way we treat ourselves.

In our school, students have access to a wide range of support through self referral or peer referral forms. All members of staff are willing to help, even if it's just a quick talk. This year for Children's Mental Health Week, our challenge is to give a quote about how we feel included in our school. Here is mine : "I feel included by the wide ranges of personalities and backgrounds of my classmates - no one is the same here, yet everyone is connected by one commonality: we are all girls going to the same school".

Children's Mental Health Week is tied to Article 2, which is non-discrimination. All children should be treated fairly no matter how different they may be. Article 15 which is freedom of association is also tied to Children's Mental Health Week, every child has the right to meet other children and feel included in groups.

Karma (IVM)





Capture the Signs of Spring



Photo Competition

Email to
headspa@st-margaret.uk
By
2nd March 2026

Abilities United

MOVE. PLAY. BELONG.

Girls Football Training



Any Ability, Anyone Welcome

Build friendships & enjoy the sport.

Fun, safe, engaging football sessions for girls
aged 11-13 & 14-16.

No previous experience needed, anyone
welcome to develop their skills.

All sessions led by qualified coaches

Book via website

Mondays
14-16s 6-7pm

Fridays
11-13s 6-7pm

**At St Margarets Playing
Fields**

Get in touch

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