



# Weekly News 9th November 2018



## From the Head

St Margaret's Day is celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> November across the world and it is our custom at St Margaret's to hold our St Margaret's Day service on the Friday closest to that date. It is one of the special whole-school occasions which punctuate our school calendar, and in the magnificent surroundings of St Machar's Cathedral we shall celebrate the long history of our school through words and music. This year our guest of honour will be The Right Reverend Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen, and the first female Bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Our junior school pupils will once again take part in a special procession during which they will wave the flags which they have created to depict the ways in which they can and do help others. Theirs will undoubtedly be a joyful addition to the service.

School tradition has it that the Head chooses the charity to which the St Margaret's Day collection is donated and this year I have chosen the RNLI. Just a couple of weeks ago we were delighted to welcome female volunteers to school to mark fifty years of women crew members and we were humbled by the commitment that these individuals make to saving the lives of others in peril at sea. You can find out more about their valuable work locally and across the UK on their website at <https://rnli.org/>

Our III Senior girls are currently very focused on their local charities of choice as part of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative which is run and sponsored by The Wood Foundation who provide a prize for the winning team's charity of £2500. In previous years we have been fortunate to receive additional sponsorship which has enabled a small donation to be made to the other featured charities as well. If any individual or company would be interested in providing further sponsorship for this year's Youth Philanthropy Event we would be delighted to hear from them.

Friday's service is, of course, followed by the traditional half-day holiday and for the VS and VIS girls by the long-anticipated dinner dance, which will again this year be held at the Hilton Treetops Hotel. No doubt we will share some pictures of this event with you in next week's newsletter!



## School scarves

Don't let the cold weather get the better of you and buy a St Margaret's school scarf! Scarves cost £16 and can be bought from the Marketing and Admissions Office.

Mrs F. Littlejohn





# GRAMPIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA



Past and present girls from St Margaret's have been particularly successful at the recent auditions for the Grampian Youth Orchestra, in a year when the orchestra will give concerts locally and also tour Germany.

Former pupil and last year's Head Girl, Lisa Abraham, has been chosen to be the Leader of the Orchestra for this session. Hannah de Bordes (VIS) has been appointed as Co-Leader and Hagar Libman (VIS) has been given seat no.3. Amy Stewart (VIS) and Jenna Stewart (IVS) have also been given places in the first violin section, as has former pupil Aoife Dreelan. Janani Mohan (VS) has been given a place in the cello section and former pupil Isla Cartney is Principal Clarinettist.

Well done to these girls, who have overcome stiff opposition from across the city and shire (and from local musicians now at university elsewhere) to achieve this.

Mr P. Parfitt



## String Concertino

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On Tuesday 6th November I really enjoyed playing in the Concertino. Performances included Cello and Bass club, Purcell players, as well as soloists and duets from 2 Junior upwards. Concertinos are a great way for string players to experience playing to an audience in an informal setting. I have learnt so much. Cello and Bass club is one of the highlights of my week and I loved playing the Double Bass part in Tallis' Canon.

Isla MacFadyen, 6 Junior





## St Paul's Cathedral First World War Altar and Service

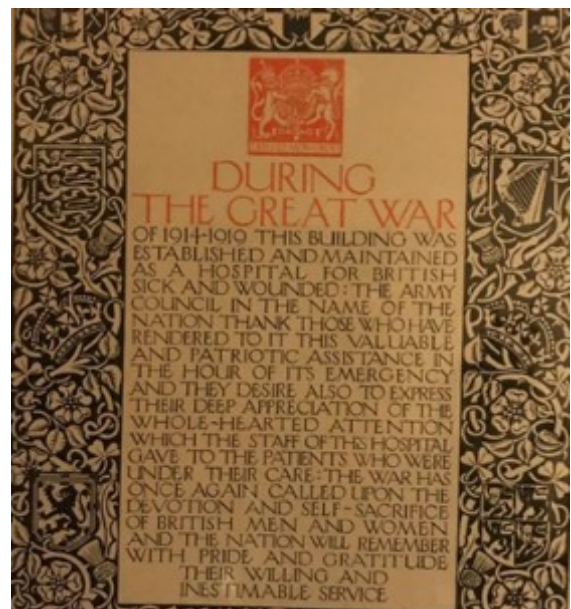
On Sunday 11th November I travelled to London to attend the Evensong and St Paul's Cathedral World War One Altar Frontal Remembrance Service.

The tapestry, which is currently on display until January, was stitched by soldiers who were in various auxiliary hospitals around the UK during the Great War.

The first panel on the left hand side was the one that was partially stitched in Durris by convalescing soldiers.

Kirkton Hall, Durris, was one of the smallest auxiliary hospitals used in the First World War for the convalescence of soldiers. It had connections to the Baird family who were the owners of the Durris Estate. During its time as a hospital, the singer and comedian, Sir Harry Lauder, had been fishing on the Dee and came upon some soldiers out for a walk, and after chatting to the men he then visited the hall and performed for them to lift their spirits.

Mrs M. Coutts





## Art Department Trip to Dundee

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'During the school trip I loved the student portfolios. They were very different and beautiful.'

'During the art trip to Dundee I found the art talks at DJCAD very interesting. I learned of the many media you can use at Art School.'

'My favourite thing on our art trip to Dundee was seeing the fashion designs by Alexander McQueen. They were beautiful'.

'I liked the portfolio room. There were many different styles of work, traditional as well as unconventional art which was interesting.'

'Seeing the standard and creativity of the different folios accepted gave me a good understanding of what they were looking for at the university. The communication talk was very informative and experiencing the art school environment was interesting. The architecture of the V&A museum was spectacular.'

'Overall, the trip to Dundee is quite a 'once in a lifetime' experience from the interesting university talks to seeing the amazing art portfolios that have so many genres and the V&A design museum which was breath-taking with its unique abstract architecture design.'

'I really enjoyed the Dundee trip. I found it very inspiring to observe other Advanced Higher work in entrance folios and student work in the art school. It sparked my creativity and imagination for my folio. I enjoyed the V&A. The angular structures of the building were intriguing. I really liked the fashion designs by Alexander McQueen and seeing the development sketches for the new £10 note.'

The folio room was inspiring as it gave us an insight into what others in the college are doing in terms of art. I also really enjoyed the V&A visit as the building itself is magnificent. It also gave me the opportunity to see examples of the work of many fashion designers I look up to, such as Holly Fulton, Vivienne Westwood, Christopher Kane and Alexander McQueen.'

V and VI Senior





## Youth Philanthropy Initiative - Presentation

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All of the III Senior teams have completed their visits to their chosen charities and are currently working on their presentation, which will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm in the school hall.

The first prize of £2500 will be donated by The Wood Foundation sponsor who are involved in YPI throughout Scotland. The girls themselves have raised an additional £500 to put towards this first prize.

In previous years, we have been fortunate to receive additional sponsorship in order that the other groups may make donations to their chosen charity. If you are aware of an individual or a company who would be willing to provide this sponsorship, we would be delighted to hear from you by contacting me at [j.slater@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:j.slater@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk).

Mrs J. Slater



## Support for Learning News

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We were very proud and pleased with the contribution made by some of our senior girls to our recent whole staff meeting. The girls, Emily, Kirsten, and Sophie prepared a presentation on what helps in the classroom with their learning. They went on to tell staff how helpful digital resources are, and how the Read Write software, used in a variety of ways, improves accessibility for them. Staff wished me to pass on my thanks to them; well done girls!

### Dyslexia Awareness

Patricia McDonald, Policy Manager at the SQA, will speak at the Dyslexia Scotland meeting this month, to provide an overview of reasonable adjustments and assessment arrangements, and answer any questions or concerns in relation to the examination system as it affects children with specific learning difficulties. The event is open to parents, professionals and children of, or approaching, exam age. If you wish to attend then do **go to the Eventbrite website and register** for the event.

### Paired Reading

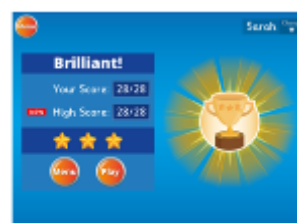
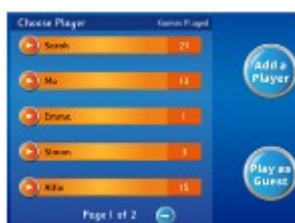
Our Paired Reading Scheme is well underway. The girls in both Senior and Junior School find the scheme very rewarding. It's great to see an enthusiasm for reading being nurtured in this way.

### Maths can be fun

For those families who have access to mobile devices, a useful, inexpensive Maths app for ages 5 to 11 (or those who find difficulties remembering maths facts) is 'Hit the Button'. It has 97 different modes of varying difficulty which aim to develop number bonds, tables, mental maths and calculations. The games are a minute long and randomly generated. Up to 15 players can create a profile on the game – ideal for different family members. Stars and trophies are collected as you go. The game can be played on mobile phones, as well as devices. Ideal for families on the go!



Ms L. Hawthorn



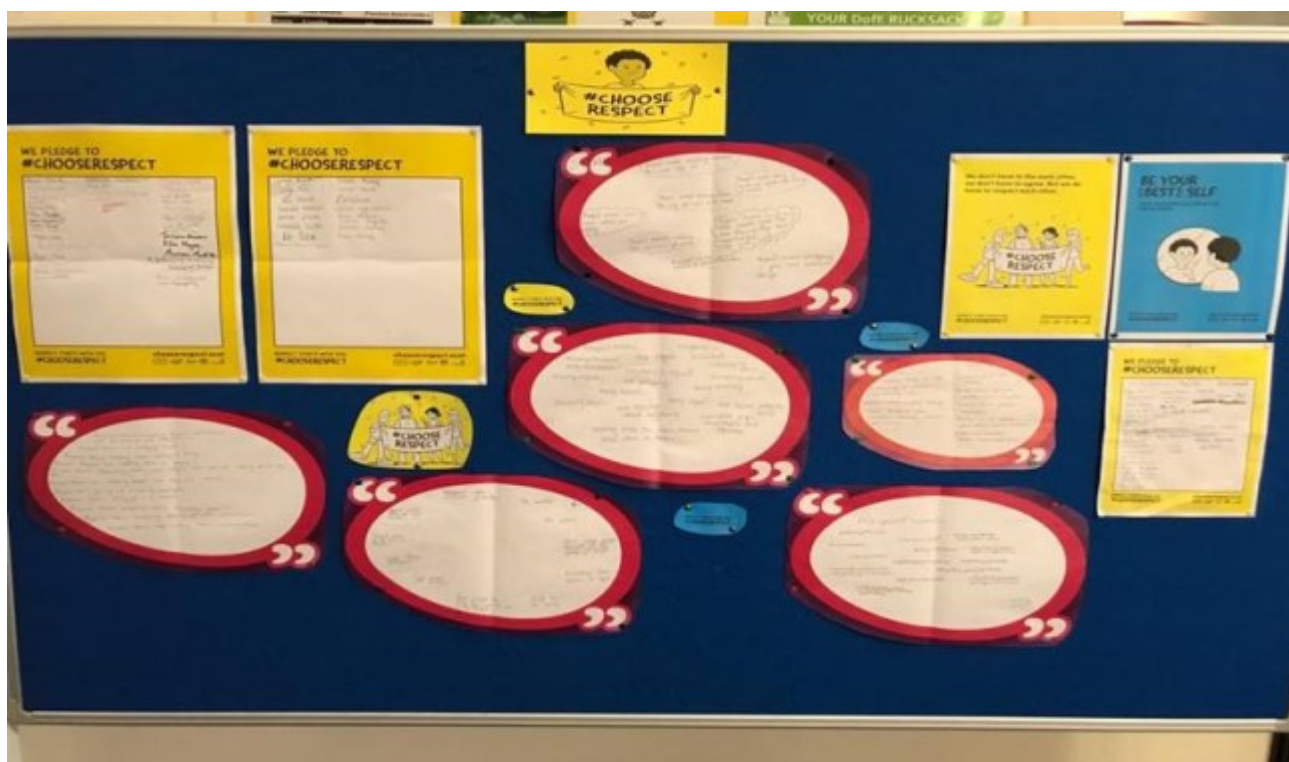
## Anti-bullying week

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In support of National Anti-bullying Week and our Choose Respect school campaign, all pupils in IS to IV Senior have been involved in self-reflection activities which focused on embracing differences across our school community. Within their form classes, girls have also been putting forward their ideas with regard to what respect means to them and how behaviour is directly linked to this.

Staff and pupils have been encouraged to sign the #chooserespect pledge which is displayed at the main entrance of school. Parents are more than welcome to also show their support by adding their signature.

Mrs J. Reid



## Debating News

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Practise your debating skills! On Tuesday evening next week (20<sup>th</sup> November) we are hosting the first round of the Law Society Debating competition. We have a team of two VI Senior girls, but there will be a floor debate, with a prize for the best speaker. The motion is "This house believes that Google does more harm than good". Any girl wishing to attend should fill in a permission slip from the debating notice board and return it to Mrs Jennings.

Mrs H. Jennings



## Latin Play Competition

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Seven pupils from II Senior took part in the yearly Latin Play competition held at Albyn school. The students performed a short play in Latin about Odysseus and the Cyclops. Freya and Lucy were the narrators, Irum, Weronika and Aimee Odysseus' companions, Amal was the Cyclops and Samly played the role of the clever Odysseus. A lot of effort had been put into learning the text and preparing props for the blinding of the Cyclops!

The pupils were commended for their clear pronunciation and convincing performance; they did very well.

Mrs V. Oldham



## Careers - Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)

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On Monday evening, the aspiring medics and vets in VI Senior were treated to mock Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). Despite the initial nerves, it proved to be fun once we got started. The MMI stations were challenging but forced us to remain calm and think swiftly on our feet to answer the probing questions. Some of the stations were traditional and tested our understanding of the course we applied to, or our wider knowledge of health-related issues. Others were more creative and required us to complete activities while the interviewers looked for transferable skills, like empathy. Overall everyone who took part found the MMIs very helpful. The individual feedback we received from the interviewers has allowed us to understand specific areas to focus on during our interview preparation. A special thanks must go to Ms Brown for organising the event, as well as all the interviewers and actors, who gave up their evening to give us all a taster of MMIs.

Ansu Saji - VI Senior



In the October Holiday Club, the girls started to do a team project of making a pom-pom rug for After School Care. They have continued to work on it in ASC over the past three weeks. There was a countdown as the final pom-pom was attached on Tuesday this week! The girls say it is so comfy and fluffy!

Miss Limanton made oat cookies with the girls last week and then playdough this week. Everyone enjoyed getting their hands messy.

The children in the nursery/1 Junior group have been enjoying some new puzzles and games. They also enjoy joining the older girls on a Friday in the dining room. It is lovely to see the different age groups playing together.

Other activities have included making puppets and creating shows, and practising some ballroom dances from Strictly Come Dancing. If anyone has any sequenced outfits to donate to our dressing up box, the girls would be delighted to receive them.

Miss S. Thomson



IIIM held a a dodgeball tournament to raise funds for their Youth Philantropy Initiative. They invited teams to join up to play for £2 a team member and an admission fee for spectators. There was also popcorn and juice on sale to raise extra funds. The event was well attended and the teams enjoyed playing in their matches. The money raised will be donated to the the winning charity from the YPI presentation evening.

Mrs S. Stirton



On Wednesday, 6 Junior were delighted to welcome Dr Barker in to class to talk to the girls about germs and bacteria; a topic they have been studying in science and in their Victorian project. The girls had prepared for the class last week by leaving their fingerprints in petri dishes of agar jelly. A week on, Dr. Barker was able to share with them the results. Each girl was astounded by the colonies of germs which had grown on the jelly. Similarly, a fluffy bug toy, which Dr. Barker has dusted with a special powder was passed around the room and the girls' hands checked under a blue light!

The girls were introduced to the Famous 5 - the top 5 of 'goodies and baddies'. Amongst these nasties lurked the plague, smallpox, salmonella, Spanish flu and cholera. From his experience as a surgeon Dr. Barker spoke to the girls about his 3 minute wash before operating, the use of sterile air in the operating room and the memorable slogan 'dilution is the solution to pollution', or cleaning wounds prior to surgery.

At the end of his fascinating talk each of the girls was awarded a Certificate of Merit for becoming a germ-buster and a received a hand washing 'fuzzy bug'.

#### Learning about money through playing Monopoly

6 Junior was full of aspiring property tycoons this week as the girls learned how to play Monopoly with an emphasis on developing their mental maths skills through the use of money. Despite not reaching the end of their games, the girls were already experiencing success and failure with some teetering on the edge of bankruptcy! It was excellent fun and a great opportunity to learn about finance ahead of their project on creating a small business next week.

Mrs G. Wyatt





## 6 Junior (continued)

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## Chess Club for 5 and 7 Junior

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Every Thursday lunchtime from 1pm to 1:30pm, Chess Club will be held in the 7 Junior classroom. It is open to 5 and 7 Junior only at this stage, but we will open it up further to other year groups once it has been running for a few weeks.

Mrs P. Twigg



## PTA News

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You can now follow us on Facebook!

St Margaret's School for Girls PTA



### Family Festive Event

The PTA invite you to the upcoming Festive Family Event to be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm in the School Hall – see attached flyer.

The highlight of which is the annual **hamper raffle draw!** Raffle tickets have been sent home with each pupil. Extra books can be obtained from the school office and also purchased at the festive event. Please show your support for the PTA by kindly completing each of the ticket stubs and sending these back with monies in the envelope to the office marked FAO the PTA.

**Event Tickets** are £3 each or £10 for a Family Ticket which entitles the bearer to admittance of 2 adults and 2 children (additional single tickets can be purchased for additional family member/s as required).

Tickets are available from the School office & direct payment should be made to the PTA bank account details are sort code: 80-05-14 account number 00292156.

Alternatively you can purchase tickets at the door on the evening of the event.



...are you Christmas shopping online? ...why not think about using –

**'Easy Fundraising'** - St Margaret's PTA benefit from *Easy Fundraising* – a charity shopping fundraising site - It's simple to use and it's free!

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations direct to St Margaret's PTA – last year we raise £250! Just start your online shopping first at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) then shop as normal, retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you".



We are holding a PTA meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 6.30pm in school, to discuss upcoming events and future events and initiatives, to which you are all welcome to come and hear what's going on and to get involved!



# Help out when you **check out** this Christmas

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 [M&S](https://www.marksandspencer.com)

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# PTA FESTIVE FAMILY EVENT

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec - 6 for 6.30pm - School Hall



come along and enjoy the

## :: FESTIVE FAMILY QUIZ ::

*with refreshments, stalls, & the famous PTA Raffle Draw*



**FANTASTIC** hampers to be won - donated by each class -

Nursery	"Hotel Chocolat" hamper	7J	Gardening hamper
1J	Aberdeenshire Local produce	1S	"McBeans" Hamper
2J	Deli & Wine hamper	2S	"White Company" Hamper
3J	Beauty Hamper	3S	"Jo Malone" hamper
4J	Union Square Voucher	4S	Local shop/cafe vouchers
5J	John Lewis voucher	5S	"M & S" hamper
6J	Gin Hamper	6S	"NEOM Organics" Hamper

...the only way to be certain of a chance to win one of these fabulous prizes is by buying a ticket!

Raffle tickets have been sent home with each pupil. Extra books can be obtained from the school office and they will be available at the festive event! Please show your support for the PTA by please completing the tickets stubs and sending these back with monies in the envelope.

**Event Tickets:** £3 each or Family Ticket £10 (2 big people & 2 children) available from the School office, by direct payment to PTA a/c 80-05-14 00292156 or at the door on the night

Festive jumpers and hats - optional!



# CHARLIE HOUSE

# S N T A F U N R U N



UNION STREET

SUNDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2018

EMAIL [fundraise@charliehouse.org.uk](mailto:fundraise@charliehouse.org.uk)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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