



# Weekly News 19th December 2018



## From the Head

The final weeks of term have seen some wonderful festive events, not least the PTA Festive Quiz which was very well attended and a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported this event! The hall was subsequently the scene of the nursery nativity last Tuesday afternoon when our youngest children set a high standard for our junior and senior girls to live up to at the Christmas Carol Service tomorrow. We all enjoyed a vibrant house pantomime in assembly and IVA took last Friday's assembly using a Christmas theme to set out the value of effective presentation skills. Mini Speech Day was the focus of the final assembly of the term on Monday. At this event we celebrated a range of achievements from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Maths Challenge to the Spirit of St Margaret's Award.

As we look forward to the festive food and gifts which will await many of us this Christmas, it has been good to note the focus throughout the whole school on supporting those less fortunate than us. In the senior school the Giving Tree was very well supported and money has been raised for Grampian Women's Aid and Home Start; the junior school has made substantial donations to the Cyrenians and Instant Neighbour and 6 Junior and 4 Junior have both been out to sing to community groups. This year our charities prefects have requested that our retiring collection at the Carol Service should support the work of Age UK.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone connected to the school for their support and engagement with our pupils and staff, and I wish the wider St Margaret's family a happy and peaceful holiday. There is much to look forward to in the life of our school in 2019, and I hope that the New Year gets off to a healthy and enjoyable start for everyone.







## Nursery Nativity (continued)

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## PTA Festive Event

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Well it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thanks to all the wonderful mums, dads, grandmas, grandpas, friends and children who turned out for the festive family fun night and luxury hamper raffle draw on 7th December .

More than 100 people were present and really got into the spirit of Christmas. The quiz was a hoot and we had some worthy winners and some very sporting non-winners!

Business was brisk at the tombola, cracker lucky dip and refreshment stalls. The 'Guess the Number of Sweeties in the Jar' contest was won by none other than our very own head Miss Tomlinson, who spent the remainder of the evening handing out the contents to every child in the hall - no mean feat!

The glorious luxury hampers - organised by our hard working class reps - were much admired by all and hugely appreciated by their lucky winners.

On hand to capture the fun of the night on film was our Bursar, Mr Mountain. Take a look at the pictures and see if you can spot yourself in the crowd!

The total net profit for the evening was a wonderful £2,112.75 - all of which will be used towards the purchase of those important 'extras' that will help make our daughters' time at their much-loved St Margaret's School for Girls memorable. Watch this space - announcements will follow.

PTA chairwoman Tracey Almeida said, "What a great evening; you could really feel the festive spirit. So many families and friends of St Margaret's turned out on the evening that we had to bring in extra tables and chairs. We were delighted by the response to this event.

Every member of the PTA wants to give their deepest thanks to all those who supported us; the class reps for organising the hamper and helping on the night, those who gave generous donations to cater for the evening and to make it such a success, all those who turned out to lend a hand, and most important of all, a huge thanks to all of you who bought tickets and raffles and made the evening so special and so much fun! We're indebted to you."

There will be more events to follow as the year progresses - we have some exciting ideas under discussion. It's going to be a fun, fun, fun 2019 and we hope you'll be there to support us.

We wish you a safe, Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

St Margaret's PTA





## PTA Festive Event (continued)

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## 1 to 3 Junior Christmas Party

1, 2 and 3 Junior joined together to have a party and celebrate a successful term. They enjoyed dressing in their party clothes and headed to the hall where they played party games such as musical corners, statues and pass the parcel. They then returned to the 2 Junior classroom to enjoy some party food. 1 Junior had prepared marshmallow top hats, 2 Junior had cut up grapes, cucumber, tomatoes and carrots, whilst 3 Junior decorated fairy cakes. It was a fantastic afternoon and the girls said it was a great success: "The party was totally amazing!"

Mrs Garden, Mrs Reilly and Mrs Gibb







## 4 Junior - Orchard Brae Visit

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On Thursday 13th December, 4 Junior made their way by bus to Orchard Brae School to sing Christmas songs to the children there. The children of Orchard Brae always look forward to our annual Christmas visit and enjoy joining in with some of their favourite songs with their bells, such as 'Jingle Bells' and 'When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney'. The children at Orchard Brae use Makaton sign language to help them communicate and 4 Junior learnt and performed 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' using Makaton sign language. We also enjoyed some lovely snacks at the end of the visit.

Ms A. Dressel





## 4 Junior - Maths

This week 4 Junior started to investigate symmetry and we had some fun making symmetrical shapes with a partner, then as larger groups.

Ms A. Dressel







## 5 Junior Trip to Dundee

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Last Monday, as part of our trip to Dundee, 5 Junior were given the opportunity to spend the morning at the world class visitor attraction, Discovery Point. When we arrived we were welcomed by Ali, our guide for the morning, and after enjoying a quick snack we were off to board RRS Discovery. Ali was a fantastic host and provided us with lots of detailed information about Captain Scott, his crew, and their difficult journey to the Antarctic. It was hard to imagine how everyone survived in such cramped and basic conditions but photographs proved the crew were resilient and pulled together in spite of the many hardships and harsh weather conditions.

After our tour of the ship it was back into the exhibition centre where Mya modelled clothing that would have been worn by Scott and his crew. Libby was fortunate enough to be allowed to layer up in the modern day equivalent which definitely seemed more appealing than the long john underwear, extremely itchy all wool sweater and gabardine smock that Mya had to endure!

The morning flew by but fortunately, there was still time left to explore the exhibition and take on the challenge of the treasure hunts. There were a number of disappointed faces when we had to stop for lunch and everyone agreed that they would have liked to have stayed for much longer. It is fair to say that a thoroughly enjoyable morning was had by all, with a return visit definitely on the cards for many of the girls.

Mrs M. Smith





## 6 Junior Visit to Margaret Clyne Court

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The 6 Junior girls recently spent the afternoon with residents at Margaret Clyne Court. The girls sang a selection of Christmas songs and carols and brought much festive cheer to all who attended.

Mrs G. Wyatt



## 6 Junior - Interfaith Blessing of the Crib

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The 6 Junior girls were fortunate to be part of a group of children invited from local primary schools to attend the interfaith blessing of the crib and singing of carols at St Nicholas Churchyard on Monday 2nd December.

Mrs G. Wyatt







## Food Technology - A Visit from the Royal Navy

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Our II Senior Food Technology class recently enjoyed a visit from the Royal Navy. The team showed the girls how to make healthy meatballs with gnocchi as well as a vegetarian version using onions, peppers, mushrooms and spinach. They emphasised the importance of good quality store cupboard essentials, highlighting to the girls how cost effective the meals were and how healthy quick home-cooked meals can be. They referred to the importance of health and safety within the kitchen and tested the girls on their skills. They also gave the girls some great alternatives to eat seasonally and locally to save on costs and food miles. Both of the dishes were really tasty and the girls were eager taste-testers...many of them asking not just for seconds but for thirds!

Mrs V. Gerbrandy





## Food Technology - Tried and Tested

For the last couple of weeks, the girls in Food Technology have been very busy tasting and sipping over 50 foods and drinks for our St Margaret's Christmas Tried and Tested. We have taken all the stress of shopping this Christmas time away from you and we've found the best of the best foods and drink for your table this year!

Each group of girls were given four categories to test. They 'blind' tasted them in that they did not know which supermarket each product came from and they rated the product on taste, texture, appearance and aroma.

The scores have been analysed and averaged and now we can reveal the results. Many thanks to Tesco and Morrisons who very kindly sponsored the event and to Marks and Spencer for their superb customer service and their promise to sponsor future events.

### Christmas Drink

WINNER	Clementine Fresh Fruit Juice	£1.10	Asda
Runner Up	Gooseberry in a Pear Tree	£2.30	Marks & Spencer

### Vegetarian Delight

WINNER	Sweet Potato Stack with a Roasted Red Pepper Sauce	£2.50	Morrisons
Runner Up	Beetroot & Spinach Melts	£2.00	Asda

### Stuffing

WINNER	Pink Lady Apple, Honey and Herb	£1.00	Sainsburys
Runner Up	Cranberry and Clementine	£1.00	Asda

### Brussel Sprouts

WINNER	Loose Brussel Sprouts	66p	Aldi
Runner Up	Baby Sprouts	£1.00	Marks & Spencer

### Cranberry Sauce

WINNER		75p	Asda
Runner Up		75p	Tesco

### Biscuits for Cheese

WINNER	Oatcake Bites	99p	Aldi
Runner Up	Cracker Selection	£2.00	Tesco

### Cheddar Cheese

WINNER	Mature Cheddar	95p	Aldi
Runner Up	Cheddar Snowman	£1.00	Asda

### Chutney

WINNER	Spiced Plum and Stem Ginger Chutney	£1.00	Asda
Runner Up	Fig and Balsamic Chutney	£1.30	Tesco

### Christmas Crisps

WINNER	Tortilla Stars	£1.00	Tesco
Runner Up	Maple Bacon Flavour Pretzel Trees	£1.00	Asda

### Mince Pies

WINNER	All Butter Classic Mince Pies (box of 6)	£1.25	Aldi
Runner Up	Deep Filled Mince Pies (box of 6)	£1.00	Co-op

### Gluten Free Mince Pies

WINNER	Made without wheat Mince Pies	£2.50	Marks and Spencer
Runner Up	Free From Mince Pies	£1.50	Asda

### Sweet Treats

WINNER	Yule Log	£4.00	Morrisons
Runner Up	Black Forest Profiteroles	£2.00	Asda





## Stem in the Pipeline

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This project is designed to allow teams of S6 pupils to apply their knowledge of school subjects to a realistic industry project. They have just 16 weeks to produce a Field Development Plan for a fictional oilfield in the North Sea. Each part of the project allows the pupils to advance their knowledge of STEM subjects, but also encourages them to develop both their teamwork and personal skills. This work is done with the help of a couple of mentors from the oil industry. If the girls complete their project successfully then they are eligible for a CREST silver award. This is a science and engineering award that is recognised nationally and is a great addition to a personal statement.

Our team of Melody Ama, Eilidh Campbell, Jess McClure (Project Manager) and Sandra Montero worked extremely hard and made good use of their mentors. The Presentation Day last week was at BP headquarters and gave the girls a chance to present their project to two sets of judges who were all professionals from the oil industry. The judges had already read their report so were able to question the team on all aspects of their project. They were very pleased with the positive feedback that they received and even more delighted to win the trophy for innovation. The judges praised their original solutions to some parts of the project, and Jess's virtual 3-D model of the oil reservoir was certainly something that no other team had come up with.

Mrs S. Smith





## IIA Charity Event

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Last Friday IIA hosted a talent show in the Hall at lunchtime to support Home-Start Aberdeen. We were delighted to raise over £260. Over fifty girls took part, with the addition of a grand finale by VI Senior who sang a Christmas song. The audience were amazed by the vast array of talent; we were treated to dancing, singing, joke-telling, and a range of other musical items. It was lovely to see girls playing instruments with friends and they had obviously been practising together. Our joint overall winners were Katy McKee from 4 Junior who performed a song from 'My Fair Lady', and Ellie Ong from 7 Junior, who played the piano. Our winners received gift cards for Union Square. All participants have been given house tokens as a reward for their hard work.

Mrs H. Jennings



## Winter Wonderland

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The girls are looking forward to enjoying the annual VI Senior Winter Wonderland event on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. There will be a variety of stalls, Santa's grotto, and this year candy canes will be on sale to buy for friends in school! The event will raise money for the Halfpenny Animal Sanctuary at which one of our VI Senior girls volunteers. As always, the event is expected to bring much festive cheer!

Mrs S. Stirton







## VA Charity Event

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VA chose to support Befriend a Child's Giving Tree this year for their charity event. Girls and staff throughout the school donated lots of lovely presents which were given out at Befriend a Child's children's Christmas party, which took place last weekend.

The photo shows us handing over the presents to Claire Williams, Fundraising Manager from Befriend a Child. We wish all the children a lovely Christmas.

Jessica Fox  
Charity Representative for VA





## Staff Festive Fundraiser

This year the charity of choice for the staff festive fundraiser was the African Children's Choir. They offer help to Africa's most disadvantaged and vulnerable children. A humanitarian on a trip to war-torn Uganda established this choir thirty years ago. He gave a small boy a ride from his decimated home to the safety of another village. During the journey, the child did what he knew how to do best – he sang. That simple song of dignity and hope became the catalyst for the programme that has changed the lives of thousands of children today. The choir continues to tour every year, raising funds to support the Music for Life charity, supporting the challenges that the continent brings. We were delighted that they were able to visit us briefly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December on their way to Gilcomston Church, where they were performing later that evening. A big thank you to Miss Williamson in our modern languages department, for planting this seed and making the link with the choir through the church.

Our staff community raised a total of **£121.50** to support this choir and the amazing work they do. Many thanks to all who donated generously to this fundraising event. A special mention must go to each of our talented sweet treat makers and crafters for their wonderful contributions. Everything from hand-knitted elves to paper craft, truffles, tablet, marmalade and chutney was on offer!







## Christmas Cyber Security Trip

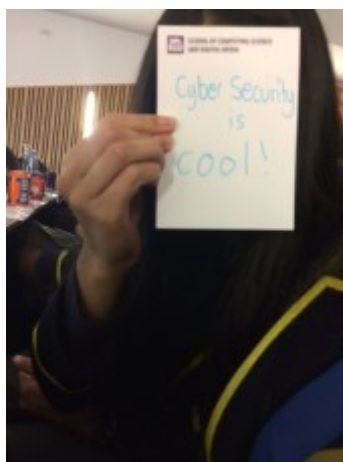
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National 5 and Higher Computing Science pupils recently visited RGU to attend the annual Christmas Cyber Security Lectures. Many other schools attended the event, too.

The lectures were presented by P.T. Barnum, Mr Tesla, Zomber, Gary and Brian, who travel around the UK to teach young people about cyber security. There were also talks given by guests such as an ex-police officer and a professor from the university. The lectures were very engaging, especially since there was lots of chocolate involved and a live Twitter wall, in which one of our classmates made an appearance!

The lectures taught everyone in the audience about the importance of cyber security; the lectures ranged from how to prevent hackers, staying safe on social media, how it may be possible to kill someone using computer programs to access hospital equipment, internet or actual things (thermostats, Nest equipment's etc.), showing how easily they can be hacked if the equipment isn't secure! They also showed live hacking, demonstrating how easily and often people are constantly trying to hack computer equipment. There were also many interactive games and chances to win prizes. Three of the National 5 pupils participated in one of these and won!

Ashanee Hapuarachchi and Marria Jobi in III Senior



## Music Department News

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Congratulations go to Hagar Libman (violin), Hannah de Bordes (violin) and Janani Mohan (cello), who have all been offered places in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, following recent auditions.

Mr P. Parfitt





### **Senior Swimming Gala – December 2018**

Many of our senior pupils recently competed in the senior swimming gala at the Aquatics Centre. The girls participated extremely well, showing great enthusiasm, sportsmanship and house spirit. The results are as follows:

**IS** swimming champion – (trophy) Rose Main

2nd place – Emma Murray

3rd place – Ellie Lang

**IIS** swimming champion – (trophy) Jessica Rhodes

2nd place – Ellen MacDonald

3rd place – Amy Coxon

**IIIS** swimming champion – (trophy) Katie Crabb

2nd place – Sophie Jennings

3rd place – Charlotte Bain

**IV – VIS** swimming champion – (trophy) Emma Murray

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Laura McNeill

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Kassidy Mathers

#### **House Shield**

1<sup>st</sup> place - 275 points

Dunnottar

2<sup>nd</sup> place - 240 points

Crathes

3<sup>rd</sup> place - 189 points

Kildrummy







## PE Department News (continued)

### Equestrian

Calling all horse-riders! Following on from the equestrian team's success for the last two years in the 'Just For Schools' show-jumping competition, our captain, Charley Hamilton, is keen to recruit more members. If interested, please fill in the following sheet ; you can then either email it back to me at [k.norval@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:k.norval@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk) or hand it in to the PE office.

Mrs K. Norval

### **St Margaret's School for Girls Equestrian Teams**

Would you like to be part of our equestrian teams ?

St Margaret's School for Girls has very successful showjumping teams from 70cm up to a 1.10m team. We are also hoping to start a Quest dressage team. You do not need to attend every competition and can just compete in the teams locally without the commitment to attend the finals.

**You will need your own pony or horse and be able to transport them to the show venue yourself.**

Please indicate below, by ticking the boxes, the teams and venues which you would like to compete in. Please return the form to Mrs Norval.

#### **Showjumping**

70cm ☐  
80cm ☐  
90cm ☐  
1m ☐  
1.10m ☐

#### **Dressage**

Intro ☐  
Prelim ☐  
Novice ☐  
Elementary ☐  
Medium ☐

#### **Venues**

Tillyoch Equestrian ☐  
  
Cabin Equestrian ☐

#### **Important Dates**

Sat 1st Dec	Tillyoch
Sun 16th Dec	Tillyoch
Fri 28th Dec	Tillyoch
Sat 1st Jun 2019	Morris – Direct Qualifier
Sun 2nd Jun 2019	Morris – Direct Qualifier

I would like to be part of the Quest dressage team at the final at Howe Equestrian Centre, Fife (approx. 2 ½ hours drive) ☐

I would like to be part of the Just for Schools Showjumping individually and/or as part of the team at the final in August at Stoneleigh National Park, near Birmingham (approx. 10 hours drive) ☐

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_



## PE Department News (continued)

### Ice-skating

Seniors in IVS-VIS are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities as part of their senior games options. Since the October holidays sixteen pupils have been going ice-skating where they have been learning different skills through their instructor Daniel. Other activities include yoga, football, fitness, hockey and rowing.

Mrs K. Norval



### Badminton

Over the last two weeks girls from IS-IIIS have been competing in the school badminton championships. Girls accumulated the following points for their houses: Crathes = 64, Dunnottar= 117, Kildrummy= 79. Congratulations go to:

IS Singles Champion  
IS Singles runner-up

Tiana Mudkavi  
Blessed McDonald

IS Doubles Champions  
IS Doubles runners-up

Tiana Mudkavi and Jorja Clarke  
Marcy Bryce and Joy Olanrewaju

IIS Singles Champion  
IIS Singles runner-up

Marissa Maxwell  
Erin Gibson

IIS Doubles Champions  
IIS Doubles runners-up

Ava Airnes and Ella Moyes  
Lucy Smith and Marissa Maxwell

IIIS Singles Champion  
IIIS Singles runner-up

Leoni Hart  
Sanji Wickramasinghe

IIIS Doubles Champions  
IIIS Doubles runner-ups

Leoni Hart and Alejandra Tait  
Sanji Wickramasinghe and Jane Somerset





## Lego Masters

Dear Parents/Staff/Students,

**Do you or does someone in your house eat, sleep and breathe the LEGO bricks?**

**Is the LEGO MASTERS build room with over 1 million bricks your idea of heaven?**

The producers of the popular Channel 4 series **LEGO MASTERS** are looking for a new bunch of imaginative building pairs to take part in a third series of the bold brick-building competition.

If you think you, a family member or a friend have the creativity, skill and imagination to be crowned Britain's best amateur building team then please email [build@tuesdayschild.tv](mailto:build@tuesdayschild.tv)

*Applicants must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part.*

**DO YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR BRICK BUILDING SKILLS TO THE ULTIMATE TEST?**

# LEGO MASTERS

The popular Channel 4 series is looking for imaginative building pairs to take part in the creative brick-building competition to find the UK's most talented amateur builders.

Please email [build@tuesdayschild.tv](mailto:build@tuesdayschild.tv) for more information.

Unfortunately, we are unable to answer all the requests individually. Under 18's - must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part and a parent or guardian must email on their behalf. Tuesday's Child is committed to safeguarding and protecting your Personal Data. Further information can be located on our website - [www.tuesdayschild.tv](http://www.tuesdayschild.tv)

**TUESDAY'S CHILD**



## Aberdeen ASC Water Polo



Are you a competent swimmer,  
looking for something new?

Why not try Water Polo?

**Stay fit**

**Meet new friends**

**Compete**

### Practice Times

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U12/U14 years

ASV Fri 7.00-7.45pm

ISA Sun 1.20-2.20pm

U16/U19 years

ASV Fri 7.00-9.00pm

ISA Sun 1.20-2.20pm

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### Contact Details

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Water Polo Development

Craig:

[aberdeenwpdevcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:aberdeenwpdevcoordinator@gmail.com)

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Aberdeen ASC

Alison:

[aberdeenwaterpolo@gmail.com](mailto:aberdeenwaterpolo@gmail.com)

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[Website: aberdeenwaterpolo.org.uk](http://aberdeenwaterpolo.org.uk)

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