



# Weekly News 1st March 2019



## From the Head

Thursday's lunchtime Citadel Concert was undoubtedly one of the highlights of this week. Alan Cooper's review below perfectly captures the flavour of the event:

"The Lunchbreak Series routinely hosts performances by pupils from various local schools. St Margaret's School for Girls has provided regular participants over the years. They have always been pretty exceptional but I reckon that today's performance was their best ever. Audiences now expect this of St Margaret's which is why crowds were piling into the citadel very early for today's concert.

There were eight young ladies who presented us with a very wide and varied selection of music.

The first performer was trumpet player Jessica McClure. Her piece, 'A Time for Peace' was by Peter Graham, currently Professor of Composition at the University of Salford. He specialises in compositions for brass and wind bands. The piano part was quite luscious with a lovely trumpet part soaring above, which Jessica really made to sing out clearly. The confidence of her playing set the seal on everything that was to follow.

Holly Highton is a saxophonist. Her performance of 'La Plus que Lente' by Debussy was marked by an exceptionally mature sense of musicality. It was a wonderfully smooth performance in which abrupt changes of tempo were made to flow so naturally within the piece.

There were two violinists in the programme, Hannah de Bordes and Hagar Libman who both played startlingly brilliant showpieces by Pablo de Sarasate. Hannah played 'Romanza Andaluza' with absolutely the right passionate intensity. Her intonation was faultless and the variety in dynamics and tempo were perfect. What a thrillingly seductive performance! I review the two girls together because both were equally brilliant. Hagar's performance of 'Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20 was every bit as amazing in its sheer virtuosity. Fast bowing with simultaneous pizzicato plucking of the strings was just astonishingly brilliant.

Our second brass player was Laura Carter on tuba – not an instrument that often stands in the spotlight – but with her lovely warm tone and perfectly steady playing in the 'Romanza' from Mozart's 'Concerto in E flat for horn, K 495' Laura definitely seized the whole attention of the audience and kept it with her.

Soprano Eilidh Bisset has a beautifully clear and surprisingly mature voice for such a young singer. She sang 'Deh vieni non tardar' from Mozart's opera 'The Marriage of Figaro'. It was not just the voice and the musicality of this performance that impressed, it was the sense of enjoyment and confidence that radiated from Eilidh and conveyed itself straight to the audience. How long before I see Eilidh on stage with Scottish Opera? Not too long I reckon.



## Citadel Concert Review (continued)

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Cellist Janani Mohan was the third first class string player to perform today. She delivered the attractive melodic flow of Fauré's 'Elegie in C minor' with radiant warmth and there was considerable deft fingerboard work in this piece too which Janani accomplished with considerable panache.

The final performer in the concert was pianist Amy Stewart. Her electric performance of Debussy's 'Dr Gradus ad Parnassum' was clean and precise, confident and artistic. Well done Amy, and all you St Margaret's girls! We are already looking forward to next year."





It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

# MOMO



## CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

## DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

## SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

## Top Tips for Parents

### TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

### BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

### TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

### DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

### PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

### REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

### REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshots any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

### FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is  
0800 1111.



SOURCES:  
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-videos-youtube-kids-14352196>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>





## Spring Concert

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St Margaret's annual Spring Concert will be held on Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00. in Holburn West Church, on the corner of Ashley Park Drive and the Great Western Road, and tickets (£6 and £4) are now available from the marketing office.

The concert will feature the following ensembles and choirs from the upper end of the Senior School: **The Concert**

**Band; The Bach String Ensemble; The Wind Quartet; The Senior Choir; The Ceilidh Band; The Brass Ensemble; The Percussion Ensemble; The Vivaldi String Ensemble; The Chamber Choir; The Jazz Ensemble.**

There will also be some solo items from our most experienced musicians in VIS, and the first performance of a piece for small orchestra, written especially for the concert by Amy Stewart in VIS, to be performed by the leavers, who is going to study composition at the RCS next year.

Early booking is strongly advised and we hope to see you there. The event should last approx. 90 minutes.

Tickets are priced at £6:00 and concessions at £4:00

Mr P. Parfitt



## Development Office

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This is only my fourth week but I already feel I have been here so much longer – and I mean that in a good way! I have been given such a warm welcome by my colleagues which has gone some way to alleviating the daunting task of taking forward all things development here at St Margaret's.

It has been a bit of a whirlwind these past few weeks. There is lots to learn about the school itself and how we operate, and also the independent school sector locally and nationally. Something I am particularly enjoying is the close sense of community, which extends not only to our current pupils and their families but also to our alumnae, former parents and friends of the school. A couple of weeks ago we received a gift which will be used for our bursary fund from three sisters who attended St Margaret's in the 1950's. They have fond memories of their time in the school and were grateful to their parents for making the decision to send them here for their education. To be remembered 50 years after being a pupil here is a testament to the positive impact the school had on the family.

In the coming weeks I will be meeting with some key groups in our community. Firstly, I've been invited to the next meet up of the former staff members who regularly meet for a catch up. I look forward to their insights into the school. Together with Miss Tomlinson I will also be meeting the Former Pupil Club Committee who organise events throughout the year for our alumnae.

I do hope I get the opportunity to meet with you in coming months either at school events or perhaps if you just want to stop by the office to find out what development is actually all about.; my door is always open. One event I would be delighted to see you at is the upcoming PTA Spring Afternoon Tea at the Park Café, Hazelhead Park (details on how to buy tickets can be found at the end of this newsletter).

Mrs R. Paterson-Davies

### Badminton

Over four dates during January and February our senior girls competed in Division 2 of the Crombie badminton league. Although not placed this year the girls played well and gained much from the experience.



### Hockey

Last Saturday the first and second years played in their respective school tournaments. The first years have just started playing 11 aside so they played well in this new formation and were disappointed to lose out on the silver medal after equal points meant it went to goal difference – we had scored one less goal! Meanwhile the second years had been building up throughout the season and were delighted to achieve the silver medal. I must thank Romy Bryce and Shannon MacAngus for helping time and keep score at the first year tournament. Una McGee and Jane Somerset were super helpers at the second year tournament.





## PE News (continued)

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Congratulations also go to our senior team who beat McLaren High from Stirling in the semi-final of the Scottish schools Aspire cup competition. This means we are now in the final against Perth schools on Friday 15 March.

### Cross-Country

Last Saturday there was also a cross-country competition at Lathallan school. Jessica Gunn came fourth in the U12 race and Anna McNeill came first in the U13 competition. This is a challenging course so the girls ran very well.

Mrs K. Norval

Janani Mohan in V Senior will be competing in the SSAA Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday 2nd March at Hopetoun House Estate, South Queensferry. Good luck, Janani.

Miss J. Aitken



## Easter Holiday Club 2019

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The holiday club will operate within the school during the Easter holiday, from 8<sup>th</sup> April – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The holiday club will be available for St Margaret's School children and their siblings who are aged between 3 and 12 years. The daily charge for the club is £40 and it will run from 8.00am until 5.30pm. The children should bring a morning snack and a packed lunch. We will provide a healthy snack in the afternoon.

There will be a wide range of activities and outings arranged and more details will be issued soon. The children will be asked what they would like to do, and this will reflect the content of the programme.

If you wish to reserve a place for your child, please complete a booking form and return it to the school office or e-mail it to me by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to secure a place.

The dates for the next two clubs in 2019 are as follows:

Summer – week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> July; 29<sup>th</sup> July; 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

October – week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [s.thomson@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:s.thomson@st-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk).

Miss S. Thomson





## Meeting our Buddy Grandmas and Grandpa Part 4

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Our first visit of 2019 had us buzzing with excitement. We were all really looking forward to seeing our buddies again. We started the session singing Sansa Kroma, a Ghanaian Children's song, which Mrs Wiedermann has taught us. This song involves singing whilst passing around a number of objects with the tempo getting faster then slower again. It was a great way to wake up! We also had time to play some of our favourite class games.

Mrs E. Gibb





## Conservation Club

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The Conservation Club has handed out its first three certificates to students in the junior school who have demonstrated care for their surroundings and the environment. Emilie from 5 Junior and a member of the club, has been working hard to keep her neighbourhood clean by picking up litter around her home.

Two members of 3 Junior, Timi and Emily, received their certificates for taking positive action when, out on a school visit, they chased away a seagull who was snacking on a crisp bag and then put the empty bag in a bin. Well done to all three girls.

Mrs G. Wyatt



## Rotary Young Writer Competition

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Out of the three 6 Junior submissions selected for the Rotary competition, Grace-Ann's writing was chosen for the next stage of judging at Robert Gordon's School last week. Although not the overall winner, Grace-Ann's piece, on the subject of 'My Inspiration', was beautifully written and promoted the importance of friendship. Grace-Ann shared her work with the Junior School at assembly on Thursday and was warmly applauded for her thoughts and feelings about her best friend, Rishiga, who she quoted as her inspiration.

Mrs G. Wyatt





## Chinese Medicine in 7 Junior

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This week 7 Junior were delighted to welcome Juliet's mum, Mrs Gaskell, into class to talk about Chinese medicine. Mrs Gaskell is a qualified acupuncturist who currently practises in Aberdeen.

As you can see from the picture below she brought along some of the instruments and equipment that she would use when treating patients.



The class learned that the practice of acupuncture is an ancient technique that has been used for thousands of years to treat medical conditions in China. Since the 1960's it has become more and more popular in the West. Today it is used alongside pharmaceutical medicines that we use. Mrs Gaskell told us that patients in Chinese hospitals receive acupuncture as part of their overall treatment when staying in hospital and it is widely used on patients to treat pain relief during operations. It has even been used as a form of pain relief during open heart surgery with the patient only lightly sedated; can you imagine being semi-conscious during that procedure?



It was a really informative session and one in which we learned so much about China and the Chinese attitudes to health and medicine. Thank you, Mrs Gaskell.

Mrs P. Twigg



Just before the February break I launched, in assembly, a charity appeal on behalf of the charity Smalls for All®

Smalls for All® is a Scottish Charity which collects and distributes underwear to help women and children in Africa. They help those living in orphanages, slums, IDP camps and schools. In many cases these girls and ladies have no underwear at all.

A pack of pants costs less than 2 cups of coffee and is something that we all take for granted. As I showed the girls, even my son's giant teddy bear, Bernard, wears pants!

### **If you'd like to donate underwear, here's the brief**

All you have to do is buy a packet of ladies' or children's pants. They must be **new** and while they collect all sizes, those needed the most are for **children aged 3-15** or **ladies size 8-14**. And while they collect all colours, the ladies' pants in greatest demand are black – in full brief, midi, mini or high leg (in the smaller sizes).

The underwear can be given to the class charity reps or to any of the senior school maths teachers. We are collecting up until the Easter break.

Many thanks to those of you who have already donated.



If you would like further information about the charity then please visit <https://www.smallsforall.org/>.

Thank you.

Mrs L. Tapper



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# **PTA NEARLY NEW UNIFORM & SPORTS KIT SALE**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 3 - 5pm**

**- In the School Dining Room -**

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The uniform sales are held once a term and give parents the opportunity to purchase good quality uniform and sports kit, help raise funds for the PTA, and provide an outlet to sell surplus uniform.

Donations of items to the PTA are welcomed!

Please note - *last day* for handing in sale items or donations is Thursday 21st March. Thank you

For any queries please contact Gillian Corry via email at - [dwccorry@aol.com](mailto:dwccorry@aol.com)



**PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**  
*funraising + fundraising*



We're excited to invite you to the first PTA event of this term - Spring Afternoon Tea to be held in the function suite of the Park Cafe, Hazelhead Park AB15 8BJ on **Sunday 17th March** from 1 - 4pm. A number of side stalls are planned to accompany the main event –

AFTERNOON TEA

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Freshly cut sandwiches  
A selection of savoury pastries  
Freshly baked plain & fruit scones  
Served with clotted cream & strawberry jam  
A selection of sweet treats & cakes  
Tea, coffee or squash

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Gluten free available on request

There will be a bar for those wishing to purchase additional / alcoholic / soft drinks



Tickets are £20 each, to be purchased in advance by Thur 7th March. Please return the slip below with cash / cheque made payable to 'St Margaret's Parents Association' to school for attention of the 'PTA' - Tickets will be sent electronically. Alternatively, tickets can be bought from the school office.

**Everyone in the school community is welcome** - girls, parents, family members, staff and former pupils - numbers are limited to 80 so don't delay in purchasing your tickets!

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**Spring Afternoon Tea Tickets (will be sent electronically)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Total tickets requested \_\_\_\_\_ Value of cash/cheque enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Gluten free tickets required \_\_\_\_\_

*To be returned to school for attention of 'PTA'*

Please join us at the St Margaret's PTA

# *Spring Afternoon Tea*

at The Park Café  
Hazlehead Park

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

1 – 4pm

Tickets £20

*in advance by 7<sup>th</sup> March*

*Everyone is Welcome!*

Gluten free Afternoon  
Tea available on request



**TICKETS** are available to be purchased *in advance* by 7<sup>th</sup> March from the school office



# WOMEN IN ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY -  
WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2019



Girls aged 15-17 from schools across the UK are invited to apply for a fully funded place at this unique residential conference hosted by the University of Aberdeen

The conference is being run in partnership with St Margaret's School for Girls and generously sponsored by BP and supported by Skills Development Scotland. The conference will provide a wonderful opportunity to explore engineering both in a university setting and in the workplace.

Staying in halls of residence supervised by experienced teachers, successful applicants will benefit from a travel bursary and a highly interactive programme rich with hands-on activities and face to face contact with female engineers.

A visit to BP's headquarters in Aberdeen will also allow participants to interact with engineers working on and offshore.

The organisers of the conference have a long standing commitment to Widening Access to Higher Education and encourage students from all backgrounds to apply.

## Application now open

- Only 45 places available
- Candidates selected on basis of application and school reference
- Apply before noon on Wednesday 13 March 2019

The detailed programme of events is to be confirmed but a draft of the general outline of the conference is as follows:

### MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**AM** Participants arrive and register at the University of Aberdeen

**PM** Ice breaker, engineering team challenge and choice of activities at Aberdeen Hillhead accommodation.

### TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**AM** BP site visit including tour of facilities.

**PM** Engineering team challenge with academics from University of Aberdeen, keynote speech and formal dinner.

### WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY

**AM** Engineering career talks from female engineers, postgraduate and undergraduate students and academics.

Some comments from delegates after attending last year's Women in Engineering Conference.

“ I have gained confidence in pursuing engineering in higher education and as a career choice and learnt more about different routes and opportunities studying engineering at University. ”

“ I have realised just how integrated all fields of engineering are with each other and with the wider working community. I've realised that this is absolutely a career which I want to pursue in the future. ”



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ST MARGARET'S  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Supported by Skills Development Scotland



Visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/engineering/events/14407](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/engineering/events/14407) to apply



Teachers and students! Climate Week North East  
is around the corner!

# HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEW CWNE RESOURCE SCHOOL PACK!

There will be things to do, things to learn and  
things to enjoy!



Available at  
[www.climateweekaberdeen.org/resources](http://www.climateweekaberdeen.org/resources)

# CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST

15th – 24th of March 2019

Take Action for a Sustainable Future





The background is a collage of images related to climate change. In the top left, a yellow diamond-shaped sign reads 'CLIMATE CHANGE'. In the top right, a hand holds a black sign with 'CLIMATE JUSTICE' and 'W' below it. In the bottom left, a brown cardboard sign reads 'PLANNED WARM HUMANITY GOES DOWN'. In the bottom right, a yellow diamond-shaped sign reads 'TAKE ACTION'. The central text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

# **CLIMATE WEEK NORTH EAST**

A WEEK OF FUN,  
INTERESTING AND  
EDUCATIONAL  
EVENTS ON HOW TO  
LIVE SUSTAINABLY

**15-24th March 2019**