



# Weekly News 22nd February 2019



## From the Head

On Wednesday we held a Women in Architecture and Construction conference for 80 pupils from schools as far afield as Huntly and Edinburgh in collaboration with Robert Gordon University's School of Architecture and Built Environment. The second and third year pupils from Dyce, Cults, Bucksburn and Westhill Academies, The Gordon Schools, Huntly, and Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh joined St Margaret's girls take part in the day-long programme of interactive workshops and hands-on activities, which were delivered by a team of academics from RGU.

The aim of the conference was to break down some of the barriers which prevent girls from considering a career in architecture or construction. Dr Marianthi Leon, Senior Lecturer and Course Leader at Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and the Built Environment, explained that the construction industry has faced a skills shortage for a number of years, with recent reports highlighting that women make up just 12% of the workforce. The demand for talent, meanwhile, is currently at an all-time high, and business leaders in the architecture, construction, surveying, engineering and rail industries are enhancing their workforce to keep ahead of some of the largest projects seen in recent times. In her opening presentation she said "Construction is an industry that requires many different skills and abilities. To achieve high levels of performance it is important to employ people from different backgrounds, with different experiences and a variety of capabilities. There is a pressing need to do more to encourage a commitment to gender diversity in the workplace and thus attract more women into the industry and enable a smoother path to senior leadership."

As ever we were delighted to collaborate with one of our local universities and to be playing our part in championing an extensive range of careers options for girls. On that note, in recent weeks we received the good news that BP will be the headline sponsor for our second residential Women in Engineering conference which we shall run with colleagues from Aberdeen University in the summer holiday. More information about how girls between the ages of 15 and 17 can apply for a place can be found later in the newsletter.





## Parent Teacher Association News

---

Members of the PTA and volunteers have been busy planning a number of events for the remainder of the year:

- \* Spring Afternoon Tea at The Park Cafe, Hazlehead on Sunday 17th March from 1 - 4pm. Nearly 40% of tickets have already been sold so don't leave it too late to purchase yours! See next page for further details.
- \* Spring Term 'Nearly New' Uniform Sale on Friday 22nd March from 3 - 5pm in the Dining Hall. Details are to be sent out via class reps, including the terms and conditions for sellers. 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 very welcome!
- \* Bags2School - this is a free fundraising scheme which raised nearly £300 last year for PTA funds at St Margaret's, using a resource EVERYONE has in their wardrobe – unwanted clothes. Bags2School work in partnership with schools, community groups, and charities to help them raise funds from your donations, collecting and selling your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia, all to benefit the circular economy. Further information to follow soon.
- \* A Film Night is in the early stages of planning...watch this space!

Why not volunteer and get involved in the PTA? We would be delighted to hear from you. To find out how you can help please get in touch with your class rep.



## Spree Books

---

Dear parents,

Each child should now have received a Spree Book home with them. The book contains discount vouchers for a wide range of things. Each book costs £15.00. For those interested in purchasing one, please forward your payment in the envelope provided with the book to the school office. Once Spree receive the payment they will distribute a fob to you which will enable you to start using your book and save money! Junior children can pass their books to their class teachers who will then pass them on to the school office. Anyone not wishing to purchase their book should return the book in the envelope provided to the school office or their class teacher no later than Friday 1st March.

Thank you on behalf of the PTA for your continued support.

Mrs Tracey Almeida  
Chair



## Uniform - Kikin' Klothes

---

Kikin' Klothes now have stock grey pinafores in sizes 28" to 32". Please visit Dr Hapuarachchi in school on Wednesdays between 3:00 and 5:00pm to purchase them.

Ms K. Schmitz



## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION *fun*raising + *fund*raising



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

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

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!

---

### 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



---

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

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

**- In the School Dining Room -**

---

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)





7 Junior have made composite wall hangings of the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. They made observed drawings of a terracotta figure from various angles and then used Styrofoam to make relief prints and they have also made individual prints.

Mrs J. Richardson



IA will be holding a charity carnival event in the school hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of March. There will be several stalls with fun activities so please bring some money to school to donate to a very worthy cause. All proceeds will be donated to Guide Dogs Scotland.

Mrs S. Stirton

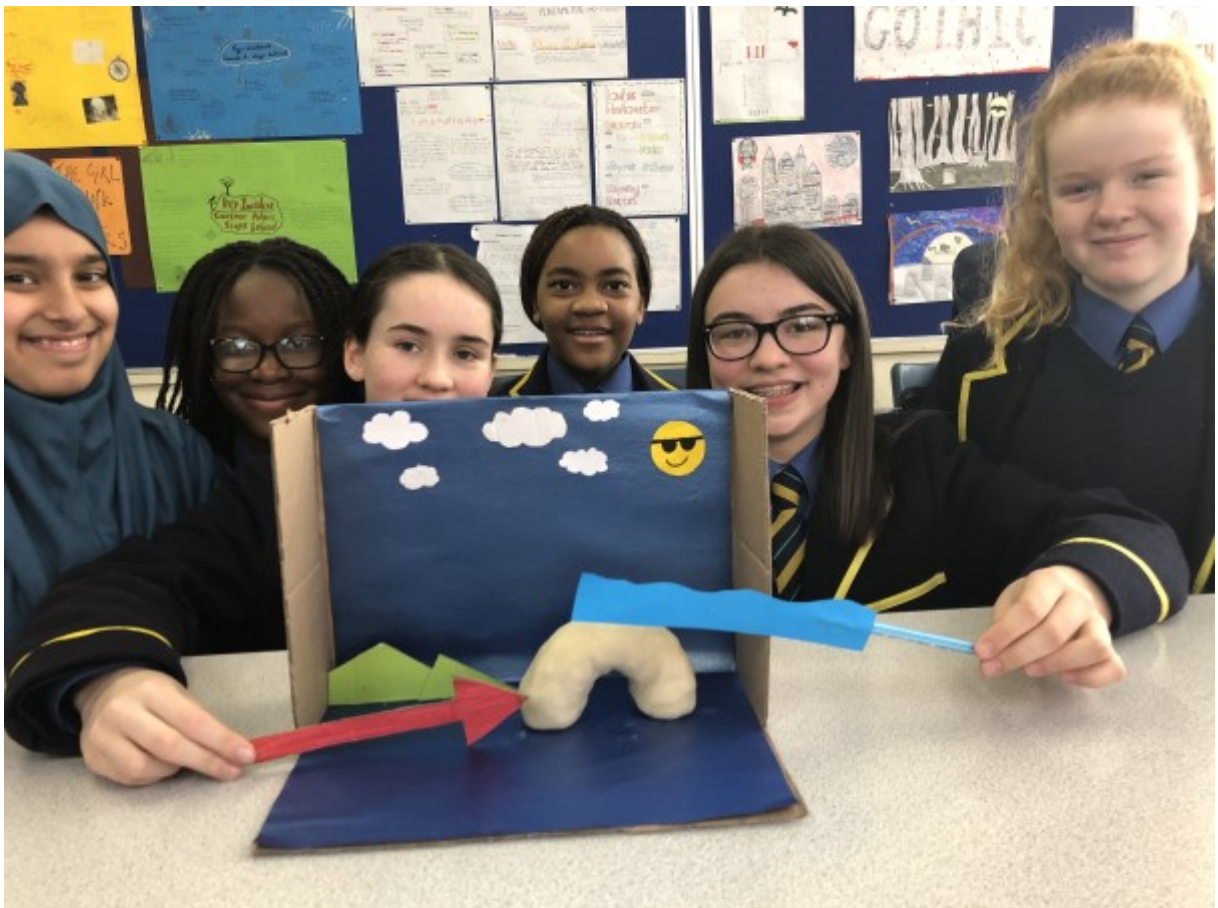


## Geography

---

I Senior classes have been learning about coastal erosion in geography, and have made short videos showing the process. They have had fun making their sets...just because they are in senior school doesn't mean that they are too old for playdoh!

Mrs H. Jennings





## Citadel Lunchbreak Concert

---



On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February, eight of our Grade 8 musicians will be giving the weekly lunchbreak concert at the Salvation Army Citadel on Castle Street at the bottom of Union Street. The concert begins at 12:45pm and lasts for 45 minutes. It is free of charge, but these concerts are very popular and usually fill to capacity, so early arrival is recommended.

The concert will feature piano, violin, cello, voice, saxophone, trumpet and tuba.

Mr P. Parfitt



## Careers News

---

This week we had a careers talk about female entrepreneurship presented by Serena Venegoni. She grew up in Milan, her father is a business owner, and after university, she worked for 15 years in London in a multinational company before opening up a handbag and accessories shop called 'Stellar' in Aberdeen. She taught us about the different aspects, challenges and rewards of owning a business; the work is flexible, you set your own style. However, she also pointed out that there is a degree of risk; it will take up a huge amount of time and is stressful. She urges the aspiring businesswomen among us to seek professional assistance – she herself was hugely helped by the Scottish charity 'Elevator.' Serena was clearly very passionate about her shop, though she was forced to close because of the declining retail industry. Here she pointed out that location, industry and competition are important to success. She said that the best thing about business is that 'you can do what you love.' We would like to thank Serena Venegoni very much for coming in to talk to us.. We are most grateful for her giving up her time.

Alina Artikova IVM

Next week's talk is from Sgt Clare Stoddart and Flight Lieutenant Richard Stinson from the RAF. All girls in senior school are welcome, Room S3 at 1:00pm. *If you would like to volunteer to give a talk in school, please do get in touch with Ms Brown at [s.brown@at-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:s.brown@at-margaret.aberdeen.sch.uk)*

### Upcoming talks

Date	Speaker	Occupation
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sgt Clare Stoddart & Lt Richard Stinson	RAF/Pilot
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mr Derek Ball	Sports Science
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Aubrey Whitfield	Music Producer
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Janice Scott	Art & Design
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr *New date*	Mr Luca Corradi	Robotics and AI



### Dyslexia Awareness

Poppy and Chloe in 5 Junior presented an assembly to the Junior School about dyslexia.



The girls have been working very hard in the learning support base researching successful people who have overcome difficulties with reading and writing. They even received an email from children's author Abi Elphinstone giving them tips and strategies on writing stories.

Chloe and Poppy have also made Help Bags for each classroom which contain tools to help with classwork, such as number lines, Read Write Gold instruction cards and reading cursors to help their classmates.

The girls also launched the **Tweet Your Book Recommendation Competition** which will run until 27<sup>th</sup> of February, please see below. Please get your tweets into us for your chance to win prizes!

Miss G. Gray



### A TWEET ON YOUR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS COMPETITION

Tell us about your favourite book and why you like it in a tweet size comment (280 Characters).

We aim to put the best recommendations on the school twitter feed for a day. We will also display the best tweets on the display screens around school, prizes for the best tweets.

Print off a picture of your favourite book, include this with your sticky note size piece of paper, telling us why you think others would enjoy it.

# 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. ”



UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN



Supported by Skills Development Scotland



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