



# Weekly News 22nd March 2019



## From the Head

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of our Spring term already but the lighter mornings and evenings that accompany this time of year are welcomed by us all, I am sure. Yesterday evening, many parents, guests, staff and girls were treated to a wonderful programme of music at our annual Spring Concert, held at Holburn West Church. The genres of music covered were varied and hugely enjoyable, and were performed in a highly accomplished manner by a number of solo performers as well as by instrumental ensembles representing all areas of the orchestra. The photographs below represent just a snapshot of the evening's entertainment.

School continues to be a very busy environment in the lead up to the last week of term, especially for our girls in the upper three years of senior school; coursework, practical examinations, projects, assignments and dissertations are all nearing completion and girls are well on track in their preparation for the SQA examinations which begin shortly after the holiday.



## **Your PTA needs you...**

The PTA is looking for a parent/grandparent, guardian of the school to take on the role of treasurer. This role does not require you to be a qualified accountant and it is not overly onerous. If you are someone who is organised and has a reasonable head for figures then this could be the perfect role for you.

### **Overview of the Role (handover will be provided)**

- Tracking details of income and expenditure on behalf of the PTA.
- Preparing floats for events.
- Counting/Checking and banking monies raised.

### **Benefits**

- An opportunity to get involved with a vibrant PTA and make a valuable contribution to the school's ongoing success with regards purchasing extras.
- Meeting/Networking with other parents & contributing to the overall continued success.
- Small but friendly PTA on hand to help.
- Working in collaboration with the school staff, who can provide further assistance if needed.
- Coffee, biscuits and a lot of fun!

If you are interested or would like to find out a bit more about the role, please call either the PTA chair Tracey Almeida on 07847 182907 or alternatively you can also contact the Head's PA, Ms Schmitz, and she will relay your interest to the PTA.

Mrs T. Almeida



**New Water Fountain  
in Gym**



**2 New Classroom  
Display Screens**

**2018/2019**

Items Purchased by  
St Margaret's  
School for Girls  
Parent Teacher  
Association



**SPARK**

Parent  
Presentation  
On  
Supporting the  
emotional  
needs of girls



After School care  
/Holiday Club  
equipment including  
Hi-Viz Vests

**Drama Blackout Blinds**



**New Bean Bags for  
After School Care**





We have been learning about sea life and finding out facts about octopus, squid and jellyfish. We asked Mrs Howitt, who teaches science in the secondary department, to help us dissect a squid. The children could see and touch the tentacles, ink, eyes, beak and suckers.

"The squid has two hearts. It's different to the octopus. It has three." - Anderson

"Jellyfish are made of water." - Amandine

"Jellyfish don't have any bones" - Amelie

"The octopus has nine brains." - Sienna

"The octopus's blood is blue." - Oliver

"Their mouth is a beak, the only hard thing in their body." - Isla

Miss J. Minett





## 2 Junior - Our New Local Community

---

In 2 Junior we have been investigating our local community, and using that knowledge we have now created our own new community. We have made sure it contains a variety of housing types and also a range of facilities. We included a school, hospital, dentist, optician, pharmacy and a range of shops. We also have a park with a café, ice cream shop and a gym. We decided to call our new town Bucket Town. This ties in with lessons we have been having thinking about being a good friend and remembering to fill each other's imaginary buckets with kindness. We wanted our new town to be a kind and helpful place.

Mrs N. Murray





## 6 Junior - What a 'Swap Shop'!

---

On Wednesday morning the Junior School Conservation Club held its first fundraiser. In keeping with the principles of the club the aim was to encourage the reusing of old toys, books, games and soft toys through a swap shop event. Every girl in the Junior School had been invited to bring in an item, or more, from home which they no longer needed and in return they could exchange it for something another girl had brought in. The response to the Club's request was tremendous with dozens of exciting items, suitable for all ages, having been donated over the past couple of weeks.

Throughout the morning each class had the opportunity to visit the swap shop to choose a 'swap'. The soft toys were first to be chosen whilst the dressing up corner was an absolute hit. Girls of all ages tried on outfits, kindly donated by some of our older girls, while Grace Barker was on hand with her polaroid camera, as our fashion photographer, capturing the catwalk moments for many of the swappers. Such was the excitement surrounding the dressing up, a very busy bee and an Elvis impersonator were spotted out in the playground later in the afternoon.

After each class had made a choice, during the morning session, the swap shop was opened up again over the lunch break so that the girls could revisit and take away additional goodies. The event was such a wonderful experience for all the members of the Conservation Club who had put in their time to advertise the event around school, sort the donations by age group and then run the tables on the day. They made the event fabulous for all the 'swappers'.

In addition to the swap, the Club had aimed to raise enough money to sponsor a dolphin for a year at a cost of £50. Having asked for donations of £1, the colourful cut out dolphin, which had been divided into 50 squares, was filled more than twice over. With donations from girls, and staff members, the Club raised £141. A fantastic amount! The Junior School will now be invited to vote on which dolphin, from the Moray Firth Bottlenose Colony, the Club will adopt.

The Conservation Club would like to thank everyone who made the swap shop work so well - Conservation Club members, 'swappers', staff, donators and parents. Thank you.

Mrs G. Wyatt







## 6 Junior - What a 'Swap Shop'! (continued)

---





## Charities News

---

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of March will be our final non-uniform day of the school year. All proceeds are going to Charlie House, which is a local charity which aims to provide support for families who have children with life-limiting conditions. Girls can wear their own clothes to school and should bring a £1 donation to morning registration. We will have a representative from Charlie House and Charlie the dog at whole school assembly on that Friday morning.

Mrs S. Stirton



Life is precious



## Careers News

---

Aubrey Whitfield, music producer, singer and songwriter, will deliver her SKYPE talk during the IVS careers days on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June. Any girls who are interested in attending this talk should ask the teacher they have on Period 6 on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June if you can attend and you will be very welcome. Please see details of forthcoming talks below.

Ms S. Brown

| Date   | Speaker              | Occupation      |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar                               | Sgt Clare Stoddart & | RAF Lt & Pilot  |
| Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> June<br><small>*New date*</small> | Mr Luca Corradi      | Robotics and AI |



On Monday this week Janice Scott gave us a very insightful talk about careers in the creative arts, specifically art and design. She works as a lecturer in the arts department at the North East of Scotland College in Aberdeen and spoke to us about all the different creative courses they teach there and careers we can pursue in art and design such as animation, graphic design, textiles, fashion design, art and design and photography. We learnt that there are numerous different careers in photography which I never knew existed, such as scientific, fashion and social photography. We were also shown pictures of a recent fashion show at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum where the textile and fashion students created designs from recycled clothes inspired by the Footdee harbour life. She also spoke about various university courses which are on offer and career options for art students, for example, fashion management. Overall, this talk was very interesting and enjoyable to listen to and I, and I'm sure everyone else who listened, learnt a lot about this area of work and study.

We would like to thank Ms Scott for giving up her time to come and talk to us and also give her thanks for all of the leaflets that she left for our library.

Natasha Morgan, IVA

Next week's talk is from Sgt Clare Stoddart and Flight Lieutenant Richard Stinson from the RAF. All girls in senior school are welcome. S3 at 1pm.

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)



### Cross-Country

Last Friday girls from 5J to VIS competed in an RGC/Albyn cross-country race. A big thank you to Miss Aitken for organising the team and the parents who helped. Despite the cold and windy conditions we had some excellent results:

7J – 1<sup>st</sup> place: Anna McNeill

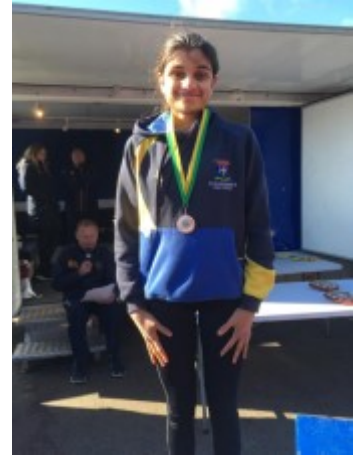
IS – 2<sup>nd</sup> team place (Shaneka Hapuarachchi, Joy Olanrewaju, Emma Murray)

IIS – 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Ellen MacDonald

IIS – 2<sup>nd</sup> team place (Ellen, Erin Gibson, Bethan Wood)

Seniors – 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Janani Mohan

Hockey



### Hockey

Fifty four pupils, staff and parents travelled to Glasgow last Friday. After several matches the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had qualified for the Aspire Cup Final. Sadly our winning run came to an end and we were beaten by an excellent Perth Schools combined team. I thank the thirty pupils from 6J to IS who came to support us as well as the parents who also came along. I wish my leaving sixth years a fond farewell and thank them for their commitment to school hockey – Eilidh Campbell (captain), Katie Holmes and Emily Ironside.





## PE News (continued)

---



### Trampoline

Congratulations go to Elizabeth Glasspool who qualified for the 13+ Double mini Scottish Championships to be held later on this year.

Mrs K. Norval



## Alumnae Event

---

Miss Tomlinson will be hosting a lunch in London on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May for former pupils and staff. The event will be held in the House of St Barnabas, a social enterprise members' club and employment academy working to break the cycle of homelessness.

This will be an lovely opportunity for those based in London and further afield to catch up and reconnect in a unique location in London. Miss Tomlinson will give an update on the news from St Margaret's and is looking forward to meeting friends, new and old, from our community.

If you have friends from the school based in London please do let them know about the event. More information and booking details are on [St Margaret's Connect](#), our online community for former pupils and staff.

Mrs R. Paterson-Davies





Down's  
Syndrome  
Scotland

helping people realise their potential

# **WORLD DOWN'S SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY**

**Join us to celebrate  
World Down's Syndrome  
Awareness Day.**

**When: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 4pm - 8pm**

**Where: Jump In Trampoline Park,  
Aberdeen**

**Price: Tickets cost £6**

**Street Dance Performances at 5.15pm, 6.15pm &  
7.15pm**

**Makaton Song at 5.30pm**

**Party wishes party and singalongs throughout**

**All tickets bought will be entered into a prize draw  
to win a party at Jump In worth £180.**

**For more information please contact  
Jill at [Jill0204@btinternet.com](mailto:Jill0204@btinternet.com)**