



Weekly News 4th October 2019



From the Head

All parents will have received an email earlier this week about our [Annual Fund 2019/20](#) (right click to open hyperlink). This is an invitation to our wider community to support our means-tested bursary programme, bursaries which have the potential to be transformational for the pupils who receive them.

As a charity regulated by OSCR we are committed to providing means-tested bursaries and our bursaries are funded through prudent management of school finances and donations. We are most grateful to our community for the support we already receive but demand for bursary support continues to be high and exceeds what the school can provide.

We are committed to doing all we can to ensure financial disadvantage does not prevent local girls from attending our school. The School Council has established the St Margaret's Fund which will be dedicated to bursary support. Supporting our annual fund appeal and donating to the bursary fund can help us give the gift of opportunity to deserving girls from our community. Alongside this annual fund appeal, the school continues to engage with relevant trusts and endowments for contributions.

For more information please get in touch with Rachel Paterson-Davies, Head of Development (r.patersondavies@st-margaret.uk / 01224 584466).



ANNUAL FUND 2019/20
OUR SCHOOL, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE



Despite the rather grim weather on Open Morning last weekend, the school was delighted to welcome many families and friends to St Margaret's. On their arrival to school, visitors were treated to a warm Scottish welcome provided by Hebe in III Senior. Hebe jovially volunteered to pipe in our visitors, and donning a waterproof cape, off she went! She played wonderfully, and it was a real treat for all. Hebe has earned some very worthy house points for her house, Kildrummy.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to our next Working Open Morning which will be held on Friday 22nd November from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

Ms K. Schmitz



Catherine Ross, class of 2009, is an artist and had an exhibition in Aberdeen earlier in the summer. She kindly answered Q&A's about her time at school and her career:

Q. What years did you attend St Margaret's?

A. 1994 to 2009 (nursery, primary and secondary)

Q. Favourite subject? Least favourite?

A. Favourites were art, English and geography. Least favourite was maths, however, I'm glad of it, because I used trigonometry the other day when calculating whether or not a painting would fit into a van!

Q. What do you find the most enjoyable aspect of your career as an artist? And the most challenging?

A. Most of all, I just enjoy making the work, whilst being driven by my own interest. It has allowed me the opportunity to visit different locations across Scotland and Canada. Only having yourself to rely upon can be challenging through any kind of difficulty when working with an individual artist or indeed when running a business by yourself. With this in mind, it's worth mentioning that I am a member of the Scottish Artists Union, which is a membership I'd encourage artists to keep in order to have any necessary advice or active support: <https://www.artistsunion.scot/>.

Q. Who or what has inspired you in your career?

A. The painting staff at Gray's School of Art, as painters themselves, have shown me how painting can accompany you throughout your life alongside other careers, or indeed in some cases by itself.

Q. What single piece of advice would you give someone looking to pursue a career in the arts?

A. Painting is often described as 'the long game', which I'd definitely agree with: by this I mean that as well as literally waiting for paint to dry, it is a demanding job in the long run. As well as patience, you need to have facility and be fully drawn towards it consistently. Keeping your practice going, as I have so far, also requires you to trust your instincts and at times ask a great deal from yourself. Because of these efforts, making my work and seeing its successes is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life so far. All my experience in painting has also prepared me well to teach the first year painters at Gray's School of Art, which I have been doing for 2 years.



October's Picture of the Month is by Hannah Milne in IM, titled 'Seashore Study'.

Mrs T. Scott



Sponsorship Opportunity

IIS are organising a school calendar for 2020. This will be their charity event, with proceeds shared between local charities selected by the girls as part of their YPI project. If your company would like to sponsor a month of the calendar, please contact Mrs Paterson-Davies in the marketing and admissions office for further information.

Charities

Last Friday we held a staff Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise funds for this very worthwhile cancer charity. The final amount raised was a very impressive £293.20.

A huge thank you to all makers, consumers and donators for making this such a worthwhile event! Staff look forward to contributing to our next staff charity fundraising event - our Festive Charity Event in December - selling crafts items and festive treats for a chosen charity.

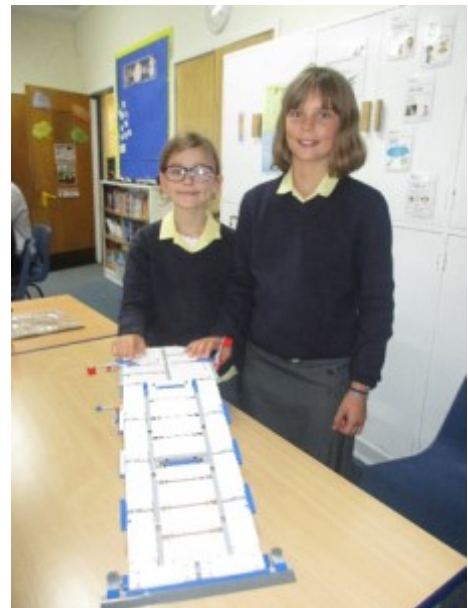
Mrs T. Scott





First Lego League City Shaper Challenge...we keep building

Our last two meetings have seen us busily building the Lego models to go onto the challenge mat. We download the instructions onto the Chrome Books then eagerly, and carefully, follow the instructions!!





First Lego League City Shaper Challenge...we keep building (continued)



Denise, Lee and John from ROVOP have been coming along to help us.

Look at how many things we have made so far! We can't wait for our next session.

Mrs E. Gibb, Mrs G. Wyatt and Mrs P. Twigg





6 Junior Visit to John Milne Auction House

On Thursday 6 Junior visited John Milne Auction House in Aberdeen. With the Junior School focusing on money for Scottish Maths Week, it was an excellent opportunity for the girls to learn how this type of business operates.

Arriving in time to view the many wonderful and varied lots, the girls perused boxes of curios, household items and one or two unique pieces including a fox stole complete with eyes and claws!

With the sale starting at 10am the girls sat totally absorbed as the auctioneer, Steven, banged the gavel and the bidding began. Paddles were raised across the room and the items began to sell.

After observing the first 25 lots being sold, the girls were very lucky to be given access to the lower level auction room which was laid out for next week's sale. A veritable Aladdin's cave of costume jewellery, spinning wheels, stuffed toys and numerous stamp collections.

We are so grateful to all the auction staff and particularly Alexander Milne who welcomed us so warmly and took time out of his busy day to show us around.

Mrs G. Wyatt



Alexander kindly emailed school after the visit and wrote, 'We were delighted to have a visit from Primary 6 at our weekly auction yesterday. The girls behaved impeccably and brought cheer to our regular customers and staff with their lively chatter and interest in the process and the different range of items up for auction. We hope that they too enjoyed the visit. Praise too, to the staff and helpers who organised and came with the girls'.

Ms K. Schmitz



Library Amnesty

Since our return in August we have noticed that many of the novels purchased for the senior school library have not found their way back after the summer holidays. We would appreciate if all senior pupils could search their personal bookshelves at home to retrieve and return any library books at their earliest convenience.

Mrs S. Crabb and the English department



Margaret Atwood Live Interview

Hearing an author speak about their work is always a treat, so when we heard that the National Theatre was broadcasting a live interview with Margaret Atwood, we jumped at the chance to secure tickets as it promised to complement to the Advanced Higher English class' study of "The Handmaid's Tale".

In an engaging dialogue with Samira Ahmad, Atwood spoke of her experience writing "The Handmaid's Tale", her concerns about climate change, her fascination with Thomas Cromwell, and, of course, her new novel "The Testaments", which returns readers to Gilead. Ann Dowd, Sally Hawkins and Lily James performed dramatic readings from "The Testaments", giving us a taste of the three different narrative voices Atwood has created to enlighten us about the Middle Gilead period. We were also treated to an excerpt of a new biographical documentary, in which Atwood spoke of her writing process which was of particular interest to the creative writers in the class. Atwood's keen wit and insights about her work and our world made for a thought-provoking evening and left us eager to read her new novel.

"To hear Margaret Atwood reflect on her writing in her own words was amazing, and we were able to hear about her numerous influences and inspirations. So many of her inspirations come from unexpected places, such as Aunt Lydia having many parallels to Thomas Cromwell. Learning that her original draft was written in West Berlin before the fall of the Berlin wall gave so much context to the environment of the novel. Hearing distinguished actresses bring Atwood's new novel to life definitely excited all of us, and I know we'll all be buying copies of "The Testaments" as soon as we can."

Eilidh Bisset

"The extent Atwood based "The Handmaid's Tale" and "The Testaments" on the real events and global issues was shocking and interesting because in the books some events seem so awful, so to think they are all entirely real and have happened throughout the course of humanity makes the story carry more weight."

Caitlin O'Byrne



Mini MUN

A good number of senior girls recently met in the GP room for our Mini MUN debate on climate change, the first mini MUN of the session. There was some interesting discussion and debate, with resolutions written by DPRK, Brazil and India.

This was a first experience of Model United Nations for a good number of the girls, so it was great to see everyone getting involved.

Special thanks go to our three runners Juliette, Ellie and Helena.

Mrs H. Jennings





Operating Theatre Live

On Saturday 14th September the school gym was transformed into an Operating Theatre and we worked through a complete dissection of the human body which was carried out on pig specimens. This experience was definitely worthwhile and something we had never experienced before as we looked at disease and pathology carefully, used real surgeons' tools and discovered the intricate structures and how they function to keep us alive. Not only was this experience extremely useful for us, it left us all inspired to think big.

Additionally, we were taught a variety of important clinical skills, how to interpret X-rays and link symptoms to clinical diagnosis. We also learned how to prepare ourselves for the UKCAT if we were thinking of applying for Medicine and Dentistry in the future.

This event was unquestionably worthwhile as it gave us a taste of what it would be like as a surgeon, doctor, pharmacist, and other healthcare professions.

We would like to thank the staff that came along to help with this event. It was much appreciated.

Jewel Jacob and Aya Freigoun, VM





Higher and Advanced Higher Geography Fieldwork

Girls studying Higher and Advanced Higher Geography recently carried out a variety of fieldwork at the National Trust for Scotland's Crathes and Drum Estates. We were treated to some lovely warm, sunny weather.

The fieldwork included a river study on the Burn of Coy, at the Crathes Estate. At Higher level this provided the girls with first-hand experience of the Hydrosphere unit they have just completed in class.

After completing the river fieldwork we went back to the visitor centre at the Crathes Estate. We then listened to a very engaging talk given by one of the Crathes rangers about countryside management issues.

The pupils also conducted visitor questionnaires and environmental quality surveys at both the Crathes and Drum Estates. This helped them to develop their understanding of tourist honeypots.

Over the next few weeks the pupils will be using the information they collected on river width, depth, speed and bed-load to demonstrate their understanding of how a river changes as it flows downstream. This will also help them to develop their processing skills as they will have to use statistical techniques, such as different types of graph to display their information.

They will also process the information they collected about tourist honeypots and environmental quality. This should help them to understand how environmental quality is affected by tourism.

At both Higher and Advanced Higher level the field trip provided the girls with experience of gathering information in the field. Many of the skills they practised during the field trip are transferable and can be used for other topics that they may choose for their Geographical Studies.

On Friday 27th September IVS geography went on a field trip to Wynford Farm, outside Westhill, to find out more about farm diversification.

Wynford is well known in the local area for its play barn, but it is also a working, organic beef farm.

The pupils went ready to ask a number of questions about how and why the farm has diversified. They were able to experience first-hand how diversification allows farmers to remain in business throughout various Government and EU changes.

In the afternoon the pupils went to the National Trust for Scotland's Crathes and Drum Estates to carry out a comparison study of two similar tourist attractions. This was completed to provide pupils with experience of conducting questionnaires and environmental quality surveys.

As with the Higher field trip we were treated to lovely weather.

Mrs F. Stone



Higher and Advanced Higher Geography Fieldwork (cont.)





Music Department - Strings

As reported in last week's News, our string department continues to be as busy and productive as ever.

Below is a photo of our double bass players, Isla (7J), Darcy (3J) and Yasmin (4J), and a photo of our Monday lunchtime Purcell players' group.

The music department is looking forward to our String Concertino which will take place at 4pm on Friday 1st November.

Mrs M. Wiedermann



Hockey

Martha Sheal (VS) applied and was successful to be chosen as an ambassador in the new Scottish Hockey – Lead The Way programme. Scottish Hockey aims to invest in educating and empowering up to 100 of our most promising and engaged club and district leaders across the sport over the course of the next four years, starting with the 2019/2020 season. The programme will develop the skill sets of our current and future club/district leaders by delivering workshops; leadership team talks; online learning and continued support with a focus around five key topic areas. We are delighted Martha was chosen and look forward to her sharing what she learns with peers and staff.

The Junior cup team were disappointed to be beaten 2-0 against the High School of Dundee in the first round of the Scottish cup. This means that we are now entered into the plate competition so have another opportunity to succeed.

Rowing

On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September we were delighted that six (Liberty Mountain, Leah McKean, Maria Guz, Emily Smith, Phoebe McCraith and Erin Gibson) of our rowers competed in the Scottish Schools Head of River Races on the River Dee. Under horrendous conditions our girls rowed well with Phoebe part of the team that won the Junior 14 Quadraple Sculls event.

Scottish Schools Biathlon

Emilie, Ellie and Poppy in 6 Junior took part in the Scottish School Biathlon at the sports village last week. Emilie came 5th, Ellie 8th and Poppy 9th in the Under 11s. Together they scooped the 2nd school team prize for St Margarets. Well done, girls!

Mrs K.Norval



27 September 2019

Aberdeen City Council consults with parents and carers over the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare

Aberdeen City Council has today (Friday 27 September) launched a consultation on the future of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision in the city.

The Council would like to hear from parents, carers and potential parents on the plans to extend the current provision from 600 to 1140 hours in August 2020 for all three and four-year-olds and eligible two-year-olds.

The consultation, which runs until Friday 1st November includes an online survey followed by a series of focus group meetings and parent and carer information evenings. Information will also be shared regularly on Aberdeen City Council's website, on social media and through partners, community groups, locality events and electronic events.

Fiona Lawrie, Early Years Service Manager for Aberdeen City Council, said: "This is an exciting time as we look forward to expanding funded early learning and childcare services from 600 to 1140 hours per year by 2020. We recognise how the expansion of ELC can play its part in improving long term outcomes for children and families and help us achieve our LOIP ambition of reducing the poverty-related attainment gap and ensure that Aberdeen is a place where everyone can prosper.

"We really welcome this opportunity to hear the views of parents and carers which will play an important role in shaping how we progress towards roll-out of the service expansion next year. It is important that we take families and communities with us on this journey and everyone's voice will be listened to throughout our extensive consultation and engagement programme over the coming months".

Under the new proposals, parents and carers will have more choice on when, where and how they use their child's funded ELC entitlement with a variety of settings available, including council nurseries and associated sites, private funded providers and childminders. Each of these will offer high quality ELC provision.

The extended hours are an entitlement not a requirement so parents can choose to take all or part of the hours available to them. Among the suggested flexible models are a full day provision, a half day (morning or afternoon) offering or a blended approach of council and funded provider / childminder.

Aberdeen City Council is adopting an area by area approach, prioritising the areas of greatest need and will adopt a flexible approach to the provision of expanded services to help ensure needs are met.

To comment on the consultation go to Aberdeen City Council's Consultation Hub: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/operations/early-learning-and-childcare-parents-survey>

The online survey closes at 5pm on 1 November.

A link to the consultation is also available on the Expanding Early Learning and Childcare page: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/expanding-early-learning-and-childcare> If you have any questions about ELC expansion please contact: elcexpansion@aberdeen.ac.uk

THE AFRICAN CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY ABERDEEN

Harvest Thanksgiving & Bazaar

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever
sows generously will also reap generously.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**FOOD
DRINKS**

**FACE
PAINT**

**TOMBOLA
GAMES**

**AND
MORE**



SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 2019

ST. COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
BRAEHEAD WAY, BRIDGE OF DON,
ABERDEEN, AB22 8RR

MASS STARTS AT 11:30 AM
BAZAAR FOLLOWS AFTER MASS



YOU ARE INVITED

to our
Harvest of Restoration & Growth