



# Weekly News 8th February 2019



## From the Head

This week we have welcomed Rachel Paterson-Davies to St Margaret's as our new Head of Development. Rachel joins us from the University of Aberdeen where she has worked as a development officer for a number of years. A history graduate, Rachel has worked exclusively in higher education since leaving university. The first seven years of her career were spent at Robert Gordon University, before she moved to the University of Aberdeen, where she spent a number of years working in the Registry Department before moving to the Development Trust, where her primary role was to engage with corporate partners to secure scholarships and prizes.



At St Margaret's Rachel will work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and School Council to develop and implement a strategic plan to provide significant additional revenue via major gift fundraising for bursaries and capital projects. The expertise and knowledge she has gained throughout her career working in the higher education sector will undoubtedly be invaluable to St Margaret's as we move forward.



## 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

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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'*



## Review of One Act Festival at The Lemon Tree

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It's always tough for a professional reviewer to critique a school performance.

Do you cut the young cast slack because they are minors and afford them grudging praise? Or do you use the same yardstick customarily applied to their adult counterparts (with some allowance, of course, for their amateur status)?

The IS and 7J casts of St Margaret's, who respectively performed abridged versions of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Julius Caesar* at Aberdeen's Lemon Tree on Thursday evening, negate that dilemma. The standard was such that it demands serious review.

A practically full house fell under the spell of the fairies, lords and ladies of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The magic was cast without set and with few props; a testament to the skill of the young actors and the enviable mastery of their director, S6 pupil Mia Squire.

Laughter is king in what is arguably Shakespeare's best loved and most magical of comedies, but it's not always easy to elicit laughter from an audience who are undoubtedly wearied at the end of a long and hard working day or, in some cases, may not be overly familiar with the works of The Bard.

Not so on this occasion. Each member of the cast delivered their lines with such delicious gusto and with near-perfect comic timing that they had the auditorium rocking with laughter, and most importantly in all the right places.

Just how a crew of 12 to 13-year-olds manage to succeed where some professionals have been known to fail is beyond this reviewer. But achieve they did.

The die was cast. The standard set. Cue 7J and the visceral, gut wrenching tale of betrayal and revenge that is *Julius Caesar*.

Against a sparse and lugubrious backdrop, and with a maturity and professionalism that belies their age, this young cast brought to vivid life the streets of ancient Rome, the Senate, a brutal assassination, and a bloody battle scene.

Extreme violence exquisitely and expertly evoked through the subtle medium of mime, raw anguish etched on young faces, and lines delivered with power and conviction made for a surprisingly compelling and goose-bump inducing performance.

An offering of such ambitious and starkly contrasting plays was, dare it be said, a 'good-win' for architect and drama ace Mrs Goodwin. It was a courageous choice and one that could, with a lesser crew of young players, have proved wanting. But it was a triumph, and one that this reviewer is sure, would have made Shakespeare himself proud.





## 1 Junior News - Reading to the Nursery

1 Junior girls have been learning about the number 7 and how special it is. They learned about the 7 colours of the rainbow, the 7 wonders of the world, the names of the 7 dwarfs and the 7 days of the week. They have been learning how to sequence the days of the week. They read the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and created their own versions such as 'The Very Hungry Unicorn' or 'The Very Hungry Snake.'

They then read their stories to the preschool children in the nursery. The nursery children very kindly gave the girls feedback on their favourite part of the story.

The girls said that they felt proud of their stories and read them confidently.

Mrs J. Garden





## 1 Junior News - Chinese New Year

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1 Junior have been learning about Chinese New Year. They have a Chinese restaurant role play area in the class and 'Fiery' the dragon came to visit them to ask them what they had learned.

Alice's mum and dad and Kate's mum visited us on Wednesday to tell us about Chinese New Year. They showed the girls how to cut out a Chinese letter and the girls tried to write in Chinese. They were very excited to be given a red envelope with a Chinese bank note in it. The girls really enjoyed it.

The girls tasted fortune cookies and read their special message inside:

'Tomorrow is to be a good day!'

Here is what they have learned:

'They eat noodles and tangerines' - Sarah

'They get red money envelopes' - Abigail

'I love eating rice dumplings. They are really yummy!' - Kate

'This is the year of the pig!' - Alice

'The rat cheated so he won the race' - Anisha

'They see a lion dance' - Harriet

'I would love to see a dragon dance. Chinese New Year seems so much fun!' - Keira



## 1 Junior News - Knight Visit

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On Friday, the 1 Junior class had a visit from Sir Andrew de Moray, a knight from Fairy tale land. He explained the 'code of chivalry' which included being brave, courageous, loyal, honest and helpful. The knight explained what his different weapons were used for and the girls were able to feel how heavy the chain mail was. The girls asked the knight a lot of interesting questions. He then knighted Sarah! The girls then made their own helmets in class.

'I liked trying on the helmet' - Abigail

'The chain mail was really heavy!' - Clara

'He had an axe!' - Xi Ning





2 Junior have been learning about houses and building materials. Over the past few weeks we have built houses of straw and sticks and bricks and tested their strength. As the little pigs discovered the brick houses are by far the strongest and the straw houses certainly made quite a mess when they were blown away!

Mrs N. Murray





### 3 Junior News - Jan the Viking

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Jan came to visit us on Friday. He was very impressed with how much we already knew as we could answer lots of his questions.

He was full of interesting facts and some gruesome stories about Viking life. Jan told us the story of Odin, who lost an eye, then Jan took his eyeball out. Yuk!

He brought a lot of interesting artefacts for us to touch. We blew the horn to see if we were long lost Vikings; some of us are!

Mrs E. Gibb







### India – a cultural experience

6 Junior have been learning about the country of India as part of their social studies this term. On Wednesday morning, Mrs Srimayooran, Rishiga's mummy, very kindly came in to share with us all some of her wonderful first-hand knowledge of Indian traditions and culture.

As part of her presentation, Mrs Srimayooran spoke to the girls about life in Sri Lanka and living conditions for many of the residents there and in India. She spoke about the importance of not wasting anything (music to the ears of the conservation club) and the efforts many families go to, to grow food and raise livestock.

The girls were shown how to wear a sari; Mrs Gregory and Alex had the opportunity to dress up, and then Rishiga very adeptly used henna to decorate some of the girls' hands. Mrs Srimayooran brought in many different types of saris, jewellery and decorative bindis to illustrate the varied uses for each style and their purpose. It was a very interesting and exciting morning.



### Times tables – you never know when you will need them!

6 Junior have been reviewing their times table facts up to 12 in math class. The consolidation is part of moving forward with work on multiples and factors. To check their understanding, groups of girls were given a specific times table and tasked with teaching the rest of the class. The resulting presentations included musical numbers, raps and dances. After each group had presented they then set a test for their peers to see if their method of delivery was effective!

Mrs G, Wyatt







We have had a busy couple of weeks in ASC taking part in lots of fun activities. One of the parents brought in an extremely large box and the children have played with this every day for the full session since it arrived two weeks ago. I thought they might turn the box into something else but they kept it as it was. It has mainly been used for hiding in and using the fairy lights and light-up batons inside it. I think the record has been fitting three 6 Junior girls inside at one time! It has even been used as a carnival ride! If anyone gets any other large boxes, please send them our way. We will make good use of them.

Other activities have included creating works of art out of Playdough, constructing shapes from Magformers and baking cakes. We also enjoyed one of the warmer evenings out in the playground. Let's hope there are more of these!

Miss S. Thomson





On Tuesday, Aimee Anderton performed in a production of The Nutcracker with Ballet West at Dundee Rep. Aimee's dancing school have been practising for several months, and really enjoyed the opportunity to perform on stage with professional dancers. The show was wonderful, with superb costumes and choreography. Aimee is already talking about the next show!

Mrs H. Jennings





## III Senior French Trip to Business Brunch Event

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On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January, III Senior French pupils had the opportunity to attend a Business Brunch event organised by SCILT (Scotland's Centre for Languages). The aim of the event was to encourage pupils to think about the relevance of languages in the world of work. When we arrived at the hotel we were treated to a selection of breakfast rolls and had the chance to speak to various organisations at the marketplace. The girls engaged with different businesses to discover why and how languages were relevant to them. After this, we listened to a series of speakers (including one from Ernst and Young and another from Dragados) who spoke about how languages have helped them in their careers. We heard about the opportunities speakers had had to work in a variety of countries as well as how knowledge of a language can set you apart from other applicants. Overall it was a positive event and interesting to hear how languages are not just useful for teaching and translating but can help in almost every career!

Miss K. Williamson





### Cross-country

The last of the school cross-country championships took place last week. All girls participating earned house points as follows:

Crathes – 146

Dunnottar 175

Kildrummy 199

### IS Results

Gold: Emma Murray Silver: Joy Olanrewaju Bronze: Shaneka Hapuarachchi

### IIS Results

Gold: Sophie Jennings Silver: Charlotte Bain Bronze: Alejandra Tait

### IVS Results

Gold: Francesca Mountain Silver: Kezia Fraser Bronze: Alina Artikova

A big thank you to Miss Aitken for setting up the course and collating results.

### Junior Swimming Gala

The atmosphere on Tuesday 5 February was charged with excitement as girls eagerly participated and cheered on their friends and houses in the annual swimming gala. Mrs Reid deserves a big thank you for all her hard work organising the gala. On the day we are extremely grateful to all the help from staff and pupils (Mrs Murray, Mrs Wyatt, Mrs Gerbrandy, Mrs McFadyen, Mrs Bryce, Emma Murray, Anna McCulloch, Rishiga Srimayooran and Sarah Reynolds). We had Mrs Low to start the events and a familiar face of Mrs Fowler to help with placings. Finally our swimming captain's mum, Mrs Murray, very kindly came to support the girls and present the medals and trophies at the end. A special mention must go to Anna McNeill who broke three school records in the 50m butterfly, 50m back stroke and 50m breast-stroke and Chloe McLean who broke the 25m butterfly. After some close and exciting races and dives the following results were awarded:

5J

Swimming champion – Emilie Parkinson

2nd place – Poppy Main

3rd place – Ruth Makoni and Ellie Ingram

Diving champion – Emilie Parkinson

2nd place – Ellie Ingram

3rd place – Ruth Makoni

6J

Swimming champion – Erin Strathie

2nd place – Jessica Gunn

3rd place – Grace Scott

Diving champion – Jessica Gun

2nd place – Emma Law

3rd place – Erin Strathie

7J

Swimming champion – Anna McNeill

2nd place – Chloe McLean

3rd place – Camryn Mackie

Diving champion – Camryn Mackie

2nd place – Chloe McLean

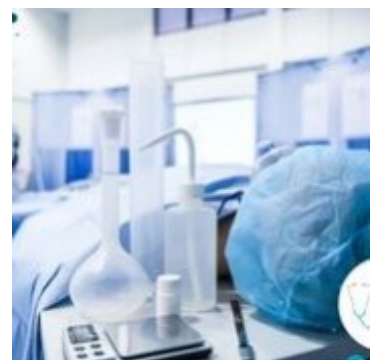
3rd place – Hannah Brown

The house shield went to Kildrummy with 364 points, second were Crathes and third were Dunnottar.

We are delighted to announce that St Margaret's will be hosting Operating Theatre Live again on Saturday 14th September 2019.

Following the first extraordinary event in 2018, we will be inviting St Margaret's girls from IIS upwards and pupils from surrounding schools to join us for a day of infection control, anaesthetics, and exploration of the cranial, vertebral, thoracic and abdominal cavities. Letters will go home shortly. In the meantime, more information is available on <https://www.operatingtheatrelive.co.uk/operating-theatre-experience> and ticket information is on <https://www.operatingtheatrelive.co.uk/publicevents>.

Mrs A. Miller



## Art Club News

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In the last five weeks of art club, the girls had a great time learning new techniques and creating fun and interesting pieces of work. Using creative thinking and problem solving they managed to create beautiful and intriguing work that reflect on each of their wonderful and unique personalities.

Miss I. Andrianova



## Online Fraud

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Like many other institutions, independent schools have occasionally become targets for online fraud. We have not encountered this at St Margaret's but it is timely to remind our parent community that all bills are sent out by post unless specifically requested. We do not send unsolicited emails offering any form of discount and there are no plans to change our bank account details. Should parents receive a suspicious email, even if the sender's address appears correct, please let us know. However, please be careful not use address details provided in the email, but check our website if you need a telephone number or email address for the school.

Mr A. Mountain



# OUR ABERDEEN BRANCH IS MOVING...

Our '**Aitken & Niven**' store in Bridge Street is closing on Saturday 2nd February and we will be moving to a brand new '**Stevensons**' shop in town on Monday 4th February.

## NEW SHOP ADDRESS:

Stevensons, 429 Union Street,  
Aberdeen, AB10 1TR

**Tel:** 01224 595190

**Email:** aberdeenbranch@stevensons.co.uk

## OPENING HOURS:

Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm  
Sunday - CLOSED

We offer the opportunity to purchase school uniform and sportswear year-round, through multiple different channels.

You can always buy with confidence, knowing that you can take advantage of our unrivalled 120 day returns policy to exchange unused items, if a child has a sudden growth spurt before starting school.

### In store

Fully trained Sales Advisors will be able to help with all your uniform and sportswear requirements.

### Appointments

Alternatively, you can book a one-to-one appointment on-line, ideal for busy parents who want to avoid the crowds and have a guaranteed fitting time in-store. Shop opening times are also extended during the busy summer months.



### Online

It's easy to shop at **www.stevensons.co.uk** with low cost postage and packing and FREE returns. Once registered, you are able to download the most up-to-date uniform price lists for a school and browse by year group to know exactly what items are relevant.

Our award winning website has been developed with parents in mind, so that purchasing is a quick and hassle free process. We also offer a FREE 'Click and Collect' service for customers who wish to order online and collect in store.

### By phone

You can order by phone or just call for advice on your school's uniform.

Contact our friendly store based Customer Service Team on 01224 595190. During the busy summer period our phone lines are open longer hours.

For more information  
about us visit  
**www.stevensons.co.uk**

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SCHOOL UNIFORM OUTFITTERS

# Aitken & Niven

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