



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Form 3 visit to Melrose Library 9am

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

SMT 8:30am

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby v Riley House (A) at Strathallan 2:30pm**

U11A Rugby v Compass (A) 2:45pm

U11B Rugby v Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

U9A Rugby v Compass (A) 2:45pm

1<sup>st</sup> Hockey v Dollar (A) 2:30pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Hockey v Dollar (A) 2:30pm

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October (cont'd)**

U11 Hockey v Dollar (A) 2:30pm

U10 Hockey v Compass (H) **2:30pm**

U9A & B Hockey v Compass (H) **2:30pm**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Merchiston Technology Day Form 6

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Dandylions Rugby Trials (A) Belhaven

2:00pm

Dandylions Hockey Trials (A) Loretto

2:00pm

**NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

We welcomed Kelso bus driver Malcolm Young to Assembly on Monday morning, to thank him for seven years of driving our Kelso bus to St. Mary's, always with a smile and consummate professionalism. Malcolm's pleasant acceptance of a card and a gift was the perfect counterbalance to the rather more sombre topic of the Battle of Loos, which raged from the 25<sup>th</sup> September to the 18<sup>th</sup> October in 1915. I felt it was important that children were aware of the cost of lives that took place during the "big push". Having visited the area, Form 7 pupil Thomas handed me some very interesting facts, including the rather moving point that soldiers wrote their names on the trench wall before going "over the top".

During the week, I had the pleasure of meeting Councillor David Parker to discuss a number of matters past, present and future to do with St. Mary's School, and I am grateful for Mr Parker's assurance that St. Mary's will be included in all local authority initiatives to do with school children of the Borders in the future.

The same day, we were visited by the Warden of Glenalmond College, Elaine Logan, and her school liaison officer, Huw Thomas. Ms Logan conducted a drama lesson with Form 8, Mr

Thomas refereed our 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixture, and both spent time mixing with various parents, not just from St. Mary's but from our visiting schools too.

The campus was at its glorious best as a very busy fixture programme ran, with some wins, some draws, and some losses for St. Mary's teams, and many a lesson learned during the closer encounters.

The Governing body met last night, which allowed me to update them on the fine start to the academic year so far, and the various expertise around the table assisted me with ensuring St. Mary's is compliant with the many regulations involved in the running of the school.

This morning we were visited by Mr and Mrs Mutton, and their four-month-old daughter, Constance. Mr Mutton is Housemaster of St. Thomas House, Ampleforth College. The subject of his assembly was team work. He had had the privilege of being at Elland Road last Saturday to witness Scotland's hard-fought victory against the USA. He explained that the human body was in itself a fine example of team work, and concluded by referring to Jesus' 12 apostles, who were themselves a team with many different skill sets. His assembly allowed me to highlight the successes of last year's Form 8, who achieved very high individual standards due to the team work of staff, parents and the pupils themselves. I then invited Jenny Shields, mother of last year's Head Boy Cameron, to present a beautifully framed photo of the year group, which will be hung up in the Hamilton Building as soon as time allows. Two book reviews were awarded to Anna H and Emily L.

A further plea for caution when driving your vehicles, both on and off campus. There was an incident in Melrose Rugby Club car park last Thursday, in the form of one St. Mary's parent rushing to exit the car park whilst narrowly missing a St. Mary's pupil. Though we have a 5 mile-an-hour speed limit on campus, I would ask you to apply that safety limit to any of the parking areas used when dropping off or picking up your children at school.

Whilst on the driving theme, with Malcolm having now stepped back from his role, and stand-in David Gordon coming to the end of his temporary commitment, anyone with a Category D section to their driving license interested in driving a school mini bus to Kelso ice rink for 7:50am in the morning and back to school with pupils from the Kelso area for 8:20am, would you please contact the school office? This role would certainly suit an early riser living in the Melrose area who understands how precious the cargo will be. It would be appropriate at this point to say a big thank you to David Gordon, who has proved reliable and trustworthy in carrying out his stand-in duties.

This afternoon girls from our top four year groups were treated to the expertise of Under 21 Scotland hockey captain Emily Newlands who ran their games session ably assisted by Mr Purvis, Mrs Bell, Mrs Scott Aiton and the lady responsible for getting Emily to come to the games session, Mrs Wright. A big thank you to Emily who made a fantastic impression on the pupils and indeed the staff.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming retired teacher and current secretary of Crieff Golf Club, Mr Iain Simpson, to St. Mary's this coming Monday. Mr Simpson, father of our Director of Studies, Ellen, has volunteered to assist throughout the day, and hopefully our St. Mary's community will remind him just what he is missing in his new role. A prouder father you are unlikely to meet and rightly so.

Have a good weekend.

## **MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

### **Squad Singing**

Tickets will be available from the school office from Monday morning. Tickets are free of charge but strictly limited to two tickets per family in the first instance. All audience members in the Morrison Hall must have an allocated seat. We will operate a waiting list for additional tickets should any become available. We have freed up as many seats as possible while still allowing the performers an opportunity to view some of the action on stage and some via a video link. Many thanks in advance for your understanding.

### **Form 6, Ford Castle**

A small reminder that deposit payments are due by Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Please return payment to the school office.

### **Junior Show Costumes**

I have had a couple of offers from people willing to join our junior costume team – one or two more people would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you would like to get involved. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their services!

### **Piano tuning, Repair & Re-conditioning**

Ross Markham, one of our piano instructors is able to offer a full tuning service and comes highly recommended. Contact details below.

[www.acousticpianoservices.co.uk](http://www.acousticpianoservices.co.uk),

[themarkhams04@yahoo.com](mailto:themarkhams04@yahoo.com),

01835 870 783 / 07929 899 195.

## **SCOTLAND HOCKEY STAR AT ST MARY'S HOCKEY TRAINING**

We were delighted to have Emily Newlands, current Under 21 Scotland hockey captain help out at our training session today at Tweedbank. Under 10, 11 and senior squads were put through their paces with some drills and fitness training by our local expert. The girls had a chance to ask Emily some questions and get some tips for the future. Who knows, maybe one day we will have the delight in having a St. Mary's girl play for the Scotland team! Thank you to Emily for making the trip down to Tweedbank and for all advice today.

The Games Department

## FLEXI BOARDING

Please ensure that boarding is booked in advance with Ms Birdsall so that we can assure enough beds are available. Many thanks for your help.



Form 4 have designed the new boarding credits for leadership, respect, humility and honesty.

Mr Mill

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Another busy and happy week in Kindergarten!





Mrs Berni

### **MISSING**

Zara's new hoodie – named

### **SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**

Thinking ahead, after half term we will be changing into winter uniform and it may no longer be such glorious weather. The shop has a good supply of the following- NEW green tights £6.50 for a 2 pack NEW fleece hats £5.00 NEW gloves £3.50 NEW plain fleece scarf £3.00. Please text Lorna if you would like to come to the shop. I am available most mornings 07976 292 509. If I am not available, there are now printed forms in the shop to help keep a log. Please fill them in clearly, with as much information as possible.

Lorna Blunt

### **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S**

Welcome to our new 'Friend of St Mary's', Mary Young - it's great to have you on the committee.

Form 6 Cake Sale in aid of the Syrian refugee crisis - Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 3 pm - 5.15 pm  
The Friends' Committee is delighted to support Form 6 in running the Cake Sale - we'll be busy baking for the cause and we know the class would welcome all further donations of cakes and biscuits to offer their friends up and down the school.

*'Yule Do' Christmas Party - Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November*

Details of our pre-Christmas event for parents, staff and friends will follow soon. Save the date for a fun night of dinner and dancing!