



**stmarys.mail**

*The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School*

**Edition No. 3**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

Debating – lunchtime  
Glenalmond's Director of Rugby - coaching session with 1<sup>st</sup> XV

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

SMT 8:30am  
Senior Choir 12:40pm  
Crucial Crew Form 7

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Orchestra 8:00am  
1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby v Loretto (H) 2:30pm  
U11A,U11B Rugby v Clifton Hall (A) 2:30pm

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September (cont'd)**

U11A,U11B Rugby v Clifton Hall (A) 2:30pm  
1<sup>st</sup> , 2nd,U11 Hockey v Kilgraston (A) 2:30pm  
U10, U9 Hockey v Clifton Hall (H) 2:30pm

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Activities Block 3

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Junior Choir 1:40pm

**NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

It was important to reflect on all those touched by the tragedy of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 on Monday, and I asked pupils to consider those unlucky enough to be affected by such a frightening global event. We then paid tribute to the Egyptian table tennis player who, despite having no arms, has overcome his disability to perform creditably in the Paralympics in Rio. I asked the pupils to consider his remarks: that having no arms was not a disability, but thinking that he can no longer play a sport he loved was. Ibrahim Hamadtou is an inspiration to all of us.

We concluded assembly by congratulating Gilbert on the sale of his first ram at the ram sales in Kelso, the previous Friday.

Syllabus evenings ran for Forms 3, 4 and 5, and I hope parents of pupils in those classes now feel fully informed of the curriculum the pupils will follow.

A busy fixture schedule unfolded on Wednesday, with some exciting close encounters that resulted in more wins than losses for St. Mary's teams.

On Thursday I was touched to be invited to a question and answer session with Form 2, on the Great Fire of London, as it is the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event. I was quizzed for 45 minutes by the extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic Form 2, and I have to say they probably know more about the Great Fire of London than I do! Well done Mrs Kirkness.

This morning we were treated to yet another uplifting assembly from Mr Mill on the Vendee Globe Yacht Race. Mr Mill asked the pupils to focus on Alex Thomson, the skipper of a yacht sponsored by Hugo Boss. This charismatic character has mastered the art of eye-catching PR, but more importantly he will be embarking upon a most exciting yet dangerous journey, for which he will have to summon unbelievable levels of skill, endurance and courage. Irrespective of outcome, he has clearly inspired Mr Mill, and in turn the St Mary's pupils will be monitoring his progress on Mr Mill's world map of the seas outside his classroom.

Following on from Mr Mill's presentation, I had the pleasure of congratulating Isla and Freya D, who won Miss Simpson's creative writing competition, set over the summer holidays. Miss Simpson enjoyed reading a missing person drama that began with a game of hide and seek, and a story about the relationship between an elderly blind woman and a little girl who met on the beach. I look forward to reading the short stories in due course.

Throughout the first two and a half weeks of term, we have been keen to impart on the pupils that they must always ask if unsure. This theme continues, and includes speaking up if they have any concerns or worries. The general impression we get as a staff is that our top year group, Form 8, have set a lovely tone in the school. We are concluding their prefect roles, but all Form 8s are to be congratulated for making such a splendid start as our lead year group.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming science enthusiasts from near and far to St. Mary's for the Bang Goes The Borders science festival. Dr Shinton will be supported by her dedicated team, and by the staff of the school, who all recognise what a fabulous contribution to science education this initiative is. I look forward to seeing many of you here at St. Mary's tomorrow.

Do enjoy your weekend.

HM

## **BATHROOMS**

Signage during the Bang Goes The Borders festival will clearly direct adults and pupils to different toilets. This signage also applies during the school week and sadly we live in an age where we as adults must adhere to the instructions. Failure to do so can be misinterpreted. Please use appropriate toilets to avoid causing unnecessary angst.

**BANG GOES THE BORDERS – TOMORROW - 10AM – 4PM**

The poster is for an event titled 'Bang Goes The Borders'. It features a central image of a panda's face framed by a green gear. To the right, there's a red gear with a bridge inside it, and another gear below it. The background is dark blue with colorful light trails. Text on the poster includes: 'Over 30 HANDS-ON activities and workshops', 'We're EXPL with BING possibilities!', 'BANG GOES THE BORDERS', 'SCIENCE @ ST MARY'S www.bgtb.org.uk', '....and it's all free!!!', 'Saturday September 17th', '10am - 4pm St. Mary's School, Melrose', 'Rathbones Look forward', and 'HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY'.

[www.facebook.com/banggoestheborders](http://www.facebook.com/banggoestheborders)

The full programme is now available online to help you plan your day (usual disclaimers about late changes apply!)

[www.bgtb.org.uk](http://www.bgtb.org.uk)

## FORM 2

Form 2 is learning about the Great Fire of London. Together they brainstormed questions they would like to find out the answers to. They decided that Mr Harvey would be a good source of information and invited him into class on Thursday.

We now have a good understanding of this historic event including the causes and effects.

Thank you very much Mr Harvey from Form 2.



Mrs Kirkness

## SCHOOLSHAPE - Forms 3, 4 and 5

Please complete your task for Monday 19th September. Any problems, let me know [lhutchison@stmarysmelrose.org.uk](mailto:lhutchison@stmarysmelrose.org.uk)

Madame Hutchison

## SCIENCE EXPERIMENT IN KINDERGARTEN

### Exploring Colours



On Monday we did a science experiment using skittles! By adding water to the middle of the plate, the children observed what happened to the colours. The colours spread out and eventually blended with other colours. Here are a few photos and quotes from the children:  
Ollie: "It's fabulous"  
Holly: "It's colourful"  
Hector: "It rubs them off"  
Clarissa: "It's the colour purple"  
Ollie: "The little drop has gone in the middle"  
Ollie: "tastes nice"

Mrs L Berni

## SECOND WEEK OF THURSDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



More photographs can be found on the school website under the Activities tab

[http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Groups/281140/St\\_Marys\\_School/Activities/Michaelmas\\_2016/Michaelmas\\_2016.aspx](http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Groups/281140/St_Marys_School/Activities/Michaelmas_2016/Michaelmas_2016.aspx)

## MISSING ICE PACKS

We are missing a number of 'KOOL PAK' – please return these at your earliest convenience.

SMT

### \*\*\*DATE FOR DIARY!\*\*\*

Macmillan Coffee morning time! Come and join us for yummy cakes & coffee on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 9-1pm. There will be raffle, goodies, and loads of cakes. Pop along to support this amazing charity.

Let me know if you are able to help; baking or just eating and drinking! The more the merrier! Where: Cotgreen, Broomilees Road, Melrose TD6 9BE

Woody Morris. Tel: 07469961233

**FOUND** (after games on Wednesday)



**MISSING**

Harriet C's white PE top

## FRIENDS OF ST.MARY'S

### *Friends AGM*

The Friends are delighted to continue their work with many of the same team as last year and can report continuing growth in the monies raised for charity and for items like the new goal posts for the school. We are looking forward to announcing dates for events and fund raising soon.

### *Cake Sale Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October*

It's the 50th year of the Borders Children's Charity - The BCC help the many children in the Scottish Borders who are suffering from poverty, disability, sickness or distress. Please come along at 3pm in the dining room with donations of cakes, biscuits, doughnuts etc plus coins for your children to spend on the goodies. Through the BCC over 99% of every penny raised goes direct to children in the Scottish Borders.