



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 10th October

Debating – lunchtime
1st XV Rugby Coaching with Fettes
1st Hockey Coaching with Fettes

Tuesday 11th October

SMT 8:30am
Dental Nurse visiting Form 3 – 11am
Senior Choir 12:40pm

Wednesday 12th October

Orchestra 8:00am
1st XV Rugby v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm
U11A Rugby v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm
~~U11B Rugby v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm~~
U9A Rugby v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm
U9B Rugby v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm
Pre-Prep Harvest visit to Priorwood Court pm

Wednesday 12th October (cont'd)

1st Hockey v Belhaven (A) 2:30pm
2nd Hockey v Belhaven (A) 2:30pm
U11 Hockey v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm
U9 Hockey v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm
U10 Hockey v Belhaven (A) 2:30pm

Thursday 13th October

Activities Block 3, session 3
8am Form 5 Merchiston Science Day
Squad Singing Competition 7:00pm

Friday 14th October

Form 2 Assembly – parents welcome to attend
Junior Choir 1:40pm
Dandyllion Rugby Trials at Belhaven 2pm
Dandyllion Hockey Trials at Belhaven 2pm
Pre-Prep Recital, Morrison Hall, 2.30pm
Half Term begins 5:00pm

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

We have been working on resilience here at school, in an attempt to acclimatise pupils to facing up to challenges. Last Sunday, our hockey and rugby teams performed creditably at the Loretto tournaments. Our U11 hockey players were runners-up, and the team's performance was described by their coach as 'gutsy' in the final. Our U13 and U11 rugby teams battled hard on the day with limited success, but they gave a good account of themselves. Match of the day in all sports had to be a plate final between the St. Mary's and Belhaven U13 hockey teams. The match was decided by an incredible 21 penalty shoot-out, having gone to sudden death with the two teams evenly matched after the first three penalties. Monday morning's assembly provided me with the opportunity to encourage resilience right across the various areas of school life in academia, the arts, boarding, and indeed in sport.

On Monday evening, the Education Sub Group of the Board of Governors met to touch base regarding the academic impetus of the school, to assess the progress of the school management system and to discuss other educational matters. Unsurprisingly, this subsection of the Board is most impressed with how this academic year has started. At the same time as this meeting took place, the FP Committee met to discuss former pupil matters.

On Tuesday, a busy day at school was followed by an academic progress meeting, during which all pupils from Forms 5 to 8 were discussed. This forum is extremely useful in identifying individual pupils' needs and planning the most appropriate way of meeting these.

Wednesday's fixtures programme provided our two flagship teams in the school, the 1st hockey and 1st XV rugby, with the ideal opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of the word resilience. Whilst two defeats unfolded for these teams, pleasingly courage and determination underpinned their performances. Their coaches, Mr Purvis and Mr Mill, could not be more proud of their charges, and rightly so. The Board of Governors met on Wednesday evening to discuss progress of the school and development plans, which behind the scenes are ongoing, and continue to excite and enthuse all those who have a vested interest in the future of St. Mary's.



After another busy day on Thursday, nine of our Form 8s were invited to attend a talk by double gold medallist Olympian Heather Stanning, who manages to balance a career in the military with her commitment as an international athlete.

Amongst an audience of 450, St. Mary's pupils asked four very sensible questions relating to Major Stanning's inspirational talk. She is clearly a very driven, single-minded individual, who also

recognises the essential contribution of her coxless pairs partner Helen Glover and the team of physio therapists, psychologists, dieticians and their coach, who help them perform at an elite level. We are extremely grateful to Loretto for their hospitality, and I am sure the charity "Combat Stress" for which the fundraising evening had been organised, benefited hugely from a large and appreciative audience.

This morning we welcomed Andrew and Barbara Hunter, and a cohort of St. Mary's former pupils who all attend Merchiston Castle School. Mr Hunter gave a most interesting talk about the tight rope walker, Jean Francois Gravelot (Blondin) to encourage pupils to find their talent and use it to the best of their ability.

The nine boys who accompanied their headmaster and his wife met with parents and staff over a coffee afterwards, and were a huge credit to both St. Mary's and Merchiston in the way they conducted themselves. It was a pleasure seeing them in such fine form.



Miss Wood is looking forward to welcoming many of you to her felt-making workshop tomorrow, which will run between 10am and 12pm in the Art Room. Can I ask that you enter and exit the campus by the back gate only, please.

Finally, as a busy week drew to a close last Friday, I omitted to mention the fabulous Pre-Prep coffee morning organised by Miss Renwick, which raised £283 for Macmillan, and I draw your attention to today's cake sale, organised by the Friends of St. Mary's, which is raising funds for the Borders Children Charity.

Enjoy your weekend.

MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Steve Bates (Director of Sport at Fettes College) taking a rugby coaching clinic with the 1st XV on Monday 10th October.

Becky Merchant (PE teacher at Fettes College and captain of Scotland Women's hockey team) taking a hockey coaching clinic on the same day.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Forest Kindergarten Selfies!



Mrs L Berni

SCHOOLSHAPE

Form 1 and 2 have Schoolshape to complete at home on numbers in French for Monday 10th October, please.

Form 5 have Schoolshape vocabulary practice on "les pays" to complete for Monday 10th October, please.

Any problems connecting to the internet or the Schoolshape site, please email me lhutchison@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Merci bien,
Madame Hutchison

PRE-PREP HARVEST RECITAL

Pre-Prep have been working extremely hard with Miss McRae for their recital at Priorwood Court on Wednesday afternoon and are very much looking forward to their visit. As they have put in so much effort, we thought it would be a lovely way to round off the first half of term to invite parents to come to listen to the recital at 2.30pm on Friday 14th October in the Morrison Hall.

Mrs Kirkness, Miss Renwick & Mrs Currie

MELROSE LIBRARY



Form 3 visited the library this week and were greeted by the two librarians, Mairi and Norman.

Everyone is now a member and we all borrowed books to take home.

More details and photos on the website.

Mrs Wright

FORM 2 NEWS – click on the following link

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/482093/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Great_Fire_of.aspx

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Squad Singing

A reminder that all pupils in Forms 3 – 8 will stay in school on Thursday afternoon for rehearsals and supper. Pick up is from Form rooms at approx. 8.30pm.

If you have reserved tickets, these will be in brown envelopes this afternoon. Should there be any tickets still available on Monday morning, Ms Birdsall will allocate these to those on the waiting list.

Props

The Music and Drama department is looking for small, plastic flower pots to make into colourful props. If you can help, please let me know. Many thanks.

Ford Castle – Form 6

A polite reminder that deposit payments of £60 are due by Monday, 10th October. Many thanks for payments already made.

Twitter

We are currently trying to raise the profile of our school Twitter account and to use this as another means of communication with the parent body. If you have your own account and don't already follow us, please do find and follow us. @SchoolMarys

Miss McRae

LECTURE COMPETITION

A reminder that the heats of the school lecture competition, which involve all pupils in Forms 4 – 8, will take place soon after half-term, on Friday 28th October.

Some guidance notes have gone out in brown envelopes today. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor if you have any questions.

The final of the competition is scheduled for Tuesday 1st November at 3pm: all spectators very welcome.

Miss Simpson

FORM 8 VISIT TO TORNESS POWER STATION

Please click on the following link to read more about the above visit.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/482090/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Form_8_Trip.aspx

Mrs Stuart

TEAM SHEETS

Please note that match slips emailed on Fridays contain all the necessary information regarding fixtures: departure time, kick off time and return time.

MISSING KIT

If your child has lost an item, and you have requested that it is searched for and logged in the .mail, please can you let us know when it is found? Thank you.

SMT

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Friday, 25th November : "Yule Do"

A great night out of fun and dancing in the Morrison Hall for parents, friends etc. Start to put your tables together and find your dancing shoes. More information will follow in due course.

Friday, 2nd December : "Winter Wonderland"

It may only be October but we are already planning the popular annual children's Christmas event – "Winter Wonderland". We shall be asking for contributions to the various stalls – cakes, tombola, etc – in due course so please keep an eye out for requests.

Easy Fundraising for the School when you shop Online

Please can we remind parents that money can be raised for the school through "Easyfundraising". There are over 2,700 online retailers -including M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose, Asda John Lewis, Amazon, EBay, Argos – who give a small percentage of what has been spent back to the School. Please remember this when doing your weekly online shop or starting to purchase those presents online for Christmas!

The school earns cash donations when people register to support us and shop online through the site. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

1. Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. When you're asked to choose your cause, select St Mary's School - Melrose.
3. Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register to support St Mary's – Melrose.

Useful Information Sources for St Mary's Parents

For any parents who use Facebook – "Urgh!" I hear you say. The ""Friends of St Mary's has a page that is regularly updated with information, whether it be about events, sporting reminders or general information. It is a "Closed Group" and any parent of the school can request to join. I would urge all parents to do so.

In addition there is also a Page called "St Mary's – Swap Shop". Again this is a closed group page and anyone who is part of the group can post a message. A good place to swap items or even sell or buy items.