



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 6th March

Forms 5, 6 & 7 Tutor meetings 5:10pm

Tuesday 7th March

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Forms 3 and 4 Tutor Meetings 4:10pm

Parent/child "Stay, Play and Learn" afternoon
in Kindergarten 2:00-3:00pm

Wednesday 8th March

Orchestra 8:00am

1st XV Rugby v Earlston HS (H) 2:30pm

U9A Football v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U9B Football v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U11A Rugby v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

U11B Rugby v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

WOSPS v Dandyliions Netball Kilgraston **2pm**

Wednesday 8th March (cont'd)

U13 Netball Tri. Fettes/Craigclowan (H) 2:00pm

U12 Netball v Belhaven (A) 2:45pm

U11A Netball v Craigclowan (H) 2:00pm

U11B Netball v Craigclowan (H) 2:45pm

U10A Netball v Longridge (A) 2:00pm

U10B Netball v Longridge (A) 2:00pm

Thursday 9th March

RHET Tractor Tour to visit, 2pm

IAPS Debating Competition, Cargilfield

Form 5 to Dynamic Earth

Friday 10th March

Saturday 11th March

Mowden Hall U13 Rugby 7s 1:00pm

George Watsons P7 Hockey Tournament 9am

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

On Monday morning, I took the opportunity ahead of Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, to explain why this features on the Christian calendar. Pupils and staff showed great enthusiasm for the idea of gorging on foodstuffs such as pancakes before the start of Lent. This then led to me inviting everyone to consider any character vices they may recognise in themselves, and to consider putting this right, not just over the Lent period but from Ash Wednesday going forward. I suspect the earlier part of the assembly was more likely to be acted upon than the latter!

On Tuesday, it was our great pleasure to welcome Oundle Registrar, Gary Phillips, who spent time meeting with parents, and then during the evening with several staff. We are delighted that our ongoing relationship with Oundle School is stimulating so much interest amongst you our parents.

On Wednesday while a very busy fixture programme unravelled – during which our U11 netball team in the Ardvreck tournament gained particular success – I was diverted to St. George's to meet with their new Head, Mrs Alex Hems. We are very much looking forward

to welcoming Mrs Hems to St. Mary's in the near future, and are delighted that she is keen to embrace the close relationship between our two schools.

A cohort of Form 5 pupils attended the Merchiston Maths Fun Day, and Dr Morgan is pleased with the St. Mary's representation finishing high up on the fun day's finishing order, which provided a high standard of competition.

Tutor/Parent consultation meetings took place for Forms 3 and 4, and we heard of three of our pupils being highly commended during the Edinburgh Competition Music Festival at St. Cuthbert's Church. Congratulations to Tegan, Molly C and Lucy Mac, and particular congratulations to Willa, who was awarded the outstanding performer in her age category. Well done to Ms McRae and Mrs Harvey for taking such a strong St. Mary's representation to this festival, and well done to all 14 pupils for taking part.

Meanwhile, St. Mary's had the great pleasure of welcoming three gentlemen who attended the school between 1940 and 1945. George Scott-Watson, John Sutherland and Alastair Brooks meet on a regular basis to reflect on their time at the school in what must have been an extremely complicated period in the school's history. It was a great privilege to have lunch with the three men, and they thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the school with two Form 7 pupils. We look forward to seeing them in the audience at our senior school production in three weeks' time.

This morning we welcomed Mrs Elaine Purves, Head of Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancashire. Mrs Purves came to talk a little bit about her school, but with a greater focus on different types of bird and in particular the leadership and teamwork skills of Canada geese. Pupils listened carefully as Mrs Purves gave us an explanation of the v-formation in which these migratory birds fly, and an explanation for their strong communication whilst in flight. Clever parallels were drawn to how we, as members of our schools, can best look after each other. We are very grateful to Mrs Purves for popping along.

I then paid tribute to the successful U11A netball team, our Form 5 Maths team, our singers and our tour guides, who have all done their bit to enhance the reputation of St. Mary's throughout a very busy week.

I would also like to make mention of Alexander F, who after auditions in recently months has been selected to play the part of Oliver in the Captivate Theatre Company's production, to be put on during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Alexander was amongst 300 people who auditioned for the part, so congratulations to him.

Today we welcomed Geoff Thurman and Gabby Foster from Ampleforth, who called in on their way south. Mr Thurman kindly offered to referee the 1st rugby game v Aberlour.

In keeping with how busy school is at the minute, this weekend sees the annual FP Dinner on Saturday evening, and the IAPS Cross Country Championships at Belhaven on Sunday. As ever, we have a large team representing St. Mary's, and good luck to Mrs Bell and all her runners.

Have a good weekend.

PARENT/TUTOR MEETINGS

Monday 6th March – Forms 5, 6 and 7, 5:10pm

Tuesday 7th March – Forms 3 and 4, 4:10pm

Tuesday 14th March – Form 8, 5:10pm (timetable to be circulated)

Sign-up sheets for Forms 3, 4 and 5 Parents' Meetings are outside their respective classrooms. Please sign up at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sheets for Forms 6 and 7 are on display outside the school office.

Match slips

When parents receive a match slip, please email the coach regarding pick up/drop off enquiries from returning fixtures.

Mr Brown

FORM 5 TRIP

A reminder that Form 5 will be out of school for most of the day on Thursday 9th March as they will be visiting Dynamic Earth for a trip arranged by Mr Brown and Mrs Runciman. The pupils will experience two workshops to support their Geography curriculum work as well as have a tour. We are all very excited about our excursion!

Mrs Runciman

FORM 3 EASTER ENTERPRISE - CRAFT SALE

Wednesday 22nd March

Form 3 decided to spend their money from the Friends of St. Mary's on a "business start-up".

They have all been very busy and creative, and will be selling their colourful products on Wednesday, 22nd March alongside the cake sale.



Pictures of the wonderful designs for their items, including egg cups, trinket boxes and key rings, can be seen outside F3 classroom, and more posters will be put up soon.

The items will all make fabulous Easter presents!!!!

GUITARIST VISITS MIDDLE SCHOOL



On Tuesday this week, Middle School pupils were treated to a range of music from Mark Runciman when he visited to play to them and talk about how engaging in Maths, Science and Languages can lead to a range of possibilities in life. Mark has graduated from Strathclyde University as a Master of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering with International studies and he explained to the pupils how he had designed and made his own guitar as well as

how some of the electronics worked to allow him to play a wide range of sounds. Pupils made some very interesting requests; ACDC, Led Zeppelin, David Bowie, Dire Straits and Queen being just a few; and Mark played as many as he could remember as well as some of his own music and some Spanish songs in which he was accompanied by his girlfriend, Ana. The pupils asked loads of very thought-provoking questions and also challenged Mark to play his guitar behind his back and with his teeth – the latter NOT being recommended! A huge thank you to both Mark and Ana for giving up their time and filling young minds with ideas of the opportunities available to them.

Mrs Runciman

FORM 5 MATHS NEWS

Emma, Libby, Archie and Geordie travelled up to Merchiston Castle School on Thursday to take part in the annual Maths Fun Day. This exciting and fast-paced day of puzzles and maths challenges was attended by 128 of the brightest young mathematicians from Edinburgh and the surrounding area. Our team really enjoyed the day and in the final league table were placed a very creditable 14th out of 32 teams.



Just as pleasing for me to see, was the really excellent manners and positive team working approach adopted by our pupils on the day. We will soon be competing in another SumDog competition – watch this space!

Dr Morgan

POLITE REQUEST

It has come to our attention that there are a few pupils who are wearing jumpers and cardigans with holes in the elbows. We would be grateful if these could be mended over the weekend.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Wizard of Oz

- Ticket order forms are in Form 6/7/8 brown envelopes today. Tickets sales will open up to the rest of the school next Friday, March 10th.
- Costume letters are also in brown envelopes. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.
- We are looking for some dungarees to fit age 12/13 and we are also still looking for a screen similar to picture opposite. If you can help, please let me know as soon as possible.



Ms McRae

STORY TIME IN KINDERGARTEN



Jessie read a story



Mrs Hardie read a story



Mr Bell has been busy doing odd jobs for us in Kindergarten.....t he children were delighted to have him read us a story before home time.

Mrs L Berni



MISSING

Caelan is missing his rugby socks, they are named and brand new.

Matt - green hoodie & white polo tshirt

Caelan - green shorts.

Brown towel – labelled Stuart M

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Saturday, 11th March. :Townhouse Rugby Event - CANCELLED

The FOSM Committee are very disappointed to announce the decision to CANCEL the forthcoming event at the Townhouse. Our thanks go to the brave souls that did reply in the positive, but we are aware of other events on the same day and understand that they take precedence. We will be mounting this event next year, so please mark the whole of March as busy in 2018. Thank you,

Wednesday, 15th March

TOY SALE In the Morrison Hall from 3pm to 5pm

Please please support this event by donating items and coming to the sale.

Donations of new, nearly new, unloved, unbroken and clean toys can be left in the huge boxes in the Hamilton and Sanderson Buildings. All items sold will raise money for the new school minibus, which is desperately needed. See event posters for more information.



Wednesday, 22nd March

CAKE SALE

In aid of the
Scottish Borders Brass Band Association



Wednesday, 22nd March

From 3pm in the
Art Room, Sanderson Building

Yummy Cakes, Cupcakes, Doughnuts,
Cookies and More

(Donations gratefully received. Please leave in kitchen on the morning or bring to Art Room on the afternoon – thank you.)



CAKE SALE from 3pm in the Art Room. Donations of home baking would be gratefully received. Please see event posters for more information.