FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

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<th>Monday 22nd April  (Easter Monday)</th>
<th>Thursday 25th April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Inset</td>
<td>Poetry Heats, Form 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd April</td>
<td>Swimming lessons begin</td>
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<td>School resumes 8:25am</td>
<td>Tennis lessons begin 1/5</td>
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<td>SMT Meeting 8:30am</td>
<td>Senior Chess Club 5.05pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24th April</td>
<td>Friday 26th April</td>
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<td>Orchestra 8am</td>
<td>Fettes Orchestra Day</td>
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<td>Poetry Heats, Forms 3, 5, 6, 7 &amp; 8</td>
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NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our final week of term began with two of last year’s leavers, Isla and Freya returning to complete a day of work experience. It was lovely to see both girls and they certainly had a busy day, helping around campus and with preparations for our senior production – Mary Poppins.

The previous Saturday, Mr Brown’s ‘Band of Brothers’ had excelled at the Mowden 7s Rugby Festival. Throughout Saturday evening, I received WhatsApp communications from a coach glowing with pride. Mr Brown and Mr Rutherford had watched on as the squad won four very competitive fixtures, drew two and lost one. Tristan was named ‘Leader of the Tournament’, which was just reward for leading his troops in to battle in such an inspirational way.

We held assembly on Tuesday morning as the hall was ready for the dress rehearsal by then, and I paid tribute to the Under 11s effort at that time. I then went on to deliver an assembly about Friendship and with the help of photographs on the drop down screen, I told the school about ‘My Friend Danny’. If you are interested, a PDF document of my presentation is attached to the .mail.

A successful and useful dress rehearsal of Mary Poppins took place that afternoon, prior to two exhausting but successful performances in front of large audiences the following day. The latter of these was in aid of the Hazel’s Footprints Trust, a charity very close to Mrs Scott Aiton and her family’s hearts. I am delighted to report over £1200 has been raised on the back of your generosity in supporting this charity performance.
Meanwhile, Ms Wood attended a presentation ceremony of the John Byrne poster competition. We had two pupils listed amongst thirty winners. This is no mean feat as the competition attracted over 7000 entries. Hannah C and William E proudly attended the evening, accompanied by a glowing Miss Wood and members of the Cully and Earnshaw families.

Thursday, the penultimate day of term, signalled the busiest day imaginable, with Mrs Hutchison running Squad Day and the final evening performance of the senior production. As ever, Squad Day was fabulous, with quizzes, tower building, art work and potted sports activities all being run by our ever enthusiastic staff and with clockwork efficiency. Mrs Hutchison proudly pulled proceedings together at 4pm and announced Scott as the winning squad.

And then came a most splendid climax to the show season. The seniors put on a near faultless, energetic and entertaining performance of Mary Poppins for a packed Morrison Hall audience. Our star performers will be mentioned in the play report, but huge congratulations to the entire cast, Miss McRae and her ever loyal team of helpers. Miss McRae had pulled this performance together with Poppinsesque like magic and the emotion evident in the hall as the final curtain came down, said everything that needed to be said. Well done, to all concerned.

As we concluded term with our final assembly today, we said a fond farewell to Leila who has been with us in Form 2 for a term, and to Emerson who relocates to Edinburgh. Emerson was presented her painting of her and her cat, Bosscat, painted when she was in Reception.

Next term we welcome four new pupils to St. Mary’s and look forward to them adding to the Form classes they will be joining. I have little doubt they will.

Holiday commitments include Ms Wood heading to Edinburgh Castle with our Head Boy and Head Girl and their family members, to attend a function recognising all 1918 Poppy Pledge fundraising. This is an invitation of which Ms Wood and St. Mary’s can be very proud. Kindergarten work on for another week and Helen, Rita and Bruce from our domestic and catering teams busy themselves towards an extremely well-earned holiday.

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you at Melrose 7s. I shall be keeping a watchful eye over the campus, as will the new state of the art CCTV system, the timely instillation of which will give the school that extra sense of security.

I wish you all a very restful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

HM

POETRY COMPETITION
A reminder of the following dates for the St. Mary’s Poetry Recital Competition (see attached flier):
Heats – Wednesday 24th April
Final – Tuesday 30th April
SQUAD DAY
Yesterday's annual squad day was a great day of quizzes, art, designing towers and sports for pupils from Reception class to Form 8. All four squads competed in a closely fought competition for the Pavilion quaich, with Scott narrowly edging into the lead to take the trophy this year. Final results for the day were as follows:

1st Scott 20 points
2nd Percy 17 points
3rd Douglas 15 points
4th Home 14 points

Eliza and Emma won the seniors quiz competition and Tom, Ewan and Beattie M won the juniors quiz. Well done to all pupils for all their efforts on the day and for working so well together to contribute to such a happy and successful day.

A heartfelt thanks to all staff who make the day run like clockwork.

Mrs L Hutchison

ADVANCE NOTICE!
Swimming
Swimming will commence on Thursday 25th April. Boys; Reception to F5 should wear school green lycra swimming shorts, boys; F6-8 black swimming shorts. Swimming caps in Squad colour for boys are optional next term 2019, although we would encourage boys to wear one, these will be compulsory in Summer 2020. Girls; Reception to F5 should wear the school green swimming costume and a swimming cap in Squad colour. Forms 6, 7 and 8 may wear a PLAIN black costume. All items are available from the school outfitter Aitken & Niven. Should your child wear goggles, please ensure they are clearly named.
SUMMER UNIFORM
All pupils should return to school after the Easter holiday in summer uniform.

Girls, Reception – Form 7
Short-sleeved open-necked blouse (NOT A BLOUSE WITH TOP BUTTON UNDONE PLEASE)
Green tunic/kilt, short white ankle socks, school cardigan
Girls, Form 8 as above but knee length green socks or black nylon tights may be worn.
Boys, Pre-prep Charcoal grey knee length shorts, St Mary’s polo shirt, grey ankle socks, school jumper.
Boys, Form 3 - Form 5 Charcoal grey knee length shorts, white short-sleeved shirt, tie, grey ankle socks, school jumper.
Boys, Forms 6 and 7 Boys may now wear charcoal knee length grey shorts OR charcoal grey trousers, white short-sleeved shirt, tie, grey ankle socks, school jumper.
Boys, Form 8 Charcoal grey trousers, white shirt (short or long-sleeved), tie, grey socks, school jumper.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS
On Thursday afternoon, the children in Kindergarten held their annual charity café afternoon raising funds for more Montessori Resources. Parents, staff and children were treated to a generous selection of cakes, sandwiches and drinks. Thank you to everyone who helped us make the afternoon a hugely successful one!

Mrs L Berni

PE/GAMES – SUMMER TERM
Please ensure that all pupils are supplied with a named water bottle for PE and games times. The school has a supply of baseball caps and one will be allocated to your child at the beginning of the season (U11 cricket and 1st XI have their own caps). These will be kept by the Games Staff. Cricket shorts for Forms 3 – 4 will be supplied by the School Shop at the start of term.

JOHN BRYNE DRAWING COMPETITION
On Wednesday Hannah and William travelled up to Paisley with their families to receive their certificates from the John Byrne Drawing Competition. This event is in its fifth year and attracts a growing number of entries from schools across Scotland. Young artists from Primary 4 to Secondary 3 are encouraged by John Byrne to take up their pencils and create. More than 7,000 children were inspired to enter this year so we were delighted to hear that two St Mary’s pupils were among the winners.
It was a wonderful day which saw Hannah and William meet John Byrne who is an influential figure in British Art.

However, more than being a great artist our St Mary’s artists also discovered that he is hugely interested in the creative experiences of a new generation. Our thanks must go to John who spent a remarkable amount of time with the young people and to Education Scotland for hosting such a memorable event.

Ms Wood

BOARDING NEWS
Gala play park, Boarders’ challenge night, movie night, netball... https://bit.ly/2TDeCVS

TWEED CLEAN
Mr Rawson is organising a joint river clean/litter pick along Tweed on Sunday 7th April. This will involve groups in each of Peebles, Cardrona, Galashiels, Melrose, Kelso, Coldstream and Berwick and many in between. We believe that a collective effort to clean even a little of each town’s stretches will make a powerful statement to the Borders community. Apart from the obvious social and environmental benefits, it will help to raise the issue of plastic pollution on a regional and national level. If you would like to come along, the Melrose group will be meeting at 0900 by the Gattonside Bridge.

Mr Rawson
FORM 1 FARM VISIT
A lovely afternoon rounding off their geography topic for Form 1 at Sandystones on Monday

MISSING
Tom’s white Clark trainers, red interior – they are named.
George G named and green under armour top
SCHOOL SHOP

Lots of swimming kit.... And summer uniform
Summer uniform is now available in the school shop. The shop will be open on Easter Monday, 21st April from 10am – 12pm. Please contact Joanna Imray on 07771 520462. If you have any outgrown uniform please drop it in to school next week Monday to Wednesday 9am – 3pm.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S
Date for the diary: The annual FOSM Summer Fair will be taking place on Friday, 28th June.

A very big thank you to students and parents for the comic relief cake sale held on 15th March. A total of £314.60 was raised to support the charity event.

TOUR DE LAUDER
On the 27th April this year it will be the 8th Tour de Lauder. The TDL is a cycle set up in memory of my late husband Steve who died of a sudden heart attack. Hannah Form 8 and Josh Form 6 are currently at St Mary’s. We have raised in excess of £200,000 for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. If anyone is wishing to donate a raffle prize, or homebaking can they possibly get in contact with me on the number below. Alternatively if you would like to volunteer on the day then you can google Tour De Lauder http://www.tourdelauder.co.uk/ and find out all about it! Many thanks in advance - any help is greatly appreciated.
Warm wishes
Rosie Cully 07740682964
TWEED CLEAN

SUNDAY 7TH APRIL
SEVEN TOWNS, ONE RIVER

@green_tweed_deco

HELP CLEAN YOUR STRETCH

PLASTIC FREE

GREEN TWEED

PLASTIC FREE

MELROSE BORDERS

SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE