



The Queensferry Road Garden Project

Melville College Trust Grant Award £1,554.50

The Queensferry road garden project has been one of the most successful grounds projects for some time at the Junior School.

The gardening club were keen to develop a garden which could be used to grow flowers and vegetables and could be a lovely natural space for those wanting to sit quietly.

The bid from the Melville College Trust paid for the ground to be levelled, planters built, a fence erected to protect the garden, gravel laid round the planters as well as a hose and tap to be fitted.

Our Estates team and ground staff did a fantastic job of building the garden and preparing the raised beds ready for our team of Primary 6 and Primary 7 gardeners to come in and start planting.

They have grown a wide variety of flowers including a dramatic show of gladioli and nasturtiums and have successfully grown beans, potatoes and carrots.

As we move into autumn, they are ready to harvest some crops and do essential weeding. The garden has given staff the opportunity to share an enthusiasm for gardening, helped children further their understanding of how food is grown whilst at the same time having improved the vista of the Rutherford playground for all of our junior children.

Before... a very sad looking and unsightly part of our school grounds. After...A thriving garden area...



Mountain Bike Award

Melville College Trust Grant Award £1,149.00

The Melville College Trust granted £1149 towards mountain bikes and helmets for the teaching of Physical Education, CCF and Outdoor learning. The two new bikes have been a welcome addition to a very old fleet. The pupils who have had the experience of the new bikes has been positive as the bike set up and components are of good, strong quality. The bikes were also used in the summer term by pupils completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. On the expedition the bikes were comfortable and versatile for the pupils needs.



Many students have really enjoyed the experience of cycling as part of their Physical Education programme. As cycling is an important life-skill we will continue to offer this activity in PE. It has helped build pupil confidence on the bikes and learn about cycling proficiency as well as boosting mental health, well-being and physical fitness. It has also raised pupils' awareness on how to contribute positively to the environment.

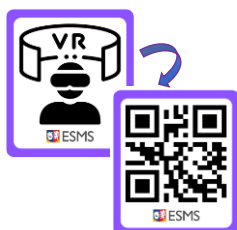
Virtual Reality Pastoral Support

Melville College Trust Grant Award £2,050.80 and £1,846.90

Due to the generous support of the Melville College Trust, ESMS has been able to buy an additional four virtual reality headsets used to provide pastoral support to our students. We now have a total of twelve headsets strategically available across the Junior School, The Mary Erskine School and Stewart's Melville College.

Last session these devices provided invaluable support to children who required help with regulating their emotions and lowering levels of anxiety. By reducing the amount of time out of class, through the use of bespoke VR playlists available via scannable QR codes, children were able to remain in their learning environments for longer, cope better with increasing environmental stimuli and return to tasks with better engagement. Testimonials from the children and their teachers has been very positive and the extended provision of the VR pastoral support across our Schools means there is increased accessibility and equity towards learning for all our children. This resource has been one of the greatest contributors to increasing empathy and raising the awareness of neurodiversity at ESMS. The Lithuanian government is following our research here and is planning on rolling out a similar program of support in their schools to increase inclusivity and engagement.

Example of VR Time-Out Card



Children wearing headsets to support curricular areas



3D Printer

Melville College Trust Grant Award £749.00

The purchase and implementation of the Anker Make M5 Fast 3D Printer at ESMS Junior School, made possible by the Melville Trust grant, has already begun to yield significant benefits for our students. The printer has begun to be successfully integrated into our Digital Learning curriculum. Before the summer holidays, we witnessed tangible examples of its impact, with students in Minecraft club and Primary 7 creating 3D models of their builds and house designs, respectively. These projects have allowed children to grasp complex concepts by bringing abstract ideas to life. Moreover, the Primary 6 Digital Leaders gained valuable insights into the design-to-production process by creating Lion and Ship keyrings, witnessing the transformation of a concept into reality in under 20 minutes. (This is what is on show in the photos and timelapse videos). As we continue to develop lesson plans, resources, and provide training to our class teachers, the potential for student engagement and creativity using this technology are great. This investment has already begun to fulfil its promise of providing our students with a hands-on approach to learning and a deeper understanding of digital technology, setting the stage for even more remarkable educational experiences across various subjects in the future. We will be showcasing its use in the Digital Learning rooms at Open Day and will have some of our keyrings available for visitors to take away with them.



Cricket Mat

Melville College Trust Grant Award £3,835.98

A grant was received to purchase a flexi wicket for cricket at The Mary Erskine School. This was used by pupils from Primary 5 to S6 to allow greater exposure to hardball cricket on the MES site. The mat arrived part way through the cricket season so was only able to be used for practice, but the intention is that it will allow hardball matches to be played at MES next season. That said, the mat allowed many more pupils access to a competitive wicket and true cricket experience. This will certainly help to continue the development of cricket at MES and strengthen the pathway from softball cricket to hardball cricket and high-level performance



Digital Piano for Wallace Dunlop Hall

**Melville College Trust Grant Award
£1909.70**



The digital piano purchased last term by the Music Department with funds from the Melville College Trust is now permanently housed in the W D Hall on the Queensferry Road site. It is used on an almost daily basis to accompany JS Year Group Assemblies and a wide variety of rehearsals including JS Musicals, Middle School Musicals and Senior School Musicals. It was extremely valuable in the run up to last term's production of The Sound of Music. It is a robust instrument that balances the need to be musically expressive while also standing up to the regular use it receives. It is also used to accompany other instrumental rehearsals that take place in the W D Hall such as Wind Band, Concert Band and JS Band. When ESMO rehearses on Mondays, its ability to create a digital harpsichord sound enables it to be used as a continuo instrument in baroque string music, giving more advanced keyboard pupils the opportunity to learn this skill. It also gives the Drama department the potential to include the piano in drama lessons and rehearsals that take place in the WD Hall. Its relatively small size in comparison to an acoustic upright or grand piano also means that it can be neatly stored without taking up too much space in a hall that is used for many different purposes. The WD Hall is also used for outside lets for groups such as the Scottish Chamber Choir and the room would not be suitable for such lets if there was not a good quality instrument available.

I am most grateful to the MCT for making significant funds available to us to enable the acquisition of such a valuable piece of equipment. It is having a very positive impact on the opportunities available to a significant number of pupils across all three ESMS Schools.

Chinese Calligraphy and Far East Culture Club

Melville College Trust Grant Award £210



Huge thanks to Melville College Trust funds, which enabled our club to purchase two electric skillet pans, food thermometer and a Consori Air Fryer. These were particularly useful, especially when the club not only teach Chinese Calligraphy but also aim to explore cultures & festivals through the diversity of cuisines from Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea etc.

With the electric skillets, digital food thermometer, and air fryer, we were able to try out different Asian recipes. This included vegetarian & meat dumpling, quick stir-fried noodles, prawn crackers, New Year pudding (Nian Gao), fruit pudding, crispy won ton, rice cakes, bean curd, buns and more to come. Without the skillets and air fryer, all this would have been impossible to achieve. We have enjoyed a fantastic turn out, with pupils and the support of staff, especially during Chinese New Year.

ESMS Pipe Band

Melville College Trust Grant Award £1,012.00

On Saturday 24th of June, ESMS Senior Pipe Band competed at the European Pipe Band Championships in Aberdeen, the band competed in the Novice B event along with 16 other bands. The band came 1st overall and 1st for drumming, this was a big achievement for the pupils involved and the school. Four drum harnesses that carried the drums were kindly sponsored by the Melville College Trust.

