



## Archives Medal Cabinet

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £1,177.44**

The ESMS Archives are now the proud owners of a new medal chest thanks to funding by the Melville College Trust.

Presently we have 38 war medals and over 60 sports and achievement medals in the archive at SMC representing from both Melville College and Daniel Stewart College. The MCT funded the purchase of a bespoke medal cabinet with lockable drawers that not only allows us to house our existing collection but also leaves room for further acquisitions as and when we acquire them. Both the chest and the trays are used for displaying the collection in exhibitions and at FP events.

The medal collection continues to play an important role in the education of our students, acting as the primary source for lessons on 20<sup>th</sup> Century history. Likewise, the medals are often taken abroad on the school trips where the man and the medals are reunited sometimes for the first time. Such events leave a powerful impression on all those who attend.



## **SMC Sports Hall Accessible Toilet Conversion**

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £1,638.68**

We were very grateful to receive a grant of £1,638.68 from the Melville College Trust to allow for the conversion of the bathroom in the SMC lunch-hall to an accessible toilet facility.

As well as providing an accessible bathroom in this building for current pupils, staff and visitors, this has also been of huge value when running our ESMS Community Inclusive Sport Initiative Events.

These events which now run 6 times per session, involve children and adults from the community, many of whom have various physical disabilities partaking in inclusive sport activities. In past events, we were having to take those who needed to use a disabled toilet over to SMC Old College (the nearest Disability Discrimination Act approved toilet facility). This would take a lot of time out of the child's session, require extra helpers, door access, as well as the anxiety of having a toilet accident on route.

The DDA approved accessible toilet facility was fitted in March 2024 and is now in use. We now feel fully confident when hosting these Community Inclusive Sport Events, that the young people in attendance no longer have the extra barrier of inadequate basic toilet facilities for their additional needs.

Please see a link below to video of one of the Community Initiative Events held at SMC.

[Stewarts Melville 1223 v2.mp4](#)





## Wargames Club

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £225.00**

In session 2023/24 The SMC Wargames Club was awarded £225. The funds allocated to the Club have been used to purchase gaming resources which added to, or expanded, the range of games that the pupils in the club can use on a weekly basis. Specifically, funds purchased;

- A new game – Bolt Action, a WW2 platoon-based game. Dr Cooper kindly assembled and painted the figures, which are Western Desert themed, and the pupils have enjoyed learning this game.
- A playmat for Wings Of War/X-wing, (aerial combat games) improving the gameplay experience of these existing games by adding a sense of realism as the mat depicts the ground viewed from far above.
- Expansions to Memoir '44 (WW2 boardgame scaled to battalions' divisions of troops) The expansions for terrain pack and equipment pack allows a vastly increased number of scenarios to be played adding to the tactical considerations and variety of the game.
- New resources for Warcry – a fantasy themed skirmish wargame. Adding to the spectacle of the game by creating interesting and varied battlefields to fight over.

The club has started the session strongly, bringing in several new S1 players and retaining interest of existing pupils. The variety and 'look' of the games on offer are of vital importance to the success of the club. The provision of high-quality resources ensures a 'wow' factor which captures the imagination of pupils, immersing them in spectacular looking and challenging, fun games which help them to develop friendships, communication skills and, to some degree, tactical awareness. Thank you to the Melville College Trust for helping to make this happen.



## New Bikes

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £2,994.00**

In session 2023/24 the Melville College Trust awarded £2,994.00 to purchase four new bikes and helmets for the teaching of Physical Education, CCF, DofE and Outdoor learning. Cycling has become very popular and these bikes will be used by many students across the schools. Unfortunately, due to supplier problems we haven't received them yet but I am confident they will be greeted with great enthusiasm and well used and appreciated. On behalf of the PE team and the students I would like to pass on my grateful thanks to the MCT.



## Flights to Malawi

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £500.00**

In October 2023 I visited our partner school in Ekwendeni, Northern Malawi which greatly enhanced our already strong connection. Our Malawi Club enjoys regular contact with their friends, sharing songs, stories and artwork, and at Christmas time we took part in what we believe is the first ever live Zoom meeting between two schools from our respective countries.

With assistance from the Melville College Trust, I am hoping to return in April or October of 2025. My aims are to assess the impact of our continued partnership, including that of our recent fundraising endeavours (installation of electrical lighting, and provision of refurbished laptops via The Turing Trust). This will also greatly benefit our children in the Junior School, in terms of raising their awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and inspiring their understanding of their responsibilities as global citizens.

Additionally, in my capacity as trustee of The Chesney Trust, I hope to visit the nearby Edinburgh Girls' High School (EGHS) with whom The Mary Erskine School has a similarly prosperous partnership. This would also be an opportunity to explore the prospect of resurrecting the MES 6<sup>th</sup> form visit to EGHS.





## ESMS Orienteering Club Equipment Grant

### **Melville College Trust Grant Award £200.00**

The ESMS Orienteering Club is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year and has been fortunate to receive several awards from the Melville College Trust.

The most recent award was to buy some new compasses and 'dibbers'. The dibbers are electronic timing chips which participants carry round the course on their finger, and which register at each checkpoint. This proves that participants have visited the correct checkpoints in the correct order!

The attached pictures show some of our pupils taking part in orienteering at Callander Park (Falkirk) on Sunday 29 September. We had 30 pupils from MES and SMC taking part, and the new compasses and dibbers were pressed into action straightaway. You can also see two staff members who were helping at this session, giving out the compasses and dibbers, and coaching pupils.

I have attached a picture of two ESMS pupils wearing the club colours of Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club. Thanks to starting orienteering through the school, we now have quite a number of pupils going on to join 'proper' clubs in Edinburgh where they can access more coaching and competitions.

I have also attached a picture of the ESMS Orienteering Club noticeboard, to show what a lively club this is and how much our pupils (and their parents) appreciate the opportunity to get outdoors and be active.

I am most grateful for the continued support of the Melville College Trust. Thank you!!

