

03 March 2008

All members of the School involved in the 175th Anniversary Choral Society Concert at the McEwan Hall – Sunday 2 March 2008

Last night was a tremendous experience. I wanted to say to you that both Mrs Hunter and I really enjoyed seeing you all, and indeed hearing you all. As I have said recently, Choral Society is an exhilarating experience and it is an exhilarating sound for us in the audience, hearing this common language harmonising with other people and creating moments of beauty. Yes, it has taken so many weekly rehearsals (I was in Choral Society at school and I know only too well that occasionally one might have wished that one was not!), but I really do hope that you feel all your efforts were worthwhile. I also particularly liked seeing boys and girls working collaboratively.

This was a wonderful Merchiston evening, one of the many great Merchiston events we have had all over the School over the course of this academic year. Moreover, it is an irony that the Concert was held in the remarkable McEwan Hall, which was built on the site of Park Place, where the founder of Merchiston, Thomas Chalmers, lived and where he taught university students in 1832 before deciding to found Merchiston in 1833. As I listened to you all, I found myself wondering what he would have thought of the Concert!

Last night was a marvellous team event. I saw the Captain of School, the Captain of Pringle, prefects, games players, pipers, drummers and musicians all acting as role models for the younger boys, and I saw so many Pringle boys enjoying the early stages of your educational journey at Merchiston. Yes, the activity required hours of patience, dedication and passion, as do all aspects of your life within the School. So, very well done indeed!

Andrew Hunter
Headmaster