James Clerk Maxwell comes to Aberdeen: 1856-1860

- Maxwell was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy (i.e. Physics) at Marischal College in 1856
- His main remit was to teach Mechanics, Dynamics, Optics, Astronomy, etc.
- The University term ran from early November to Early April

- Maxwell took lodgings at 129 Union Street
- For past-times he enjoyed walking, impromptu gymnastics and reading classical literature
- Upon the death of his father in 1856 he inherited the Glenlair estate where he spent much of his time out of term

- At Aberdeen Maxwell ran an evening class for workers, at the ‘Aberdeen School of Science’
- He worked on fundamental problems in understanding light, the behaviour of gases and astronomy (see other boards)
- He married the Principal’s daughter
- He left Aberdeen in 1860 when the Royal Commission overseeing the merger of the two Universities in Aberdeen gave the post to his King’s College colleague, Professor David Thomson