

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16 September 2016

First of all, I would like to say just how much I am enjoying my role at this brilliant school and it is such a pleasure to start getting to know all the staff and our students. I have taken some time this week to visit different areas of the school, have lunch with some of the girls, pop into some clubs and watch a bit of sport.

In the space of just a week, I have enjoyed so much interaction with the girls and really feel that I am starting to get to know everyone as individuals.

It is a bit of a cliché, but it already feels like home – I thought it might take a whole term but, in the space of just ten days, I feel totally settled and happy!

Clubs and Societies

I always knew the School was very active but I was blown away by 65 clubs taking place each week! The 'go-getting' attitude of the girls has been quite staggering and we have even had to stop some of the girls signing up to too many! Normally I am used to having to cajole children into signing up to various activities so I was a bit surprised to find myself putting the brakes on and preventing our students from doing far too much!

My sincere thanks to Mrs Dersley for setting up the new 'Activities Fair' and to all the staff for their enthusiasm in hosting these clubs – there is a wonderful variety to choose from and I hope that all the girls are happy with their choices.

Open Morning - Saturday 24 September

Excitement continues to build ahead of our 'new look' Open Morning on Saturday 24 September and we are busily preparing for a fun-packed and highly interactive display to show-off the wonderful opportunities on offer here at The Maynard.

The School will be a hive of activity with every department organising its own themed event, run by our current students for all prospective pupils and their siblings to enjoy - from sport and cookery right through to fun educational and scientific experiments! My grateful thanks to all our students who have volunteered to help at this important showcase for the School.

In the meantime, please do spread the word about our Open Morning as I know it will give prospective parents and their daughters a true flavour of life at The Maynard. We have even organised a crèche in the Pre-Prep Department so any little ones will be happily entertained in the safest and friendliest of environments. Visitors are welcome to drop in at any time between 10am - 12pm and it would be equally good to see our current parents as well!

Please note that there will be no parking on-site and the gates will be closed to all vehicles, with the exception of disabled badge holders, in order to maintain the safety of all our students and visitors at the Open Morning.

Bowling with the Lower 5's

I had a great time and lots of laughs with the Lower 5's on Tuesday when we all went bowling on the Exeter Quay. It was fantastic fun although I came spectacularly last in my group. I even managed to drop the bowl at one point when standing stationary which was quite an achievement and just goes to show how rubbish I was! Thank you to the Lower 5's for putting up with me - I had a great time.



MPA Christmas Fair

The MPA Christmas Fair is fast approaching and, as ever, the organisers are eager to sign up as many volunteer parents as possible in order to make this the best Christmas Fair ever! If you have any ideas or are willing to help, there will be a meeting on Wednesday 21 September at 7.30pm in the Rosemary Langley Room in the Sixth Form block.

Polite Notice - Cars on Site

I would appreciate it if parents could please respect the rules for cars on site. The school site is closed to all vehicle access from 8.00am - 5.30pm, unless for an emergency or you have an appointment with the Headmistress for which you have requested parking by prior arrangement. This is to ensure that everyone on site can be safe.

For safety reasons, if you are on foot, please note that there is no pedestrian access through the Tregear entrance or the main vehicle entrance.

We have received complaints from the local traffic warden that parents/guardians have been parking on the pavement outside the Junior School entrance, making it difficult for pedestrians to get past. Please, therefore, may I ask that you continue to park responsibly and remember that you can use the 20p parking meter zone if you want to stop for more than a quick drop off.

Amelia Salter wins National Smiggle competition

Well done to Amelia Salter in Year 3 who has done so well to win a national competition organised by the High Street stationary shop, Smiggle. It is a shame that we don't have a copy of her entry as I understand that Amelia based her writing on a subject surrounding the Maynard values of sharing, kindness and friendship. This is absolutely great and I am so glad that the judges recognised such a show of maturity in her understanding of the world.



MT13 Prep Conference

Three of our students in the Lower 4 enjoyed a great day at the MT13 Prep Schools Conference at Millfield on Monday where they were able to rub shoulders with some of our Rio 2016 Olympic stars.

I must confess to being somewhat envious of Hebe Stone, Dulcie Fraser and Elizabthe Zmuda when I saw these photos of them posing with our hockey medallists and I am glad that the day provided them with such excellent coaching and advice to further improve their game.



As I said last week, I am looking forward to watching some of our matches over the coming weeks and will be sure to keep an eye out for these young hockey stars in the making.



NSEA Show Jumping

Congratulations to all those who competed in last weekend's NSEA Show Jumping Qualifier at Bicton. It was a great start to the season with one team finishing second overall in the 80-85cm class to qualify for the Championships and our other team taking fourth in the 90-95cm class. Particular mention goes to Faye Hepburn who finished second in both the 90-95cm and 1m-1.05cm classes - I understand this is a step-up in challenge for Faye and so these are excellent, and very encouraging, results.

Good luck to all those competing in the Blundell's One Day Event at Bicton. I believe this is a hugely competitive fixture in the equestrian calendar and I know what an honour it is for our girls to be representing the School at such a prestigious event. I look forward to hearing how you all got on but wish you all the best in the meantime.

Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival

Sixty-one of our girls studying Maths, RS and Psychology in the Upper Fifth and Sixth Form attended the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival on Thursday for a talk by Marcus du Sautoy, author, broadcaster and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford.

Marcus' presentation followed the theme of his recently published book, 'What We Cannot Know', in which he asks if there are limits to what we can discover about ourselves and the universe. It is rare for students studying these three quite different subjects to attend the same presentation and I was pleased that they all found it so beneficial to their curriculum.

With what promises to be another busy week ahead, may I wish you all a restful weekend. Personally, I am looking forward to getting out on the water with my boat and catching up with my dog who is feeling somewhat abandoned of late!

Have a good weekend!

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