

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23 September 2016



I don't know where the time has gone this week but suffice to say it has flown by and I can barely believe it is Friday already! I've really enjoyed getting to know the girls a little better each day and it's been particular fun chatting with them over lunch. I think what I have been most impressed with when talking to them all is how confident they are just to pipe up and chat about anything. We have had some really adult conversations, even with the younger year groups and my lunches have fast become a highlight of my day!

I have also dropped in on several lessons this week in Maths, Humanities, Modern Languages & English and I've been blown away by just how stimulating they all are. I've seen such good practice of pedagogy which I always knew was the case here but it's just so reassuring to witness this in person! In a recent RS lesson, I joined in on a very mature conversation the girls were having about quite complex issues and I also loved being a part of a Sixth Form lesson about Othello in which we had some really fun, but relevant, discussions. What has struck me the most is the warmth and intimacy of each of the classes – all the lessons have been very pacey with rapid progression and the sense of humour in each has been quite compelling!



I have also loved taking my own lessons with the Upper 3s which is great for me to get used to the teaching systems, the reporting system and data drops that we employ. I firmly believe that it is important for a Head to teach otherwise you don't understand what the teachers are doing and going through. Quite apart from this, I will always teach

because it is my passion – if I had my way I would be teaching an 80% timetable but that’s never going to happen anymore!

Success in Sport

I have really enjoyed getting out and about this past week to watch some brilliant netball matches and I’ve just been so impressed by the very high standard of play from everyone. The sheer effort that everyone puts in is hugely commendable and I’m just so proud of each and every one of our players.



The Maynard has kicked off the term with some excellent results and it already promises to be a hugely successful season for all our teams. On Monday, our U15 hockey team beat Truro School in fine style to progress through to the next stage of the Independent Schools Hockey Cup (ISHC). Our winning streak came to the fore again on Wednesday when the U17’s netball team emulated that success in a very close match to beat Wycliffe College (41-37). They also go through to the next round, albeit in the Independent Schools Netball Cup.

Likewise, we enjoyed some tough competition on Wednesday and I can’t tell you just how impressed I was, in particular, with the U14 team who really are a force to be reckoned with! Truro School, who pride themselves on their netball prowess, just couldn’t keep up with the fast pace of our players and suffered what was probably quite a shock defeat to finish 29-24 on the final whistle. The U18 team also claimed victory against them with exactly the same score whilst the U16 played their hardest but just weren’t able to win on this occasion.

So as you can see, sport is going very well already which is just what I want to see and my congratulations to everyone who I have had the honour of watching this week!



A Roman Banquet to Remember!

It never fails to surprise me just how much goes on here at The Maynard and I was somewhat surprised to spot a group of toga-clad Upper 4s in the Rose Garden on Monday! My obvious confusion was laid to rest when I was informed that this was the annual Upper 4 Roman Banquet. I would like to share with you the girls’ own recollections from the day!



“On Monday 19th September the whole of Upper 4 went back in time to the Roman era. We were invited to a Roman Banquet. We dressed in togas and wore colourful headbands. There was pitta bread, olives and hams. We were fed by our slaves and entertained with songs and jokes. We drank grape juice galore and ate mozzarella and Roman apple cake. Then we had beautiful photos in the Rose Gardens and a gong to start and finish our meal. The best dressed Romans won Maltesers with Anna’s hysterical beard winning her second place. It was a lunch time full of fun and food.

Thank you Dr Keen and the rest of room 9 for a memorable Roman banquet.”

By Kitty Guinness and Betsy Board

Outdoor Education

I’m enjoying my involvement with the Outdoor Education and have already signed up for lots of Ten Tors walks across Dartmoor which is handy for me as I suspect we will pass my back yard quite frequently, so we can always pop in for a cup of tea! I am also planning lots of mini expeditions for everyone across the School to enjoy and just as soon as details are confirmed I will, of course, let you know! Suffice to say that things are hotting up in this area and it’s looking very exciting!

Open Morning

There has been so much volunteering from all the girls for tomorrow’s Open Morning which is fabulous and my grateful thanks to them all. I am really pleased that they have stepped up to the plate and seem so excited about everything that is planned. There is a real passion about taking prospective parents on their tours and showing other children how wonderful we are which I am absolutely loving!



There is so much to be proud of – the display boards look spectacular and the departments have pulled out all the stops to make sure it is a very hands-on and interactive day. Even the weather is going to be kind so it is going to be just fantastic and I can’t wait!

At the risk of repetition, I should just like to remind everyone that there will be no parking on site at all as we are reserving the very limited spaces for prospective parents and any disabled badge holders. I do

apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause but I am sure you can understand the reasoning behind it!

One Day Event winners

Our equestrian teams have once again been out and about, this time competing in the hugely competitive Blundell's One Day Event at Bicton last Sunday. We had entries across a range of classes and without exception they all flew the Maynard flag brilliantly. Particular congratulations to Anya Hitt (Upper 4), Kitty Guinness (Upper 4), Isabella Brent (Upper 4) and Grace Williams (Lower 6) who won the 80cm class in spectacular style by over 10 points to Exeter School. Most excitingly for the girls, the event organisers rewarded their victory with complimentary tickets to the Olympia Horse Show so they'll be off to London for a special treat at Christmas!

Private View of the Beatrix Potter Collections

Talking of London has reminded me that we still have a very limited number of places left for the Private View of the Beatrix Potter Collections at the V&A on Monday 3 October. This is a completely exclusive Maynard event, hosted by one of our alumnae who just happens to be a curator at the Museum, and I am sure it will be a great day out! For further information or to book a place, please contact Rachael Board in our Marketing Department (rachaelboard@maynard.co.uk).

'Positive Parental Ideas to the Head'!

Our ever enthusiastic and dedicated MPA members have asked me to remind you all that they are hosting a meeting in the Rosemary Langley Room at 4pm next Tuesday (27 September) and the topic for discussion will be 'Positive Parental Ideas to the Head'. This will surely be a great debate and, from my own personal perspective, I would urge you to attend! I believe that creative ideas from our current parent body is absolutely vital and I really look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to carve an even more successful future for The Maynard.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR OUR ALUMNAE, CURRENT PARENTS AND FRIENDS...

A PRIVATE VIEW OF THE BEATRIX POTTER COLLECTIONS

@ The Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Monday 3 October 2016
12pm

Meet at:
Gate B, Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, London, W14 0QX

Join in the 150th anniversary celebrations of Beatrix Potter's birth with this rare show-and-tell tour of her artworks.

Ticket price: Free
Bookings through Rachael Board:
01382 273417 or
rachael.board@maynard.co.uk



Parenting Workshops?

Many of you will be aware that we hosted some very popular and insightful Parenting Teenagers workshops in January and we are just wondering if there is sufficient interest to warrant organising some more in the future. Alicia Drummond, who took the last workshops, is an expert in this field and I know from the feedback we received that many parents found these mornings most helpful. We anticipate that a half-day session, to include a sandwich lunch, would cost approximately £55. So if you wouldn't mind letting Jane Thomas in our Marketing Department (janethomas@maynard.co.uk) know your thoughts on the matter we can then make an educated decision on whether to organise some more.

Whole School Photograph

Next Thursday (29 September) we will have a photographer in to capture this year's 'whole school photograph'. Please may I ask you to remind your daughter/s to come in looking especially clean and tidy, with their hair tied back, for this memorable occasion?



Maynard Babysitting Service

Just to let you know that we have a list of Maynard girls willing to do some babysitting in their spare time. So if ever you require one, do please ask at Reception and you will be provided with names and contact details of girls in your area. Terms of employment and payment are entirely at your discretion and should be agreed directly with your babysitter.

Enrichment

I would like to end this newsletter with a short celebration of all of the extra-curricular activities that are on offer at The Maynard. I said last week just how staggered I was by the 65 weekly clubs we run but there's also so much more going on. In particular, we host numerous lectures and I love our collaboration with other local schools, many of whom are invited to join us at these very stimulating talks. Just this Monday coming, we have a Physics lecture on 'Listening to Machines Underwater: How Acoustics Can Help Renewable Energy' which a number of visiting schools will be attending. As many of you know, I firmly believe in building partnerships and working together with our colleagues across Exeter is key to sharing information and building important bridges for the benefit of all our students.

Equally, we are busily putting in final preparations for our Costa Rica expedition in half term, Duke of Edinburgh activities are ongoing most weekends and there is also a plethora of language trips being arranged - the level of enrichment here is quite remarkable and I have to say that I am thoroughly impressed.

Anyway, I hope to see as many girls as possible at tomorrow's Open Morning and I thank you for all your support in, hopefully, making it a truly successful event!

Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Dunn
Headmistress



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