

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14 October 2016



Countdown has started for the joint Geography and Biology trip to Costa Rica over half term and I know our A-level and GCSE students of these subjects are beginning to get very excited. I am a great believer in providing the girls access to exciting new countries and cultures, something it seems that The Maynard is very adept at with its numerous trips throughout the calendar year.

I know the girls will enjoy a packed itinerary of volcanoes, forests (including a zip line through the canopy) and even a turtle conservation project, not to mention a spot of white water rafting. It certainly looks like a very exciting trip to one of the most biodiverse places on the planet and as a biologist I only wish I was going, too!

Club news

I have dropped in on a number of the 65 clubs we are running each week and they all seem to be going really well. We have introduced quite a few new ones this term and it is great to see them so well attended. Chess Club is one that springs to mind: this started up, like so many things do, over a cup of tea with one of our support staff in the kitchen.

We were chatting about life in general when she dropped into the conversation that she was once in the National Chess Team in Bulgaria. So I seized the opportunity and asked her if she could run a club for the girls! Needless to say she was delighted and she now takes two clubs, one for the Juniors (Monday) and another for the Seniors (Tuesday) – they are both really well attended and she has even put together a chess team who will go out competing against other schools!

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is such a good initiative in my view because it gives the girls the opportunity to genuinely run their own company from scratch. They have to learn how to market it, handle the money, budget accordingly but first of all they have to work out what it is they are going to do. The managerial positions are already confirmed and my congratulations to the following girls in the Lower Sixth for securing their roles: Imogen Hussey (Managing Director), Darcy Wilson (Sales Director), Fiona Broad (Finance Director), Ellen Player (Director of Operations) and Ellie Ramsay (Company Secretary). I look forward to divulging more 'business' detail over the coming weeks.



Upper 5 Parents' and Daughters' Meeting

I met lots of lovely parents at the Upper 5 Parents' and Daughters' meeting on Tuesday and it was a really positive evening with so many great things to report about the girls and the school generally. Obviously there is a lot of work to be done in the countdown to GCSEs, but we are working hard to make sure that the girls have a good work/life balance. We are already supporting them with lots of extra clinics in a bid to start early with our preparations, rather than leave everything to a sudden rush after their mocks in January. It is a very calm and measured approach which should help avoid any last-minute stress at this important time in their lives.



Gabby Isaacs - youngest competitor to complete the Commando Challenge

Huge congratulations to Gabby Isaacs in Upper 5 who recently completed the very tough Commando Challenge on Woodbury Common. Gabby was the youngest person to complete the 10km run over the Marine training grounds, taking in extreme obstacles such as huge, long tunnels, the infamous 'sheep dip' and deep wading pools. It is terrific to think that, at only 15 years old, Gabby could maintain her mental cool to complete these challenges which even adults quake at the knees over! I take my hat off to you!

More Western Morning news exposure

Our equestrian team have once again hit the headlines with yet another great article in today's Western Morning News about their latest victory in a One Day Event at the weekend. They really are sailing on the crest of a wave at the moment and it is terrific that their continued success is bringing so much publicity to the School. Keep it up, girls!

U14 hockey brilliance

I got so caught up in the U14 hockey tournament at the University last Friday that I couldn't tear



myself away! They won all four pool matches, conceding only one goal throughout to go through to the semi-finals against my old school, Plymouth College. It was a tricky one for me to watch, although clearly I was supporting the Maynard all the way! Although we were unlucky to be beaten 0-1 by Blundell's in the finals, both the top teams have qualified for the Regional Finals next month, hammering home just how good these players are.

It has been a very busy week for the U14 hockey squad and on Tuesday they were out at an East Devon friendly tournament where, again, they finished top in their pool. To

their delight, Giselle Ansley (a member of the GB gold medallist women's hockey team at Rio 2016) was there to make the presentations and I know the girls loved this opportunity to get up close to a real gold medal and chat with her about her experiences.

U15 netball squad win against Millfield

On Monday, our U15 netball team played a superb match to beat Millfield by a relatively large margin of 32-25. This really is a fantastic achievement given Millfield are famous for their sporting prowess but I understand from Mrs Gabbitass that this was the best she has ever seen them play - and they chose the perfect moment to pull out all the stops! The match was part of the series in the Independent Schools Netball Cup so, having successfully knocked out Millfield, we progress through to the third round which is really very exciting.

Other sporting successes

I feel that at this juncture I should make some apology for the heavy focus I make each week on sport, but I really do feel that it wouldn't be fair not to recognise all that our girls are achieving in this field at present.

Admittedly, this has been a busier week than normal and we have fielded a number of teams to so many fixtures over the past few days:

The U11A and B sides enjoyed their respective matches against St Peter's Lypstone on Wednesday albeit they weren't successful on this occasion. The B team, in particular, were brilliant in defence and it was such a shame that we conceded the winning goal in the last five minutes of play but that's life.

Both teams were gracious in their defeats and kept smiling throughout which, in my mind, is most important.

The U17 netball team have successfully gone through to the next round in their Independent Schools Netball Cup with a brilliant victory against High Wycombe on Wednesday. I wish them the best of luck for the next stage as, indeed, I do for all of our teams across the board.

Spookley the Square Pumpkin



The girls in Year 3 had a most enjoyable day out at Dart's Farm yesterday and were treated to a tour of all the lovely vegetables that are grown on site, thanks to our Governor, James Dart. There was, however, a moral message behind this trip and they all listened intently to the story about Spookley the Square Pumpkin who is teased by the other pumpkins for being the wrong shape. We take the Year 3 to this Halloween themed event each year as it is not just great fun, but it quietly teaches them the importance of

kindness and consideration to others.

Pre-Prep Science

The years 1 and 2 had a fantastic science lesson on Wednesday when they were visited by Mr McElligott, a materials engineer and a real scientist! The girls are currently learning all about waterproof and absorbent materials and he was on hand to explain to them the meaning of some of the technical vocabulary. The girls loved how he used a variety of sweets to demonstrate elastic, plastic, brittle and tough materials.

Mrs Cook and all the girls agreed that this was the best science lesson ever!



Trips to Bristol

As I write, the Years 4 and 5 are heading up to Bristol for their respective days at the At-Bristol Science Centre and the SS Great Britain. I'm sure they will have a lot of fun and I look forward to reporting back next week on all that they have discovered.

Deadlines for Registration

Just in case any of you know someone hoping to enrol at the School, could you please remind them that we will need any scholarship or Maynard award registration forms returned to us by 9 December 2016. This is a very exciting year for the School and, after such a successful Open Morning last month, we are experiencing a hugely increased number of prospective parents, so do please spread the word!

MPA Christmas Fair

The MPA are working really hard to make this year's Christmas Fair on Saturday 26 November the very best yet. As such, they would really like as many parents as possible to help with the preparations and running of this vital fundraiser for the School - it is also a great way to really get into the Christmas spirit and have a lot of fun!

To which effect, they are holding a planning meeting in the Senior School Library at 8.40am next Tuesday 18 October to which all parents are invited. So do, please, come along and share any ideas that you may have!



And finally, have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

<p>Sixth Form Open Evening</p> <p>Thursday 10 November, 6pm - 8pm</p> <p>Contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p>Pre-Prep & Junior Discovery Morning</p> <p>Saturday 19 November, 9.30am - 12pm</p> <p>For all girls aged 3-11</p> <p>To book a place contact admissions@maynard.co.uk</p>	<p>MPA Christmas Fair</p> <p>Saturday 26 November 10am</p> <p>More info to follow</p>
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