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# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15 November 2016



It has been another very busy but typically interesting and exciting week. During my lesson walkabouts, I was treated to the Upper 4 giving individual music performances which was just wonderful to witness and I thank the girls for bravely carrying on when I just walked in unannounced! I also found the Upper 5 History discussion on the Viet Cong fascinating with the debate covering a range of topics from booby traps to US politics in readiness for their upcoming controlled assessment. As always, the teaching was inspirational and the students were engaged, astute and brilliant in their individuality. It goes without saying that my visits to classrooms continue to be the highlight of each week!

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## Sixth Form Open Evening

It was great to welcome nearly all of our Upper 5 year group to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday to find out a little more about A-level subject choices and life in Ryan House. With record numbers attending from other schools, the hall and gym were full to the brim. There was a tremendous buzz about the place and the Head Girl Team spoke beautifully and passionately about their school.

With the national shift towards concentrating on just three A-levels through the Sixth Form now, there was a great deal to discuss and debate but all of the staff were on hand to give sound and experienced advice. The next step to help them make informed decisions will be the Sixth Form Taster Day on Friday 25 November when we will also be extending the warmest of welcomes to external prospective students, too!

Equally, I am very much looking forward to meeting all of the Upper 5 with their parents over the coming weeks on an individual basis. It will be a great opportunity to chat about GCSE options and future pathways but also a chance to gain a valuable insight into your time so far at The Maynard.

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## Incredible Costa Rica trip

Our GCSE and A-level Biologists and Geologists enjoyed a fantastic trip to Costa Rica during the half term break. From turtle conservation projects, zip wiring through jungle canopies, white water rafting to studying volcanic activity, this really was quite a trip to remember both for its great fun but also, importantly, for its significant educational value. My grateful thanks to Miss Williamson and Mrs Thorne for organising and hosting such a wonderful experience.



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### Language students explore the French Riviera

The French trip to Nice proved very cultural and enlightening for our 21 girls studying the topic at GCSE and A-level. French lessons in the morning were followed by some wonderful excursions each day from trips to St Tropez, Monaco and surrounding quaint villages. It was a unique opportunity to taking in everything from Cathedrals, perfumeries, shops, the Villa Ephrussi of Rothschild and all its stunning artworks in what can only be described as a packed itinerary. I had lunch with some of the Upper 5 girls who described it as “a just amazing experience”!



I know that Mrs Powell and Mr Merisi proved excellent tour guides and my thanks to them for their boundless energy in covering so much ground in such a short space of time!

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### West End appearance for Bella Attenburrow

It was incredible to hear that Bella Attenburrow (Lower Sixth) performed at the Adelphi Theatre, London over half term in an all-star concert to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the National Youth Music Theatre. The concert featured special guest appearances from alumni and friends, including Lily James (*War and Peace*), Matt Lucas (*Little Britain*), Jason Robert Brown (*composer*), Lara Pulver (*Sherlock*), Ben Barnes (*Prince Caspian*) and Simon Thomas (*The Inbetweeners*). To be performing in the West End at only 16-years old, in this company, is quite some feat and my huge congratulations to Bella on this accomplishment.



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### More Equestrian success

Our equestrian team of Bella Brent, Amber Williams, Kitty Guinness and Anya Hitt continues to dominate and I was so impressed to hear that they qualified last Sunday to defend their National Championship title at Hickstead in the summer. I would also like to extend my

congratulations to the Intermediate team of Kitty, Jemima and Millie Dart who, as the Western Morning News has described them, are looking every bit to be our weapons of the future!

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### Junior School Taster Day

On Tuesday we hosted what can only be described as our busiest Junior Taster Day on record! Such has been the demand by prospective students to sample life here at The Maynard that we have even had to arrange an additional Taster Day on 22 November purely to cope with numbers. This is a fantastic endorsement of the School and my thanks to everyone, staff and students alike, for being so welcoming and friendly.

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### Pre-Prep news



There is never a dull moment in the Pre-Prep and I have to confess to being somewhat envious over all the things they are learning and doing. In addition to a creative and fun syllabus, Emma Cook and her staff are always concocting imaginative activities to inspire and encourage the girls! This week has seen them making their own felt using merino wool and a soap solution. After some gentle massaging, the results were amazing! Likewise, the girls in Reception have been busy planting lovely tulip bulbs ready to grow and flower in the spring.

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### U14 West Hockey Finals

On Tuesday, our U14 hockey team travelled to Bristol for the West Hockey Finals, having qualified at the County Finals a few weeks earlier. They played superbly in their pool matches (against much bigger schools such as Bryanston, Cheltenham Ladies College and Clifton College) to go through to the Quarter Finals against Blundell's, the Devon County Champions. This was a pivotal match and after a tough fight right down to the wire, we managed to win on penalties, much to our girls' complete delight!



Unfortunately, we let an early goal slip in the Semi Finals against Marlborough College which we never quite managed to recover from so we just missed out on a place in the finals and the opportunity to become the National Champions. This accolade went to Clifton College who, incidentally, we had drawn against in the pool stages. That aside, we can proudly boast to be one of the top four teams in the whole country which is quite incredible!

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### Performance of the Month



I had the pleasure of awarding Performance of the Month to our superstar sailor, Tilly Gregson (Lower 5), in assembly on Thursday morning. Tilly has been selected by the Royal Yachting Association to join the UK Youth/Junior Squad based on her potential to progress within the British Sailing Team in the Intermediate Topper Class.

As someone who has dinghy sailed since a youngster, I know that this is a well-deserved accolade, awarded on the basis of true commitment to a gruelling training schedule sometimes undertaken in the most inclement of conditions. It will also provide opportunity for Tilly to represent Great Britain at major international events over the forthcoming years, which is a really exciting prospect. My huge congratulations to you, Tilly!

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### Buy your tickets now for the Staff Play

Have you ever wondered what Mrs Fanous, Mr Loosemore, Mrs Reynolds and Mr Hibberd and many, many more might look like treading the boards? Come along to the staff play on Wednesday 30 November or Friday 2 December at 7pm to find out! The comedy version of 'A Christmas Carol' is sure to be quite hilarious and I would recommend you buy your tickets (£5 each from Reception) now as they traditionally sell out very quickly!

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### Autumn Concert

There are some tickets still available for our Autumn Concert on Thursday 17 November in the School Gymnasium, starting at 7.30pm. The programme includes an enormous array of ensembles and soloists, with something to suit all musical tastes. I would strongly urge you to come along to witness the sheer talent of our musicians! Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for students, so do please contact Reception to find out more.

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### Date for the Diary – The Christmas Cracker

The Junior School and Pre-Prep Department are already deep into rehearsals for their Christmas Cracker performances so do please book the dates in your diary. The show will comprise the Pre-Prep Nativity Play (featuring Maurice, the disgruntled mule) and carols from the whole of the Junior School. This year, we are putting on two performances - Thursday 8 December at 5pm and Friday 9 December at 2pm. Come 30 minutes early and settle in to the occasion with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

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### Charitable fundraising

At The Maynard, we firmly believe in raising money for those less privileged than ourselves and it gives me great delight to announce a couple of new initiatives we have launched in the run up to Christmas:

Firstly, we would love to receive wrapped shoeboxes filled with items (bought new) for children in Moldova as part of the Christian Response to Eastern Europe. These can contain anything from woolly hats to stationary and should be left at Reception, labelled as to the age and gender of the intended recipient. The deadline for this is Friday 18 November but for more details, please visit: <http://cr2ee.webplus.net/index.html>

As an ongoing initiative, we would also like to collect any used postage stamps in support of The Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity (<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/donate/stamps/>). The collection box is in also in Reception, so do feel to drop in at any time.

### Children in Need

Please don't also forget that it is Children in Need on Friday 18 November so please send your daughters in wearing Mufti and armed with the appropriate monies for our many fundraising opportunities. We would also appreciate any donations for the MPA Christmas Fair such as bottles for the Tipple Tombola, gift items, new or good condition teddies, chocolates, books, DVDs, and anything else that hops into your shopping trolley! Thank you so much!

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### MPA Christmas Fair

I finish this newsletter with this lovely poster for the MPA Christmas Fair and hope to see as many of you as possible there!



Sarah Dunn  
Headmistress

<p><b>Maynard School Autumn Concert</b></p> <p>Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm</p> <p>Tickets available from Reception £5 for adults, £3 for students</p>	<p><b>Pre-Prep &amp; Junior Discovery Morning</b></p> <p>Saturday 19 November, 9.30am - 12pm</p> <p>For all girls aged 3-11</p> <p>To book a place contact <a href="mailto:admissions@maynard.co.uk">admissions@maynard.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>MPA Christmas Fair</b></p> <p>Saturday 26 November 10am</p> <p>See poster below!</p>
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THE  
MAYNARD  
SCHOOL

THE MAYNARD SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2016  
10 AM TO 2 PM

FREE ENTRY TO ONE AND ALL!

*The Maynard School  
Denmark Road  
Exeter EX1 1SJ*



OVER 30 MARKET STALLHOLDERS SELLING ...

- \* JEWELLERY \* BUNTING \* HOMEWARES \* CHRISTMAS WREATHS \*
- \* HANDMADE SOAPS \* BOOKS \* CERAMICS \* & OTHER GORGEOUS GIFTS! \*
- \* BARBECUE \* CAFE \* CAKES \* MULLED WINE! \*
- \* SANTA'S GROTTO \* CHRISTMAS CRAFTS \* FESTIVE GAMES FOR CHILDREN \*
- \* RAFFLE \* TOMBOLA \* ... AND SO MUCH MORE! \*