

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18 November 2016

It is a miracle that the roof on the Gym is still in place after the rousing Autumn Concert last night! With 97 girls involved, there was a packed auditorium and everyone was treated to a truly memorable evening of music. Altogether, twelve of the School's ensembles performed featuring orchestras, choirs, bands and chamber music.

The depth of talent on display was extremely impressive and the music was incredibly diverse, ranging from a traditional Chinese folksong and 'Born to be Wild' to a Mozart concerto and the film music from 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

There were so many outstanding performances and it was lovely to see the girls all enjoying their music and working together as a team. In the words of one of the Sixth Formers, "We smashed it!".

My sincere thanks to Miss Blackwell for all her hard work in putting together such an impressive concert and, of course, to all the brilliant musicians who performed so beautifully!



Year 7 Taster Day

On Tuesday we welcomed record numbers of prospective Year 7 students (starting in September 2017) into the School for their Taster Day. Twenty-two girls in total attended - almost double compared to last year which is really fantastic. I had the opportunity to meet many of the parents and the girls themselves and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with everyone saying just how welcome that had been made to feel. Our warm and friendliness is fast becoming a trademark of the School and my sincere thanks to all the students and staff for building this reputation!

Exeter Area Cross Country



All 12 girls did brilliantly at the Exeter Area Cross Country event in Okehampton on Wednesday and I applaud them for their enthusiasm and determination. It is not everybody's cup of tea by any stretch of the imagination but they all flew the flag and dug deep to post some very pleasing results, despite the mud, the steep inclines and steps!



Congratulations to Amelia Moody (Lower 5) who won the Intermediate Girls (Years 10 and 11) section and to Betsy Board (Upper 4) and Katie Harries (Upper 3) for coming second in the Junior (Years 8 and 9) and Year 7 races respectively. Some of these classes had more than 100 entries so these really are tremendous results.

Netball news

The Under 15 netball team followed up their superb victory against Millfield in the first round of the Independent Schools Netball Cup with yet another brilliant performance against Truro School on Wednesday. To use Mrs Gabbitass' words: "Their attack was cool, clinical and accurate whilst the work rate and commitment of defence was immense. It was a total team performance against a very strong Truro side but our quality of our play was so good that we won 55-39. We had a very happy bus on the way home!"



We look forward to the next round which will take place in early January and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a home draw!

Our U19 netball team played an away tournament in the National Schools County Round competition on Tuesday. They played superbly throughout and ended up as Devon runners-up after narrowly losing in the final to Exeter College 9-11. This is a brilliant result and they now progress into the next round to represent the county in the Regional Finals on 28 January 2017 - we wish them every luck! Keep up the good work, girls!

Eden Project trip

The Lower 4 group enjoyed a fantastic Geography trip to the Eden Project on Wednesday and enjoyed tours of the Rainforest and Mediterranean biomes. The highlight of the trip was an interactive workshop entitled 'Going to Extremes'. The girls focussed on how animals and plants adapt to different climates which proved to be a wonderful accompaniment to their curriculum studies on eco-systems and the Amazonia.

Exeter Cathedral debate

Over 40 of our Upper 5 and Lower Sixth students attended this year's Sixth Form debate at Exeter Cathedral on Tuesday. The Upper 5s were using this event as part of their provision for Politics, Philosophy and Religion studies whilst the Lower Sixth utilised the opportunity to support their learning in A-level Religious Studies.

In the first half, the students' questions covered a wide range of issues, including the implications of Donald Trump's electoral victory, welfare provision for immigrants, the influence of the media on Brexit and the portrayal of religion in the media. Discussions in the second half were mostly focused on issues of gender identity and the morality and legality of euthanasia.

All contributions from the students were considered and thoughtful, with our own Laura Kerr (Upper 5), Josie Little (Lower 6) and Mr Hibberd making valuable points from the floor. Laura shared some of her views on and positive experiences of private education, in the context of a discussion about grammar schools. Josie impressed us all with her articulate, insightful and challenging comments about gender identity and the oppression of women.

The event clearly gave our students plenty to think about and they were especially moved by those students who shared their own experiences in the second half of the morning, both in relation to transgender issues and the impact of terminal illnesses. Many of the girls have continued to discuss the topics eagerly since returning to school and really appreciated the opportunity to explore current affairs and contemporary issues in this way.

Pre-Prep News

The girls in the Pre-Prep have been enjoying some amazing maths lessons this week and all of them are progressing incredibly well. The five times table has been mastered and they are all talking proudly about how they have learned the commutative law, which I then had to ask them to explain! For those of you who, like me, need reminding of the meaning of this, it is basically the understanding that you can swap the figures being multiplied or added and the answer is still the same (eg. $4 \times 3 =$ the same as 3×4 or $4 + 3 =$ the same as $3 + 4$). But for girls so young, to understand this and even remember the terminology is quite astounding!

On quite a different level, I was somewhat dismayed to hear that Fifi the hamster escaped earlier in the week and is now roaming free in the Pre-Prep Department, much to the consternation of the cleaners who happen upon her in the dark from time to time! As I write, the girls are waiting expectantly for Dr Rudling to appear with his humane trap and I am sure it won't be long before she is captured and returned to her rightful place in the classroom! In the meantime, we welcome two new hamster recruits, Flower and Bambi, who have settled in beautifully and firmly established themselves as part of the Pre-Prep family.



Junior School news

Mr Smerdon and his team were delighted to hold their first Parents' Evening of the year on Tuesday. It was a great opportunity to share all of the girls' many successes and I hope that those of you with daughters in the Junior School found this a fruitful exercise.

Yesterday, the Years 3 and 4 took part in the inter-house hockey matches and, although I was sadly unable to support, I am told that they all played determinedly and with lots of energy. More importantly, it was their sportsmanship which caught the eye and I was so proud to hear how they managed to combine some really competitive play with great displays of teamwork and respect. Merchants claimed overall victory but my congratulations to everyone who was involved.

Preparations have started in earnest for the Christmas Celebration, combining the Pre-Prep Nativity Play with Junior Carols (and a sing-along option!) and I am sure this will be a wonderful event to get us all in the festive spirit. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies prior to the performances, from 4.30pm on Thursday 8 December and 2.30pm on Friday 9 December, so we very much hope to see you there.

St John's Hospital Trust

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of meeting the trustees from the St John's Hospital Trust who remain hugely supportive of the School. We are very grateful for all the donations that the Trust gives towards our bursary scheme and these make such a huge difference in enabling us to open our gates to children who, without this benefactor, would be unable to afford a Maynard education.

Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Robyn Bowman (Upper 6), Dodie Bowman (Upper 5), Lucy Harris-Deans (Lower 6), Katie Byles (Upper 5) and Alex Pavic (Upper 5) the best of luck for tonight. These five brilliant musicians will be taking part in the Teignmouth Jazz Festival as part of the Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra. I am sure it will be a fantastic evening and, for those of you who would like to attend, tickets are being sold on the door at the Teignmouth Pavilions for £12 each. The concert starts at 8pm – good luck, girls!

Wind in the Willows

Just a quick reminder about the Years 7 and 8 production of the 'Wind in the Willows' which will take place next Thursday 24 and Friday 25 November in the Main School Hall at 6pm. I know the girls are getting very excited in the build-up to their performances, as am I, and I'm sure it will prove to be yet another brilliant showcase from our excellent Drama and Performing Arts Department! Tickets are available from Reception priced at £2 for a child and £3 for an adult.

Children in Need



Children in Need Day has started with a blast and I know all the girls are enjoying wearing mufti today in exchange for a small donation to this worthy cause.

Lots of money is being raised across the School through a number of different ventures including cake stalls, the body painting of a very brave Miren Sowden (Lower 6) and the much anticipated staff/student netball match! I'll report back next week with the score from the latter but, if I was a betting woman, I know who my money would be on!



The Maynard Archive blog

I know our student archivists have been very busy researching the history of the School so I thought I should share with you the latest blogs to go online! They make for a fascinating read so do click on the links below to find out more!

<https://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/a-mystery-photo-of-main-school-hall-by.html>

<http://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/a-russian-tea-kettle-by-ellie-erin-and.html>

<http://maynardarchives.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/summer-term-timetable-1941-by-erin.html>

Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West

I am really looking forward to welcoming Rebecca Clark, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West, to the School this afternoon. The Maynard has been asked to host a consultation debate with all of the Heads from the South West Independent Schools to discuss how the independent sector can support the state system.

It is an enormous honour to have been selected to host such an event and I am really looking forward to meeting them all later on and showing off our wonderful School.

Discovery Morning

We look forward to tomorrow's Discovery Morning for Pre-Prep and Junior School-aged girls. We have nearly 60 people signed up to join in with a smorgasbord of activities throughout the morning from making potions in Science, creating peppermint polar bears in Food & Nutrition, exploring the world of martial arts, ballet and yoga right through to coding!

Traditionally, these have been enormously enjoyable events and I hope all the girls will have lots of fun tomorrow!

In the meantime, have a great weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress

<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>Wind in the Willows</p> <p>Thursday 24 and Friday 25 November, 6pm</p> <p>Tickets available from Reception</p>	<p>MPA Christmas Fair</p> <p>Saturday 26 November 10am</p>
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